



EXCELSIOR

2023 Year in Review

COL Thomas F. Pike, Jr.
Commander

CPT Gary Dycus
Treasurer

CPT David Disi
Vice Commander

CPT Gary Dycus
Registrar

CDR John F.V. Cupschalk
Secretary

LTjg Harvey Bagg
Judge Advocate



*The New York Commandery
Wishes You and Yours
A Safe and Happy Holiday*





MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
NEW YORK COMMANDERY
Established 1895

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



As we end 2023, I would like to wish Happy Holidays and a fruitful 2024 to all of our Companions and their families. I am pleased with the state of our Order over the past year. I am delighted to welcome five new Companions to our Order.

I thank the senior leaders of our Order for making 2023 such a success. Thank you to: David Disi, our Vice-Commander; Harvey Bagg, our Judge Advocate; Mike Luraschi our Quartermaster; John Cupschalk, our Secretary and the members of our Council who meet regularly to ensure we maintain good governance. A special thanks goes to Gary Dycus who continues to serve both as our Treasurer and Registrar. Gary actively participates in our receptions, the onboarding of new Companions and ensuring we all pay our dues on time.



Best wishes to our Companions for a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!



Commander
MOFW-NY

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<http://mofwnyc.org>

COMMANDERY EVENTS

Winter Council Meeting

January 2023

Members of the Counsel met at the Commandery's headquarters to kick off the new year. Plans for future commandery events were discussed, and dates established. Council members who could not be present at the meeting joined via teleconference.



Winter Dinner

February 2023

Members and guests of the New York Commandery met at the Salmagundi Club for a delightful Winter Dinner. The event proved to be very well received and was sold out. The Salmagundi Club, with its Long Table, was the perfect venue for the evening.



Spring Cocktail Party March 2023

It was a full house last night at the MOFW Spring Cocktail Party. Attendees included a former Governor of the Society of Colonial Wars, the President of the St. Nicholas Society, the Vice President of the Society of Cincinnati-NH, the President and Commandant of the Knickerbocker Greys and the Directors for Task Force Antal, which conducts relief work in Ukraine.



Annual Meeting

April 2023

The Commandery's Annual Meeting was held at the headquarters in April. A good crowd attended in person and by teleconference. Following the meeting, those at the meeting shared fellowship at a cocktail reception.

An important discussion at the meeting was the presentation of the Commandery's new Membership Book, listing all member with their membership numbers. The original book had been lost, but later found in the archives. It is good to have this practice re-initiated.



End of Summer Dinner at City Island Yacht Club

August 2023

Much anticipated, the End of Summer Dinner at City Island Yacht Club was a sold out event. This year, Squadron A joined the Commandery. Many companions have affiliations with both organizations. Many thanks to Companion Greg Mesniaeff who makes this event possible.







October 2023 Teddy Roosevelt Reception

On 11 October, The New York Commandery held a reception in honor of Companion Colonel Teddy Roosevelt's birthday. It was a sold-out gathering and several toasts in honor of the United States, the Armed Forces and our Companion, Teddy Roosevelt.

Teddy Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States, formed the 1st Volunteer Cavalry in the Spanish-American War, and were sent to Cuba. Known as the "Rough Riders", they bravely charged up Kettle Hill on foot during the Battle of Santiago, making him the biggest hero of the war. He joined the New York Commandery in 1898.



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our distinguished new companions.



COL Timothy J. MacDonald

Fellow at the Council of Foreign Relations

Colonel Tim MacDonald, U.S. Army, most recently served as director of operations for Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti. He commanded the 18th Military Police Brigade headquartered in Vilseck, Germany, from June 2019 to June 2021. From June 2018 to June 2019, Colonel MacDonald served as the provost marshal and director of protection for U.S. Army Europe Headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany. From November 2016 to August 2017, he was the assistant executive officer to the headquarters, Department of the Army deputy chief of staff, G-3/5/7. Colonel MacDonald commanded the 502d Military Police Battalion (Criminal Investigations Division) from November 2014 to November 2016 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. With two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served as the executive officer to the United States Forces Iraq chief of staff and as a Military Transition Team executive officer. Deployed for one tour in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Colonel MacDonald was the 4th Infantry Division provost marshal and chief of protection. From June 2007 to June 2009, he served as the director of operations for the 6th Recruiting Brigade in Las Vegas, Nevada. During a four-year break in active military service he worked in the aerospace industry in international business development and operations management. Colonel MacDonald earned a master's degrees in business and organizational security management from Webster University, a master's in national security strategy from the National War College, and a bachelor's degree in sociology from the State University of New York at Cortland.



Jason A. Otaño, Esq.

General Counsel for the New York City Council

Jason serves as General Counsel for the New York City Council. He was commissioned in 2015 as an officer in the United States Army Reserve where he currently serves as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. In his military capacity, he provides legal assistance to soldiers, their families, and retirees, and is a legal advisor for domestic operations during times of emergency, such as the hurricane that ravaged his family's native Puerto Rico last year. Jason's father served in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division.



MAJ Dave Forrester

United States Military Academy, West Point

Dave completed tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was assigned to the Wolfhounds in the 25th ID at Scholfield Barracks HI where he was a rifle company platoon leader, HHC executive officer and the Lightning Academy executive officer. After a tour at the Joint Readiness Training Center, he took command of C Co, 2-4 INF and HHC, 2-4 INF in 3rd

Brigade, 10th MTN Division. He holds a Master's Degree in Higher and Post-Secondary Education from Columbia University's Organizational Leadership Program (2021). He has completed FourBlock training and is transitioning from the U.S. Army.



CAPT Fran Conole

Policy Advisor at the Pentagon

Fran is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He was a senior intelligence officer in the Navy and a policy advisor at the Pentagon.



David J. Albanese

Veteran

David served in Desert Shield/Storm, Bosnia and Afghanistan. His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the British Order of St. John.

COMPANIONS OUT AND ABOUT

January 2023



Companion Dan McNally attended a Fordham event at the American Legion in the NYAC last night. Dan serves as Vice President of the Fordham Veterans Alumni Chapter.

The Fordham Veterans Alumni Chapter links military-connected alumni of Fordham to Fordham's present day military-connected community, including both student veterans and ROTC.

March 2023



Companions David Menegon and Scott Ryan attended a St. Patrick's Day reception at the 69th Regiment Armory.



Companions Gary Dycus and Greg Mesniaeff attended an event at the Penn Club of New York, sporting the Order's tie.

June 2023

Flag Day Parade

On 2 June 2023, led by Companion Greg Mesniaeff, the New York Commandery participated in the annual Flag Day parade in downtown Manhattan. The event is sponsored by the Fraunces Tavern Museum with the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York.



PENNSYLVANIA COMMANDERY

Summer Dinner

On 29 June, Companion John Cupschalk joined the Commandery at their summer dinner, held at the Radnor Hunt Club. This was a great event with perfect weather to dine al fresco. Over 60 companions and their guests were in attendance. Following dinner, an extended reception was held in the club house.



September 2023

Naval Order of the United States

The Commander, Companion Tom Pike was the keynote speaker at opening luncheon for the Naval Order of the United States, New York Commandery on 11 September 2023. It was a full house, and all were actively engaged after his talk during the following.



November 2023

Flag Service of the Patriotic and Historical Societies

The Commandery paraded the Order's colors at the annual Flag Service held at St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue. The Commander, Companion Tom Pike, also participated in the service by reading the Exhortation during the Remembrance a verse from Laurence Binyon's poem ***For The Fallen***.

*They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

