

Memorials, Monuments, and Plaques

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Our Preamble states that we are “To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of memorials of the World Wars.” A memorial or monument can be defined as something set up to keep alive the memory of a person or event; a work of enduring significance; anything meant to help people remember a person, event, etc. Honoring Veterans and our Military Forces with a memorial, monument, or plaque is an activity every Chapter should consider.

Chapter XXIV of the *MOWW Handbook* is titled “Memorials, Monuments, and Plaques.” It states the procedures by which the MOWW should address this important, but often overlooked, tenet of the Order’s Preamble.

As the Chair of the Memorials Committee I am charged with the responsibility to establish and maintain an inventory of the memorials, monuments, and plaques that have been established, dedicated to, or associated with the MOWW. This inventory becomes a part of the history of the Order and is available on a section of the MOWW website.

I am pleased to announce that I have reviewed and catalogued the MOWW National Files on Memorials, Monuments, and Plaques. I have updated the inventory on the MOWW website under “MOWW Memorials.” The inventory is based on information provided by a Chapter that established a memorial, monument, or plaque. This information, which should be sent to the Chair of the Memorials Committee (my contact information is on the website), should include (but is not limited to) the following information:

- Name of the memorial, monument, or plaque
- Location
- Date established and/or dedicated
- Description and photograph
- Theme of the memorial, monument, or plaque
- Sponsors or groups that established the memorial, monument, or plaque
- MOWW involvement, to include financial or other support
- Condition of the memorial, monument, or plaque
- Additional comments or information (all helps)

In addition, the Memorials Committee reviews all requests for financial or other support desired to establish or upgrade memorials, monuments, and plaques. The criteria and procedure for this support is listed in Chapter XXIV of the *MOWW Handbook*. Currently,

the Order does not have the funds to support these memorials, monuments and plaques. It is important that the Chapter, Department or Region planning to establish or support one have a plan to raise the necessary funds from their members and in their local community.

I urge each Companion to consider, as an activity for your Chapter, the establishment of a memorial, monument, or plaque. It is a rewarding experience and a tribute that will continue in perpetuity. An additional benefit is the positive publicity that the Order will receive, especially after a well-planned and executed dedication.

National Cemeteries are but one example of a possible memorial site. Most of the newer National Cemeteries have Memorial Walkways, which are ideal areas for the placement of an MOWW Memorial. There may be a memorial or monument in your area that is in need of repair or upgrade. Your local Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts may have a project related to Veterans and a memorial. I am sure your Chapter’s support would be appreciated. Finally, if a memorial or monument will not work for your Chapter, consider a plaque. They are less expensive and can be mounted in many locations.

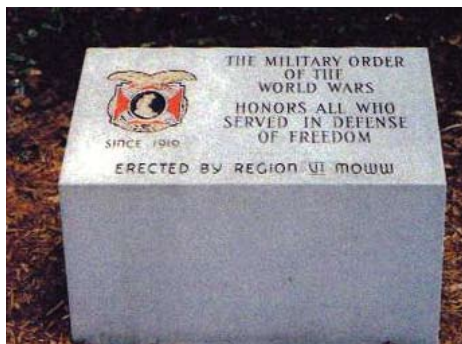
The MOWW Memorials Committee is available to help you. My personal experiences at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery reinforce the value of MOWW Chapter involvement in memorials and monuments. The four MOWW Chapters of the North Central Texas area (Dallas, Fort Worth, Pinson Memorial, and North Texas) established a memorial that was placed on the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery Memorial Walkway (pictured below, left). As we remembered and honored those who had gone before, the MOWW Memorial brought a renewed sense of cooperation and friendship among the Companions of our area, and it brought recognition of the Order in the community. My second experience involved the Dallas Chapter’s contribution to an Eagle Scout’s project that created a monument showing that Scouts “Salute American Veterans.” This Eagle Scout’s monument (pictured above) and memorial garden has inspired four additional Eagle Scout memorial projects at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. Companions, I challenge you to create that “inspiration” through the establishment of memorials, monuments, and plaques. Each time you view “your project,” you will feel the pride that comes with knowing that you have honored our Veterans and Military Forces in a meaningful way.



EAGLE SCOUT MONUMENT



NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS MOWW MEMORIAL



REGION VI (FL, PR) MOWW MEMORIAL



GENERAL CRITZ CHAPTER MONUMENT