

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC.

Constitution, Bylaws, and Ritual

AUGUST 2011



PART I

Constitution

PART II

Bylaws

PART III

Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies

The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., does not discriminate in membership on the basis of age, race, gender, creed, religion, or national origin. The Constitution and Bylaws are presented in a gender neutral position. All references to all masculine pronouns are intended to be for convenience and are not gender specific.

CONTENTS

	Page
Public Law 85-761, 85th Congress, H.R. 13558.....	1
Preamble.....	8

PART I CONSTITUTION

Article I	Name.....	9
Article II	Principles.....	9
Article III	Objects.....	9
Article IV	Organization.....	9
Article V	Membership.....	10
Article VI	Principal Office - Scope of Activities.....	10
Article VII	Amendments.....	10
Article VIII	National Incorporation.....	11
Past National Commanders.....		12

PART II BYLAWS

Article I	National Organization.....	14
Article II	Application for Membership.....	17
Article III	Meetings -- Chapters.....	20
Article IV	Chapters.....	21
Article V	Duties of Chapter Officers.....	23
Article VI	Delegates to Conventions.....	27
Article VII	Departments.....	28
Article VIII	Duties of Department Officers.....	32
Article IX	National Convention.....	37
Article X	National Officers.....	40
Article XI	Duties of National Officers.....	43
Article XII	National Committees.....	54
Article XIII	Dues.....	61
Article XIV	Uniforms and Supplies.....	63
Article XV	To Preserve the Integrity of the Corporation.....	66
Article XVI	Ladies Auxiliary.....	73
Article XVII	Service Foundation.....	75
Article XVIII	Associate Membership.....	77
Article XIX	Amendments and Conduct of Meetings.....	78

PART III

RITUAL AND MANUAL OF CEREMONIES

	Page
Foreword.....	79
General Instructions.....	80
Ritual.....	81
Chapter Meetings.....	82
Admonition and Obligations of Candidates.....	86
Formal Initiation of New Members.....	88
Installation of New Officers.....	91
New Chapter.....	95
Dedication Ceremony.....	98
Memorial Service.....	101
Burial Service.....	103
Positions of Participants at Graveside.....	107

PUBLIC LAW 85-761
85th Congress, H.R. 13558
August 26, 1958

EIGHTY-FIFTH CONGRESS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington, District of Columbia, on Tuesday, the seventh day of January, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight.

AN ACT

Section 1 -- To incorporate the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, of combat wounded veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the following persons, to wit: Richard Golick, Chicago, Illinois; William B. Eaton, Lansing, Michigan; Victor F. Kubly, Daytona Beach, Florida; Luther Smith, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Olin E. Teague, College Station, Texas; Charles E. Potter, Cheboygan, Michigan; Paul H. Douglas, Chicago, Illinois; B. Carroll Reece, Johnson City, Tennessee; Errett P. Schrivner, Kansas City, Kansas; Edward Martin, Washington, Pennsylvania; General Melvin J. Maas, Saint Paul, Minnesota; General Patrick J. Hurley, Santa Fe, New Mexico; General William A. Donovan, New York, New York; Admiral John F. Ford, Hollywood, California;

Colonel Robert M. Bringham, Los Angeles, California; John J. Martin, Madison Wisconsin; Robert Schroeder, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Frank A. Weber, Bearer, Pennsylvania; Thomas A. Powers, Brooklyn, New York; Major Wilbur E. Dove, Washington, District of Columbia; Ernest L. Ihbe, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Lloyd E. Henry, Hyattsville, Maryland; Stanley B. Kirschbaum, Detroit, Michigan; Raymond Cocklin, Daytona Beach, Florida; Francis J. Maguire, Gloucester City, New Jersey; Clifford A. Parmenter, Long Beach, California; Harry H. Dietz, Baltimore, Maryland; Charles S. Isklin, Miami, Florida; Victor N. Lukatz, Cincinnati, Ohio; John P. Hapsch, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Richard J. Flanders, Waukegan, Illinois; General Douglas MacArthur, New York, New York; General James A. Van Fleet, Auburndale, Florida;

William J. Schroeder, Pelham, New York; John H. Hoppe, Alexandria, Virginia; John C. Reynolds, Covington, Kentucky; Anton Kneller, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; John L. Schwartz, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Henry Marquard, Elmhurst, Illinois; James C. Doyle, Arlington, Massachusetts; Frank Heidel, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; John E. Schwend, Webster Groves, Missouri; Anthony Badamo, Quincy, Illinois; Joseph E. Stanger, Bridgeton, New Jersey; Frank V. Fromme, Jasper, Indiana; Arthur Goetsch, Davenport, Iowa; Joseph Stiegler, Junior, Silver Springs, Maryland; William E. Savage, Seattle, Washington; Jack Medford, Tucson, Arizona; Joseph C. Kolinsky, Middletown, Connecticut; Jack M. Decard, Tampa, Florida; Ted J. Swedo,

North Chicago, Illinois; Linus Vonderheide, Saint Anthony, Indiana; Joseph Earith, Sioux City, Iowa; Howell Brewer, Doctor of Medicine, Shreveport, Louisiana; Francis Donnelly, Arlington, Massachusetts; Bernard J. Young, Chicago, Illinois; Joseph Richter, Saint Louis, Missouri; William Long, North Troy, New York; Kevin J. Murphy, Bronx, New York; William H. Kinsinger, Columbus, Ohio; Carl R. Carlson, Portland, Oregon; Ray Dorris, Portland, Oregon; James Gehas, Coatesville, Pennsylvania; Charles J. Showalter, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Aloysius J. Healy, Madison, Wisconsin; Charles O. Carlston, San Francisco, California; Andrew Munson, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Peter C. Mueller, Glendora, California; John D. Goodin, Johnson City, Tennessee; Lars Eilefson, Billings, Montana; W. Phil Bohnert, Indianapolis, Indiana;

Orral O. Jackson, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Major General Thomas F. Foley, Worcester, Massachusetts; Reverend Alfred W. Price, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; John T. Mullins, New York, New York; Frank Cushner, Ansonia, Connecticut; Colonel Walter F. Bowman, California; Michael Thiede, Dearborn, Michigan; Robert Sobel, Phoenix, Arizona; Ray Schulze, Yountville, California; Joseph Feingold, Miami, Florida; Herbert McFarland, Cumberland, Maryland; Arthur LaBrack, Brighton, Massachusetts; John W. Fitzer, Junior, Detroit, Michigan; Arthur F.D. Evans, Saint Louis, Missouri; Roland C. Smith, Orange, New Jersey; Charles Burkhardt, Troy, New York; Hugo Engler, Ridgefield, Washington; Edward Commers, Helena, Montana;

Theodore Fauntz, Seattle, Washington; Albert O. Rabassa, Baltimore, Maryland; Michael Doohan, New Haven, Connecticut; Occa V. Phillips, Saint Cloud, Minnesota; Uriah Lucas, Salisbury, North Carolina; Donald Lindley, Kansas City, Missouri; Percy O. Butterbaugh, Lincoln, Nebraska; Stanley C. Langcaskey, Trenton, New Jersey; Alfred J. Gardner, Statesville, North Carolina; Sagie Nishioka, Salem, Oregon; Edgar Eichler, San Antonio, Texas; H. J. Theisen, Port Orchard, Washington; Colonel Michael Ushakoff, Seattle, Washington; Alfred H. Klineschmidt, Reno, Nevada;

Francis J. Cayouette, Augusta, Maine; William Floyd, Aurora, Colorado; Henry H. Carter, Junior, North Augusta, South Carolina; Ike Parish, Marianna, Arkansas; Daniel P. Borota, Gary, Indiana; Jerome S. Daunhauer, Ferdinand, Indiana; Robert H. Gamber, Davenport, Iowa; William Powers, Lyndon, Kentucky; Colonel Michael Glossinger, Waneland, Mississippi; Kenneth Spry, Wyandotte, Michigan; Joseph C. Taylor, Youngstown, Ohio; George A. Davis, Helena, Montana; Harold H. Hamilton, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Thomas H. McGovran, Charleston, West Virginia;

Bernard Maurer, Edgemoor, Delaware; Marcus E. Diffenderfer, Ossipee, New Hampshire; Andrew Nomland, Grand Forks, North Dakota; Admiral John Hoskins, Quonset, Rhode Island; Jesus Ascencio Vazquez, South Margarita, Canal Zone; Ernest Collins, Arlington, Virginia; Genaro Cabrera, Cayey, Puerto Rico; Roberto Cruz Figueroa, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico; Henry B. Haina, Honolulu, Hawaii; John T. Stanton, Kansas City, Kansas; and their successors are hereby created and declared to be a body corporate of the District of Columbia, where the legal domicile shall be, by the name of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as the "Corporation"), and by such name shall be known and have perpetual succession and the powers, limitations, and restrictions herein contained.

COMPLETION OF ORGANIZATION

Section 2 -- A majority of the persons named in the first section of this Act are authorized to complete the organization of the Corporation by the selection of officers and employees, the adoption of a Constitution and Bylaws, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and the doings of such acts as may be necessary for such purpose.

PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTS OF THE CORPORATION

Section 3 –

A. The principles underlying the Corporation are patriotic allegiance to the United States of America, fidelity to its Constitution and laws, the security of civil liberty, and the permanence of free institutions.

B. The objects of the Corporation are educational, fraternal, historical, and patriotic, perpetuating the principles of liberty and justice which have created the United States of America, by (1) commemorating all national patriotic holidays; (2) maintaining true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; (3) preserving and strengthening comradeship and patriotism amongst its members; (4) assisting, comforting, and aiding all needy and distressed members and their dependents; (5) giving needed hospital and service work through its Veterans Administration certified service officers; (6) cooperating with other civic and patriotic organizations having worthy objectives; (7) keeping alive the achievements and memory of our country's founders; (8) ever cherishing the memory of General George Washington who founded the Purple Heart at his headquarters at Newburgh-on-the-Hudson, on August 7, 1782; (9) influencing and teaching our citizenry, in a loyal appreciation of the heritages of American citizenship, with its responsibilities and privileges; and (10) preserving and defending the United States of America from all enemies whomsoever.

