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THE

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021

# OFFICER REVIEW®

Head Quarters 6<sup>th</sup> June 1776

Enclosed is a copy of the establishment of the  
Marshall's, as proposed in Congress the 20<sup>th</sup> ult. This corps is to  
be armed and accoutred in the manner of Light Dragoons.  
You will therefore provide with all possible expedition sixty three  
men, with proper saddles.

Yours  
Washington.







# A YEAR OF RENEWAL

Dear Companions,

A new year brings hope and is an opportunity for renewal for all of us. I know we all want to put 2020 behind us and to return to normalcy in 2021. I can't wait to revisit friends, watch my grandson play on the high school freshman football team, go to church with other worshipers, eat inside a restaurant, go to a gym, and see faces rather than just eyes above a mask.

At the top of this list being able to attend MOWW chapter meetings, sit with other Companions, ask how they are doing, learn what they think about "things," and sponsor or attend a patriotic gathering on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, or attend a 4th of July parade and concert, a military ball, and a Massing of the Colors.

One of the things I was looking forward to as your CINC was to visit chapters and attend region conferences. I have yet to leave the local area except for a memorial service or a funeral. Zoom and other virtual connection media have been good for trying to maintain a level of communication as an organization; however, those who are unable to navigate this digital-dominance environment are being left behind. This new norm is not going away.

For us, 2021 means reconnecting with our Companions and military veterans across the nation and bringing back the patriotic activities that are the hallmark of our Preamble to the MOWW Constitution. I call on all Companions serving at every level to lean forward so we can quickly break out of this cocoon of restrictions and once again fulfill our mission as The Military Order of the World Wars.

My wish for you is for 2021 to bring with it a complete and total return to all the activities in every aspect of your life that once again makes you feel normal. I am optimistic we will get there.

Sincerely,

FREDERICK R. LOPEZ, BGen, USMCR (Retired)  
Commander-in-Chief, MOWW & CEO, MOWW, Inc

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## ON THE COVER

An exhibit from the US Army Military Police Corps Regimental Museum depicting a member of the Marechaussee Corps. On 1 June 1778, General George Washington formed this special unit charged with police duties.



# THE ORIGINS OF A SMALL CORPS

COL JAMES T. ROBERTS, JR., USA (RET)  
BG BULTMAN CHAPTER (AT-LARGE), MOWW

When newly-appointed George Washington assumed command of the disparate groups of militia units encamped near Boston on 2 July 1775, he realized that one of his many challenges would be to instill and maintain discipline in his fledgling army. As a militia leader, he knew that his men were apt to make their own decisions and come and leave based on their own circumstances and priorities. As the problem of ill-discipline continued unabated, Congress authorized the position of Provost Marshal General, which General Washington filled on 10 January 1776. The duties consisted maintaining jails and supervising executions.

The challenge of enforcing discipline, law, and order Army-wide was not addressed until the winter of 1777–1778. The answer was the arrival of Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben and Captain Bartholomew von Heer at Valley Forge. General von Steuben brought unit discipline through his enlightened training regime. Captain von Heer established the means to bring law and order to the Army.

In the Fall of 1777, Commander-in-Chief General Washington requested officers at all levels to submit ideas that would assist him in reorganizing the Continental Army into a disciplined fighting force.

Captain von Heer, serving in an artillery regiment at the time, forwarded an extensive letter to General Washington on 17 November 1777. The letter outlined the organization and duties of the Corps of the Marechaussee then being used by European Armies to maintain discipline, law, and order in garrison and in battle. Captain von Heer offered to be the commander of that force in that letter.<sup>(1)</sup>

As the Army settled in at Valley Forge, the Commander-in-Chief knew that Congress had not recognized the perilous condition facing the Army so through his urging, it was sending a select committee to Valley Forge to determine the truth. To prepare for that committee's arrival, Washington had his aides, Alexander Hamilton, John Laurens, and others, reduce the thousands of pages of input into a thirty-eight-page report entitled, A Representation to the Committee of Congress, but also known as the 29 January 1778 Letter to the Camp Committee. Written by Alexander Hamilton, the final report listed the continuing problems and identified the reforms needed to reorganize and reform the Army for field operations.<sup>(2)</sup>

The Congressional "Camp" Committee arrived on 24 January 1778 and spent the next four days wandering through the encampment to interview



"The March to Valley Forge," by William Trego



the few soldiers and officers who elected not to go home. On 29 January, General Washington began his presentation of the facts and his suggested remedies to the five Congressional members. Discussions lasted several days. The presentation included Captain von Heer's reworked recommendations. Washington called for a "Provost-Marshalcy" composed of a corps of highly-selected, trustworthy officers and men mounted, armed, and accoutered as light horsemen. It would be organized with one Captain (Grand Provost) and four Lieutenants (Provost Marshals). These Provosts would provide garrison law and order activities and in the field and would regulate soldier activities on the flanks and rear of the Army when it was on the march. In addition to the five officers, it would require one Clerk for administering official business and writing regulations, one Quartermaster Sergeant, two Trumpeters, five Corporals (one to support each officer), forty-three Provosts or Privates, and four Executioners. The report contained four paragraphs outlining the duties and responsibilities of the Corps of Marechaussee.

The Camp committee reported favorably on General Washington's recommendations, and on 27 May 1778 Congress approved the activation of the Marechaussee in its regulations for the Army, with the organizational modification of adding two Sergeants. Captain von Heer was identified as the commander.<sup>(3)</sup> He also assumed the responsibilities of the Provost Marshal General for the Army.

On 6 June 1778, the Commander-in-Chief forwarded an order directing Major General Nathanael Greene to arm and accouter the Marechaussee in the manner of light dragoons.<sup>(4)</sup> Operationally, they were to conduct encampment provost duties and patrol outside the picket line to inspect sutler operations, check passes and orders, arrest deserters, and capture spies.

Major General Greene endeavored to comply. However, Congress did not have the means to effectively supply the Army with its needs, much less accouter the Marechaussee. Captain von Heer's letters and personal representations to General Washington, the Board of War, and the Congress for boots, spurs, swords, blankets, capes, clothing, equipment, horses, and provost dragoon pay would continue until the end of the war.



"Dawn of the Regiment," the Marachaussee in the Battle of Springfield during the American Revolutionary War, by Rick Reeves.

By July 1779, Captain von Heer's troop was operational with detachments in the field. In his weekly report from Blooming Grove, NY, to the Commander-in-Chief, he indicated that one Lieutenant, one Corporal, and seven Privates were in Philadelphia; one Corporal and four Privates were with Major General Sterling; one Corporal and three Privates were with Major General Israel Putman, and; one Corporal and four Privates were with Brigadier General Anthony Wayne.<sup>(5)</sup>

On 30 March 1780 General Washington ordered Captain von Heer to move his unit from Reading, PA, to Burlington, NJ, to replace Major Henry Lee's partisan corps of dragoons and light infantry as the latter were to be sent south to support the southern army. On 11 May, the General directed von Heer to report immediately to Army headquarters at Morristown, NJ, for "a very particular service." The Marechaussee were to be committed to battle as light dragoons to perform their original combat duties to prevent straggling, return soldiers to their units, provide flank reconnaissance, and accept prisoners of war. Von Heer had at his disposal two Lieutenants, three Sergeants, five Corporals, thirty-seven Privates, and one clerk.<sup>(6)</sup>

The Battle of Springfield, NJ, was fought on 23 June 1780. The British aim was to attack the Continental Army in its Morristown positions. Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton committed 6,000 British, loyalist and Hessian soldiers under Lieutenant General Wilhelm and Baron von Knyphausen for the main attack. Washington took the initiative



and advanced with 2,000 Continentals and militia under Major General Nathanael Greene. The battle see-sawed back and forth around Springfield and its Rahway river crossings. By the end of the day, von Knyphausen, unable to force the American forces to retreat and seeing an increase in American reinforcements, decided to withdraw. This ended Clinton's efforts to regain New Jersey for the Crown.<sup>(7)</sup>

After the Battle of Springfield, the Marechaussee troop returned to supporting the scattered brigades and commanders in Washington's Northern Army. The Army headquarters had moved to its winter quarters in New Windsor near Newburgh, NY. Captain von Heer's headquarters and his troop were located a few miles north in New Palz, NY. In December 1780, the Commander-in-Chief directed von Heer to make the year-end Congressional accounting of his men, horses, clothing, arms, and the deficiencies thereof.<sup>(8)</sup>

Captain von Heer responded on 16 December 1780. The officers and soldiers were in want of clothing, horses were in bad shape, forage was needed, and saddle and equipment repair were held up due to the lack of money. In fact, the lack of recognized currency to pay for these requirements was the cause of his woes as it was for all commanders in the Army.<sup>(9)</sup> Washington understood this and continued to permit the Captain to go to Philadelphia and plead his case to the Board of War and the Congress. On 25 May 1781, von Heer submitted another report to the Commander-in-Chief to indicate the various steps he had taken to gain monies for the needs of the troop. In that report, he indicated that he had followed the Board of War's 9 January order to turn in thirty horses

no longer fit for service. To date, he had not received replacements. He reiterated that the deficiencies noted in his previous report were still present and it was affecting provost dragoon retention in the service.<sup>(10)</sup>

