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MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART FACT SHEET – MARCH 2013

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 77 service offices from Guam to Puerto Rico. Over 73,000 veterans and dependents receive expert assistance in obtaining well deserved benefits from the VA from MOPH's service staff comprised of 140 trained and accredited National Service Officers (NSO's), managers, and assistants. 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 2012, MOPH NSO's obtained nearly \$298 million in VA benefits for their clients, submitted over 21,000 claims to the VA, processed 272 appeals, appeared at 170 hearings, and made over 2,700 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 funded activities is our superb VAVS program which assists veterans in VA facilities, State Veteran operated Homes (SVH), and those veterans that are home bound. These support programs are funded by the MOPH Service Foundation with Service, Welfare, and Rehabilitation grants provided to each of our Departments. With these funds we are able to provide clothing, personal hygiene items, and outings to sporting events, for example, to veterans.
- The Order has volunteers serving our hospitalized veterans throughout the country who donate their time freely at VA facilities, State Veterans' Homes, and, in some cases, in the Veteran's homes. In 2012, the Order logged in more than 138,950 hours at over 100 sites. This is equivalent of 68 full time VA employees (FTE), at a savings of over \$3,023,552 in salaries.
- MOPH completed its fourth year of awarding Student Volunteers' scholarships. These youth come from all walks of life; they take time out from their studies and activities to bring sunshine into our veterans' rooms and lives. They provide new ideas, methods, and boundless energy to our VAVS program.

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 2012, 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.

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