

Military Order of the World Wars



Chapter 151 Region XIII SEPTEMBER 2025 Newsletter



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

COMMANDER'S REMARKS (7 September 2025)

Greetings Companions!!

For those of you able to attend our August, 2025 Membership Meeting, it was definitely one for the books! We were in a Fest Tent at Patty Jewett because a meeting room was undergoing renovation for asbestos and roof repair. Well, it was the perfect storm. A huge wind and rainstorm hit there between 1730 and 1830, precisely when we were starting our meeting! A leaky roof got documents wet, noise from the storm overpowered even microphone communication, and Chris had to haul the food out to the tent in the downpour! Nonetheless, undaunted, we brave few endured it. Someone said it was good Army weather!

In spite of the weather, we were able to install the new commander and staff for OY 2025-2026. Coy Ritchie did a great job. He was also our guest speaker and provided an interesting presentation about Quemoy and Matsu, islands in dispute between Communist China and Formosa. Coy was there in the 1950s and provided an eyewitness account of this time in naval history. In addition, we recognized Kerm Neal, Ulysses Swift and Mike Berendt for Silver Patrick Henry awards and Jim Borders received a Certificate of Appreciation for their hard work on the staff.

Kerm, Mark and I attended the National MOWW Convention. Our chapter was proud to receive several national level awards at the Medium Chapter Level. We were able to present the Awards to our members who led these award-winning programs:

- Newsletter, 1st place, Rich Peters
- Public Relations, 1st place, Rich Peters
- National Security Program, 2nd place, Kerm Neal
- Homeland Security Program, 2nd place, Kerm Neal
- Patriotic Education Program, 3rd place, RF Smith
- John J Pershing Outstanding Chapter Award, 3rd place, Kerm Neal

Congratulations to the program leaders and all who helped support these programs.

We are in great need of volunteers to join our staff to help contribute to, sustain, and expand the impact of MOWW with our youth and in the community. Please consider volunteering to serve! Our most pressing need is for an Adjutant to replace Rich Peters. We also need committee leads for First Responders/Public Safety/Law & Order and National and Homeland Security. These duties can be performed in a few hours each month and can be tailored to fit the passions and capacity of the volunteer. Please let me know if you would like more information regarding these positions and other volunteer opportunities.

Our September dinner meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25th, @1700 at Patty Jewett (and hopefully an indoor meeting room!). RF Smith and Anja Wynne will review the recent Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference held in July 2025. We hope to have a couple of students who attended the Conference to provide their perspective. Also, plan now to attend and invite others to fill a table at the RMYL Foundation Fund Raiser on Saturday, October 4th

at the World War II Aviation Museum, starting at 1700!

Finally, next week will be the anniversary of 9-11. I encourage you to attend any memorial celebration you are able to.

I am excited about the year ahead and request you consider how you can contribute your efforts for the good of the order, and to live our motto "It is nobler to serve than to be served"!

Thank you again for the honor and privilege of being your commander and thank you all for your service!

Steve

It is nobler to serve than to be served.

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 25 September

- Thursday, 1700hrs
- Location: Patty Jewett Golf Course
- RSVP: No later than noon on 23 Sept to [LTC Mike Berendt](#)

RMYLF Fund Raiser on 4 October

Information and Registration is on the RMYLF Website: [2025 Gala "A Night at the Museum"](#).

9/11 Commemorative Events:

1. 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony — Colorado Springs

Thursday, September 11, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

- Location: Peace Officers' Memorial in Memorial Park, Colorado Springs
- Details: This annual ceremony is free and open to the public, featuring opening remarks (typically by the Mayor), a wreath-laying, and a keynote speaker who often shares reflections from the day of 9/11 and its lasting impact.

While the 2025 ceremony hasn't been explicitly announced yet, it's expected to follow the longstanding tradition—as the event has been held every year since 2002 and organized in rotation by civic and military entities including the City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County,

Fort Carson, Peterson SFB, Schriever SFB, and USAFA.

2. 9/11 Memorial Run — Downtown Colorado Springs

Saturday, September 13, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

- Location: Downtown Colorado Springs (starting at American Legion Post 22, run, followed by a BBQ and raffles) .
- Highlights:
 - Hosted by Colorado American Legion Riders
 - Registration: Rider \$25, Passenger \$5
 - Includes check-in, a run, a BBQ lunch, raffles (including a 50/50), and visits to local firehouses along the route
 - All proceeds benefit local fire and police organizations

3. 9/11 Heroes Run—Denver

- September 11, 2025: Colorado Remembers 9/11
A large-scale remembrance and national security forum held in Denver, featuring high-profile speakers like Dr. Mark Esper, Brett McGurk, and Peter Bergen
- September 14, 2025: A national event with in-person runs in many cities; the nearest in Colorado is Denver-- no designated run listed specifically for Colorado Springs.