While planning various attacks on Clinton's forces in New York City and encouraging the French to send reinforcements, Washington stopped to answer the Captain's report. In his 1 June 1781 reply, he admitted that money was lacking and that he would again direct the Quartermaster General to issue the best horses available to the Captain's dragoons. Washington then stated, "I consider your troop of essential utility to the Army—having had ample experiences of their fidelity and promptness in executing their duty on every occasion." He further urged von Heer to "put your Corps immediately in as good order as possible for taking to the field, the moment you shall receive orders to march."<sup>(11)</sup>

Washington issued that order on 13 July for the troop to report to Dobbs' Ferry, NY, where the French Army under Rochambeau had joined the Continental Army. From this strategic spot across from New York City, Washington could either attack the British forces there or move south to conduct operations in Virginia. On 25 July, Von Heer replied from the Office of the Board of War in Philadelphia that he would do everything possible to comply after settling accounts with the Board of Treasury. He indicated that while he was still deficient in horses, pistols, swords, and accouterments, he would send what dragoons he could mount under the command of an officer to reinforce his men who were with the Commander-in Chief.<sup>(12)</sup>



"Von Heer's Provost Dragoons 1780-81," by Don Troiani

At the end of August 1781, after several feints and deception messages meant to be captured, and field preparations for an attack on the city, the combined allied forces slipped south. On 27 August, while on the march, General Washington wrote to Virginia Governor Thomas Nelson from Chatham, NJ, which is just northwest of the Battle of Springfield's location, that the combined armies were on the move south to defeat General Cornwallis at Yorktown. He entreated the governor to feed and supply the Army while it was in Virginia.<sup>(13)</sup> It took the armies more than four weeks to make the march. On 28 September, Washington and Rochambeau arrived in front of Yorktown, VA.

During the Battle of Yorktown, von Heer's provost dragoons conducted their field missions of apprehending stragglers, seizing deserters, stopping suspected persons for interrogation, safeguarding movement of supplies, and collecting prisoners of war. Additionally, they delivered the Commander-in-Chief's orders to his units, and provided security for the headquarters and the General when required.<sup>(14)</sup>

On 19 October 1781, Cornwallis surrendered 8,000 British and German soldiers plus 1,200 sailors unfortunate enough to be part of the small, blockaded fleet at Yorktown. These prisoners of war were destined to spend the rest of the war at Winchester, VA, and Fort Frederick, MD.<sup>(15)</sup>

Washington almost immediately started releasing militia to return to their respective states. By the beginning of November, Brigadier General Anthony Wayne received orders to march south to reinforce Major General Greene's small army with his Pennsylvania Continentals along with Brigadier General Arthur St. Clair's Maryland and Delaware recruits. The remaining Continentals were to return north with the Commander-in-Chief to be ready for any attack by Lieutenant General Clinton's British forces in New York.<sup>(16)</sup>

Washington reestablished his headquarters in Newburgh (New Windsor area), NY, with his units distributed in New York and New Jersey. Captain von Heer redistributed his provost marshals and provost dragoons throughout the Army encampments to conduct law and order, and other duties, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief.

In the Marechaussee, General Washington had a mounted force that commanded respect, intimately knew the road networks between his dispersed forces, were more heavily armed as dragoons, were alert to unusual surroundings, were used to responding to disturbances, and had an instilled discipline that he wanted to represent the Continental Army. George Washington also began using the Marechaussee on an as needed basis for his personal escort as he moved throughout his area of operations. This was noted in an order to Captain von Heer on 14 March 1782. In this order, the General asked that von Heer equip and mount as many of his troop as he could and meet him at Burlington, NJ, as the General was leaving that place on "Wednesday morning."<sup>(17)</sup>

Yorktown proved to be the beginning of the end of the war. General Washington knew that he had to be prepared for any British action. However, he also knew if peace negotiations were active, that General Clinton would not sally forth from his fortified city. Thus, he began to assess the viability of maintaining the size of the Continental Army, however, Congress had no mechanism to tax and pay to maintain it. The Army was slowly disintegrating. Enlistments expired and the men left. Recruiting was difficult, if not impossible.

Finally, after a threatened march on Philadelphia by the officer corps to demand the Congress pay the Army, Washington was able to negotiate with Congressional members several of the officers' demands. The Congress knew it did not have the means to immediately meet those demands and so, as an interim measure, it voted to permit Washington to furlough units with the promise of payment at the war's end. Among the units to be furloughed was the Commander-in-Chief's Guard of sixty-four men. It was furloughed in June 1783 at Newburgh.<sup>(18)</sup>

The Marechaussee, now up to strength in men and horses, remained on active duty and assumed headquarters security duties. As the last mounted unit with General Washington, it also assumed Commander-in-Chief messenger duties delivering sensitive orders, demobilization plans for weapons and equipment storage, and private messages between Washington, his generals, and Congress. On 3 October 1783, General Washington wrote







Valley Forge Winter 1777. Cold and weary soldiers of the Continental Army warming themselves around an open fire at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, during the winter of 1777–1778. Source: American Engraving, 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

to Robert Morris, the Superintendent of Finance, to indicate that Morris should provide pay for one Provost Sergeant, a Corporal, and eight Provost Dragoons that would support him in his military duties after the Army was disbanded. He indicated that he could not do without them.<sup>(19)</sup> They composed the last active duty mounted unit to serve in the Continental Army.

The end came in November 1783 when the Army was formally disbanded. The headquarters in Newburgh was closed and Washington left for New York City to formally reoccupy it for the United States. He arrived on 25 November 1783, the day the last British soldier was to leave. Major General Henry Knox, Washington's chief of artillery was with him. They led a small unit of dragoons, some light infantry, artillery, and a Massachusetts infantry battalion through the city to the Battery. One woman, watching the Continental soldiers later wrote, the troops were

“...ill-clad and weather beaten and made a forlorn appearance; but they were our troops, and as I looked at them and thought upon all they had done and suffered for us, my heart and my eyes were full, and I admired and gloried them [all] the more, because they were weather beaten and forlorn.”<sup>(20)</sup>

For the five years the members of the Provost Dragoons loyally supported the Commander-in-Chief and the Continental Army. These remarkable

men performed their duties to ensure the Congress's Articles of War and the Commander-in-Chief's regulations were enforced. They protected the soldiers from unscrupulous sutlers and merchants, and from the unlawful acts of others. They quelled riotous behavior and returned stragglers to their units. They protected the Commander-in-Chief and carried his messages. When the Army was on the move, they patrolled the flanks and rear for stragglers, spies, and enemy movement. As Provosts, they learned the roads, paths, and tracks for movement, and provided route reconnaissance information. They picked up enemy deserters and took control of enemy prisoners of war. For their faithful and loyal service, they received nothing in return other than the right to be identified as part of that very small, select group that General George Washington called his Corps of Marechaussee.<sup>(21)</sup> Today, we call them the US Army Military Police Corps. ★

(1) “To George Washington from Captain Bartholomew von Heer, 17 November 1777,” Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.online.gov/documents/Washington/03-02-0282>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 12, 26 October 1777–25 December 1777, ed. Frank E Grizzard, Jr. and David R. Hoth. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2002, pp. 289–292.]

(2) Drury, Bob and Clavin, Tom; Valley Forge, Simon & Schuster, New York, 2018. p. 188.

(3) “From George Washington to a Continental Congress Camp Committee, 29 January 1778”, Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents-Washington/03-13-02-0335>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 13, 26 December 1777–28 February 1778, ed. Edward G. Lengal. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press 2003. pp. 376–409.]

(4) “From George Washington to Major General Nathanael Greene–6 June 1778,” Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-15-02-0350>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 15, May–June 1778, ed. Edward G. Lengal, Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006, p. 335.]

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Bartholomew von Heer, 18 July 1779,” Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-21-02-0453>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, Volume 21. 1 June-31 July 1779, ed. William M. Ferraro, Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2012, pp. 558-559.]

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- (8) “From George Washington to Bartholomew von Heer, 10 December 1780,” Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/99-01-02-04187>. [This is an Early Access document from the Papers of George Washington. It is not an authoritative final version.]
- (9) “To George Washington from Bartholomew von Heer, 16 December 1780,” Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/99-01-02-04245>. [This is an Early Access document from the Papers of George Washington. It is not an authoritative final version.]
- (10) “To George Washington from Bartholomew von Heer, 25 May 1781,” Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/99-01-02-05862>. [This is an Early Access document from the Papers of George Washington. It is not an authoritative final version.]
- (11) “From George Washington to Bartholomew von Heer, 1 June 1781,” Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/99-01-02-05927>. [This is an Early Access document from the Papers of George Washington. It is not an authoritative final version.]
- (12) “To George Washington from Bartholomew von Heer, 25 July 1781,” Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/99-01-02-06499>. [This is an Early Access document from the Papers of George Washington. It is

not an authoritative final version.]

