Greetings, Auxiliary Members,

We had a wonderful time at the Dallas at the National Convention! I want to express my special thanks to Department of Texas President, Doris Williams and her team for their superb work in putting together an awesome Convention and Tea. I also want to express a big “thank you” to all members and guests who attended the Convention. We had many in-depth, serious discussions as well as light hearted moments. Three important Resolutions were approved.

**Approved Resolutions:**

**Resolution #1:**
That the organization formerly known as *Ladies Auxiliary, Military Order of the Purple Heart (LAMOPH)* now be established as the *Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary (MOPHA)* and extend eligibility for membership be granted to a parent, spouse, sibling, or lineal descendant of a living or deceased Purple Heart recipient. We are excited about the name change and look forward to the salutary effect it will have on MOPH Auxiliary membership.

**Resolution #2:**
That the position of the Sergeant-at-Arms will be elected at the MOPHA National Convention to perform the duties of the Office for the National Organization.

**Resolution #3:**
That the position of National Chaplain be appointed by the National President to perform the duties of the Office on behalf of the National Organization.

Continued
National President cont.

Committee Appointment:

It became immediately apparent that with the name change comes the need to revise the Logo, Website, Membership Application, other forms and literature, and to notify the IRS and Bank accounts. Therefore, I appointed a Transition Committee to work on fully implementing these changes and given the importance I will strongly encourage the Committee to complete the actions as soon as possible. That noted it will take a finite amount of time to incorporate the changes, so we ask for your patience. Pending completion, you may continue using the current documents until we formally issue the new Logo.

Revision of MOPH Convention Bylaws (CBL):

Many of you already know that the MOPH did a complete revision of its bylaws, with the revisions being approved at the MOPH National Convention. It follows that MOPHA bylaws will need to be revised/updated to conform with MOPH bylaws changes.

Helping Veterans Project:

In the absence of MOPH Veterans Affairs, Voluntary Services (VAVS) funds for the past three years the MOPHA Finance Committee presented a Project to the Convention that is designed to fill the void and help Veterans. The Committee proposed that we use the 2016-2017 Ways and Means Fund, and National Share to fund this project. To do this the Convention Body passed a variance to the CBL to fund the Project. We will need to review this action again next year. Request for these funds will go through the VAVS Representative. We anticipate starting the project in October. Additional information and project request form will be sent in October.

Recognition of Female Veterans:

One thing we would like to accomplish this year is for our organization to recognize and get to know MOPH Auxiliary Female Veterans. These women are often overlooked and not adequately recognized for their service in the Armed Forces. These brave women will be spotlighted in the Auxiliary Newsletter—General Orders. If you have a Female Veteran in your organization, please send a photograph and a short biographical sketch on your member’s career in the Armed Forces and any other pertinent information to Jan Knapp whose email address is, jknapp@purpleheartmi.com. Please give this wide publicity in respective Units and enthusiastically encourage participation.

Nominations for one year Finance Committee Member

We are accepting nominations until October 7th from the National Executive Committee to fill the one year Finance Committee member position left vacant with Sharon Carlton passing.
Final Thoughts:

First, in recent weeks, we have experienced two successive devastating Hurricanes, Harvey and Irma that in different ways inflicted enormous physical, economic and emotional damage to literally millions of our fellow Americans. I urge you to lift up those who suffer throughout the Caribbean, Florida, Texas, Georgia, and North and South Carolina as a result of the hurricanes to God for His hands to cover them, and heal their wounds.

Finally, I am humbled, and I thank you for your confidence in electing me to be President of this important Veterans Support Organization. We will work hard, and pull together to make the MOPH Auxiliary the best that it can be for America’s Veterans.

With Gratitude, Gloria

SHARON CARLTON, PNP

On Tuesday, August 22 following the National Convention, Sharon Carlton who was the Auxiliary’s oldest sitting Past National President (1985-1986) passed away. Sharon was laid to rest on September 1, 2017, in Fort Snelling, MN with her loving husband Leonard, whom she married on March 20, 1976. After her marriage she joined the Ladies Auxiliary Military Order of the Purple Heart. Leonard was a World War II Veteran and served as National Commander 1990-1991. Sharon retired as an executive with Sears after 34 years, worked for State of Minnesota for the Minnesota Veterans Home for 10 plus years. She also worked for Sunrise Pest Control in Fort Pierce, Florida for eight years. Sharon touched many lives and will be greatly missed. Sharon was a fighter to the end, desperately hoping to be at the Convention in Dallas this year but God had another plan. We always counted on her being at the National Convention and seeing her at the Credential Table for the past seven years. Sharon was a wonderful mentor and supporter during my four years as Department of Florida President. So, in addition to her loss to MOPHA, her passing is a great personal loss to me and is someone who will always hold a very special place in my heart.

