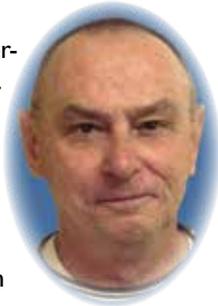




**JOURNAL OF THE WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND CHAPTER, ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY**

**The President's Message – Winter 2013**

First off, I hope all had a great Christmas, and I hope you will have a healthy and prosperous New Year. I am happy to say that my medical issues are now on the “back burner” and my doctors told me I am now doing fine.



Since we are now in a new year, I want to make sure all are aware of my main goal for the Westmorland AUSA Chapter which is an increase in our membership. Presently we have 175 members; I would like to see 200 members by the end of the year. With your help this is doable.

Even though AUSA is an Army Non Profit, we work for all military regardless of branch of service. Some issues that AUSA takes a stand on involve TRICARE, Defense Spending, Facilities, Retirement, and Family Programs to name just a few. For complete information and positions please see [www.ause.org](http://www.ause.org) and browse sites listed.

With that said, I ask each and everyone who is a member to try to obtain at least one new member during the year. The cost for a yearly membership is displayed in the AUSA monthly publication and on the website. If you know of someone who may want to join but don't want to “push” them, please give them my name and email address ([alansgt@aol.com](mailto:alansgt@aol.com)), and I will respond by citing the rewards of membership and without high pressure tactics.

Finally, all of you should have been contacted by a member of the Executive Committee. This was something I asked each member of the Committee to do because it gives you a name and email address for easier access to our Chapter leadership.

Again, I wish you a great New Year; I hope to see you at the Presidents Day Dinner at Tamarack Junction with guest speaker LTGEN Brandtner on 20 February. Remember, help me with membership. The more members we have, the more we can do for our Warriors. I

Thank you all,  
Alan Callanan

**New Members:**

- Mr. John Bengston (V)**
- CAPT Dale F. Brown (RUSAF)**
- Mr. Edward Dorsey (C)**
- Judge Steven R. Kosach (V)**
- SPC Kent L. McKinstry (V)**
- COL Paul R. Plemmons (RA)**
- LTC Hugh Steven Somsen (RA)**

- NG - National Guard**
- R - Reserve**
- RA - Retired Army**
- A - Active Army**
- C - Civilian**
- V - Veteran**
- RUSAF - Retired Air Force**

**Please Join us to Celebrate**

**Presidents' Day**

- When:** Wednesday Evening, 20 February 2013
- Time:** 1800 Hours (6:00 PM)
- Where:** The Tamarack Junction  
13101 S. Virginia Street, Reno
- Cost:** \$38.00 per person  
(No Host Bar)
- Speaker:** LTG Martin L. Brandtner  
USMC, Retired

**Please RSVP by 16 February 2013**

AUSA Westmoreland Chapter  
PO Box 8144, Reno Nevada, 89507-8144  
Checks payable to: AUSA Westmoreland Chapter

## Out & About

### News from UNR ROTC

By Major Jerome Guerrero

On December 7, 2012 **Cadet Cody West** was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Army's Transportation Corps. The event, staged in conjunction with the Wolf Pack Battalion's annual military ball, was held at Reno's Silver Legacy. **Colonel Johnny Isaak**, the Chief of Staff of the Nevada National Guard, spoke to the 150 guests in attendance.

Second Lieutenant West served as the Battalion Executive Officer during his senior year and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in History. He leaves for his Basic Officer Leadership School in February.

### Happenings within Washoe County's Junior ROTC

By Lieutenant Colonel, Retired, Scott Maryott

Two new Senior Army Instructors have been appointed to their posts in the Junior ROTC Program. At Incline High School former Professor of Military Science at UNR **Lieutenant Colonel, Retired, Bart Tragemann** begins his duties in February. LTC Tragemann retired from the Army following a one year deployment to Afghanistan returning to Reno. Welcome back!

**Master Sergeant, Retired, Michael Hale** has assumed duties at Sparks High School as the Senior Noncommissioned Officer in the School's JROTC Program. MSG Hale retired from the Army National Guard following duty as the NCO in Charge of the Sparks National Guard Recruiting Station. Congratulations MSG Hale!

Spanish Springs High School and Reno High School will be sending a total of seven cadets to compete in the National Marksmanship Tournament in Salt Lake City in mid-February. Spanish Springs High School will also be sending 19 cadets to the National Drill Championship at Fort Knox in April. We wish them success in representing Washoe County's ROTC Program.

### Activities of the National Security Forum

By Colonel, Retired, Richard Hobbs

**Ty Cobb's** National Security Forum continues to attract knowledgeable and articulate speakers and large audiences. Most recently Keith Hansen and Rae Huffstutler, both of whom have extensive CIA backgrounds, spoke of the "CIA After Petraeus." Discussing the legal requirements and the need for Presidential "Findings," they agreed that CIA paramilitary operations would likely diminish as the war in Afghanistan winds down.

The next meeting will occur on February 6th featuring Dr. John Scire of UNR's faculty who will address "American Energy Independence." His focus will be on the potential of new oil and gas fields in Texas and the Marcellus as well as the role of fracking in giving the United States energy independent in the coming decades.