- (13) Ketchum, Richard M., *Victory at Yorktown*, Henry Holt, New York, 2004, p. 160.
- (14) Ed. Baumgardner, Randy, *Military Police Regiment History 1941-2018*; Military Police Regimental Association; Acclaim Press, Morley, Missouri, 2018, p. 8.
- (15) Ketchum, p. 159.
- (16) *Ibid*, p. 159.
- (17) “From George Washington to Bartholomew von Heer, 28 May 1782,” Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/99-01-02-08545>. [This is an Early Access document from the Papers of George Washington. It is not an authoritative final version.]
- (18) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commander-in-Chief%27s\\_Guard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commander-in-Chief%27s_Guard).
- (19) Valusk, David and Reppert, Byron, *The Marechaussee: von Heer’s Provost Corps, A Pennsylvania German Unit*. This paper was found during a search for von Heer’s background. It was posted on the Military Service page created/owned by PFC Keith Farkas. The paper goes into detail about the first provost marshal generals, Army headquarters orders regulating the Marechaussee and responsibilities of commanders to support. At the end, there is a listing of provost dragoons and officers who served in the Marechaussee during the war.
- (20) Ketchum, p. 288.
- (21) In reviewing the letters, it was evident that the officers, except for one or two, remained with the Corps of Marechaussee almost to the end. None had benefactors in their home states that could provide for their welfare. None were promoted. All left destitute and in poverty. Several returned to Europe through donations and loans made by civilians able to assist. Others disappeared in history. The provosts’ fates are yet to be discovered.



## “IF THEY CATCH YOU, YOU WILL DIE”

COL ROBERT L. REESE, USA (RET) & COL GEORGE D. EHRINGER USA (RET)  
GEN RIDGWAY-PITTSBURGH CHAPTER, PA

Leslie (Les) Banos was one of the most unpretentious persons the authors ever met, especially when you consider he impersonated a German SS officer for one and a half years in Budapest, Hungary, during World War II. As an undercover agent, he funneled critical information to the Hungarian Underground, the US Office of Strategic Services (OSS), and Allied Forces. His actions saved hundreds of Jewish lives and advanced the war effort against the German military.

Not only did he have to deceive the German SS occupation forces, but he also had to make sure friendly constituents would not disclose his identity when they saw him in a SS uniform. Who could he confide in? Who could he trust not to reveal his identity as a Resistance operative? Could a slip of the tongue or a doubtful response to an SS official raise questions? These are questions he had to ask himself each day. As you will see, he avoided certain death on more than one occasion by luck or by quick thinking.

Despite knowing his history, Banos' life is even more intriguing after listening to his public presentations and reading his autobiography, “If They Catch You, You Will Die.” (On numerous occasions, Banos' Aunt Berta would say that



Leslie Banos

phrase to him.) Author Ehringer also visited a number of the places in Budapest mentioned in Banos' book, including the Big Jewish Ghetto. Thus, began a collaborative effort between the authors to share a hero's life with others.

Banos was born Laszlo Banos on 16 August 1923, to Berta and Mór Banos in Nyirbator, Hungary. His father was Jewish, but his mother was not. Leslie's mother died before he turned one, so he was raised by his maternal Aunt Margit and Uncle Bela Vanczak, who lived in Budapest. Members of the Vanczak family were active Social Democrats and unionists.

At age six, he returned to live with his father upon his father's remarriage. At age 14 he returned to Budapest to live again with his aunt and uncle to attend higher education. His aunt and uncle owned the Vanczak Manufacturing Company, which produced a variety of domestic products. As

a youth, Leslie worked in the Vanczak steel-manufacturing plant while attending night school.

Banos recalls that his resistance and rescue activities in Hungary began in 1938 when the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia. Hungary joined the Axis Powers of Germany, Japan, and Italy in September 1940.



The Vanczak Manufacturing Company building



This alliance notwithstanding, the German Army invaded Hungary and occupied Budapest in March 1944. Banos, in his early twenties, was approached by Julian Schweiger, a member of the Hungarian Underground, to assume the identity of a deceased Hungarian University student of German ethnicity by the name of George Nemeth. Thus, began his brief career as a spy for the Allied forces and others.

The German Command was particularly impressed with his ability to speak Hungarian and fluent German, which they thought was his native tongue. Since he was familiar with Budapest, his SS assignment was as a translator and chauffeur transporting high-ranking German officers. This enabled him to learn information critical to the Allied war effort, such as troop movements and top-ranking German officer reassignments.

Among his notable passengers was German SS-*Obersturmbannführer* (lieutenant colonel) Adolf Eichmann, who oversaw transporting Jews by rail to concentration camps, and German SS-*Obersturmbannführer* (lieutenant colonel) Otto Skorzeny, a comando who rescued Mussolini from captivity. Banos also obtained stationery and the seal of General Oskar von Niedermayer, and forged a document granting him the privilege of unrestricted travel. However, before using a forged document with General Niedermayer's signature, Banos had to feel confident that the document would not get back into the hands of the General.

German soldiers would not typically have the means to question the authenticity of a German General's signature. Therefore, they would have to rely upon the letterhead of the stationary

for validation. Great care had to be taken by the Underground so that intelligence information gathered by Banos could not be traced back to Banos, alias George Nemeth.

On one occasion, Banos confronted SS soldiers apprehending a young Jewish boy who was not wearing a Jewish Star. Without giving it a second thought, Banos showed the SS soldiers his "Letter of Authority" and advised them that he had been specifically looking for that Jewish boy, whereupon he ushered the boy into his vehicle and drove off to a location where he set the boy free. He had no backup plan had the SS soldiers questioned his authority.

Since transportation and routing documents were not routinely questioned by those in the German supply chain, the Underground Resistance found transportation and routing documents to

be an effective means of disrupting the logistics flow of war materiel. Banos and his Underground comrades would change these documents on rail cars, sending supplies needed by a German unit to a wrong location.

His uncle and aunt's Vanczak Manufacturing building was a sanctuary for Jewish citizens escaping deportation to concentration camps. Banos would hide escaping individuals in a space below the main floor, which housed in a large, sanitary sewer. He would then provide them with sanitary accommodations and food for as long as necessary. He was able to protect two hundred people from deportation.

Banos painfully shared with the authors what he considered one of the most horrific experiences of the war involving the



The "Shoes on the Danube Bank" is a memorial in Budapest, conceived by film director Can Togay with sculptor Gyula Pauer to honor the Jews who were killed by fascist Arrow Cross militiamen in Budapest during WWII. Photo: Collection of Brig Gen A. B. Morrill III, USAF (Ret)



Arrow Cross Militia. The Arrow Cross Party (*Nyilaskeresztes Párt – Hungarista Mozgalom*), was a far-right Hungarian party, which formed a government known as the Government of National Unity aligned with Nazi Germany. These troops lined-up men, women, and children taken from the Jewish Ghetto along the banks of the Danube River. The Jews were instructed to remove their shoes and, in some cases, were ordered to strip naked, after which they were shot so that their bodies would fall into the river. This is a scene that remained with Banos the rest of his life. During its short rule, ten to fifteen thousand civilians (many being Jews and Romani) were murdered outright, and 80,000 people were deported from Hungary to various concentration camps in Austria.

Banos was also involved in a life-threatening incident when he was transporting German officers to a location which required him to cross the Magit Bridge. In anticipation of their evacuating the city, the German Army had prepositioned explosives under the bridge which accidentally exploded. Just as his vehicle began to cross the bridge, the bridge exploded and Banos and his passengers were thrown from their vehicle. Had they gone a few hundred yards further, this would have been a fatal incident.

Later, at the request of his aunt, Banos and a friend traveled to a Jewish orphanage in search of a young girl. Upon arrival they found that the Nazi forces had already rounded up the



The Majit Bridge in ruins

children for deportation. By chance, Banos heard a noise coming from a grand piano. Much to his surprise, he discovered two young girls hiding in the piano. He placed the girls in his car and made sure that they were placed in safe hands. Many years later in the United States when Banos attended an affair where a woman was being honored as a holocaust survivor, the woman and Banos began to exchange stories about their WW II experiences. They were surprised to realize that the woman was one of the little girls Banos found hiding in the grand piano.

In another incident, Banos was summoned to Julian Schweizer's

office late one evening. Schweizer was his Underground contact. There, Banos was introduced to Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who himself prevented many Jews from being placed in concentration camps. Banos was given the assignment to transport two individuals to Csepel Island, the largest island on the Danube in Hungary, which was the site of an industrial park. He was not given any information as to their identity and they did not speak to him. He surmised that they were extremely important to the Resistance and his mission was to safely

transport them to their destination regardless the obstacles.