CORPORATE POWERS

Section 4 -- The Corporation shall have power --

- A. To have succession by its corporate name;
- B. To sue and be sued, complain, and defend in any court of competent jurisdiction;
- C. To adopt, use, and alter a corporate seal;
- D. To charge and collect membership dues;
- E. To adopt, amend, and alter a Constitution and Bylaws, not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or any state in which the Corporation is to operate, for the management of its property and the regulation of its affairs;
- F. To contract and be contracted with;

G. To take lease, gift, purchase, grant, devise, or bequest from any private corporation, association, partnership, firm, or individual and to hold any property, real, personal, or mixed, necessary or convenient for attaining the object and carrying into effect the purposes of the Corporation, subject, however, to applicable provisions of law of any state (1) governing the amount or kind of property which may be held, or (2) otherwise limiting or controlling ownership of property by a corporation operating in such state;

H. To transfer, convey, lease, sublease, encumber, and otherwise alienate real, personal, or mixed property; and

I. To borrow money for the purposes of the Corporation, issue bonds therefore, and secure the same by mortgage, deed of trust, pledge, or otherwise, subject in every case to all applicable provisions of federal and state laws.

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE: SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AGENT**

Section 5 –

A. The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in Washington, District of Columbia, or in any such other place as may later be determined by the National Executive Board, but the activities of the Corporation shall not be confined to that place and may be conducted throughout the various states, territories, and possessions of the United States.

B. The Corporation shall have in the District of Columbia at all times a designated agent authorized to accept service of process for the Corporation; and notice to or service upon such agent, or mailed to the business address of such agent, shall be deemed notice to or service upon the Corporation.

MEMBERSHIP: VOTING RIGHTS

Section 6 –

A. All persons of good moral character who are, have been, or may become members of the Armed Forces of the United States or any foreign country of whatever rank, who have received or who may hereafter receive the Purple Heart for wounds received during military or naval combat against an armed enemy of the United States, shall be eligible for active membership in the Corporation.

B. The Corporation shall have the power, moreover, to extend eligibility for membership, as associate members, to parents and lineal descendants of the described in subsection A of this section under such conditions and upon such terms as the Corporation may specify in its constitution and bylaws.

C. Each member of the Corporation, other than associate members, shall have the right to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at all meetings of the members of the Corporation.

D. Notwithstanding the limitations set out in subsections A and B of this section, any member in good standing of the corporate body referred to in Section 16 of this Act shall be admitted on request to comparable membership in the Corporation created by this Act.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
COMPOSITION; RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section 7 –

A. Upon the enactment of this Act the membership of the initial Board of Directors of the Corporation shall consist of the present officers of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, referred to in section 16 of this Act, or such of them as may then be living and are qualified Officers of that Corporation to wit: Richard P. Golick of Chicago, Illinois; Adolph Sutro of Hollywood, California; William B. Eaton of Lansing, Michigan; Joseph Martin of Menandes, New York; Reverend Thomas W. Riordan of Chicago, Illinois; Victor F. Kubly of Daytona Beach, Florida; Albert Gale of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Wilbur E. Dove of Washington, District of Columbia; James B. Barrett, Doctor of Medicine of Troy, New York; who are respectively, the Commander, the Senior Vice-Commander, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, Adjutant, Inspector, Historian, and Surgeon.

B. Thereafter, the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall consist of such number (not less than eighteen), who shall be selected in such manner (including the filling of vacancies), and shall serve for such terms as may be prescribed in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Corporation.

C. The Board of Directors shall be the governing board of the Corporation and shall, during the intervals between Corporation meetings, be responsible for the general policies and program of the Corporation. The Board shall be responsible for all finances of the Corporation.

OFFICERS: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 8 –

A. The Officers of the Corporation shall be a Commander, a Senior Vice-Commander, a Chaplain, an Adjutant, a Finance Officer, a Judge Advocate, an Inspector, a Surgeon, a Historian, and other elected Officers as prescribed in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Corporation.

B. The Officers of the Corporation shall be elected in such manner and for such terms and with such duties as may be prescribed in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Corporation.

**USE OF INCOME: LOANS TO OFFICERS,
DIRECTORS OR EMPLOYEES**

Section 9 –

A. No part of the income or assets of the Corporation shall inure to any Member, Officer, or Director, or be distributable to any such person otherwise than upon dissolution or final liquidation of the Corporation as provided in Section 15 of this Act. Nothing in the subsection however, shall be construed to prevent the payment of compensation to Officers of the Corporation in amounts approved by the Executive Committee of the Corporation.

B. The Corporation shall not make loans to its Officers, Directors, or Employees. Any director who votes for or assents to the making of a loan to an Officer, Director, or Employee of the Corporation, and any Officer who participates in the making of such loan, shall be jointly and severally liable to the Corporation for the amount of such loan until the repayment thereof.

NONPOLITICAL NATURE OF CORPORATION

Section 10 -- The Corporation, and its Officers and Directors as such, shall not contribute to or otherwise support or assist any political party or candidate for public office.

LIABILITY FOR ACTS OF OFFICERS AND AGENTS

Section 11 -- The Corporation shall be liable for the acts of its Officers and Agents when acting within the scope of their authority.

PROHIBITION AGAINST ISSUANCE OF STOCK OR PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS

Section 12 -- The Corporation shall have no power to issue any shares of stock or to declare or pay any dividends.

BOOKS AND RECORDS: INSPECTION

Section 13 -- -- The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of its Members, Board of Directors, and Committees having any authority under the Board of Directors, and it shall also keep at its principal office a record of the names and addresses of its members entitled to vote. All books and records of the Corporation may be inspected by any Member entitled to vote, or his agent or attorney, for any proper purpose, at any reasonable time.

AUDIT OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

Section 14 –

A. The accounts of the Corporation shall be audited annually in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by independent Certified Public Accountants or independent Licensed Public Accountants, certified or licensed by a regulatory authority of a State or other political subdivision of the United States. The audits shall be conducted at the place or places where the accounts of the Corporation are normally kept. All books, accounts, financial records, reports, files, and all other papers, things, or property belonging to or in use by the Corporation and necessary to facilitate the audit shall be made available to the person or persons conducting the audit; and full facilities for verifying transactions with the balances or securities held by depositories, fiscal agents, and custodians shall be afforded to such person or persons.

B. The report of such independent audit shall be submitted to the Congress not later than six months following the close of the fiscal year for which the audit was made. The report shall set forth the scope of the audit and include such statements as are necessary to present fairly the Corporation's assets and liabilities, surplus or deficit, with an analysis of the changes therein

during the year, supplemented in reasonable detail by a statement of the Corporation's income and expenses during the year; and it must include the results of any trading, manufacturing, publishing, or other commercial-type endeavor carried on by the Corporation, together with the independent auditor's opinion of those statements. The report shall not be printed as a public document, except as part of proceedings authorized to be printed under the Act of March 2, 1931, Chapter 378, Section 1, as amended.

**USE OF ASSETS
ON DISSOLUTION OR LIQUIDATION**

Section 15 -- Upon final dissolution or liquidation of the Corporation, and after discharge or satisfaction of all outstanding obligations and liabilities, the remaining assets of the Corporation may be distributed in accordance with the determination of the Board of Directors of the Corporation and in compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Corporation and all federal and state laws applicable thereto.

TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Section 16 -- The Corporation may acquire the assets of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, a body corporate organized under laws of the State of New Jersey, upon discharging or satisfactorily providing for the payment and discharge of all of the liabilities of such state corporation and upon complying with all the laws of the State of New Jersey applicable thereto.

**RESERVATION OF RIGHT
TO AMEND OR REPEAL CHARTER**

Section 17 -- The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is expressly reserved.

/s/Sam Rayburn
Speaker of the House of Representatives

/s/Richard Nixon
Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.

/s/Dwight D. Eisenhower
APPROVED
AUGUST 26, 1958

PREAMBLE

We, combat veterans of the wars of the United States and recipients of the Purple Heart medal, awarded by the United States Government and founded by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, at a critical time in our history, drawn together by bonds of respect and mutual suffering, have established the Military Order of the Purple Heart, chartered by the Congress of the United States, in order to perpetuate the principles of patriotic allegiance to the United States of America, fidelity to its Constitution and laws, the security of civil liberty, and the permanence of free institutions.

Through this organization and our membership in it, we hope to be able to preserve and perpetuate those ideals of liberty, justice, and the general welfare which are the very foundation of our way of life. We further pledge to foster and enhance those principles which, from the beginning of our national history, have served as a beacon of hope and salvation to the peoples of all nations.

HONORARY NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

The President of the United States of America shall be the Honorary National Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated.

PART I

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME

This organization shall be known as the **MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED** (hereinafter variously referred to as: Military Order of the Purple Heart; Corporation; Organization; Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.; or M.O.P.H. of the U.S.A., Inc.).

ARTICLE II

PRINCIPLES

The principles underlying the Corporation are patriotic allegiance to the United States of America, fidelity to its Constitution and laws, the security of civil liberty, and the permanence of free institutions.