Those who desire to be informed of future NSF events should go to the NSF web site, [NationalSecurityForum.org](http://NationalSecurityForum.org), and register.

**Colonel Hobbs** has been busy fulfilling speaking engagements in the Reno-Sparks area. During January Dick spoke to the Newcomers Men's Breakfast Club on "Turmoil in the Muslim World" and later in the month to the Sparks Rotary. His recently published book, *Death by a Thousand Cuts*, continues to be in demand.

### President Alan Callanan, Nevada Veteran of the Month

**Governor Brian Sandoval** recognized **Command Sergeant Major, Retired, Alan Callanan** as the Veteran of the Month in a ceremony held in the Capitol Building in Carson City. The December ceremony honored Callanan as the Veteran of the Month of November 2012. In giving special praise to the Command Sergeant Major, Governor Sandoval said "I'm always thankful for the veterans and their service to our Country....and for me to be here for this presentation and to be able to recognize everything that you've done is really special for me."

The Executive Director of Nevada's Office of Veteran Services, **Caleb Cage**, told the attending group of friends and family that Sergeant Major Callanan "is a fixture in our community and is extremely involved and active. In his current position as the Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator you see his real passion for helping others. You'll see him at many events coordinating activities for families ensuring their loved ones are not forgotten and that our community knows of the sacrifice these families have endured."

Sergeant Major Callanan was nominated for the award by Veterans Service Commission Board Member Sally Wiley who is also a Blue Star Mother. While graciously accepting the award, Callanan spoke briefly about one of his current projects, that of creating a poster honoring each of Nevada's fallen heroes. Each service person who has lost his life in service to our Country will be pictured on the poster with the American flag as a backdrop. His pride in honoring Nevada's fallen warriors was obvious as he displayed the partially finished poster.



## Shirley Sousa, The Veteran's Friend

By Jack Logan

"What gives me the greatest pleasure in working with our veterans is hearing a simple 'thank you' when we are able to help them solve a problem." In these words Shirley characterizes the reward she receives in helping our warriors and their families.

This extraordinary woman was born in Stockton, California the oldest of three daughters. Her father was an Army officer for over 20 years retiring as a major. Dad's career enabled Shirley to enjoy various places where her father was stationed. Her favorite was Germany where she graduated from the American High School in Frankfurt. A brief marriage to an Army man produced a son who accompanied her back to Stockton where Dad retired. Shirley was a young mother of 18 years.

Like so many teenage marriages, Shirley's wasn't successful and she began her adult life as a single parent. In 1963 she married the love of her life, William Sousa, and began a 40 year relationship that produced four sons; David, Tony, Tommy and Bill. William worked for the Forest Service and in 1975 his job brought them to Reno. That same year Tommy died.

In addition to raising her sons, Shirley was busy outside the home. For six years she worked as a cook for the Washoe County School District and for another six years Shirley was the President of the union representing the employees of the School District. Shirley considers the latter position as her introduction to politics. Her most recent work involved ownership of Sousa Graphics, a copying and mail box firm that kept her busy for five years.

Much of Shirley's motivation for activity outside the home centered on the death of William in 2003. He had been ill for a year or so and succumbed to a heart attack while on a fishing trip with Shirley to Frenchman's Reservoir. "He died doing what he loved to do." To help ease the loss of William "I became even more active in the work of the VFW."

Her first awareness of a veterans organization came about when son David, who had enlisted in the Army following his high school

graduation, joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Unfamiliar with the VFW, Shirley went to a meeting with David. After a couple of meeting attendances, she was elected as the President of the Women's Auxiliary of David's post. She has continued in that job for the past six years and is now positioning herself to move through the Chairs beginning with becoming Chaplain of the Women's Auxiliary for the State of Nevada.

Her ambition mirrors that of David who is now the Junior Vice President of the VFW of Nevada. In all probability he will be the President of Nevada's VFW in two years. "It is entirely possible that I will be the Junior Vice President for the Women's Auxiliary at a time when David is the State President for the VFW." This is probably a "first" for Nevada.

In explaining her motivation for the time and energy spent in serving our veterans, Shirley simply says "I do it because the veterans need our help." The help often involves assisting them in completing paperwork necessary to obtain their benefits such as long overdue receipt of medals and health care.

In addition to her participation in the VFW, Shirley is a member of the Sparks Committee for the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve, and active in the Blue Star Mothers of the Truckee Meadows. In this latter organization she is often at Reno's airport as a greeter for returning warriors, or writing letters to those still overseas. It is not uncommon to find Shirley at the VA Hospital helping with parties or at the Veterans Guest House in support of their activities. Her family is active in the Association of the United States Army with three individual memberships.

With the huge investment of time in support of our military, Shirley surprisingly finds time to spend with her granddaughters and great granddaughters on a daily basis. Her loving ways have also caused seven other young children to call her "grandma."

Our interview ended with her comment that "I do the best I can for our veterans and a simple "thank you" makes me cry."



### E-Mail Addresses, please read

**If you have been receiving chapter information by USPS and have an e-mail address, please contact chapter secretary Dee Rahlf at (775) 359-2975 or [deelloy@aol.com](mailto:deelloy@aol.com) and share your email address.**

**Using email saves the chapter money and provides you, our members, with more timely information. Thank you.**

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