Two blocks after his departure he was stopped by two German *Feldgendarmarie* (Military Police), who had barricaded the road with their motorcycles. They insisted upon seeing Banos' identification papers. After



L-R: Raoul Wallenberg and Leslie Banos



showing them his forged Authorization Document, the MPs were not satisfied with what they saw and insisted upon interrogating his passengers. Banos knew that if they questioned his passengers, they would all be apprehended, which he could not let to happen. He also knew it was extremely unusual to be stopped in such a manner. His only alternative was to kill both soldiers, which he did. He was able to complete his assignment without further incident. Banos said sometimes, "You have to do what you have to do, [when] under trying circumstances." During the rest of his life he regretted that he had to resort to such drastic action.

Banos was faced with another life-changing decision when the Russians liberated Budapest in early 1945 and began rounding up civilians they thought might be members of the Hungarian Resistance. Banos and Raoul Gustaf Wallenberg were among those detained near the Vanczak building by the Russian military and then escorted to a nearby hotel. The concierge of the hotel knew Banos and so informed him that his life was in jeopardy, and it would be in his and Wallenberg's best interest to escape the hotel. Wallenberg felt that since he was a Swedish diplomat he could not be detained and insisted that Banos follow the concierge's advice. Banos escaped over the roofs of the adjoining buildings. Wallenberg was detained by Soviet authorities and taken to Moscow where his fate has never been disclosed.

At the end of WWII, Banos and his wife Georgine migrated to the United States where he eventually became a professional photographer for the



Roberto Clemente, Pittsburgh Pirates.  
Photo: Rusty Kennedy/AP

Pittsburgh Pirates, the University of Pittsburgh Panthers, and the Pittsburgh Steelers. Banos shared a fascinating story with the authors about this new phase of his life. It was the NFC division playoffs on 23 December 1972 when the Steelers defeated the Oakland Raiders as a result of a last minute "Immaculate Reception" catch and touchdown by Franco Harris to defeat the Oakland Raiders 13 to 7.

As a result of that win, the Steelers were scheduled to play the Miami Dolphins in the Conference Championship Game on 31 December 1972. Since Banos was the official photographer of the Steelers he had to cancel his planned 31 December trip with his friend, Roberto Clemente of the Pirates.

The purpose of the trip was to provide needed disaster supplies to the people of Managua, Nicaragua who had been devastated by an earthquake.

Tragically, the flight ended in the fatal crash of the DC 7 aircraft shortly after takeoff from Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, also known as Isla Verde International Airport, Puerto Rico, which caused the death of Clemente and all aboard. Though he later died in 2012 at the end of a long life, Banos always felt that someone up above was looking out for him. ★



Photo: Pittsburgh Steelers, Post-Gazette

*Editor's Note: The article's title is taken from the title of Banos' autobiography, "If They Catch You, You Will Die."*



# EL PASO CHAPTER HOSTS HYBRID MEETING

LTC PATRICK C. STOLZE, USA (RET)  
COMMANDER, REGION XIII (MOWW)

On 17 October 2020, the Greater El Paso Chapter held its first Membership Meeting Luncheon of Operating Year 2020 at the Applebee's Restaurant in El Paso. Not only was it a routine membership meeting, but it was a hybrid meeting as well, simultaneously leveraging in-person and Zoom attendees. What makes this event especially noteworthy was this meeting featured a new Chapter Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Chaplain, and Advertising and Publicity committee person. The chapter is energized!

The Zoom part of the meeting was set up by Newsletter Editor, Lt Col Charles F. "Buck" Hamilton, USAF (Ret). He taught himself how to host a ZOOM Conference and he seamlessly made it happen—a model approach worth emulating by all Companions. Other Companions, including Region XIII's Supervising VCINC, CPT Paula R. Mitchell, Ed.D., USA (Fmr), and LTC (Ret) David P. McCoy, USA (Ret) tuned in via their home computers.

The entire event was covered by local TV station, KVIA ABC-7. Prior to the start of the meeting, a KVIA reporter interviewed Chapter Commander LTC Jesus Beltran, USA (Ret), as well as Region XIII Commander LTC Patrick C. Stolze, USA (Ret). Coverage continued during the business portion of the meeting, followed by the installation of the new commander and his staff officers. Treasurer CPT Robert G. "Bob" Melson, USA (Fmr), convinced the local station that we were news—and we were!

This meeting was packed with a lot of activity and Chapter Commander LTC Beltran kept things moving briskly. It was nice hearing the traditional elements of the meeting once again, such as the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and the MOWW Preamble, after eight months of cloister due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

MOWW VCINC CPT Mitchell presented an update from the National Headquarters, followed by a Homeland Security presentation from Lt



A KVIA ABC-7 TV reporter interviews Region XIII Commander LTC Patrick Stolze.



Region XIII Commander LTC Patrick Stolze talking to the Greater El Paso Chapter Companions.



Col Hamilton. The chapter's new Treasurer, CPT Melson, presented a Chapter Financial Report, which was followed by CPT David C. Thackston, USA (Fmr), briefing the planned virtual Veterans Day and other future Veterans Affairs and Patriotic Education Program events. The chapter's business session concluded with the ROTC/JROTC Outreach Program report by Committee Co-Chairs CPT Melson and LTC Richard B. Moore, USA (Ret).

Region XIII Commander LTC Stolze officiated as the Installation Officer for the new commander and staff. Following the Installation Ceremony, he offered guest speaker comments. He also presented a MOWW National Citation to HPM Laura S. Beltran for her work as the Scouts-USA Coordinator and the Chapter Chaplain.

The Greater El Paso Chapter is the first Region XIII chapter to incorporate the Zoom technology into its meeting repertoire. By doing so, it demonstrated how hybrid meetings can be readily accomplished. There are lessons learned to be sure, but the Chapter Zoom Coordinator, Lt Col Hamilton, offered to field any questions from throughout the Order so other chapters may achieve a comfort level when conducting similar hybrid sessions, which represent a needed service for Companions unable to meet, or for those who are not yet comfortable with meeting in person.

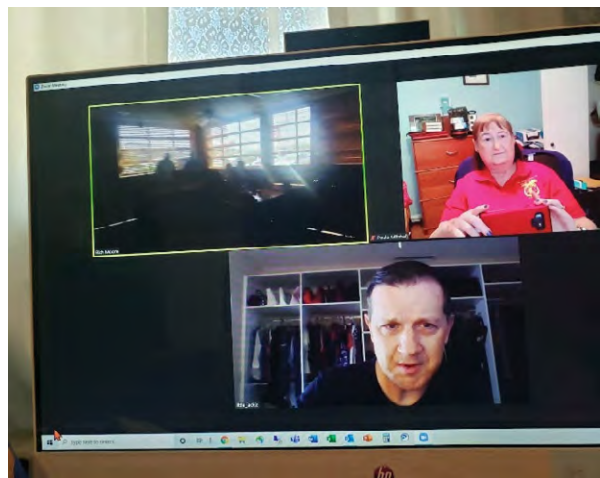
The Chapter Vice Commander, LTC Thackston, also hosted three guests who were prospective new members. Those guests took part in a terrific meeting covering a lot of MOWW and community activities in which they could soon be involved as future Companions. In closing, clearly the Greater El Paso Chapter Companions have embraced the Order's Motto, "It is Nobler to Serve than to be Served." Even more, they are definitely not letting the Coronavirus win in West Texas! ★



A KVIA ABC-7 TV reporter interviews Greater El Paso Chapter Commander LTC Jesus Beltran.



Region XIII Commander LTC Pat Stolze installing new chapter officers: Chapter Commander LTC Jesus Beltran; Vice Commander CPT David Thackston; Marshall HPM Kevin Lassiter; Newsletter Editor Lt Col Buck Hamilton; Adjutant LTC Rich Moore; Chaplain HPM Laura Beltran; and Treasurer CPT Bob Melson.



VCINC CPT Paula Mitchell and LTC David McCoy participating in the chapter meeting via Zoom.



## THERE IS A WAR FOR TALENT

BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET)  
CHIEF OF STAFF & COO, MOWW, INC.®

### FOR OUR ACTION

The MOWW Strategic Plan (2020-2025), Article III (“Strategic Goals”), Paragraph A, states:

A. Strategic Goal 1 (SG-1). Recruit, Convene & Involve Companions. The MOWW chain of command and staff elements (e.g., committees) will assist chapters in:

1. Increasing chapter end strength by a net four percent (4%) annually, after all losses have been taken into account.
2. Holding chapter meetings at least every other month.
3. Increasing Companion participation in chapter meetings and other chapter activities.

### FOR OUR INFORMATION

Dan Schawbek (Personal Branding Expert, Millennial Branding) wrote in his article, “Why Recruiting Is Vital to Your Success,” “... there’s nothing that will make a better impact [on organizational success] than hiring the best people your business can find.”

