



# **EXCELSIOR**

**2025 Year in Review**

**COL Thomas F. Pike, Jr.**  
*Commander*

**CPT David Disi**  
*Vice Commander*

**CDR John F.V. Cupschalk**  
*Secretary*

**CPT Gary Dycus**  
*Treasurer*

**MAJ Dave Forrester**  
*Registrar*

**LT Harvey Bagg**  
*Judge Advocate*



*We have had a year of great social events, all of which were fully subscribed. We also saw excellent growth in our membership. Looking forward to 2026, we will continue our quarterly meetings and cocktail parties*

*The Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States (MOFW) is a 501(c)4 Organization, and one of the oldest Veterans' and Hereditary Associations in the Nation with a diverse membership that includes those who have served, or descendant from those who have served, during one of the foreign wars in which this country has been engaged or is currently engaged.*

The Seven Purposes of the MOFW are:

- Honor and perpetuate the names of brave and loyal men and women.
- Keep in mind the memory of their martial deeds and the victories which they helped gain.
- Strengthen the ties of fellowship among the Companions of the Order.
- Foster the cultivation of military and naval science.
- Bear true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon a paramount respect for and fidelity to the National Constitution and laws.
- Aid in maintaining national honor, union and independence.
- Foster and encourage the study of American History and particularly of American Military History, to the end that the memory of brave men and women may freely be enshrined and that we and our children may learn from the past to formulate sound policies for the present and future.



**COL Thomas Pike, USA (Ret.)**  
*Commander*  
*Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States*  
*New York Commandery*



## ***ATTENTION TO AWARDS***

### **COMMANDER GENERAL'S MEDAL**

17 January 2025

Maj. Daniel L. Hooker received the MOFW Commander General's Medal at the Commandery's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner on 17 January 2025. Dan is both past-Commander General of the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States, and past-Commander of the New York Commandery.



## ***COMMANDERY EVENTS***

### **NEW YORK COMMANDERY 130<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

17 January 2025





*Commandery 130<sup>th</sup> Continued*





## ANNUAL MEETING 16 April 2025

The 2025 Annual Meeting and Reception was a great event for all.



*New York Commandery 2025*



## FLEET WEEK 2025 22 May 2025

Companions of the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States, New York Commandery attended a lunch honoring service members in the area. The joint service luncheon coincided with Fleet Week



## SUMMER GARDEN PARTY June 2025

Companions and spouses gathered to usher in the start of summer. The event was held jointly with the Mayflower Society and the Society of Colonial Wars (NY).





## COL TEDDY ROOSEVELT COCKTAIL RECEPTION

8 October 2025

Great weather on the balcony during MOWF-NY's Teddy Roosevelt cocktail reception. We were also visited by the two oldest cadet corps in New York City: the Knickerbocker Greys (elementary school) and the Xavier Regiment (high school). Good to see everyone.

COL Teddy Roosevelt was a Companion of the New York Commandery.





## ***COMPANIONS IN TOWN AND AROUND***

### **MIDTOWN EVENT**

April 2025

Companions Daniel L Hooker, Dave Disi and Gary L. Dycus. Proudly represent the New York Commandery at an annual white tie event in Midtown Manhattan.



### **SPRING EVENT**

April 2025

Companions Gary Dycus, Greg Mesniaeff and Tom Pike attended a prominent social in Midtown Manhattan. We were most fortunate to have Past Commander General Ted Neilson join us.

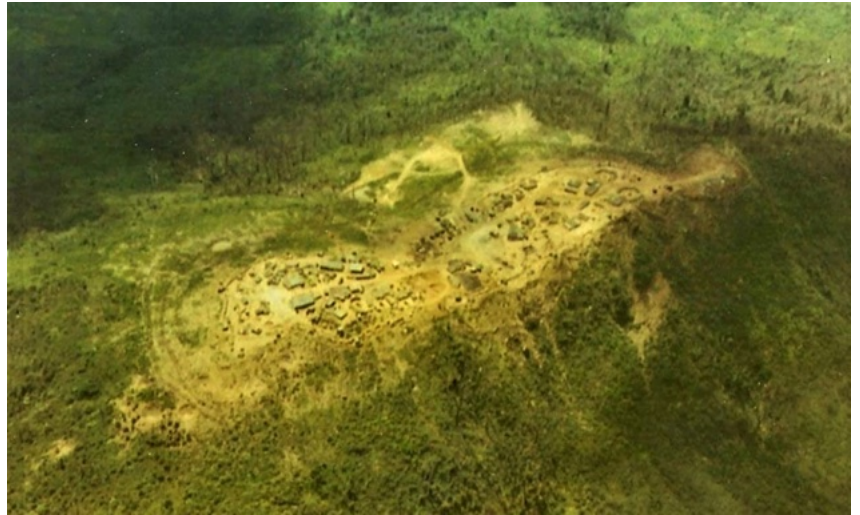




MOFW-PA  
April 2025

Sincere thanks to Alvan "Cappy" Markle for inviting me to Philadelphia for a great meal in the city. Cappy is the Commander for the Military Order of Foreign Wars in Pennsylvania. The speaker during the lunch was Dennis Murphy. He earned the Silver Star during a riveting battle on Firebase Mary-Ann, noted in Keith Nolan's book, *Sappers in the Wire: The Life and Death of Firebase Mary Ann*.

MOFW continuously advocates for our American military heritage.





## VIVE LA FRANCE

May 2025

Vice Commander Dave Disi and Treasurer Gary L. Dycus in Paris attending the triennial meetings for the Society of the Cincinnati.



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

May 2025

Companion Ambassador John Loeb received the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York. \ Several Companions attended the event.