Rest In Peace Sharon

Love, Gloria
Ladies,
I was honored and blessed to have my wonderful family with me at the convention in Dallas and to have the opportunity to get a picture for my memory book.
Left to right Stanley-brother in-law, Gayle-sister, Felicia-granddaughter, me, LaTanya-daughter, & Washington.

National Chaplain

‘THOUGHTS FROM A MEMBER’

Like many of you, I am on facebook to keep connected to family and friends in a personal and low-tech way. I received a thoughtful message from one of our Auxiliary members, Rebecca Westphal in Green Bay who has kindly allowed me to share it with you. Rebecca is the widow of much-loved Chapter 164 Commander Dave Westphal, a Vietnam veteran.

“Happy Anniversary in God’s Kingdom, Mom and Dad…which I have only come to appreciate now.
  * Simplicity really is better.
  * Family is to be loved, cherished and protected, even our extended family and those we call ‘family’ through friendship.
  * Be kind, especially to babies of all species (except mosquitos).
  * Care for the elderly. Even though frail, they tell the best stories.
  * Get religion. You didn’t get smart all by yourself. You need that cushion when you fall…..and you will.
  * Learn to ask for forgiveness, and likewise, forgive.

Thank you, Mom and Dad. I love you and I miss you so. You have woven a beautiful tapestry, and you gave me the gift of laughter.”

Thank you, Rebecca! for a message right from the heart. God’s blessings on you always.

Peace and every blessing,

Dar Schuff, National Chaplain
Growing our Membership as the MOPHA
By Diane Petrini, National Senior Vice President

Now that the Organization has become the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary, we have a great opportunity to grow our membership. As an Auxiliary, our membership is now open to the parents, spouses, widows/widowers, siblings, children, grandchildren, legally adopted children, and direct lineal descendants of persons who have been awarded the Purple Heart by the Armed Services of the United States and to persons who served in the Armed Forces and have received the Purple Heart decoration in their own name. Patriots who have received the Purple Heart are eligible for the parent organization, if they so wish.

In addition, Associate membership in the Auxiliary is granted on the basis of a parent, lineal descendant and sibling of a member in the Auxiliary.

Please invite your sons, grandsons, brothers and parents to join the MOPHA. Some Units have offered a $25 incentive to encourage new members. This is a great time to plan a membership drive for your Unit. It would be great to have each Unit have 10 new members for the year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!

For those of you impacted by hurricanes Harvey, Irma or Marie, please know you are in our prayers. And please let us know if you need help or assistance.

On another note, Congratulations to Texas for a great convention! All of the hard work paid off for those of us that attended the convention.

Picture left—straight from Dallas is me (Diane) with Cheryl Perez. Bottom left are the members of Region VI that were in attendance at the National Convention.

Below (right) a very special couple ♡
Art & Ellen Bishop.
National Junior Vice President

What a great Convention in Dallas this year! The Texas ladies sure knew how to make us feel welcome! After a wonderful week in Texas, it was very sad to watch the destruction from Harvey shortly afterwards. Our prayers and thoughts are with everyone in Texas and Florida. Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed National Officers, and thank you to the past year’s National Officers for their commitment, dedication, and leadership to the Auxiliary and its members. I am honored to serve as your Junior Vice President this year, and excited to work with such a great National team!

The JVP is also the Ways and Means Chair and is tasked with raising funds which the Auxiliary earmarks to help our veterans. At the National Convention, how those funds will be distributed is voted on by the Convention body. While most of the funds are raised at the Convention, past JVPs found it greatly increased the amount raised if there was a Ways and Means Project going on throughout the year. The yearlong project also gives Units and members who do not attend the National Convention a chance to participate in our fundraising projects.

The Ways and Means Project for this year is the MOPHA pins as shown below. I loved all the bling and sparkle I saw every day as I passed the hotel gift shop during the convention (they had bling on everything!). The rhinestone pins are hand assembled in New York only after an order is placed and can take up to three weeks from the time of order to delivery to me. Stock on hand may be limited, but I will do my best to get orders filled as soon as possible. These make great gifts for the holidays and birthdays! We also have a limited amount of purple pashminas from the Ways and Means project from last year for $10 (the pins look great paired with the pashminas!).

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like further information about the Ways and Means Project.
Thank you and God Bless,
Cheryl Perez
National Secretary

Hello Auxiliary Members: Effective September 18, 2017, I will have a new email address. I have sent new business cards out with a little convention news and the dates your reports are due in 2018. Every Unit and Department should have received this information by September 15. My new email is: mophauxsec@yahoo.com.
The old address will stay open until the next edition of the Purple Heart Magazine is put out in November/December. Thanks...to all for what you are doing for our Veterans and all the hurricane victims.

