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DOUG MIDDLETON
JR. VICE COMMANDER



JACK LEONARD
ADJUTANT



FRANK VAN HOY
NATIONAL SERVICE
DIRECTOR

FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT

JOHN E. BIRCHER III
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIR.

HEADQUARTERS MOPH
5314B BACKLICK RD.
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151
703-354-2140

publicrelations@purpleheart.org

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART FACT SHEET 2016

The National Headquarters of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is located in Springfield, Virginia. The Order now includes about 45,000 Total members, organized into 6 geographical Regions, 49 State Departments, and 478 Chapters. The Order's annual operating budget is approximately \$9.75 million of which nearly \$7 million goes to support the Service Program. The majority of the funding is received from the MOPH Service Foundation through either restricted or unrestricted grants. The Service Foundation receives their money through various fundraising activities, such as thrift stores and a vehicle donation program. The Order has a number of national programs which are described below.

NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM

- The NSP operates a nation-wide network of 73 service offices from Guam to Puerto Rico. Over 97,000 veterans and dependents receive expert assistance in obtaining well deserved benefits from the VA from MOPH's service staff comprised of 80 trained and accredited National Service Officers (NSO's), and support staff. In addition to its paid staff, the Order has a dedicated corps of volunteer Department and Chapter Service Officers who also provide assistance to veterans
- In the 12 months of FY 2016, MOPH NSO's obtained nearly \$270 million in VA benefits for their clients, submitted over 16,000 claims to the VA, filed over 1,100 Notices of Disagreement, processed 347 appeals, appeared at 166 hearings, and made over 1,650 outreach visits to Vet Centers, Hospitals, and MOPH chapters. These numbers do not reflect the contacts and visits made by MOPH volunteer Department and Chapter Service Officers.
- The MOPH Service Program also provides expert legal opinions and representation for veterans before the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). And only MOPH represents any veteran regardless of membership or affiliation. The MOPH does not accept government funds for any case brought to appeal.
- When not assisting veterans directly, MOPH National Service Officers are required to attend local VA training, successfully complete an on-the-job Training Program, and one week of annual training in order to maintain their accreditation.
- The MOPH is proud of its NSO designated veterans case management system (VCMS). Its web-based client database, automated VA forms, and reports provide for rapid client response and excellent case oversight.

VETERAN AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICES (VAVS)

- The Hallmark of MOPH is our National VAVS program. We service our veterans throughout the VA Health care system and in State Veteran Homes. We have volunteers in over 120 VAMC's and clinics across the country. We have Patriot members on the local VAVS committee in over 69 VA facilities. The MOPH Service Foundation provides funds in the form of grants to assist in obtaining clothing, personal hygiene items and allowing our members to take these veterans on outing like ball games, movies and picnics.
- The Order has volunteers donating their hours in most local communities, one way or another to bring joy into these veterans lives. This last fiscal year we had donated more than 150,054 hours this was equal to more that \$3,382,217.00 in savings for the VA Health Care System. The MOPH plays a very active role as a voting member of the DVAs' National Advisory Committee. This committee is responsible to making recommendations to the Under Secretary for Health to improve the VAVS program.
- Over the past 8 years, the MOPH, through it's National VAVS program, has given nearly \$62,000.00 in scholarships, rewarding those wonderful young American student volunteers.

AMERICANISM

- MOPH provides materials and volunteers to visit classrooms and civic organizations nationwide wherein our Members tell of their experiences in the US Armed Forces, providing historical perspective to world events.
- Employment opportunities for veterans is made through our association with State and Federal Job Fairs and Programs. In conjunction with the VA, the Department of Labor, and the Small Business Administration, the MOPH lends support and sponsorship to a wide range of Veteran Employment Initiatives which has led to the hiring of numerous OIF/OEF Veterans.
- In 2015, the MOPH Scholarship Program awarded 83 scholarships, valued at more than \$250,000. These grants went to recent Purple Heart recipients, their spouses, and to children and grandchildren of MOPH Members, including the families of those servicemembers who were Killed in Action (KIA).

LEGISLATIVE

- The Order maintains a constant presence on Capitol Hill voicing its position on numerous legislative issues concerning Veterans and the Military. The Order maintains membership in many Veterans' coalitions to help bring forth a united stance on important legislative issues.
- The Order has been the lead Veteran Service Organization on several legislative issues, one most notable has been the DoD regulation awarding the Purple Heart to POW's who died in captivity.