



Military Order of Foreign Wars

RHODE ISLAND COMMANDERY

"Deus et Libertas"



FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER
Volume 3, Issue 1



JOHN T. DUCHESNEAU



Commander's Message

Companions,

I am honored to serve as your commander for the ensuing term of office. I am looking forward to, with the help of the Executive Committee and membership, to growing the Commandery and increasing the number of activities available to the membership and potential members.

Please strongly consider attending the Formal Dining-In and historic court martial on October 25, 2023. This event will give you an opportunity to meet other members of the Commandery and to introduce potential members to the Order.

If you would like to contact me, feel free to call or text me at (401) 662-0262 or by e-mail at sgtd119@yahoo.com. (I confess that I don't check my e-mail as often as a should, so the telephone is best if you need a quick response.)

Deus et Libertas,

JOHN T. DUCHESNEAU
Commander, Rhode Island Commandery
Military Order of Foreign Wars

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Formal Dining-In	3
Awards Committee Report	4
PACT Act	5
Odds & Ends	6
Rhode Island OVS	7

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Chaplain's Corner
- VA Presumptive Changes
- MOWF Quartermaster Store

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



REV. PHILIP G. SALOIS
Chaplain

HAVE COMMENTS AND/OR INPUT

Please forward your comments
and/or input to ????, at:

Someoneemail.com



*Rhode Island Red
State Bird*

To all my comrades of Military Order of Foreign Wars – Rhode Island Commandery, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to be your Chaplain and to hopefully provide spiritual input in our new newsletter as we initiate this wonderful means to remaining connected.

For those of you who do not know me, mostly those of you who are unable to attend monthly meetings for whatever reason, I think it is appropriate that I tell you a little about myself. I am a veteran of the United States Army having served as a combat infantryman in Vietnam from September 1969 to October 12, 1970 with Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment (*Cottonbalers*) of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade (Sep) (Lt) (*Redcatchers*). Among my awards was the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Silver Star for Valor and the Air Medal and several others.

When I returned from Vietnam I began studies for the Roman Catholic Priesthood at Saint John's Seminary College in Camarillo, California and ended up finishing my Masters of Divinity at Jesuit-run Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I was ordained to the Priesthood in June of 1984 having joined the Congregation of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette. In 1988 I began as a fulltime Chaplain with VA Boston Healthcare System and in 1992 became the Chief of Chaplain Services there with supervision over 11 Chaplains, Jewish, Protestant, Catholic and Greek Orthodox. While employed at the VA in 1991 I took a commission as First Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves as-

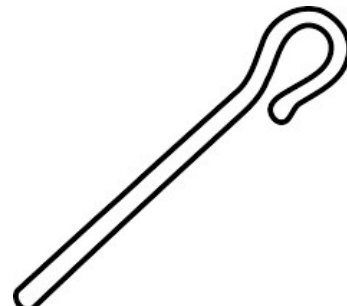
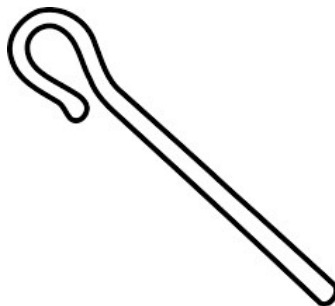
signed to the 455th Field Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island. When it deactivated in 1999, I transferred over the 883rd Medical Company (Combat Stress Control) in Boston, Massachusetts. I resigned my commission in 2002 when the unit was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. I resigned to care for my elderly Mother.

I retired from the VA in 2015 and continue to be heavily involved in all the Veteran Service Organizations. I have been the National Chaplain for Vietnam Veterans of America for the last 35 years. I had the opportunity to be the National Chaplain for the American Legion in 2019 and have been the Massachusetts Department Chaplain for the Legion for the last 35 years as well. In addition, locally I am the Post Chaplain for my local VFW, DAV and AMVETS Posts. I have also been the President and Chaplain of my local VVA Chapter in Lincoln. I also sit on the Rhode Island House Veterans Affairs Advisory Council.

So as you can see I do not let the grass grow under my feet. May God bless you all and I look forward to share with you on more spiritual matters in future publications.

Deus et Libertas!

Father Philip Salois
Chaplain



UPCOMING EVENT — SAVE THE DATE!!!

Formal Dining-In — October 25th, 2023

DINING-IN

The Rhode Island Commandery of the Military Order of Foreign Wars cordially invites you to our

ANNUAL DINING IN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

at

**Squantum Association Club House
947 Veterans Memorial Parkway, East Providence, RI**

Featuring the Court Martial of . . .

COLONEL BILLY MITCHELL

UNITED STATES ARMY, AIR SERVICE

Highlight of the evening will be a reenactment of this court martial. Colonel Mitchell was the Assistant Chief of the Army Air Service (a temporary Brigadier General position) until reassigned as a Colonel in March 1925 to Eight Corps in San Antonio, TX. The court martial will decide Mitchell's degree of guilt in the charge of violating the 96th Article of War and recommend appropriate punishment.

Dinner attendees will help decide his fate!