COS MOWW Installs Officers for OY/FY 2025-2026

The Colorado Springs (COS) Chapter of MOWW held an installation ceremony for incoming OY/FY 2025-2026 Officers on 28 August 2025. Our guest speaker and Master of Ceremonies for the swearing in of new officers was the Denver Chapter Commander, LCDR Coy Ritchie USN (Ret). COL Steve Shambach, USA (Ret) stepped down from his position as Rocky Mountain Division Commander to assume command of the Colorado Springs Chapter and he was replaced by Col Kerm Neal, USAF (Ret), outgoing COS Chapter Commander. Other Officers installed

were: COL Mark Ellis, USA (ret) for Senior Vice, Lt Col Ulysses Swift, USAF (Ret) for Junior Vice, and LTC Mike Berendt, USA (Ret) for Treasurer. Congratulations and Thank You to our volunteer leaders!



(L to R) LCDR Coy Ritchie, COL Mark Ellis, LTC Mike Berendt, Lt Col Ulysses Swift, and COL Steve Shambach

MONTHLY COMPANION INFORMATION

Commander Shambach presented companions with awards doing the August meeting: Kerm Neal, Ulysses Swift and Mike Berendt with Silver Patrick Henry; Jim Borders with Certificate of Appreciation; Rich Peters for Newsletter and Public Relations placing **1st Place** at National convention.

STAFF MEETING (14 August)

TREASURER'S REPORT INFORMATION

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

Account	Balances
CDs:	\$13,393.79
Savings:	\$104.18
Checking:	\$2,819.13
Reserved:	\$2,307.79
Total:	\$18,624.88

CHAPTER ACTION PLAN (CAP)

Strategic Goal (SG) Current	Initiatives
SG1 Outreach – Consistent impactful outreach programs and activities.	Support Region XIII hosting national MOWW convention in Tucson, AZ. Contact anyone on Staff if you have any suggestions on meeting SG-1. In Progress.
SG2 Strategic Partnerships -	Engage with other veteran organizations to establish strategic partnerships. Contact Steve Shambach with any suggestions on meeting SG-2. In Progress.
SG3 Maximize Visibility	Chapter committed to participate in Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade. Please contact Staff if you have any suggestions for how Chapter can meet this objective.
SG4 Annually grow engaged and sustainable MOWW membership.	Chapter recruiting goal for OY25-26 is three Companions. Please contact Mark Ellis if you have any prospective candidates.
SG5 Obtain financial resources to fulfill Order's mission.	Regular solicitation of donations from Chapter Companions. Contact Mike Berendt if you have any questions concerning donations or other opportunities for Chapter fundraiser.
SG6 Increase number of chapters and strengthen existing chapters.	Please contact anyone on Staff if you would like to volunteer your skills or suggestions for meeting this SG (i.e., strengthen recruiting, Chapter social media presence, Chapter branding, etc.

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MOWW dinner meeting on Thursday, September 25th will be a presentation of the recent Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference held in July. Also, plan now to attend and invite others to fill a table at the RMYL Foundation Fund Raiser on Saturday, October 4th at the World War II Aviation Museum!

ROTC/JROTC

School is back in session for most of our local high schools and our Department Commanders are reorganizing their ROTC/JROTC units with new cadet leadership and members. We are updating our contact information to reflect changes in Military leadership and phone numbers in preparation for spring award ceremonies. With the recent changes to MOWW Membership policies, we are also encouraging our retired Non-Commissioned officers to join our Colorado Springs MOWW chapter.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Companions consider volunteering for the following Chapter vacancies for OY25-26:

- Newsletter Editor
- Adjutant
- Historian
- Marshall
- Chaplain
- Surgeon General
- Public Relations Officer
- National Security Chair
- Veterans Affairs Chair

SEPTEMBER COMPANION BIRTHDAYS

LTC Francis Wynne; CPT George Gay; Mr. Lawrence Shinnick; COL Michael Talbott; Mr. Curt Reus; Ms. Stephanie Johnson; COL Mark Ellis; COL Stephen Shambach; COL Edward Fisher

OCTOBER COMPANION BIRTHDAYS

Col John Abbatiello; COL Lee Van Arsdale; LT Robert Bythewood; CPT John Hannan; LTC Victor Tise; Capt Ronald Maw

MOWW Membership Application



Please use this link to submit an electronic application: <https://moww.org/become-a-companion/>. Please see Staff for paper membership

application or this link to print your own application: <https://moww.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/MembershipApplication-MOWW-1.pdf>

PREAMBLE

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

[Link to MOWW Preamble](#)

Chapter Website: www.cos_moww.org