ARTICLE III

OBJECTS

The objects of the Corporation are educational, fraternal, historical, and patriotic, perpetuating the principles of liberty and justice which have created the United States of America. These objects may be carried out in various ways, including: by (1) commemorating all national patriotic holidays; (2) maintaining true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; (3) preserving and strengthening comradeship and patriotism amongst its members; (4) assisting, comforting, and aiding all needy and distressed members and their dependents; (5) giving needed hospital and service work through its Veterans' Administration certified Service Officers; (6) cooperating with other civic and patriotic organizations having worthy objectives; (7) keeping alive the achievements and memory of our country's founders; (8) ever cherishing the memory of General George Washington, who founded the Purple Heart, at his headquarters at Newburgh-on-the-Hudson, on August 7, 1782; (9) influencing and teaching our citizenry, in a loyal appreciation of the heritage of American citizenship, with its responsibilities and privileges; and (10) preserving and defending the United States of America from all enemies whomsoever.

ARTICLE IV

ORGANIZATION

The several constituted bodies of this Corporation shall consist of: (1) Subordinate organizations to be known as _____ (name) _____ Chapter No. _____, Military Order of

the Purple Heart of the United States of America. However, no Chapter hereafter organized shall adopt the name already adopted by any Chapter in good standing, nor the name of any living person. (2) Department organizations to be known as Department of _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America; and (3), Auxiliary bodies which may be formed, will be subject to the Bylaws which may be hereinafter adopted.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 -- All persons of good moral character who are, have been, or may become members of the Armed Forces of the United States or any foreign country of whatever rank, who have received or who may hereafter receive the Purple Heart for wounds received during military or naval combat against an armed enemy of the United States, shall be eligible for active membership in the Corporation.

Section 2 -- Each member of the Corporation, other than associate members, shall have the right to vote on each matter submitted to a vote at all meetings of the Corporation.

Section 3 -- Each Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America shall be the judge of the admission of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI

PRINCIPAL OFFICE: SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

Section 1 -- The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in Washington, District of Columbia, or in any such other place as may later be determined by the national convention, but the activities of the Corporation shall not be confined to that place and may be conducted throughout the various states, territories, and possessions of the United States.

Section 2 -- The Corporation shall have in the District of Columbia at all times a designated agent authorized to accept service of process for the Corporation; and a notice to or service upon such agent, or mailed to the business address of such agent, shall be deemed notice to or service upon the Corporation.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1 -- This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a roll call of two-thirds vote of the regularly elected and qualified delegates thereat, provided the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the National Adjutant to the members of the National Executive Committee, by mailing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention. And, provided further, no proposed amendment shall

be submitted through the National Adjutant to the members of the National Executive Committee unless said proposed amendment shall have been first submitted by a Department Convention, Department Executive Committee, or the National Executive Committee.

Section 2 -- This Constitution may also be amended by unanimous vote of the regularly elected and qualified delegates at any National Convention, provided the proposed amendment shall have been read to the National Convention at least one calendar day before it is voted upon.

ARTICLE VIII

NATIONAL INCORPORATION

This Constitution is adopted to conform with the Act of Congress of the United States of America, Public Law 85-761, of August 26, 1958.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

1932-33	*Frank J. Cushner	Connecticut
1933-34	*Frank J. Cushner	Connecticut
1934-35	*Howard J. Lepper	New Jersey
1935-36	*Frank A. Schrepher	Pennsylvania
1936-37	*Heinrich A. Pickert	Michigan
1937-38	*Thorvald M. Thompson	Minnesota
1938-39	*Charles O. Carlson	California
1939-40	*Wendell A. Lochbiler	Michigan
1940-41	*Herbert A. Church	Dist. of Columbia
1941-42	*Harry B. Weinburg	Michigan
1942-43	*William M. Thomas	New York
1943-44	*Elmer J. Keys	Wisconsin
1944-45	*Harold M. Hamilton	Pennsylvania
1945-46	*Harold M. Hamilton	Pennsylvania
1946-47	*Ray Dorris	Oregon
1947-48	*Verne S. White	Ohio
1948-49	*Clifford A. Parmenter	California
1949-50	*Frank J. Schneller	Illinois
1950-51	*John D. Goodin	Tennessee
1951-52	*Victor F. Kubly	Massachusetts
1952-53	Robert W. Schroeder	Wisconsin
1953-54	*Anton D. Kneller	Pennsylvania
1954-55	*Walter C. Bowman	California
1955-56	*Aloysius J. Healy	Wisconsin
1956-57	*William B. Eaton	Michigan
1957-58	*Richard P. Golick	Illinois
1958-59	*Lloyd E. Henry	Maryland
1959-60	*Harry E. Heiser	Pennsylvania
1960-61	*Victor N. Lukatz	Ohio
1961-62	*Edward F. Holiday	New Jersey
1962-63	*Lester J. Hawkins	Oregon
1963-64	*Robert T. Schumack	Pennsylvania
1964-65	*Carl A. Falkowski	Minnesota
1965-66	*Clair Voss	Wisconsin
1966-67	*John H. Burgess	Florida
1967-68	*Earnest P. Slaughter	Pennsylvania
1968-69	*Earnest P. Slaughter	Pennsylvania
1969-70	*Shaffe T. Courey	California
1970-71	*Ronald A. Beattie	Rhode Island
1971-72	*Harvey Thiede	Michigan
1972-73	*Robert H. Betts	Florida
1973-74	*John E. Binnion	Ohio
1974-75	*John R. Eletto	California

**PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS
(Continued)**

1975-76	*John M. Duchessi	New York
1976-77	*Richard F. Flanders	Illinois
1977-78	*Douglas H. McGarrity	Michigan
1978-79	*Raymond F. Warren	California
1979-80	James Durkin	New York
1980-81	*Jerry Searles	Minnesota
1981-82	*Duane Brigstock	Michigan
1982-83	*Donald Arthur	Florida
1983-84	*Wendell R. Lowe	Illinois
1984-85	*Thomas F. Sharpe	New York
1985-86	*Edward Chastain	Georgia
1986-87	Jules Carvalho, Jr.	California
1987-88	*Donald M. Skinder	Virginia
1988-89	Frank A. Athanason	Maryland
1989-90	*Ernest E. Brown	Michigan
1990-91	*Leonard A. Carlton	Minnesota
1991-92	Joseph R. Hems	New Jersey
1992-93	*Robert C. Padgett	Florida
1993-94	Michael Tomsey	Virginia
1994-95	*John C. Loberg	California
1995-96	*Carroll M. Fyffe	Arizona
1996-97	James M. Blaylock	Georgia
1997-98	Louis C. Tebbe	Michigan
1998-99	Boyd L. Barclay	Oklahoma
1999-2000	Richard H. Esau, Jr.	New York
2000-01	Frederick A. Taylor, Jr.	Indiana
2001-02	Richard L. Spinelli	New Jersey
2002-03	William A. Wroolie	Minnesota
2003-04	Al Silvano	South Carolina
2004-05	*Robert N. Lichtenberger	Texas
2005-06	James D. Randles	Georgia
2006-07	*Tom Poulter	California
2007-08	Henry J. Cook III	Mississippi
2008-09	Jeffrey A. Roy	Colorado
2009-10	James M. Sims	Washington
2010-11	Clayton Jones	Missouri

*Deceased

PART II

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Section 1	Regions
Section 2	Departments
Section 3	Chapters
Section 4	Charter
Section 5	Institution
Section 6	Installing Officer
Section 7	Seniority
Section 8	Surrender of Charter
Section 9	Transfers
Section 10	Disposition of Members
Section 11	Revival
Section 12	Bylaws

Section 1 -- REGIONS. A Region is a geographical grouping of states and territories for the purpose of membership expansion. Each Region shall conduct a region meeting each year to be held during the month of October. A National Region Commander is elected annually from each of the following Regions.

Region I -- Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia.

Region II -- Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Region III -- Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming.

Region IV -- Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Region V -- Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Region VI -- Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah and Guam.

Section 2 -- DEPARTMENTS. Departments may be organized where there are **two** or more active Chapters, with a minimum combined membership of 100 members in good standing, in any state(s), territory, or foreign country. **Departments in rural areas with significant travel distances may, with written approval of the National Commander, remain active with two active Chapters.**

When so organized, all Chapters within such state(s), territory, or **foreign** country shall be subject to the jurisdiction of said Department. Two or more states can petition to join as a Regional Department when such state(s) do not meet the minimum standard for a Department (**two** or more Chapters, combined membership of 100 or more members). Petition for a Regional Department will be sent to the National Adjutant; as provided for in Section 4 of this article; through the applicable Region Commander stating the rationale for the alliance. States must be neighboring contiguous states, i.e. share a border and within the same region to be considered for a Regional Department.

Section 3 -- CHAPTERS. A Chapter may be formed by the authority of the National Commander on the application of not less than 12 persons eligible for "active" membership in the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., and no Chapters shall be recognized by the Order unless operating under a valid and un-forfeited Charter.

Section 4 -- CHARTER. Application for the Charter for a Chapter or a Department shall be in writing to the National Adjutant on the blank form to be furnished for the purpose, accompanied by a Charter fee as determined by the National Adjutant for the Chapter or Department. Chapter Charter applications must be endorsed by the Adjutant of the Department where such Department exists; otherwise by the Chief of Staff or the Region Commander. No new Chapter shall be given the same number as an existing or former Chapter. No Chapter shall bear the name of a living person or be given a name that is already in use. Chapters may request a specific number; otherwise, National will assign the next available number on the sequential list.

Section 5 -- INSTITUTION. Upon the issuance of a Charter to a Chapter, the Commander of the Department having jurisdiction is responsible for the institution of the Chapter. In those cases where there is no such Department, or in the case of the forming of a new Department, the National Commander shall designate the Instituting Officer.

Section 6 -- INSTALLING OFFICER. The installing Officer may or may not be the same individual as the instituting officer. He shall:

A. Install, in accordance with the Bylaws and Ritual of the Order, and instruct the Officers in their duties.

B. Deliver to the Chapter/Department Commander installed, copies of the Constitution and Bylaws/Ritual of the Order.

C. The Installing Officer shall make a report in writing to National Headquarters, giving the name and number of the said Chapter, the number of members obligated at the time of the institution, and the names and addresses of the Officers elected to serve until the next election and installation of Officers. A similar report shall be made in the case of an installation of a new Department.