He cited a Boston Consulting Group study, “Realizing the Value of People Management From Capability to Profitability,” which concluded that “Onboarding and retention and managing talent were the areas that had the next-biggest impacts.”

He explains, “Recruiting is the function that attracts and selects future leaders, analyzes organizational requirements and gets the most performance..., and why there is a war for talent....”

### FOR OUR CONVENIENCE

To facilitate recruiting a new veteran member by every Companion, MOWW Forms 1, “Membership Application,” have long been available 24/7/365 on the MOWW website.

Based on a suggestion from CW4 Douglas G. Gray, USA (Ret), of the COL Stevens-Apache Trail Chapter, this issue of *The Officer Review*® features a pullout Membership Application with an envelope to make it even easier for each Companion to use as we each strive to recruit one new veteran member during this Operating Year. Tallyho! ★





# GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD STAFF RIDE

MAJ ERIC W. SHUMPERT, USA | COLUMBIA CHAPTER, SC & 188 INF BDE, FIRST ARMY DIVISION EAST  
MAJ MICHELLELYNN F. MCDEVITT, USA | 188 INF BDE, FIRST ARMY DIVISION EAST

From 4-13 November 2020, the 188<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade supported Warfighter Exercise 21-2 at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. On 8 November 2020, select personnel seized the opportunity to participate in a staff ride at Gettysburg National Battlefield Park.

The classic staff ride (a direct translation of the German term *Stabs-Reise*) is a technique used by Helmuth von Moltke the Elder in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As Chief of the Prussian Army's Great General Staff, he took his subordinates on riding tours of areas where, in the event of war, significant military events, such as battles or the deployment of large numbers of troops were likely to occur.

These exercises, later introduced at Leavenworth by US Military Academy graduate Major Eben Swift, later a Major General and the first commander of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Division, and then still later reintroduced by the Army in the 1970s, served the double purpose of training staff officers to appreciate the operational and strategic significance of elements of terrain and contingency planning.

Commissioned officers and noncommissioned officers of the 188<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade leveraged this professional development event by learning from historical military actions on the battlefield and connecting these actions to modern warfighting



The Eternal Light Peace Memorial at Gettysburg (L-R). Back Row: CPT Donald Hock (HHC, 188 INF BDE), MAJ Michellelynn McDevitt (5-306 BDE SPT BTN, MAJ Jarron McGarry (HHC, 188 INF BDE). Front Row: MSG Melissa Elam (4-306 BDE ENG BTN), MAJ Eric Shumpert (HHC, 188 INF BDE), CPT Roy Roby (HHC, 188 INF BDE).

functions. Through historical sources and observation, participants examined the magnitude of this engagement and discussed correlations between the necessity of empowering subordinate decision-making in a successful offensive and delayed actions, which would have been necessary to coordinate a centralized response to the attack.

In Large-Scale Combat Operations, the Army has Divisions and Corps as tactical formations. The Battle of Gettysburg involved multiple Corps from the Union and the confederate ranks. With such large elements, mission command is of the utmost importance. In fact, Army doctrine (ADP 6-0, "Mission Command: Command and Control of Army Forces") states, "Mission command is the Army's approach to command and control that empowers subordinate decision making and decentralized execution appropriate to the situation."

Confederate commander General Lee, who wore colonel's rank throughout the war (his last Federal rank), depended on subordinate commanders to execute his intent. On 2 July 1863, Lieutenant General Longstreet delayed his offensive to coordinate his forces. This move, later controversial, allowed Major General Meade, the Federal commander, more time to prepare for the attack.



Observer Coach/Trainers (OC/T) are soldiers certified to observe training exercises, coach, and train individuals and units. As OC/Ts for warfighters, observations of a successful mission command are enabled by principles of shared understanding, commander's intent and mission orders. The aftermath of Gettysburg would see 7,058 fatalities, 33,264 wounded, and 10,790 missing. The number of casualties both sides sustained overwhelmed their capacity and capability to provide health service support. The sustainment warfighting function includes the element of health service support. Health services support includes casualty care and multiple medical functions.

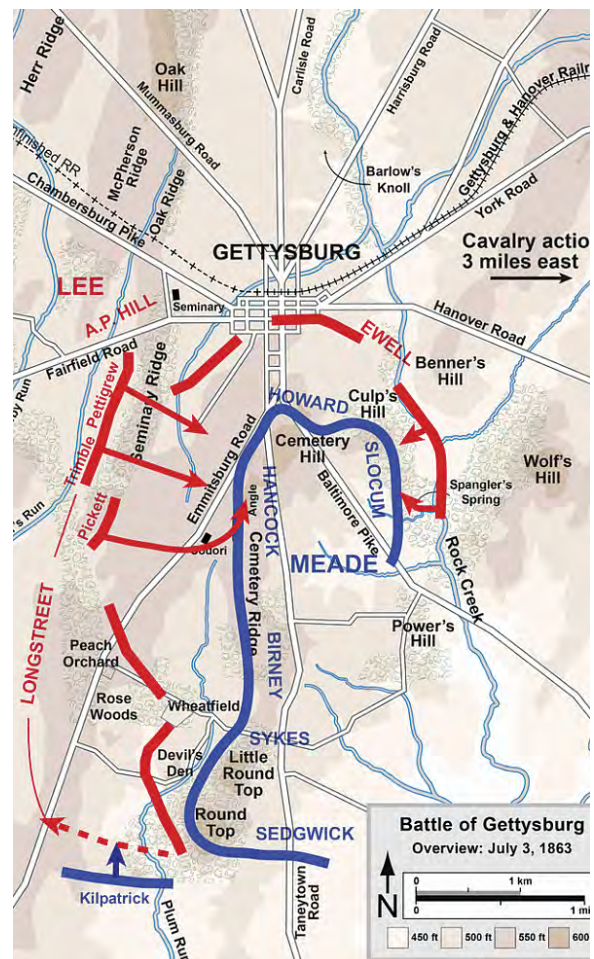
US Army Field Manual (FM) 4-0, states:

FM 4-0, Sustainment Operations, augments the Army's principal doctrine on providing sustainment support as found in ADP 4-0. It describes how Army sustainment forces, as part of a joint team, provide support to Army and other forces with particular emphasis on support to large-scale combat operations. This manual is a companion manual to FM 3-0 on Army operations and, together with ADP 4-0, provides the foundation for how Army sustainment forces support prompt and sustained large-scale combat operations.

Participants discussed FM 4-0 and how "health service support requires integration, coordination, and synchronization to ensure the complex interrelations and interoperability of all medical assets remain in balance to optimize the effective function of the entire system."

Post-exercise, OC/Ts provide feedback to further elevate unit readiness levels. It is essential that they discuss what coordination and reporting is occurring at the appropriate unit level and exercise we are involved to facilitate command and control, and operations, in the future.

During this staff ride, all personnel came away with a deep appreciation of the sacrifices of those who came before us and enduring insights from lessons learned, which they will apply to their own Army service. ★





# UNLIKELY HERO STILL AIDS VETERANS

HPM CHARLES W. BENNETT, JR.  
VIRGINIA PIEDMONT CHAPTER, VA

**The memory of Lynchburg, Virginia's, "hometown hero," Desmond T. Doss is helping homeless veterans in Central Virginia**

Do you know the story of Desmond Doss? You may have seen part of it in the award-winning 2016 movie "Hacksaw Ridge." But that was only part of the Desmond Doss story.

Born in Lynchburg, VA, on 7 February 1919, Desmond Thomas Doss was a devout Seventh-Day Adventist who strictly adhered to the Ten Commandments. On the day Pearl Harbor was attacked, 7 December 1941, Doss was working as a shipbuilder at the Newport News Shipyard in Virginia. While his employment could have merited an active-duty deferment, Doss wanted to serve his country and its citizens. With his brother in the Navy, Desmond entered the United States Army at Camp (now Fort) Lee, VA, on 1 April 1942. He was assigned to the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and sent to Fort Jackson, SC, for training.

There was just one problem. Doss's religious beliefs forbade him from killing or even carrying a weapon. When Army officials became aware of his beliefs, they offered to release him from the Army as a "conscientious objector." Doss refused. He wanted to serve, to save lives but not to kill. This did not endear him to his fellow soldiers.

Doss was harassed during his training, ostracized by his unit, bullied by both enlisted men and officers, including his commander. Doss held fast to his faith, accepted the abuse without complaint, and completed his training as a Company Aid Man (MOS 68W), commonly called a "Combat Medic." He was posted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.



*President Harry S. Truman awarded Desmond T. Doss the Medal of Honor on 12 October 1945, at the White House.*

In 1944, his unit shipped out to the Pacific, just in time for The Second Battle of Guam (21 July–10 August 1944) as US forces fought to recapture that Japanese-held island. The soldiers who reviled Doss during training now came to respect and admire the Bible-toting medic who frequently risked his life to rescue and treat them. They now affectionately nicknamed Doss "The Preacher." Doss was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for his bravery during the battle.

