



THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS, INC.®
435 NORTH LEE STREET | ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314-2301

27 November 2018

FROM: HQ MOWW/CS

SUBJECT: Finding “Lost” MOWW Companions

TO: All MOWW Commanders

1. We all face the issue of having correct Companion contact information and/or finding “lost” Companions. Two websites can help chapter membership managers do this: www.truepeoplesearch.com and www.fastpeoplesearch.com. [Chapters can also do a Google search using the Companion’s name, city and state, and the word “obit” or “obituary.”] Note that even though these two websites work in similar ways and contain similar data, Companions may appear on one but not the other. To use these websites, you’ll need the Companion’s name, their last known address as shown in the online MOWW Member Roster, including ZIP code and age. Note that while the MOWW Member Roster has a column for “Year of Birth,” the order didn’t collect that data for many years so that data cell may be blank. However, if there’s a birth year (e.g., 1940), you must still calculate the Companion’s current age (e.g., 2018 – 1940 = 78).
2. Once you have three data points (name, last known address and, if possible, age), you’re ready to begin. Go to one of the “peoplesearch” websites. Enter the Companion’s name and their last-known 5-digit ZIP-Code. The website will bring up data on all people with that name who have lived at the ZIP-Code listed. It will also show the age of each of them, which is helpful if there’s more than one person with that name. You’ll also see a short list of “previous addresses.” If that list doesn’t show the Companion’s last known address as shown in the MOWW Member Roster, click on “show more.” That will show an expanded list of previous addresses. What you are looking for is a previous address that exactly matches the individual’s last known address as shown in the MOWW Member Roster. Once you find that, you’ve got a match on the name, address, and (hopefully), age. If you don’t, use the other peoplesearch website as a cross-check.
3. Here’s the Houston Chapter’s approach using the information above, courtesy of VCINC Maj Williams, who is that chapter’s Oversight VCINC. (Other chapters may have other equally successful, proactive approaches). Upon finding a Companion from the Houston Chapter, the chapter commander writes that Companion a letter. A letter to a veteran Companion in the Houston area would be somewhat different from a letter to a Hereditary Member who lives elsewhere. Regardless, in each case, let the Companion know that their chapter has been looking for them and it would like to update the MOWW Member Roster. To that end, the Houston Chapter prints and encloses a MOWW Form 5, “Membership Update” and a self-addressed stamped envelope, and it asks the Companion to complete the Form 5 and mail it back to the chapter so it can go online to update the MOWW Membership Database using that that printed and filled-out MOWW Form 5. If the Companion is still in the Houston area, the chapter also encloses a copy of the latest Houston Chapter Newsletter. [Alternatively, the Companion can be given instructions on submitting the online MOWW Form 5 themselves via the MOWW website at www.moww.org.]

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

ARTHUR B. MORRILL III
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
Chief of Staff & COO, MOWW, Inc.®