Section 7 -- SENIORITY. The rank of the Chapter/Department shall be determined by the date and time of postmark of the original application for Charter.

Section 8 -- SURRENDER OF CHARTER. No Charter shall be surrendered by any Chapter as long as 12 active members in good standing thereof request its continuance.

Section 9 -- TRANSFERS. Any active member in good standing may request transfer to another Chapter or to an "At-Large" status by submitting an appropriate request to the National Adjutant. The National Adjutant, in turn, will make the transfer and notify the gaining and losing Chapters of such action. The gaining Chapter will be allowed up to 90 days to approve/disapprove such transfer. The exception will be an At-Large Member who moves to another state; that member is automatically transferred to the state of new residence. Paid Rebates (i.e., from per capita dues payments from the National office, See Article XIII) of the transferee, however, shall be retained by the original Chapter for that year. An active member shall not belong to more than one Chapter at a time.

Section 10 -- DISPOSITION OF MEMBERS. Any active member of a defunct Chapter, who was in good standing at the time the Chapter became defunct, may upon notification from the National Adjutant be transferred to another Chapter, or may become a Member-at-Large.

Section 11 -- REVIVAL. Subject to the approval of the National Commander and National Adjutant, a Chapter/Department which was previously disbanded may be reinstated provided that:

A. The Department making application for reinstatement is in compliance with the National Bylaws.

B. The Chapter making application has a minimum of 12 active members in good standing. In such case, the Chapter may be reinstated with its original name and number. A new Charter may be issued, bearing the names of the members petitioning.

Section 12 -- BYLAWS. Departments and Chapters may adopt Bylaws not conflicting with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Corporation. Chapter Bylaws must be sent to the Department Judge Advocate for approval. Department and non-Department Chapters must send their Bylaws to the National Judge Advocate for approval.

ARTICLE II

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Section 1	Applications
Section 2	Eligibility
Section 3	Membership-at-Large
Section 4	Life Membership
Section 5	Recommendations
Section 6	Balloting
Section 7	Rejection
Section 8	Notification
Section 9	Dues
Section 10	Delinquent Members
Section 11	Members in Good Standing

Section 1 -- APPLICATIONS.

A. Every application for admission to active membership must be in writing and shall be completed in full upon forms furnished by the National Adjutant.

B. Where an application for active membership is made to the National Adjutant, the processed application for said active membership may be referred to the Department in which the applicant resides, or made directly to a Chapter within the state in which the applicant resides. Chapters retain the final decision to accept such applications as per Sections 5-9 of this Article.

Section 2 -- ELIGIBILITY. Any person of good moral character who is serving in or has served in one of the Armed Forces of the United States, or any foreign country, who can show proof of the award of the Purple Heart for wounds.

Section 3 -- MEMBERSHIP-AT-LARGE. An applicant residing in a state where no Department exists may become an active National Member-at-Large upon application to the National Adjutant. Departments may accept a Department Member-at-Large provided such member resides in such Department and is a member in good standing.

Section 4 -- LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

A. Any active or associate member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc. may become a Life Member in the following manner:

1. Any active member may apply for a Life Membership through the Adjutant of his Chapter, or directly through the National Adjutant, or
2. Any associate member or active Member-at-Large must make application directly to the National Adjutant.

B. Life Membership will be composed of the following categories:

1. For those persons whose age is 18 through 59 years;
2. For those persons whose age is 60 through 69 years;
3. For those persons whose age is 70 years or older;
4. All members fewer than 70 years of age who are rated as having one hundred percent service-connected disability by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) or by medical survey from the armed forces (documentary proof of such disability must be submitted with the application);
5. Holders of Medal of Honor who also have been awarded the Purple Heart;
6. Past National Commanders.

C. Dues will be set by the National Convention as outlined in Section 10 of this Article.

D. All Life Membership payments shall be invested to perpetuate the Order, and any interest earned shall be used for the General Fund. Withdrawal of principal is prohibited except as outlined in Article XII, Section 4K.

Section 5 -- RECOMMENDATIONS. Applications shall be presented at a stated meeting of the Chapter, on recommendation of an active member in good standing who shall vouch for the applicant's character and eligibility. All applications for membership must be submitted to the National Headquarters with a copy of the applicant's DD-214 or equivalent evidence of the Purple Heart award. Certification by committees or paid National Service Officers is no longer permitted.

Section 6 -- BALLOTING. After the report has been read, the Commander shall give an opportunity to any Patriot to state his objections to the admission and election of the applicant. A majority of the active members present and voting shall determine the candidate's election.

Section 7 -- REJECTION. If an applicant shall be rejected, any monies paid shall be returned and he shall not again be proposed for active membership until one year after his rejection unless a motion to reconsider the application is passed by a vote of two-thirds majority at a regular meeting of the Chapter.

Section 8 -- NOTIFICATION. Each applicant, upon his election, shall be notified by the Adjutant and, upon presenting himself, shall be properly obligated.

Section 9 -- DUES. The National Convention shall fix the Annual and Life Membership dues to be charged for membership. This does not preclude Chapters from establishing an assessment for its members (See also Article XIII).

Section 10 -- DELINQUENT MEMBERS. An active or associate member becomes delinquent if his dues have not been paid within thirty days of their anniversary date and will be dropped from the rolls sixty days after their anniversary date if dues have not been paid.

Section 11 -- MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. A Patriot whose dues have been paid or renewed within the parameters set forth in Section 10 above and is not delinquent is considered to be a member in good standing.

ARTICLE III

MEETINGS -- CHAPTERS

Section 1	Regular Meetings
Section 2	Special Meetings
Section 3	Quorum

Section 1 -- REGULAR MEETINGS. Regular meetings of Chapters shall be held monthly, if possible.

Section 2 --SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings may be convened by order of the Commander, or upon call in writing of nine active members in good standing. The Adjutant shall notify all active members of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Section 3 -- QUORUM. Five (5) active members in good standing, qualified to transact business, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Chapter.

ARTICLE IV

CHAPTERS

Section 1	Eligibility
Section 2	Officers
Section 3	Election
Section 4	Term of Office
Section 5	Balloting
Section 6	Vacancies

Section 1 -- ELIGIBILITY. All active members, except as hereinafter provided, who are in good standing, shall be eligible for any office in the Chapter.

Section 2 – OFFICERS. The elective officers of each Chapter shall be a Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Sergeant at Arms and Trustees. The Adjutant, Service Officer, Welfare Officer, Americanism Officer, Historian, Chaplin, Surgeon, one Department Executive Committeeman and Alternate, Color Bearers, and Bugler shall be appointed by the Commander.

Section 3 -- ELECTION.

A. Election of the Chapter officers shall be held in April of each year, and installation of said newly elected and appointed officers not later than May 31 of that year. Due notice of such election must be mailed to all active members in good standing at least two weeks prior to said meeting. Both elected and appointed officers may succeed themselves if properly elected or appointed.

B. In the event of a contested Chapter election result based upon allegations by the outgoing officers of an unfair, tainted or illegal election, the Department Commander shall appoint a temporary Chapter Commander and Chapter Finance Officer, who will assume immediate control of all books, records and monies of the Chapter pending a hearing into the alleged tainted, invalid or illegal election process. In order to invoke this section the outgoing Chapter Commander supported by three (3) other members must submit sworn affidavits setting forth the alleged claims of an illegal or invalid election process with supporting proof. The claims of a tainted election must be sworn and set forth the allegations intended to be proved and must be served upon the Department Commander within ten (10) days of certification of the election results.

C. The Department Commander will immediately appoint a hearing panel of three (3) Past Department Commanders who will conduct a hearing, no later than ten (10) days from appointment, into the alleged claims of an illegal, invalid or tainted election process and report their findings within fifteen (15) days after concluding the hearing, to the Department Commander who will receive the results of the hearing and either call for a new election or certify the election results to the Region Commander and the National Office. Upon certification by the National Office, the newly elected officers will be sworn in and assume command from the temporary appointees, who will forthwith turn over all books, records and monies of the Chapter to the newly certified and properly elected Chapter Officers.

D. In the event of a finding after the hearing of an illegal or tainted election, the Department Commander will immediately call for a new election to be conducted within twenty (20) days of receipt of the hearing panel's decision. All appeals will be to the National Commander within five (5) days of the hearing panel's decision and the National Commander's decision is a final and definitive one. He will either affirm or reject the hearing panel's findings and decision.

Section 4 -- TERM OF OFFICE. All officers, except Trustees, shall be elected for one year.

A. Trustees shall be elected when the Chapter is first instituted, one to serve one year, one to serve two years, and one to serve three years. After the term of office of each expires, one shall be elected to serve for three years

B. Appointed Chapter Officers are appointed for a one year term and are appointed at the pleasure of the standing Commander. Appointed Chapter Officers positions terminate at the end of the standing Commander's term of office or upon the resignation/removal/vacancy of the standing Commander. Appointed Chapter Officers can be re-appointed by the new Commander to consecutive terms without limits.

C. Chapters can establish term limits of elected officers by a majority vote of all Chapter members in good standing and by notifying the National Adjutant through the Department Commander and Region Commander of the term limits, i.e.; two, three or more years. Term limits become effective upon submission of the next Election Report and upon the approval of the National Adjutant. A majority vote of all Chapter members in good standing is required to change or remove the term limits previously established and approved. Chapters with approved term limits will notate the term limits on their annual Election Report.

Section 5 -- BALLOTING. In case of a ballot for officers, a majority of all votes cast, except where otherwise designated, shall be necessary for a choice. If there is no election on the first ballot, the name of the Patriot receiving the lowest number of votes will be dropped, and so on in successive ballots until an election is made.

Section 6 -- VACANCIES.

