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MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART FACT SHEET JANUARY 2011

The National Headquarters of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is located in Springfield, Virginia. The Order now includes about 43,000 Total members, organized into 6 geographical Regions, 49 State Departments, and 499 Chapters. The Order's annual operating budget is approximately \$10.5 million of which nearly \$7.3 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

- f The NSP operates a nation-wide network of 87 service offices from Guam to Puerto Rico. Over 52,000 veterans and dependents receive expert assistance in obtaining well deserved benefits from the VA from MOPH's service staff comprised of over 147 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
- f Over the last eighteen months prior to January 1, 2011, MOPH NSOs obtained nearly \$295 million in VA benefits for their clients, submitted over 18,500 claims to the VA, processed over 588 appeals, appeared at over 262 hearings, and made over 5,055 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.
- f The MOPH Service Program also provides expert legal opinions and representation for veterans before the Board of Veterans Appeal (BVA) and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). MOPH is one of only four Veterans Service Organizations which provide appellate service before the 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.
- f 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.
- f 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)

- f A centerpiece of MOPH funded activities is our superb VAVS program, assisting veterans in VA facilities and State Veteran operated Homes. The MOPH Service Foundation provides each Department with VAVS grants to provide clothing, personal hygiene items, etc. to veterans in need.
- f The Order has volunteers serving our hospitalized veterans throughout the country who donate their time freely at VA Facilities and State Veterans' Homes. In 2010, the Order logged in more than 102,000 hours at over 100 sites. This is the equivalent of 50 full time employees (FTE), saving over \$2,129,389 in salaries.
- f MOPH has just completed awarding the third year of our youth volunteers' scholarships. These youth come from all walks of life and are very sincere in wanting to assist our veterans. Working closely with our local Chapters and Patriots, they bring new ideas and boundless energy to our program.

AMERICANISM

- f 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.
- f Employment opportunities for veterans are made through our Job Fairs. In conjunction with the VA, the Department of Labor, and the Small Business Administration, MOPH conducted three Job Fairs in 2010 which has led to the hiring of numerous OIF/OEF Veterans.
- f In 2010, 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 those who were Killed in Action (KIA).
- f In 2008, MOPH provided almost \$500,000 dollars in grants to its Members who survived Hurricane Katrina to help them restart their lives.

LEGISLATIVE

- f The Order maintains a constant presence on Capitol Hill voicing its position on legislative issues concerning Veterans and the Military. 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 that represent 5.5 million active duty, reserve, retired, veterans and their families that help bring forth a united stance on important legislative issues.
- f The Order is a member of the consortium of veteran organizations that led the successful effort to obtain legislation that provided advanced funding for the VA Health Care System.

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