In October 1944, the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry made an amphibious landing on Leyte in the Philippines. From 17 October–26 December 1944, with continued disregard for his own safety, Doss saved the lives of many comrades. He was awarded a second Bronze Star Medal, this time with an Oak Leaf Cluster and a "V" for valor.

The 307<sup>th</sup> arrived on Okinawa and moved into the battle line on 29 April 1945. They were positioned on the Maeda Escarpment known as "Hacksaw



Ridge.” Heavily fortified by the Japanese, the escarpment could only be reached by climbing cargo nets suspended on its 400-foot high cliff face. By 5 May, the fighting had intensified to where the US position was untenable. The 307<sup>th</sup> was ordered to retreat.

But 75 soldiers were too wounded to make it down the cliff face. Doss refused to leave them behind. By rigging an ingenious rope harness, Doss was able to bring one soldier down the cliff. He went back up and got another. One by one, he managed to bring all 75 men to safety. True to his faith, Doss prayed as he worked, repeatedly saying, “One more, Lord, just one more!”

Doss was wounded four times on Okinawa, suffering a left arm fracture from a sniper’s bullet and seventeen pieces of shrapnel embedded in his body. He was eventually evacuated on 21 May 1945. For his injuries in combat Doss was awarded the Purple Heart with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

For his heroic actions on Okinawa, Private First Class Desmond T. Doss was nominated to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, which, if approved, would be presented by the President of the United States in the name of the US Congress. His medal citation reads, in part,

Through his outstanding bravery and unflinching determination in the face of desperately dangerous conditions Private First Class Doss saved the lives of many soldiers. His name became a symbol throughout the 77th Infantry Division for outstanding gallantry far above and beyond the call of duty.

President Harry S. Truman presented the Medal of Honor on 12 October 1945 on the White House

lawn in Washington, DC. Doss was the first soldier offered conscientious objector status in American history to receive the nation’s highest military award.

Doss had sustained long-term injuries in the war, including tuberculosis, which required the removal of a lung and five ribs. Even though he was 100% disabled, he raised a family on a small farm in Rising Fawn, GA. Later he moved to Piedmont, AL, where he died on 23 March 2006 at the age of 87.



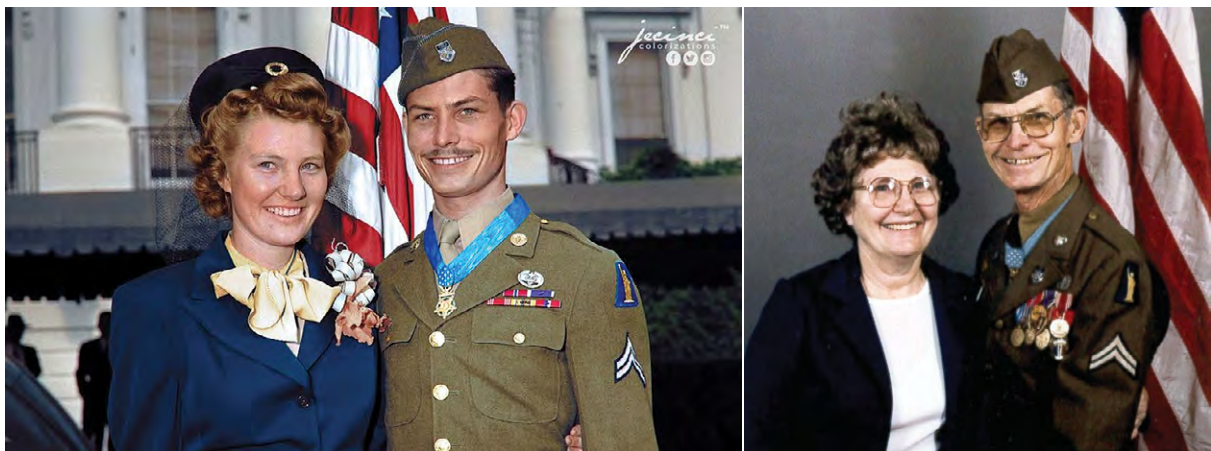
Desmond T. Doss in hospital rehabilitating from war wounds

Desmond Doss grew up in a white frame house with his father William, his mother Bertha, sister Audrey, and brother Harold at 1309 Garfield Avenue in Lynchburg, VA. The house was built in 1909 as the city grew. The house had several owners over the years and, sadly, fell into disrepair. After having been taken in default by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1999 and again by the US Department of Veterans Affairs in 2014, the house stood vacant for several years. Now Doss’s birthplace has new life and a new mission. Enter the Lynchburg Area Veterans Council.

The Lynchburg Area Veterans Council (LAVC)

is a volunteer organization bringing together the Virginia Piedmont Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars, American Legion Post 16, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12179, Marine Corps League Detachment 759, Military Order of the Purple Heart 1607, and Vietnam Veterans of America 196. It also includes area veterans, businesses, and community leaders. The LAVC offers several support programs to area veterans in need. One of these programs is assistance to homeless veterans.





(L-R): Dorothy P. Desmond T. and Dorothy P. Doss

In 2019, LAVC rented the Doss House, which was then restored and furnished to house three homeless veterans. The house was opened on 12 October 2019 in ceremonies attended by Doss's son, Desmond T. "Tommy" Doss, Jr., and Lynchburg's Mayor, Treney Tweedy. At that ceremony, 12 October was designated as "Desmond Doss Day" in Lynchburg, VA. However, the story does not end there.

Generous community support enabled the LAVC to purchase 1309 Garfield Avenue on 17 April 2020. On 12 October 2020, exactly seventy-five years after President Truman presented Desmond Doss the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Desmond Doss Veterans House was formally dedicated. Attending were members of Lynchburg City Council, representatives of the Lynchburg area veterans' organizations, the Chief of Police, the Fire Chief, many community leaders, members of the public, and Desmond T. Doss, Jr.



The Desmond T. Doss Veterans Home

Michael Reeves, USN (Ret), offered the invocation. A plaque provided by the Piedmont Chapter honoring Corporal Desmond T. Doss and naming the veterans

During this ceremony, the Virginia Piedmont Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars played a prominent role. Vice Commander of the Virginia Piedmont Chapter, CDR C.

home was then unveiled by Virginia Piedmont Chapter Commander LCDR Joel D. Kramar, USN (Ret). The plaque, which is now mounted by the house's front door, reads:

THE DESMOND T. DOSS  
VETERANS HOME  
  
BIRTHPLACE OF  
DESMOND T. DOSS, 7 FEBRUARY 1919  
PFC, COMBAT MEDIC, US ARMY  
  
AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR  
FOR HEROIC ACTION ON OKINAWA, 1945  
  
BRONZE STAR W/V DEVICE AND OAK LEAF CLUSTER  
PURPLE HEART  
  
DEDICATED 12 OCTOBER 2019  
ON DESMOND T. DOSS DAY IN LYNCHBURG  
BY THE LYNCHBURG AREA VETERANS COUNCIL, INC.

In an interview with the news media, son Tommy Doss said, "I love the phrase that he said over and over and over as he rescued these men: "Lord, just one more!" He did not ask to save 75 men. He did not even ask to save a dozen. He said, 'Can I just save one more?'"

In that spirit, the house where Desmond Doss was born is now being used to house homeless veterans and help them get their lives back on track. The legacy of an unlikely hero in World War II—patriotism, faith, and service—lives on today.

The Virginia Piedmont Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars is proud to be a part of the Lynchburg Area Veterans Council and, with other local veterans organizations, which makes a meaningful difference for our community and for the veterans of Central Virginia. ★



# "L'AVANTAGES DU SERVICE BÉNÉVOLE"

BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET)  
CHIEF OF STAFF & COO, MOWW, INC.®

*"The benefits of volunteer service"* are so many there is no end to the goodness we each can bring by being personally committed to the good of our Order and by being personally involved in the internal and outreach activities of our chapter. Another benefit: we can each find great personal fulfillment by doing so. Continuing volunteerism is the essential attribute of a servant Companion. That is why our motto is, "It is nobler to serve than to be served," and why making good stuff happen is what we volunteered to do

Volunteerism in service to others creates invaluable mentoring and learning opportunities helping youth. It honors those who give of themselves for a greater good and in so doing promotes a greater sense of community. It helps our nation's peoples come together based on appreciating our common ground even as we celebrate the value of our diversity. For these and other reasons, volunteerism in service is, and will always be, the lifeblood of Veteran Service Organizations such as our Order.

It should surprise no one that Veteran Service Organizations such as our Order are experiencing a crisis in volunteerism. Not enough members of the service organizations volunteer to do the work of the service organization. We can see this in our own chapters. Do we have multiple Companions vying to lead or take part in programs, run for elected office or volunteer for appointed office, or are we compensating for insufficient numbers of volunteers by multi-hatting and leaving some positions vacant?