A. All vacancies in elective officers shall be filed by the Chapter at the next regular meeting following such vacancy in accordance with its own Bylaws, provided, however, in the event of a vacancy in the office of Commander, the Senior Vice-Commander shall become the Commander and the Junior Vice-Commander shall become the Senior Vice-Commander. The Chapter shall then elect a Junior Vice-Commander to fill the vacancy remaining, and shall likewise elect other officers to fill any elective offices that become vacant.

B. A Chapter may, by a majority vote, declare vacant the position of any elective officer who has absented himself from three consecutive meetings, provided notice has been duly given the delinquent officer and notice of the intended action has been given to the active members of the Chapter at least 15 days before such action is to be voted upon.

ARTICLE V

DUTIES OF CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1	Commander
Section 2	Senior Vice-Commander
Section 3	Junior Vice-Commander
Section 4	Adjutant
Section 5	Finance Officer
Section 6	Judge Advocate
Section 7	Executive Committeeman
Section 8	Sergeant-at-Arms
Section 9	Trustees
Section 10	Service Officer
Section 11	Welfare Officer
Section 12	Historian
Section 13	Chaplain
Section 14	Americanism Officer
Section 15	Surgeon
Section 16	Color Bearers, Bugler
Section 17	Chapter Observances
Section 18	Residence

Section 1 -- COMMANDER. The Commander shall:

A. Preside at all meetings of the Chapter; enforce a strict observance of the laws and usage of the Corporation, and all orders from proper authority; approve all warrants drawn upon the Finance Officer for appropriation of money made and passed at a regular meeting of the Chapter; sign each check issued by the Chapter; and perform such other duties as the laws of the Corporation may require.

B. Immediately after entering his office, appoint an Adjutant, Service Officer, Welfare Officer, Americanism Officer, Historian, Chaplain, Surgeon, and all other Chapter officers and committees not otherwise provided for. Further, he may remove these officers and committees at his pleasure.

Section 2 -- SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER. It shall be the duty of the Senior Vice-Commander to assist the Commander in preserving order and to preside in the absence of or at the request of the Commander, and he shall perform such other duties as the laws may require. His specific responsibility shall be to cooperate with the Commander in aggressive membership activity.

Section 3 -- JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER. The Junior Vice-Commander shall assist in membership activities and in providing entertainment for Chapter meetings. He shall perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Bylaws and Ritual and shall preside in the absence of or at the request of the Commander or Senior Vice-Commander. In case the Commander and both Vice-Commanders are absent, the Chapter shall elect a Commander "pro tempore."

Section 4 -- ADJUTANT. The Adjutant shall:

- A. Keep books and files properly prepared:
 - 1. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., and the Bylaws of the Chapter and Department.
 - 2. A copy of the application of every member admitted to the Chapter.
 - 3. A record of all the proceedings of each meeting of the Chapter after the same shall have been corrected and/or approved.
 - 4. An order file in which shall be kept all orders or circulars issued by the National Commander, the Commander of the Department, or the Commander of the Chapter.
 - 5. A letter file.
 - 6. A roll of departed Patriots.
 - 7. Such other documents or papers as required by the Order or any legal jurisdiction.

B. Attest by his signature all actions of the Chapter; draw all warrants on the Finance Officer, to be approved by the Commander; notify in writing newly elected active members; and, under the direction of the Commander, prepare all reports and returns required of him.

C. Complete Chapter Officer Election Report forms, as furnished by the National Adjutant, within twenty-four hours after the election and promptly forward a copy directly to the National Adjutant and the Department Adjutant. He shall keep an active account of each active member, notify all active members who are in arrears, perform such other duties as shall be required of him by the Bylaws of the Corporation, and transfer without delay to his successor all books, papers, and other property of the Chapter in his possession or under his control.

Section 5 -- FINANCE OFFICER. The Finance Officer shall:

A. Hold and be responsible for the funds, securities, vouchers, and other property of the Chapter, and pay out monies only upon proper warrant drawn by the Adjutant and approved by the Commander. He shall keep an active account of each active member; co-sign each check issued by the Chapter; and perform such other duties as the laws of the Corporation may require.

B. Prepare a complete annual financial report covering the period May 1 to April 30 and provide a copy to the Department Finance Officer by May 31 and the National Adjutant by or before June 30.

C. Deliver to his successor in office, or to anyone designated by the Chapter, all monies, books, financial statements, and other property of the Chapter in his possession or under his control.

Section 6 -- JUDGE ADVOCATE. The Judge Advocate shall give the Commander such legal and parliamentary assistance as he may require, and perform such other duties incident to his office.

Section 7 -- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN. In the absence of the Chapter Commander, Chapter Senior Vice-Commander, or Chapter Junior Vice-Commander, the Executive Committeeman or in his absence the Alternate Executive Committeeman shall represent the Chapter on the Department Executive Committee.

Section 8 -- SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall take his post at the inside door of the meeting room at which the meeting will be held, shall admit only those who are entitled to attend the meeting, and perform such other duties as the Commander may direct. He shall be responsible for the Chapter Colors.

Section 9 -- TRUSTEES. The Trustees shall, **at least** semi-annually, in June and in December, audit the accounts of the **Chapter**, make a report to the Chapter, and perform such other duties as may be required of them by the Chapter.

Section 10 -- SERVICE OFFICER. The Service Officer shall advise and assist veterans and their dependents in the technical preparation of their claims for benefits from any governmental agency, and in securing suitable employment; keep himself informed of the laws and rules pertaining to the rights and benefits of the veterans and their families; protect and keep confidential the service records held under his jurisdiction; make periodic reports of his activities to the Chapter; and coordinate his activities with the Department Service Officer and the National Service Director.

Section 11 -- WELFARE OFFICER. Where a Veterans Administration Medical Facility is within a reasonable distance, the Welfare Officer may serve as the Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS) Representative or Deputy, upon proper certification, and cooperate in the development of a suitable program to assist and comfort hospitalized veterans and their families. He shall also:

A. Keep informed as to public and private agencies and organizations which can offer temporary or permanent assistance to needy members or veterans and their families, and help such persons in securing proper and adequate assistance.

B. Assist the Chapter wherever possible in the sale of Violas as a source of welfare funds, and performs such other duties as the Commander may direct.

C. Make periodic reports of the Chapter activities to the Department and National Welfare Officers, and provide them with written reports no later than June 15 of each year.

Section 12 -- HISTORIAN. The Historian shall compile a brief history of the activities of the Chapter during his term of office, to be kept as a permanent record of the Chapter, and shall perform such other duties as his office may require or the Commander may direct.

Section 13 -- CHAPLAIN. The Chaplain shall be responsible for the opening and closing prayers of the Chapter meeting, assist in or take charge of burial ceremonies for departed Patriots, and perform such other duties requested of him by the Commander.

Section 14 -- AMERICANISM OFFICER. The Americanism Officer shall:

A. Assist in the promotion of a program of "positive Americanism" and shall cooperate with other civic and patriotic organizations having worthy objectives; he shall assist his Chapter in the commemoration of all national patriotic holidays by preserving and strengthening comradeship and patriotism among its members.

B. Encourage the display of the American Flag on all appropriate holidays and perform such other duties as his office may require or the Commander may direct.

C. Submit a report to the Department and National Americanism Officers no later than June 15 of each year.

Section 15 -- SURGEON. The Surgeon shall make periodic reports to the Chapter regarding DVA and other health and rehabilitation matters, and perform such duties requested of him by the Commander.

Section 16 -- COLOR BEARERS, BUGLER.

A. The Color Bearers shall be responsible for displaying the Colors at Chapter meetings and at all patriotic functions. The Colors may also be used in other circumstances as requested and directed by the Commander.

B. The Bugler shall play the required calls at patriotic functions and assist the Color Guard and Chapter Officers when called upon for other duties.

Section 17 -- CHAPTER OBSERVANCES.

A. Each Chapter shall make arrangements for observing George Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day; and, if practicable, participate in local services in its locality for these observances. It shall be the duty of the officers of the Chapters to see that suitable grave markers are placed on the graves of all deceased members, and that flowers are placed on the graves on Memorial Day.

B. August 7 of each year is set aside as "Purple Heart Day" in honor of the founding of the Badge of Military Merit (now known as the Purple Heart) by General George Washington on August 7, 1782. National observance of this day is urged, each Chapter participating as far as practicable. Chapters may choose to conduct "Viola drives" for welfare funds on August 7.

Section 18 -- RESIDENCE. All Chapter elected and appointed officers shall reside within the geographic boundaries of the Region and/or reasonable commuting distance of the Chapter as defined by the National Bylaws and the National Membership Office.

ARTICLE VI

DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS

Section 1	Department
Section 2	National
Section 3	Balloting
Section 4	Delegate Lists
Section 5	Convention Prerequisite

Section 1 -- DEPARTMENT. At a Chapter meeting at least 30 days prior to the Department Convention each year, delegates and alternates to the Department Convention shall be elected on the basis of one delegate and one alternate for the Chapter's Charter. Other delegates and alternates may be elected at the rate of one delegate and one alternate for each 12 active members, or major fraction thereof, in good standing in the Chapter at the time of election.

Section 2 -- NATIONAL. At a Chapter meeting at least 30 days prior to the National Convention each year, delegates and alternates to the National Convention shall be elected on the basis of one delegate and one alternate for the Chapter's Charter. Other delegates and alternates, at the rate of one delegate and one alternate for each 15 active members or major fraction thereof, in good standing as recorded by the National Adjutant on June 30 for each year, may also be elected.

Section 3 -- BALLOTING. By the passage of a resolution before balloting, so ordering, delegates and alternates may be voted for on the same ticket. The allotted number receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared delegates, and the number receiving the next higher number of votes shall be declared alternates.