Judy ♡

National Parliamentarian

Auxiliary Members,
I’d like to take this opportunity to address issues regarding our bylaws but first I would like to say something else. I am never caught off guard by the friendliness of our ladies but occasionally I am humbled by kindness shown that we don’t expect. As many of you know I have family and friends in Florida. So of course, like anyone else, I would be concerned when I heard that the strongest hurricane ever is barreling down on them. It appeared that my daughter Tara, our National Membership Officer, would be right in the path of that monster. Of course, she was extremely nervous and wanted to get her kids out of the state to a safe area. While she was making plans I contacted our Region IV President Amanda Flener for assistance on finding a hotel room in Georgia. As you can imagine, with so many leaving the state, getting a hotel was not easy. Amanda didn't use her skills to find a hotel, she told me where her parents live and said that Tara and her kids were welcome to go and stay with them. It was a most generous and heartfelt offer and I want to recognize her thoughtfulness. So, as it turns out, by the time I got back to Tara she had made arrangements with a friend to go to Atlanta. As we all know Miss Irma decided to take a turn and go west so Tara eventually ended up in South Carolina - safe from the storm. She headed back home on Tuesday the 12th.
All is well but Thank You so much Amanda 😊

Now, for the bylaws, you’ve already determined from reading the Presidents article that we need a new bylaw revision to reflect the name change. You also know from her article that due to recent changes made in the formatting of the MOPH bylaws, we have reformatted our bylaws in a similar order. Our Procedures Manual, Rituals and Special Ceremonies will now require updating. Once we’ve accomplished that, the entire document including our new logo will be sent to the NEC for approval. Once we have achieved that process they can be published. Until then our National Secretary will have bylaws (minus the Procedures Manual, Rituals and Special Ceremonies) available for purchase.

Jan
Region IV President

Thank you Region IV for once again for electing me as your Region President again this year. I’m looking forward to this year and happy to see what your Units and Departments have in store for this year. I was able to travel down to Fort Pierce with Department of Florida President Gail Nemesh for PNP Sharon Carlton’s Visitation in August and Tara Waugh and her family joined us as well. Gail spoke and gave a tribute to the life of Sharon and then we placed flowers on the casket and paid our final respects.

This past week, on September 27th 2017, my family and I accompanied John and other National MOPH officers to Arlington National Cemetery. My husband, John is the new National Suicide Awareness Officer and he and the National Commander laid a wreath to end September as National Suicide Awareness Month bringing light to the epidemic of the 20-22 veterans and active duty men and women who end their own lives each day. By opening the conversation, raising awareness, lessening the stigma, and letting these men and women know there are resources available for them and they are not alone, hopefully we can bring this number down closer to zero. And also we can support the survivors who don’t succeed in ending their own lives or the family and friends that are left being when the veteran’s do succeed. Brittany from Delaware here is one example. Brittany lost her dad to his PTSD four years ago. She had never heard of the MOPH but found us because of Social Media and someone shared the event (it was shared over 190 times total) and I responded to her post on the page with an encouraging comment asking her to please find us and say hello when she came. It made a huge impact and she has noted how the event was impactful and healing. Remember to reach out, make a call to someone who may be struggling, put a card in the mail, invite someone out. You never know when it may make a phenomenal difference.~Amanda Flener
Region VI President

I would like to thank Region VI for having confidence in me to represent them for the next year. It is a great honor and I look forward to serving the Units and Departments in Region VI. This is going to be an exciting year with great changes in the Auxiliary that will benefit Units and Departments. I will keep everyone informed as information comes in to me.

Vicky Manjarrez
MOPHA
Region VI President

California Welcomes the PURPLE HEART TRUCK!

Starting on July 27th, 2017 the Purple Heart Truck, on its cross country run, arrived in California. First stop was northern California, the city of Redding. Working its way south through the state, stops were made in cities of Yountville, Simi Valley, and San Diego.

**July 27th Redding Veterans Home, Unit/Chapter 2001**

Unit 2001 President Lucia Rodriguez and Sec. Francis Turner signing the PH truck

Amanda & Tyler greeted by a local veteran

**July 30th, Yountville Veterans Home**

BBQ by American Legion

Vicky Majarrez, CA Department President

Purple Heart Wine for tasting by Mondavi Winery

Vicky Manjarrez and Jim Anderson, Cmdr, Dept of CA
Region VI Yountville cont.

Units/Chapter 385 Folsom, Chapter 15 San Francisco, Chapter 78 Santa Rosa & Chapter 549 Monterey, Tyler (Driver of PH Truck) and Amanda

July 31st, Simi Valley Ronald Reagan Public Library

Chapter 750 and guests Larry Hibler of Simi Valley Ford Dealer, Peter Foy Ventura District Supervisor, and Art Hershey docent of Ronald Reagan Public Library.

