



General J.P. Holland Chapter

The Military Order of the World Wars

The Association for all Military Officers

Brief History of the GEN J.P. Holland Chapter

The Northern San Diego County Chapter of The Military Order of the World Wars was organized on 20 June 1962 at the Del Mar Officers Club at Camp Pendleton. Twenty-six potential members and guests were present at that meeting, and Col Peter McDonald, USMC (Ret) was elected Commander. Regular meetings were held at 1830 on the first Wednesday of each month at the Del Mar Officers Club. Dues were set at \$8.00 annually.

The first official meeting was held on 3 October 1962 at the Del Mar Officers Club and the National MOWW Charter was formally presented at that meeting.

In 1966 the regular dinner meetings were moved to the Oceanside Elks Club.

In 1969 a committee was appointed to study the advisability of breaking up the Northern San Diego County Chapter into two chapters to be known as the Oceanside Chapter and the Escondido Chapter, but no action was taken. From 1971 through 1985 meetings were moved to the Escondido Country Club and various other places in the Escondido and San Marcos area; most of the time they were held at the Escondido Elks Club. By 1980 total membership had grown to 92.

In 1972 BG J.P. Holland, USA (Ret), MOWW Commander-in-Chief, 1971-72, transferred from Santa Monica Chapter to Northern San Diego County Chapter. He passed away on 23 October 1985 and the chapter name was changed to the GEN J.P. Holland Chapter on 5 March 1986 in his honor.

A gift of \$1,000 by Mrs. Edith Alverson in memory of her deceased husband, CWO George D. Alverson, Chapter Commander, 1970-71, established the Chapter's Memorial Fund in May 1983. With numerous other gifts to follow, including \$10,000 from Mrs. Donnie Holland (widow of BG Holland) in 1986, in her husband's memory, the Fund has grown. Earnings from that Fund provide the major funding of Chapter Patriotic Education Programs including support of the Naval JROTC Units at: Westview H.S. in Rancho Penasquitos; Orange Glen H.S. in Escondido; and Ramona H.S. in Ramona. It also helps fund our sponsorship of selected students to attend Youth Leadership Conferences at various locations in California.

Capt Dwight F. Copley, USAF (Ret), MOWW Commander-in-Chief, 1990-91, was an active member of this Chapter until he relocated and passed away in 2004. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Chapter Memorial Fund and an active participant in Chapter affairs. He was a Perpetual Member of this Chapter and others.

In November 1993 the Cajon Valley-San Diego Chapter merged with GEN J.P. Holland Chapter and the chapter membership nearly doubled to a total of 185.

1994 proved to be an excellent year for the chapter and the community. Together with VFW Post 7766, and additional financial help from members of the community, a Veterans Memorial was designed and installed at a central location in Rancho Bernardo — Webb Park. Members of both organizations are directors of the *Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association*, a 501c(19) War Veteran Organization which, through tax deductible contributions, is able to maintain the Memorial and purchase flags and audio equipment needed to put on three major ceremonies each year: Memorial Day; Independence Day; and Veterans Day. Congressman Randy Cunningham (retired Navy Commander and Navy Cross recipient) dedicated the *Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial* on 4 July 1994.

In 1998 the *Joseph H. Pendleton Youth Leadership Conference* was established; it consisted of a 5-day curriculum at The School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, California. The GEN J.P. Holland Chapter has fully supported this conference since its inception and has sponsored about 15 students each year. Students that attended the YLC are invited to a special chapter luncheon structured to recognize their participation at the YLC. NJROTC Instructors, student's parents, and guests are also invited to attend.

Each year the chapter provides a Color Guard from Orange Glen H.S. NJROTC to carry our chapter flag at Fourth of July parade in Rancho Bernardo in front of a convertible vehicle with large flexible signs on each side of the car identifying our chapter. The chapter commander generally rides in the vehicle with the NJROTC Queen from Orange Glen H.S.