## MOFW AWARD

May 2025

### *Graduating Class at West Point*

Companion David Forrester presented the Military Order of Foreign Wars Award to Sean Cuff at West Point, recognizing his excellence and dedication to the profession of arms.





## MOFW-PA June 2025

Companion John Cupschalk, with his brother and family members, attended the June luncheon of the Pennsylvania Commandery. This was an oversold event with 37 in attendance to hear PA Companion Gardiner Pearson (LT, USNR) speak on Riverine Combat in Viet Nam. He shared his experiences while aboard the gunboat USS Crockett (PG-88), *providing* gunfire support to SEAL and Vietnamese Army operations operating from the “SEAFLOAT” base in the Cua Lon River in southernmost South Vietnam.





## MILITARY HALL OF FAME

June 2025

Past MOFW-NY Commander Daniel L Hooker and council member Dan McNally, both veterans, attended an event at Fordham University honoring its student and alumni veterans. Retired Marine Lt. Gen. John Toolan was inducted into the Military Hall of Fame.



## MOFW-PA

November 2025

Companion John Cupschalk attended the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States - Pennsylvania Commandery luncheon in Philadelphia. COL Sherwood (Woody) D. Goldberg, Esq., a Vietnam Combat Veteran and Chief of Staff Senior Advisor to Secretary of State GEN Alexander Haig, gave an intriguing and interactive talk on his time on General Haig's team.





## ***WELCOME NEW COMPANIONS***



### **COL (R) JOHN BIVONA, USAF**

We are pleased to welcome COL (R) John Bivona, USAF as a Veteran Companion in the Order. Companion Bivona is an Airborne Ranger and served in Iraq from 2004-2005. He held his Army retirement ceremony in the U.S. Embassy in Riga, Latvia.

In his civilian capacity, John worked as a Special Agent for the FBI, serving in New York and Europe. He recently retired from the FBI and is now a key member of the non-profit, National Center for Urban Operations. His awards include the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB), and the Estonian Police Medal of Merit. He is a native New Yorker and attended Xavier High School's prestigious JROTC program.



### **CDR DANIEL CAHILL, USN (RC)**

We are pleased to welcome Companion Daniel Cahill as a Veteran Companion in the Order. Companion Cahill is a Commander in the U.S. Navy reserve and served in the Global War on Terrorism and during Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. He currently serves as the Executive Officer for a unit assigned to U.S. Naval Forces Europe. He is a member of the Army and Navy Club.



### **Maj WESTLEY KASPER, USAF (Ret.)**

We are pleased to welcome Maj Westley Kasper, USAF (ret.) as a Veteran Companion in the Order. Companion Kasper served as a combat rescue and special operations helicopter pilot while an officer in the U.S. Air Force. He deployed to Kuwait and Turkey in the 1990s. He earned the Air Medal from a rescue mission over Iraq in 1992. He currently serves as a Foreign Affairs Officer at the Department of State in Washington, DC.

His other awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Iraq Campaign Medal. The Commandery warmly welcomes Companion West Kasper and his wife.



### **ALLAN KEENE**

We are pleased to welcome Companion Allan Keene as a Veteran Companion in the Order. Companion Keene led a "Duster" unit in the northern provinces of South Vietnam from 1969-70. He earned the Bronze Star Medal and left the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant. His other medals include the National Defense Service Medal, The Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Allan lives in Manhattan. He created the Keene Reading Glasses program in 2013 which distributes about 100,000 pairs of reading glasses annually to patients. The program is at 20 Northwell Health NY Hospitals, 3 Catholic Hospitals on Long Island and several social service organizations in South Florida.



### **DONALD T. MACLEOD, JR.**

We are pleased to welcome Donald T. MacLeod, Jr. as a Hereditary Companion in the Order, by right of his father, 1LT Donald T. MacLeod, Sr.

1LT MacLeod served as an intelligence officer for a U.S. Army battalion in the Korean War. In this capacity, he supported the UN's military efforts to defend South Korea from 27 June 1950 to 27 July 1954.

Companion MacLeod is also a descendant of several veterans of the Union Army, to include Major John Terry who earned the Medal of Honor during the Civil War. He is an active member of many historical and patriotic organizations in New York and enjoys traditional architecture, antiques and the arts. The Commandery warmly welcomes Companion Don MacLeod.



### **LtCol TIMOTHY MURPHY, USMC (Ret.)**

We are pleased to welcome LtCol Timothy Murphy, USMC (ret.) as a Veteran Companion in the Order. During his career, Companion Murphy served as an Infantry Officer, as well as in logistics and intelligence. He completed two deployments to Iraq from 2005 to 2009. His awards include the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (w/ bronze OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon and the Iraq Campaign Medal. He is currently retiring from a distinguished career with the US government in Washington, DC. The Commandery warmly welcomes Companion Tim Murphy to the Order.



### **LTC ROBERT A. PARSONS, USA**

We are pleased to welcome LTC Robert A. Parsons as a Veteran Companion in the Order. Companion Parsons is currently the Professor of Military Science for the Yankee ROTC Battalion at Fordham University in New York City. He served with the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry in Iraq from 2007-2008. His awards include two Bronze Stars, three Meritorious Service Medals and the Army's Combat Infantryman Badge.



### **LTC (R) WILEM WONG, USA**

We are pleased to welcome LTC (R) Wilem Wong as a Veteran Companion in the Order. Companion Wong is a retired U.S. Army Reserve officer who served in both Afghanistan and Iraq. His awards include the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge. Wilem is also a retired NYPD police officer. The Commandery warmly welcomes Wilem Wong.



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**New York Commandery**  
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