Unit 750 Jane Hieter Sr. Vice, Sally Irving President, Mary Lee Maline Secretary and Kitty Hurliman Jr. Vice

Unit 750 Auxiliary, Sally Irving, Kitty Hurliman Mary Lee Maline with Tyler, Amanda and Carol Bircher (far right).
Region VI cont.

**August 1st San Diego**
The Purple Heart Truck was greeted at the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center in Balboa Park, also the location of the Purple Heart Monument. San Diego gave the PH Truck a memorable event on its last stop in California. The Navy Band Southwest, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Color Guard and San Diego Padres Pod Squad performed for estimated 100 people. San Diego was also presented a Proclamation naming San Diego a Purple Heart City.
National Sergeant at Arms

To elected “Sergeant-At-Arms”.
Your role is one of much importance and much trust. You will work very closely with the President.
Your main role is to keep order during the meetings. Other duties involved are the care and
safekeeping of the properties of your units. The preparation of the room. Greeting meeting and
extending hospitality to those attending. In some organizations and per request of President you will
chair the hospitality committee. You may also be asked to perform some administrative tasks:
collection of ballots, counting votes, recording attendance etc.
Linda Varejcka Sergeant-At-Arms

National Americanism

AMERICANISM: “Allegiance to the traditions and ideals of the United States”

As we plan our year let us promote the values of Americanism through our communities, and schools. Let
us lead the way in support of our military and nation and be active in observing patriotic holidays.

October 7th “Operation Enduring Freedom” OEF is the official name used by the U.S. government for the
attacks, President George W. Bush announced that airstrikes targeting Al Qaeda and the Taliban had begun
in Afghanistan.

October 9th  “Columbus Day” is one of ten federal holidays recognized nationwide by the United
States Government. It commemorates the historic voyage and landing of Christopher Columbus in the New World on October 12, 1492.

October 13th  “U.S. Navy Established in 1775”

October 24th “United Nations Day” 72nd anniversary of the UN charter’s entry into force, and is
devoted to making known to people of the world the aims and achievements of the United Nations.

November 7th “Election Day” Congressional special elections.
November 10th “U.S. Marine Corps Established in 1775
November 11th “Veterans Day” signing of WWI Armistice 1918. “THANK A VETERAN”
November 19th “Gettysburg Address” was delivered by Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil
War, on the afternoon of Thursday November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the Solders National Cemetery, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Linda Varejcka Americanism

“Patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.”

Adlai Stevenson
The Worst & Best of Hurricane Irma
(Submitted by Gail Nemesh, President, Dept. of FL MOPH Auxiliary) As you all know, Hurricane Irma came through Florida with a bang, leaving many with devastation, damage to their homes, flooding, without power, etc. After it was over and I was checking with our Purple Heart Auxiliary Units to see if everyone was okay and/or if they needed help, there was one family in South Florida who had numerous downed trees and much debris in their yard. Although they worked for several days trying to clear it themselves, it was overwhelming and they needed assistance. It was more than they could handle and the veteran’s wife was very concerned for her husband. Not only do our MOPH veterans have disabilities from their wounds of war, but our Vietnam Veterans are aging and some physical activities are just becoming too strenuous for them. Activities they once were able to do have now become too much for them.

As I heard the concern of our veteran’s wife, I wondered how we could assist. Due to distance, road closures, lack of available fuel, and also the fact of other Chapter members were unable to perform such physical work, I looked to a new resource for our Florida MOPH Family.

The Citrus County Jeepers Club has become very supportive to our MOPH Family in Citrus County. Nichole Gaudette of the Jeepers Club is now on our Florida Purple Heart Foundation board. I reached out to her to see if she knew of “Jeepers” in South Florida who could assist. Within minutes, two South Florida Jeepers were willing to give up their Saturday and come to our aid! It was a blessing to this family and we are all so grateful that although Hurricane Irma wreaked havoc in Florida, she also brought about the best in people – people helping people and caring for our veterans.

My heartfelt thanks to David Shaw and Jerry Rittenhouse of South Florida Jeepers!

Unit 200 News

Tuesday evening September 19, Nebraska Unit 200 ladies assembling comfort bags for the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System “STAND DOWN” which will be held at the Pinnacle Bank Arena Lincoln on October 11th.

The “Stand Down” is for Homeless Veterans Eligible for VA Health Care. “Stand Down is a military term meaning soldiers are removed from the field of combat to receive rest and rehabilitation.”

Pictured Karen Allsman, Carolyn Ossian, Karen Hansen, Mary Hansen. Not pictured Linda Varejcka