If we recall our active duty service, what we are talking about here is the difference between assigned strength (those listed on a chapter roster) and effective strength (those members actually involved in chapter activities). We need to increase our effective strength by having more Companions being routinely and actively involved in chapter activities and MOWW operations.

For inspiration, we can look to those Companions who volunteer a second time after they volunteered a first time to become a Companion. We can emulate those Companions who routinely attend chapter

meetings and who are also part of an outreach team actively supporting local scouts, cadets and midshipmen, veterans, first responders, and more. We can emulate national committee members who are also active in their chapters and yet still make time to mentor others. For inspiration, we can emulate the Companion who, when a volunteer is needed, replies, "Here I am."

When we look at our proud history of continually renewed volunteerism, there is one Companion who was especially notable: Major General George Herbert Harries, AUS (Retired). He was MOWW's first and longest-serving Commander-in-Chief (1920-1925). He wrote, "...there [is] an increasing desire for the fine comradeship which will make double sure that foundation upon which we shall build a great and powerful organization." He knew what he was talking about, and that need still exists today. It only comes from continual volunteerism.

General Harries personally and unreservedly shepherded our Order through its fragile initial years and only left office after he and his fellow founding Companions volunteered time and again to do what was necessary to help keep the Order vibrant and ultimately long-lived. One hundred and one years later, we need more of our member Companions to do the same—for the same reasons. We need more Companions to volunteer in every chapter.

Now we face a pandemic. Thankfully, we are in the final stages of vaccine approval and are now working to begin producing and fielding vaccines developed by several sources to a prioritized list of groups and individuals, starting with health providers and those in permanent care facilities as determined by each state. This will take a bit of time, despite what we may wish. In the meantime, we should continue emulating Companions who have remained positive and uplifting, who pivoted, adapted, experimented, and succeeded in communicating, meeting, and recruiting in adaptive ways, and who are consistently and personally involved. We need you. ★





## ON TO A NEW YEAR

DR (CPT) ROBERT E. MALLIN, USA (FMR)  
SURGEON GENERAL, MOWW

Though it is just an artificial set of conventions and labels that we use to distinguish one year from another, we do it. So, it is with gratitude that 2020 is no more. Fires, hurricanes, and other unpleasant events are hopefully now on the downswing if not ending.

While snow, potential vaccines, health and safety best practices, and changes of the season will provide, we hope, increasingly beneficial and lasting effects, we must also rev up our personal commitment to improving—individually and collectively.

Thinking of the future, it is proper to really consider some resolutions this go-round. We are all a year older and things in general, and physical activities in particular, should be a serious consideration. For example, an exercise program suited to our individual condition is needed. Walking, running, skiing, and cycling are great for the more athletic of us.

However, using a swimming pool for joint-supported exercises is also great. Water walking back and forth uses up to 200 or more calories per 30 minutes, depending on weight, arm motion, and speed. Adding side-stepping for a similar period can double that. Lower extremities gain strength. You gain endurance. Your knees and hips show little stress.

Add a deep breathing regimen and add another dimension. Additional stretching, kicking, and upper arm motion against the water, and some pull-ups on the ladder, together make a good one and a half-hour workout.

Since COVID-19 limits the numbers of users at any given time, advance registration is needed. As you should expect, masks are used except when in the water. Still, my therapy pool has several sessions a day and accommodates all users safely. Six-foot distancing is a bit tricky, but it is possible when we zig and zag purposefully. The benefits are incalculable.

Looking ahead, try to clear your mind of as many of 2020 thoughts as possible. Mental health, a feeling of peace, is as important as physical health. A little less news, avoiding toxic web sites, less polarization and stridency, a little more music, and reading are good. Recently I took a “toxic holiday” and re-created a bit of nondigital living for an improved peace of mind. It worked, and I felt better for it.

One hard thing for me is dialing back on comfort foods, even though I know “comfort” does not typically mean “healthy.” Usually, avoiding comfort food is easy during the week, but the weekends are tough. Nonetheless, I intend to persevere and give it a better try this year.

We have a great need to work on the health and quality of our lives and pack up 2020 and confine it to the attics of our brains. Although memories and even “some things” will linger, an attitude change to eliminate much of the negative can be done. For many of us, it must be done to get back on a healthy track—in all the ways health can be defined.

Be well. ★



## CERTAINTY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

LTC CHERYL D. BRADY, USA (RET)  
CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW

The year 2020 is history. We have begun the journey into a New Year, a new decade in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The historical records of the past year and decade will be kept on earth and in heaven. Only what is recorded in heaven's account will contain the full and accurate rendering of all events.

We were not created to live our lives apart from God. God alone knows what is going to happen in 2021. He knows what will happen in our personal lives, our Order, our nation, and the world.

Believing God knows all things should help us harness our fears of the future as we trust in Him. It is when we meet the dawn of a new day in our own strength, power, and wisdom that we invite trouble, doubt, and uncertainty.

There are two spiritual keys that can help us navigate the flood waters beyond our control that rise in times of uncertainty, waters that seem to wash away our trust in God. Each spiritual key rests upon the grace, goodness, and faithfulness of the living God.

The first spiritual key is faith. A relationship with God is vital when facing days of uncertainty. Faith in God ushers in certainty in times of

uncertainty. What is faith? Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see." Faith is the confident assurance that the God who made the day has control over all He allows for the day. This is why we can rejoice in the day the Lord has made. We endeavor to keep the Lord before us as He leads us in the paths of righteousness each day for His name's sake. Our faith in God is based on His character, which never changes. Our faith rests upon the "I am."

The second spiritual key is hope. God is our hope. We hope in His word, that His promises are true and will be fulfilled. Hope in God is the anchor of the soul, and together both sure and steadfast (Heb 6:19). Times of uncertainty do not change the hope God has given us in the Scriptures. Instead, they lead to the rejoicing of better days to come. Hope in God reaches beyond this present life.

Faith and hope in the God who is eternal leads to an eternal perspective. For we put no confidence in what is passing away. The times are always certain with God. ★







Worcester Chapter, MA

## *Norwich University Hosts Tuskegee Airman LTC Enoch Woodhouse*

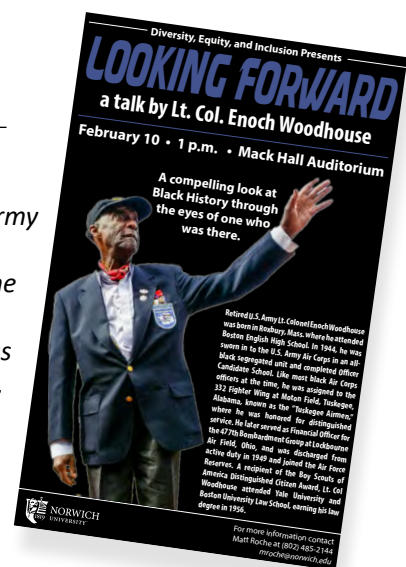
BY LTC DAVID A. ANDERSON, USA (RET)



On 11 February 2020, living legend LTC Enoch O'Dell Woodhouse II was the featured speaker for Black History Month at Norwich University. His talk, "Looking Forward," gave a compelling look at black history through the eyes of someone who lived it. He is pictured with AFROTC Cadets, where he shared his "pearls of wisdom" for one hour. Later, he spoke at Mack Hall Auditorium, where the session was scheduled for one hour. However, it was over two hours when completed. Suffice it to say, Woody was (and is) a "Rock Star."

For his informative and engaging remarks, Norwich University presented LTC Woodhouse with a token of their appreciation for his service and sacrifice over his long life.

LTC Enoch Woodhouse, USA (Ret), was born in Roxbury, MA, where he attended Boston English High School. In 1944, he was sworn in to the US Army Air Corps in an all-black, segregated unit and completed Officer Candidate School. Like most black Air Corps officers at the time, he was assigned to the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing at Moton Field, Tuskegee, AL, known as the "Tuskegee Airmen," where he was honored for distinguished service. He later served as Financial Officer for the 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group at Lockbourne Air Field, OH, and was discharged from active duty in 1949 and joined the Air Force Reserves. A recipient of the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award, LTC Woodhouse attended Yale University and Boston University Law School, earning his law degree in 1956.





Puget Sound Chapter, WA

## *Administering to Her Flock—Long Distance*

BY PCINC COL DAVID B. GIBSON, USAF (RET)\*

In May 2019, then-Chapter Commander CDR Ron E. Kirkland, USN (Ret), the past commander of the Atlanta Chapter and now a Puget Sound Chapter Companion, presented MOWW Chaplain General LTC Cheryl D. Brady, USA (Ret), with a MOWW Certificate during her sendoff from the Puget Sound Chapter to Natchitoches, TX.

Since April 2020, the Puget Sound Chapter is using technology to

conduct MOWW chapter meetings, with Chaplain General Brady administering to her flock of Companions long distance. Although we hate the Coronavirus, technology (Zoom) can bring us together over geographically distant locations.