Section 4 -- DELEGATE LISTS. Immediately after the election of delegates and alternates the Chapter Adjutant shall forward a list of their names to the Department Adjutant or National Adjutant as the case may be. Such lists shall be used by the Credentials Committee in determining duly accredited delegates and alternates to Department and National Conventions.

Section 5 -- CONVENTION PREREQUISITE. Chapters with fewer than the minimum requirement of 12 active members in good standing, or who have not reported elected and appointed officers or who have outstanding obligations to either the Department or the National Corporation, shall not be entitled to any delegates or alternates at either Department or National Conventions. This prerequisite must be met by the start of a Department Convention for Department participation and by June 30 for National participation.

ARTICLE VII
DEPARTMENTS

Section 1	Governing Body
Section 2	Meetings
Section 3	Composition
Section 4	Eligibility
Section 5	Officers
Section 6	Election of Officers
Section 7	Term of Office
Section 8	Vacancies
Section 9	Removal
Section 10	Executive Committee
Section 11	Duties and Function of Executive Committee
Section 12	Voting

Section 1 -- GOVERNING BODY. Each Department shall be governed by a Department Convention, subordinate to the National Convention.

Section 2 -- MEETINGS. There shall be an annual convention held between May 1 and June 30 of each year, and such other meetings as the Department will need.

Section 3 -- COMPOSITION. The Department Convention shall consist of:

A. Patriots who have served as National Commanders and are residents of the Department and are in good standing, and past Department Commanders of that Department who are residents of the Department and are in good standing.

B. The Department Commander and all other elective officers of the Department. All appointed Department officers are members of the Convention, with a voice but no vote.

C. All Chapter Commanders throughout its jurisdiction. In the absence of the Commander, the Senior Vice-Commander or Junior Vice-Commander may represent the Chapter; and in their absence, the Department Executive Committeeman or Alternate may represent the Chapter.

D. Delegates to be elected by a Chapter: one for each 12 active members or major fraction thereof in good standing in the Chapter at the time of election.

Section 4 -- ELIGIBILITY. All active members, except as hereinafter provided, who are in good standing, shall be eligible for any office in the Department.

Section 5 -- OFFICERS.

A The officers of each Department shall be a Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Inspector, Sergeant-at-Arms, Adjutant, Service Officer, Legislative Officer, Welfare Officer, Historian, Chaplain, Americanism Officer,

Surgeon, Chief of Staff, and such other officers as may be fixed by the Department Convention and incorporated in the Bylaws of the Department.

B. At their discretion, Department Commanders with membership in good standing in excess of 500 at the time of the Annual Department Convention may appoint a National Executive Committeeman and an Alternate National Committeeman Alternate National Executive Committeeman. The Department Commander shall serve as the member of the National Executive Committee. In the absence of the Department Commander, the National Executive Committeeman or the Alternate National Executive Committeeman shall represent the Department on the National Executive Committee with full voting power.

Section 6 -- ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

A. The Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Inspector, and Sergeant-at-Arms will be elected at the Annual Convention of the Department in each year.

B. The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, National Executive Committeeman, Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Service Officer, Legislative Officer, Welfare Officer, Historian, Chaplain, Americanism Officer, Surgeon, and Chief of Staff.

C. In the event of a contested Department election result based upon allegations by the outgoing officers of an unfair, tainted or illegal election, the Region Commander shall appoint a temporary Department Commander and Department Finance Officer, who will assume immediate control of all books, records and monies of the Department pending a hearing into the alleged tainted, invalid or illegal election process. In order to invoke this section the outgoing Department Commander supported by three (3) other members must submit sworn affidavits setting forth the alleged claims of an illegal or invalid election process with supporting proof. The claims of a tainted election must be sworn and set forth the allegations intended to be proved and must be served upon the Region Commander within ten (10) days of certification of the election results.

D. The Region Commander will immediately appoint a hearing panel of three (3) past National Commanders who will conduct a hearing, no later than ten (10) days from appointment, into the alleged claims of an illegal, invalid or tainted election process and report their findings within fifteen (15) days to the Region Commander who will receive the results of the hearing and either call for a new election or certify the election results to the National Commander and the National Office. Upon certification by the National Office, the newly elected officers will be sworn in and assume command from the temporary appointees, who will forthwith turn over all books, records and monies of the Department to the newly certified and properly elected Department Officers.

E. In the event of a finding after the hearing of an illegal or tainted election, the Region Commander will immediately call for a new election to be conducted within twenty (20) days of receipt of the hearing panel's decision. All appeals will be to the National Commander within five (5) days of the hearing panel's decision and the National Commander's decision is a final and definitive one. He will either affirm or reject the hearing panel's findings and decision.

Section 7 -- TERM OF OFFICE.

A. Officers elected and installed shall enter upon their respective duties immediately after the adjournment of the meeting at which they are chosen, and shall hold office until successors are duly installed.

B. Both elected and appointed officers may succeed themselves, if properly elected or appointed.

C. Appointed officers are appointed for a one year term and are appointed at the pleasure of the standing Commander. Appointed **Department** officers positions terminate at the end of the standing commander's term of office or upon the resignation/removal/vacancy of the standing Commander. Appointed **Department** officers can be re-appointed by the new commander to consecutive terms without limits. (Typo correction via NJA 4-18-2011)

D. Departments can establish term limits of elected officers by a majority vote of the Department Executive Committee and by notifying the National Adjutant through the Region Commander of the term limits, i.e.; two, three or more years. Term limits become effective upon submission of the next Election Report and upon the approval of the National Adjutant. A majority vote of the Department Executive Committee is required to change or remove the term limits previously established and approved. Departments with approved term limits will notate the term limits on their annual Election Report.

Section 8 -- VACANCIES. All vacancies in elective offices shall be filled by the Executive Committee provided, however, in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Commander, the Senior Vice-Commander shall at once succeed to the title and duties of said office, and the Junior Vice-Commander shall succeed to the title and duties of the Senior Vice-Commander. The Executive Committee shall be convened by the Commander to elect a Junior Vice-Commander.

Section 9 -- REMOVAL. Any Department officer who misses three meetings of the constituent body of which he is an officer may have his office declared vacant by order of the Department Executive Committee unless a legitimate excuse can be made for each absence. When so removed, he shall have the privilege of an appeal to the National Executive Committee to be taken within 60 days of the date of the order declaring such office vacant.

Section 10 -- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The Department Executive Committee shall consist of:

A. Patriots who have served as National Commanders and are residents of the Department and are in good standing, and Past Department Commanders of that Department who are residents of that Department and are in good standing.

B. All elected officers of the Department.

C. All appointed officers of the Department, with a voice but no vote.

D. The Chapter Commander, or Senior Vice-Commander, or Junior Vice-Commander. In their absence, the Department Executive Committeeman or Alternate Executive Committeeman may represent the Chapter in that order.

Section 11 -- DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A. The Department Executive Committee shall meet immediately preceding the Department Convention, and the new Executive Committee shall meet within 24 hours following adjournment of the Department Convention in the convention city. It shall also meet at least once during the interval between Department Conventions, or at the call of the Department Commander, or at the written request of a majority of the Executive Committee.

B. In the interval between Department Conventions, the Department Executive Committee shall be vested with full administrative powers of the Department, delegated to it by the Department Convention and/or the Department Constitution and Bylaws. All actions of the Department Executive Committee shall be subject to approval by the Department Convention.

C. The Department Executive Committee shall authorize all expenditures, audit the accounts of the Finance Officer and Adjutant, and be responsible for verifying the authorization of income-producing ventures.

D. Contracts and ventures extending beyond the limitations of Department Conventions can only be approved by the Department Convention by two-thirds vote, unless the Department Convention previously approves and mandates to the Executive Committee authority for specific action beyond these limits.

E. The Department Adjutant shall be responsible for a complete report of the Minutes of all Department meetings. The Department Executive Committee may be polled by the Department Adjutant through a mail vote on any matter which, in the opinion of the Department Commander, requires emergency action.

Section 12 -- VOTING. Voting at Department Conventions and Executive Committee meetings shall be as follows:

A. Each member of the Department Convention, as outlined in Section 3 of this Article and present at a meeting of the Convention, shall be entitled to one vote, except all appointed officers shall be without vote. The vote of Chapter Commanders or Vice-Commanders shall be recorded as the Chapter's Charter vote. At Department Conventions, the vote of any Chapter Delegate absent and not represented by an alternate may be cast automatically by the Chapter Commander, or Senior Vice-Commander, or Junior Vice-Commander, or Department Executive Committeeman, or his Alternate, or a Chapter delegate present, and in the order named, provided that Election Reports are on record. No individual, other than as provided for in the above sentence, shall have more than one vote.

B. Each member of the Department Executive Committee, as outlined in Section 10 of this article and present at a meeting of the Executive Committee shall have one vote, except all appointed officers shall be without vote. One-third of the eligible membership of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed, and no individual shall have more than one vote. Non-voting members are excluded from the quorum count for votes taken at Department Executive Committee meetings

ARTICLE VIII

DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Section 1	Commander
Section 2	Senior Vice-Commander
Section 3	Junior Vice-Commander
Section 4	Adjutant
Section 5	Finance Officer
Section 6	Judge Advocate
Section 7	Inspector
Section 8	Sergeant-at-Arms
Section 9	Service Officer
Section 10	Legislative Officer
Section 11	Welfare Officer
Section 12	VAVS Officer
Section 13	Historian
Section 14	Chaplain
Section 15	Americanism Officer
Section 16	Surgeon
Section 17	Chief of Staff
Section 18	National Executive Committeeman
Section 19	Residence

Section 1 -- COMMANDER. The Commander shall:

A. Preside at all meetings of the Department and Executive Committee, enforce a strict observance of its rules and usages, and see that all orders from National Headquarters are properly published and complied with. He shall also approve all warrants before they may be paid by the Finance Officer, be a signer on all checks, and perform such other duties as his office may require of him.