Cocktails at 6PM (cash bar), **Dinner** at 7PM, **Court Martial** after dinner

Attire – Appropriate Military or Civilian Dress

Seated Dinner Menu:

Salad, Stuffed Chicken and Dessert.

Cost is \$50 per person.

Note: The 96th Article of War, was a catchall provision of military law that allowed an officer to be tried for just about any action deemed to be ". . . of a nature to bring discredit upon the military service."



Then-Brigadier General William L. Mitchell

USAF file photo - <http://www.af.mil/>



*2001 United States Quarter
State Series (Proof)*

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Commandery supported the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) awards program for the 2022-2023 academic year. The MOWF medals are presented in Bronze for Academics and Silver for Leadership .



*Rhode Island State Flower
Violet Viola Sororia*



Commander John Duchesneau and LTC (Ret) Christopher Corbett, Professor of Military Science, Rogers High School JROTC in Newport discuss the Cadet's program activities prior to the award ceremonies.



On May 18, 2023 at Cranston High School—East, the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the U.S. JROTC Medals were bestowed upon Cadets Jackie Joaquin Pena and Tyler F. Robinson by Companion LTC (Ret) Cort Clarke.



COL (Ret) Leo H. Fox of the Military Order of World Wars shares his appreciation for the Commandery's joint support to the JROTC award programs. Both organizations were among the Veterans' organizations in attendance.



PACT ACT

MAJOR CHANGES TO VA PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS

What's the PACT Act and how will it affect my VA benefits and care?

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

Source: <http://va.gov>



*Rhode Island State Fish
Stripped Bass*



The new PACT Act

- » Expands toxic-exposed Veterans access to VA care
- » Extends health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era combat Veterans
- » Adds new presumptive conditions for radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War toxins, and burn pit exposures

EXPANDED VA CARE & BENEFITS

Learn more at VA.gov
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)

VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

ODDS & ENDS



*Military Order of Foreign Wars
of the United States
(Neck Suspension Medal)*



*Military Order of Foreign Wars
of the United States
(Breast Medal)*

Newsletter



MOFW INSIGNIA

With the upcoming formal dining-in, you may need to replace or order your MOFW Insignia. The MOFW medal is among the most attractive of any military society. It is available from the National Quartermaster's Store on their website: [www.https://mofw-quartermaster.square.site](https://mofw-quartermaster.square.site). Each order is done individually by the Quartermaster-General; plan 2-3 weeks ahead.

There are two versions available. The first is a standard military medal awarded to MOFW Companions and worn on the left breast during formal MOFW functions and military related ceremonies. Veteran Companions and Officers of the MOFW are authorized to wear the medal suspended around the neck.

DESCRIPTION

Originally created in 14K Gold with red and blue enamels, weighing approximately 3/4 of an ounce, both sides have an eight-pointed red star, with five emanating rays between each star point, obverse with an eagle in the center, reverse with a centerpiece bearing an anchor with crossed swords and inscribed "DEUS ET LIBERTAS" (God and Liberty), measuring 1 1/2 inches (w) x 2 inches (h) inclusive of its wreath suspension.



FUTURE NEWSLETTER INPUT

The Rhode Island Commandery is trying to reinvigorate more routine newsletters about 3-4 months apart. If you or another Companion have any input for future newsletters, just inform one of the Officers. The Newsletter is designed to apprise the Commandery's members of all pertinent events, activities and other useful information.

U. S. MILITARY TRIVIA

Let's see how many history buffs we have in the Commandery:

It is early morning in Hawaii. Suddenly bombs rain down from Japanese aircraft.

What is the date? The answer is at the end of this newsletter.

Military Order of Foreign Wars

**RHODE ISLAND
COMMANDERY**

"Deus et Libertas"

Pawtuxet Rangers
59 Remington Street
Warwick, RI 02888

<https://rimofw.org>



RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF VETERAN SERVICES — HERE TO ASSIST MEMBERS

The *Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services* maintains the following:

- Thorough knowledge of individual and social factors contributing to personal problems that affect the Veteran, active duty, guard and reserve, and/or their families;
- Remains current on issues and trends impacting the work and mission of the agency;
- Forms strong and successful partnerships locally, regionally, and nationwide to address Veterans' issues in Rhode Island.

These focuses are imperative to reduce homelessness amongst Veterans, Veterans living in poverty, Veteran unemployment rates, ensure Veterans receive proper medical care, continue quality customer service at the Rhode Island Veterans Home and Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery and ensure every Veteran has an opportunity to make it in Rhode Island.

For More Information Visit the Website — <https://vets.ri.gov>



U. S. MILITARY TRIVIA — ANSWER

The obvious answer is 7 December 1941. Not many of us know that on 4 May 1942 the Japanese made another reconnaissance and bombing raid on Pearl Harbor. Two long-range Kawanishi H8K "Emily" flying boats made the raid with a refueling by submarines at French Frigate Shoals northwest of the Hawaiian Islands. Due to overcast weather the bombs landed harmlessly in the hills of Oahu. Both aircraft were able to successfully return to their base in the Marshall Islands.