(Top, L-R): Chapter Commander CDR Ron E. Kirkland, USN (Ret), and MOWW Chaplain General LTC Cheryl D. Brady, USA (Ret). (Inset right): LTC Brady provided both the invocation and the benediction for the Puget Sound Chapter on 11 October via Zoom.



GEN Meade Chapter, MD

## *Eagle Scout Recognition*

BY LT COL SHELDON A. GOLDBERG, USAF (RET)

Lt Col Sheldon A. Goldberg, USAF (Ret), Commander, Department of the National Capital Area, visited Boy Scout Troop 1444 in Silver Spring, MD, to recognize BSA Eagles Scouts Xavier Crain (left) and Ethan Frank (right).

Lt Col Goldberg spoke about MOWW to those in attendance and presented Certificates of Recognition to the two new Eagle Scouts at their Court of Honor.

Boy Scout Troop 1444 in Silver Spring, MD, has been chartered since 1966 and over the years more than 125 Boy Scouts became Eagle Scouts.





San Diego Chapter, CA

## Flag Day 14 June 2019: Honoring Our Flag and Country

BY PCINC CAPT DEBORAH A. KASH, USAF (RET)

The San Diego Chapter sponsored its first Flag Day Ceremony on 14 June 2019. The event was hosted by Ms. Wendy Wilson, Executive Director of the Bonita Museum and Cultural Center. In addition to MOWW Companions, many community members attended.

The color guard caller, Lucia Perez-Valles, brought in Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) Troop 5912 color guard. They impressively marched into position to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the Star-Spangled Banner. Girl Scout Kamilah Medina carried the US flag. Sophia Klass held the California State flag, while Azul Ramirez carried the blue and gold Girl Scout World flag, and Ivanna Alanis held the white and green Girl Scout USA flag.

Annette Rodriguez led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and also led us by singing our National Anthem. Following that, she recited the poem “My Name is Old Glory.”

The keynote speaker was CAPT Thomas J. Marshall, Jr., USN (Ret), who shared many interesting and meaningful facts about Flag Day: its origins, the different flags used before the first official flag, and American flag etiquette and the US Flag Code. Afterward, CAPT Marshall answered questions.

All attending received miniature US Flags, the Flag Code, a pamphlet describing proper flag usage, and cookies!

Top: Girl Scout Troop 5912 Color Guard. Inset, Top Right: Troop 5912. Inset, Center Right: Audience with CAPT Tom Marshall speaking. Inset, Bottom Right: KC Brault and Valerie Rios stand by our information booth and handed out programs.





Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA

## *Walking Together*

BY HPM DEBORAH ANNE FLETCHER OKIN

For fresh air, health, and companionship, Virginia Piedmont walks weekly together down “The Avenue” for an hour walking with friends. Some are new to the chapter and all have found walking is a way to get to know one another and this beautiful community. For more information on this “chapter best practice,” please see *The Officer Review*®, Nov-Dec 20.

(L-R): Gayle Kok; SVCINC Michael A. Okin, USA (Ret); Maureen Webb; TG LCDR Paul B. Webb, USN (Ret). Not pictured (i.e., taking the photograph) is HPM Debbie Okin.



G/A Bradley–COL Hanson Chapter, CA

## *Wreaths Across America*

BY LT COL DAVID J. WORLEY, USAF (RET)

On 14 December 2019, the GA Omar Bradley–COL Thaxton Hanson Chapter took part in Wreaths Across America by laying wreaths at the Los Angeles National Cemetery. This annual event is one of the chapter’s primary community outreach activities within our “Honor Our Fellow Veterans” programs.

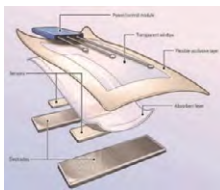
Chapter Companions sponsored wreaths and participated in the wreath-laying event. This year, the chapter is fundraising to purchase 200 wreaths to be placed at the cemetery on 19 December, the day chosen as National Wreaths Across America Day.

From 2019: Chapter Adjutant HPM Mrs. Georgett E. Studnicka laid a wreath in honor of CPL Anthony G. Koldoff, USA, who served during WWI.





## Healing with Electricity



The cost to treat pressure injuries in the US is \$9.1–\$11.6 billion per year, according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. These are characterized as chronic

wounds that are slow to heal require repeated trips to the clinic for specialized wound care.

It is a problem that Dr. Kath Bogie has been working on intermittently for nearly 15 years. Bogie and a team of colleagues have now created a “smart bandage” that makes use of electrical stimulation to treat chronic wounds that will not heal on their own. The high-tech bandage, called “Exciflex,” is based on technology developed by the researchers—initially named the Modular Adaptive Electrotherapy Delivery System, or MAEDS. Read the full story at <https://www.research.va.gov/currents/0920-VA-researcher-develops-smart-bandage-to-treat-chronic-wounds.cfm>

## The Board is Bringing Hearings to Veterans—Virtually



VA is bringing virtual hearings to Veterans who have disagreed with the decision VA made on a compensation claim and who have appealed the decision to the Board of

Veterans Appeals (BVA), i.e., “the Board.”

If you have a cell phone, computer, or tablet with Wi-Fi, you can have a virtual BVA hearing anywhere with a Veterans Law Judge (VLJ). In fact, nearly 3000 Veterans have already requested virtual tele-hearings. It works similarly to VHA’s Tele-Health Appointment Program: If you have access to Wi-Fi with your cell phone, computer, or tablet, you can have a virtual tele-hearing. If the technology appears daunting, you can ask a family member or caregiver to assist you. When connected, you and your representative simply talk to the Veterans Law Judge via a computer or cell phone screen. Veterans can test their equipment here: [https://vc.va.gov/webapp2/conference/test\\_call?name=Veteran&join=1](https://vc.va.gov/webapp2/conference/test_call?name=Veteran&join=1)

## What You Need to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccine



Planning is underway at VA to deliver a COVID-19 vaccine when one becomes available. VA is working with the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop a phased plan based on five core ethical pillars: safety, maximizing the benefit of the vaccine, equity, fairness, and transparency.

Veteran and employee safety remain our #1 priority. The plan takes into consideration a number of risk factors, including risks of acquiring infection, severe illness, and death if infected, and transmitting the disease, as well as the risk to essential workers, including health care personnel.

VA medical centers across the country performed planning exercises in late October to prepare for initial receipt of the vaccine. These exercises helped sites determine how they will distribute immunizations. They also addressed ordering, storage, handling, and administration of the vaccine.

Initially, we expect supplies to be limited. Based on these risk factors, VA will offer the vaccine first to high-risk health care personnel (HCP), as they are essential in continuing to care for patients throughout the pandemic. As more vaccines become available, VA will offer the vaccine to high-risk veterans. VA’s ultimate goal is to offer it to all veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated.

Additionally, VA has been conducting listening sessions and interviews with veterans across the country to gauge their interest and determine the best methods for reaching out to our diverse veteran population.

Your local medical facility will update you as vaccines become available.

Important resources: CDC COVID-19 Vaccine website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

VA News Release on vaccine distribution: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5570>





## REVEILLE

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NEW MEMBER

Sponsor

\*Denotes PM/HPM

\*\*Denotes RM/HRM

DATA FROM OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2020

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CPT JEREMY R. OROSCO, USA\*\*

*Mr. Robert E. Soderstrom \**

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*LTC Oren L. Peters, USA (Ret)\**

LT COL SUSAN K. PARISI, USAF (RET)\*\*

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*Mr. John S. Hollywood \**

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"IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED"

# OFFICER REVIEW®

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

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Look!  
Are Your Dues Due?



## Prince William SPCA, Girl Scouts team up to feed pets, raise awareness

Nov 24, 2020

To celebrate Thanksgiving, the Prince William SPCA worked with Operation Turkey and Girl Scout volunteers to donate bags of pet food to help needy families and raise awareness of the negative effects of feeding human food to pets.

The donation was valued at \$848 and provided 77 bags of cat food and 36 bags of dog food. Each bag was filled with enough food for at least one day, as well as a pamphlet about proper nutrition of pets. The bags were given to and distributed at ACTS (Action in Community Through Service) and the Haymarket Regional Food Pantry, the SPCA said in a news release.

During the first two Saturdays of November, girls from the Girl Scout Troop 2577 visited PetSmart, armed with hundreds of dollars in gift cards provided from the Prince William SPCA, as well as smaller donations made by some of the girls' parents.

The girls bought food for both dogs and cats and packaged the food in labeled bags provided by the Prince William SPCA. The packages were then divided up with some of the food going to the Haymarket Regional Food Pantry to be handed out in a booth set up by Troop 2577's Event Coordinator, Crystal Morissette, and the rest going to ACTS with the help of Melissa Korzuch, the President of the Prince William SPCA.

Source: Inside NOVA, Northern Virginia's Leading News Source