B. Immediately after entering his office, appoint an Adjutant, Legislative Officer, Service Officer, Welfare Officer, Americanism Officer, Historian, Chaplain, Surgeon, and all other Department officers and committees not otherwise provided for, and may remove these officers and committees at his pleasure.

C. Have authority to appoint a Chief of Staff to cooperate with, and supplement the membership activity and the organization of new Chapters under the supervision of the Vice-Commander. He shall also have the authority to appoint Deputy Chiefs of Staff -- in cities, or areas -- whose authority will be limited to the promotion of new Chapters.

D. Serve as the member to the National Executive Committee, as provided in these Bylaws, **Article VII, Section 5**.

Section 2 -- SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER. It shall be the duty of the Senior Vice-Commander to assist the Commander in preserving order and to preside in the absence or at the request of the

Commander, and he shall perform such other duties as the Bylaws and Ritual may require. His specific responsibility shall be to cooperate with the Commander in aggressive membership activity, organization of new Chapters, revival of inactive Chapters, and similar activities as the Commander shall direct. The Department Senior Vice-Commander may also serve as the alternate member to the National Executive Committee, as provided in the Bylaws, **Article VII, Section 5**.

Section 3 -- JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER. The Junior Vice-Commander shall assist in membership activities and shall perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Bylaws and Ritual, and shall preside in the absence or at the request of the Commander or Senior Vice-Commander. He shall coordinate the Department's membership activities with the Chief of Staff and Deputy Chiefs of Staff.

Section 4 -- ADJUTANT. The Adjutant shall:

A. Keep correct records of the proceedings of the Department and of the Executive Committee; conduct the correspondence and issue all orders under the direction of the Commander; draw all warrants on the Finance Officer; make all returns required of him by the National Organization; keep an order book, letter file, and endorsement and memorandum books; maintain files of all orders, reports, and correspondence received and remaining in his office; and set up such other files and books as may be required of him by the Department Commander.

B. Prepare before each Department Convention a list showing the Chapters in good standing, and the number of delegates to which each Chapter is entitled.

C. Keep a correct account of monies due and receivable from all sources, and of the vouchers and warrants drawn on the Finance Officer. He shall take a receipt from the Finance Officer for all monies turned over to him from whatever source.

D. Deliver to his successor in office all monies, books, or property of the Department in his possession.

E. Give good and sufficient security in the form of a bond.

Section 5 -- FINANCE OFFICER. The Finance Officer shall:

A. Hold and be responsible for the funds, securities, vouchers, and property of the Department; pay all warrants drawn by the Adjutant and approved by the Commander; make an annual report of the finances to the Department; and co-sign all checks signed by the Commander.

B. Allow his books at all times, together with those of the Adjutant, after reasonable notice has been given, to be open to inspection by the Executive Committee or a Certified Public Accountant should one be employed by the Department.

C. Prepare a statement of receipts and disbursements in detail as of November 30 and May 31 of each year. The original shall be sent to the Department Commander, and copies shall be sent to each Chapter in the Department and to the National Adjutant no later than 30 days after closing dates.

D. Give good and sufficient security in the form of a bond to be secured through the National Adjutant.

E. Deliver to his successor in office all monies, books, or property of the Department in his possession.

Section 6 -- JUDGE ADVOCATE. The Judge Advocate shall preferably be a licensed attorney. He shall give the Commander such legal and parliamentary assistance as the Commander may require, and perform any other duty incident to the office.

Section 7 -- INSPECTOR

A. The Inspector shall have charge of the work of inspection within his Department and of the subordinate Chapters in that Department.

B. He shall make an inspection of the books of each Chapter in his Department at least once during the term of office and make such reports as may be required by his Department Commander. He shall prepare an annual inspection report to be forwarded to the National Inspector no later than July 1 of each year.

Section 8 -- SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall take his post at the inside door of the meeting room, at meetings of the Department Convention and Department Executive Committee, and shall admit only those who are entitled to attend. He shall perform such other duties incident to his office, or as the Department Commander or Department Convention or Department Executive Committee may direct. He shall be responsible for the Department Colors.

Section 9 -- SERVICE OFFICER. The Service Officer shall:

A. Advise and assist veterans, their dependents and survivors in the preparation and submission of claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs to a National Service Officer, and shall assist in securing suitable employment for veterans seeking assistance.

B. Maintain good public relations with other veterans' service organizations in similar fields of endeavor, and with county, state, and federal government agencies for the benefit of the veteran, his or her dependents and survivors.

C. Assist, train, and cooperate with Chapter Service Officers. Make periodic reports of his activities to the Department Commander, and provide the National Service Director, via the National Service Officer, reports of activities as may be required or requested.

Section 10 -- LEGISLATIVE OFFICER. The Legislative Officer shall:

A. Gather and refer such pertinent matters of interest to the members in the state, as submitted by the various Chapters of the Department.

B. Submit to the National Legislative Director such resolutions or materials as may be of interest or importance nationally.

C. Prepare all suggested bills or amendments or other legislative matters for the use of his state legislature, under the direction and approval of the Department Executive Committee. Copies of all such legislative bills shall be sent to the National Legislative Director, who shall inspect and recommend for approval or disapproval all proposed veterans legislation to be sponsored by the Corporation in any state so that no legislation of conflicting purposes will be introduced in different states.

Section 11 -- WELFARE OFFICER. The Welfare Officer shall:

A. Keep informed as to public and private agencies and organizations which can offer temporary or permanent assistance to needy members, other veterans and families of members, and help such persons in securing proper assistance.

B. Cooperate with the Chapter Welfare Officers in his Department in the development of a suitable program to comfort, entertain, and help hospitalized veterans and their families. He shall cooperate with, or may serve as, the DVA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Representative or Deputy who shall be certified to the DVA. He shall assist the Chapters and his Department wherever possible in the sale of Violas as a source of welfare funds.

C. Make periodic reports of his activities to the Department Commander and shall provide the National Welfare Officer with an annual report not later than July 1 of each year.

Section 12 – VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS) OFFICER. The VAVS Officer shall coordinate all VAVS activities in the Department, including: be familiar with pertinent VA Regulations; attend joint annual review at the VA facility; coordinate the mid-spring review with the VAVS Chief of Services at each VA facility; assist in development of VAVS programs in Chapters; and assist the Department Commander in completion of the annual VAVS report.

Section 13 -- HISTORIAN. The Historian shall:

A. Compile, in triplicate, a brief history of the activities of the Department during his term of office. The original will be presented to the Department Commander of the year which is involved, with one copy sent to the National Historian and one copy kept in Department files as a permanent record of the Department.

B. Whenever possible, pertinent photographs will be included in the history of activities, along with names of Members, localities, events, etc.

C. Perform such other duties as his office may require or the Commander may direct.

Section 14 -- CHAPLAIN. The Chaplain shall, when possible, be a member of the clergy. He shall be responsible for the opening and closing prayers of the Department meetings, assist in or take charge of certain burial ceremonies for departed Patriots, participate in patriotic ceremonies, and perform such other duties requested of him by the Commander.

Section 15 -- AMERICANISM OFFICER. The Americanism Officer shall:

A. Coordinate the activities of the Chapter Americanism Officers in the promotion of a program of "positive Americanism" within the Department. Assist in the commemoration of all national patriotic holidays by preserving and strengthening comradeship and patriotism among the Order's members.

B. Encourage the display of the American Flag on all appropriate holidays and shall perform such other duties as his office may require or the Commander may direct. Provide the National Americanism Officer with an annual report no later than July 1 of each year.

Section 16 -- SURGEON. The Surgeon should make periodic reports to the Chapters and Department regarding DVA and other health and rehabilitation matters, and perform such other duties as his office may require or the Commander may direct.

Section 17 -- CHIEF OF STAFF. The Chief of Staff shall assist in membership activities and new Chapter organization in cooperation with the Vice Commanders. He shall perform such other duties as may be required by the Commander and may nominate for appointment a Deputy Chief of Staff in each city, or area, as needed, to assist in membership activities and new Chapter organization.

Section 18 -- NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN. Representatives from Departments serving on the National Executive Committee, as provided in Article VII, Section 5, of these Bylaws, shall make periodic reports to their Departments concerning the National Organization. They shall make detailed reports of meetings attended in conjunction with the National Convention, or otherwise.

Section 19 – RESIDENCE. All Department elected and appointed officers shall reside within the geographic boundaries of the Region and/or reasonable commuting distance of the Department as defined by the National Bylaws and the National Membership Office.

ARTICLE IX

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Section 1	Supreme Body
Section 2	Composition
Section 3	Meetings
Section 4	Order of Business
Section 5	Rules of the National Convention

Section 1 -- SUPREME BODY. The Supreme power of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., shall be vested in an annual National Convention.

Section 2 -- COMPOSITION. The National Convention shall consist of:

A. The National Commander, all Past National Commanders so long as they remain in good standing, and all other elective National Officers. All appointed National Officers are also members with a voice, but no vote.

B. All Department Commanders. In the absence of the Commander, the Senior Vice-Commander or Junior Vice-Commander may represent the Department, and in their absence the National Executive Committeeman or Alternate National Executive Committeeman may represent the Department and in the order named.

C. All Chapter Commanders. In the absence of the Commander, the Senior Vice-Commander or Junior Vice-Commander may represent the Chapter.

D. Delegates to be elected by the Chapters: one for each fifteen active members, or major fraction thereof, in good standing as recorded by the National Adjutant on June 30 of each year.

Section 3 -- MEETINGS.

A. The National Convention shall be held annually on such days and at such places as shall have been determined at a previous National Convention, or by the National Executive Committee through the National Convention Committee. Any National Convention Committee may determine convention sites for two or more years in advance. (First priority will be given to sites which are easily accessible to and for severely disabled and handicapped individuals.)

B. Between Conventions, when necessary, the National Adjutant may poll the National Executive Committee for necessary approval, by mail, of a suitable Convention time and place.

C. In the event a National Convention cannot be held by reason of government edict (e.g., in time of war or other emergency) a National Registered Mail Vote, to be held not later than October 31, for the election of officers shall be conducted and audited by the National Adjutant, following a 30-day period for candidates to declare themselves. A limit of 15 days shall be allowed for the return of ballots, and the final date of mailing the same shall be designated on the ballot.

Section 4 -- ORDER OF BUSINESS. Order of Business of the National Convention, unless otherwise voted by the Convention assembled, shall be as follows:

Opening of the National Convention in due form.
Roll Call of Officers.
Roll Call of Chapters.
Reading of Minutes.
Introduction of Guests.
Appointment of Convention Committees.
Reading of Communications.
Report of Committee on Rules.
Report of Credentials Committee.
Report of Officers, beginning with that of Commander.
Reports of Standing Committees.
Reports of Convention Committees.
Unfinished Business.
New Business.
Final Report of Credentials Committee.
Election of Officers.
Installation of Officers.

Section 5 -- RULES OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION. Rules of the National Convention, unless otherwise voted by the Convention assembled, shall be as follows:

- A. Robert's Rules of Order, as revised, accepting as herein modified.
- B. Only duly accredited and registered Members of the National Convention (Article IX, Section 2) or Chapter alternates taking the place of absent duly accredited delegates shall participate directly or indirectly in discussions or voice vote (hand or standing vote may be permitted) on any subject before the Convention. The Chair may grant the floor to any visitor, with the consent of a majority of the Convention, except that this privilege shall not be extended for the purpose of the business or point in order.
- C. The Registration Fee at National Conventions shall be determined by the National Convention Committee but shall not be less than \$5.00 for each member attending such Convention. No person otherwise eligible shall be entitled to vote until he has registered and paid such fee.
- D. When a member desires to make a motion or address the Convention he will rise, address the Chair as "Patriot Commander," state his name, Chapter number or location, and office before proceeding.
- E. At the discretion of the Presiding Officer, discussion shall be limited to three minutes to each speaker. A Patriot may be permitted to speak but once on any subject, except by the consent of two-thirds vote of the Convention. Convention Committee Chairmen may speak as frequently as may be necessary in connection with the report of their Committee.

F. Voting shall be by acclamation except when a roll call is called for and approved by the Convention. The election of National Officers shall be by roll call. On roll call, the chairman or acting chairman of a delegation shall poll his delegates on the floor and on call shall announce the vote of delegation.

G. One or more delegates or alternates of a Chapter only partially represented may vote the full accredited delegate strength of the Chapter. Chapters not having any delegates or alternates present may vote automatically through their Department Commander or Vice Commanders or National Executive Committeeman or Alternate; or through any other Department elective officer provided such Chapter Adjutant has notified the National Adjutant in writing at least ten days prior to the National Convention that such Department elective officer is the official representative.

H. Recommendations for consideration and action of the Convention as advanced by Officers, Departments, Chapters, Official Committees, or Patriots shall be in the form of resolutions, in duplicate, dated and signed, and sent to the National Adjutant at least 15 days in advance of the Convention. All resolutions offered on the floor at the Convention shall be presented in duplicate to the National Adjutant and referred to the Resolutions Committee for consideration or referral to a more appropriate committee for study, consideration, and report with or without recommendation. Mandates and resolutions adopted at each National Convention, excluding any legislative resolutions or mandates, shall be effective only until the next Convention.

I. Voting on committee reports may be on the report as a whole or considered in part upon majority vote. Any part or all of the report of a Convention Committee may be referred back for reconsideration or amendment by a majority vote of the Convention. A motion to recommit must state the reason for the action.

J. Nomination for National Officers shall be from the floor. Nominating speeches are limited to one for each candidate.

K. If there is no election on the first ballot, the name of person receiving the lowest number of votes may be dropped, and so on in successive ballots until an election is made.

L. The vote of Chapter/Department Commanders or Vice Commanders shall be recorded as the Chapter's/Department's Charter vote. Chapters with fewer than the minimum requirements of 12 active members in good standing, or who have not submitted election reports by June 30th, shall not be entitled to any votes, nor shall Departments with no election reports.

ARTICLE X

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1	Eligibility for Office
Section 2	Officers
Section 3	Election of Officers
Section 4	Term of Office
Section 5	Vacancies
Section 6	Voting

Section 1 -- ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE. All active members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., in good standing, shall be eligible for any National Office except as otherwise restricted herein. If a member is nominated at a National Convention and is not present at the Convention, it shall require written evidence of the candidate's willingness to accept such office, and a two-thirds vote to admit said name to nomination.

Section 2 -- OFFICERS. The National Officers of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., shall be a Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, six Region Commanders, National Adjutant, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Inspector, Sergeant-at-Arms, Service Director, Legislative Director, Welfare Officer, Historian, Americanism Officer, Surgeon, VAVS Director, Editor of the *Purple Heart Magazine*, and the Department Commander of each Department, a National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National and Alternate Executive Committeeman from each Department having more than 500 members, such Chiefs of Staff as may be appointed in states where there are no Departments, and such Deputy Chiefs of Staff and Aides-de-Camp as the circumstances from time to time require.

Section 3 -- ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

A. The Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, six Region Commanders, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Inspector, and Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected annually at the National Convention.

1. Six Region Commanders shall be elected annually at the National Convention. Delegates from the Region that each of the Region Commander Candidates is nominated from will vote on their respective candidates only. The membership strength will not be used in the election; the vote shall be: one Department, one vote.

B. The National Adjutant, Service Director, **Chief Financial Officer**, Legislative Director, Welfare Officer, Historian, Chaplain, Americanism Officer, Public Relations Director, Surgeon, VAVS Director and one Chief of Staff in states which have no Department organization, and such Deputy Chiefs of Staff and Aides-de-Camp as may be deemed necessary, shall be appointed by the newly elected National Commander in accordance with Section 1, paragraph D of Article XI.

Section 4 -- TERM OF OFFICE.

B. The National Officers shall enter upon the duties of their respective offices immediately after the adjournment of the meeting or Convention at which they were elected or upon

appointment at a subsequent meeting, and shall hold office until the next Annual Convention or until their successors are duly elected or appointed and installed.

B. Executive Committeemen and their Alternates from the Departments shall hold office for one year from the time of their appointment and installation at their respective Department Conventions.

C. No National Commander, National Senior Vice-Commander, or National Junior Vice-Commander shall succeed himself by election or hold office for longer than one year and two months after elected. If a new Commander is not elected and installed for any reason before 14 months after installation of the last Commander, then the current Senior Vice-Commander shall succeed to the office of Commander until such time as a new Commander is properly elected and installed. The National Junior Vice-Commander shall succeed to the office of Senior Vice-Commander.

Section 5 -- VACANCIES. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Commander, the Senior Vice-Commander shall at once succeed to the title and duties of the position. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Senior Vice-Commander, the National Junior Vice-Commander shall succeed to the office of the National Senior Vice-Commander. The National Executive Committee shall elect one of the six Region Commanders to fill the position of Junior Vice-Commander until the next Convention. All other vacancies occurring in the elective offices of the National Organization shall be filled by the National Executive Committee in the following manner.

A. The Commander shall duly notify all the members of the Executive Committee that the vacancy exists, and 30 days thereafter shall advise them of the names of Patriots presented for the position. Members of the Executive Committee may vote to fill such vacancy by using a sealed enveloped marked "Ballot" and forwarded to the National Adjutant.

B. These ballots shall be opened at a time specified by the Commander, by tellers appointed by him, in the presence of such officers of the National organization as the Commander may designate. The Patriot receiving the highest numbers of votes shall be declared duly elected to the office designated.

Section 6 -- VOTING. Voting at National Executive Committee meetings and at National Conventions shall be as follows:

A. Each member of the National Executive Committee, as outlined in Section 2, Article IX, present at a meeting of the Executive Committee, shall have one vote (which includes duly appointed National Executive Committeeman and/or Alternate), except all appointed officers shall be without a vote. One-third of the eligible membership of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum (Article XII, Section 2A); no member or Department may have more than one vote; and no proxy votes may be counted.

B. Each member of the National Convention, as outlined in Section 2, Article IX, present at a meeting of the Convention shall be entitled to one vote, except all appointed officers shall be without vote. The vote of Chapter Commanders or Vice Commanders shall be recorded as the Chapter Charter vote.

C. At National Conventions, the vote of any Chapter Delegates absent and not represented by an Alternate may be cast automatically by the Department Commander, or Senior Vice-Commander, or Junior Vice-Commander, or National Executive Committeeman, or his Alternate present and in the order named. No individual, however, shall have more than one vote.

If none of these officers are present, then the vote of any Chapter delegates absent may be cast by any other Department elective officer present, provided that such Chapter is in good standing and that the Chapter Adjutant has notified the National Adjutant in writing at least ten days prior to the National Convention that such Department elective officer is their official representative.

ARTICLE XI

DUTIES OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1	National Commander
Section 2	National Senior Vice-Commander
Section 3	National Junior Vice-Commander
Section 4	National Region Commanders
Section 5	National Adjutant
Section 6	National Finance Officer
Section 7	National Judge Advocate
Section 8	National Inspector
Section 9	National Sergeant-at-Arms
Section 10	National Executive Committeemen
Section 11	National Service Director
Section 12	National Legislative Director
Section 13	National Welfare Officer
Section 14	National Historian
Section 15	National Chaplain
Section 16	National Americanism Officer
Section 17	National Public Relations Director
Section 18	National Surgeon
Section 19	National Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service (VAVS) Director
Section 20	National Chiefs of Staff
Section 21	National Aides-de-Camp
Section 22	National Region Chiefs Of Staff

Section 1 -- NATIONAL COMMANDER. The National Commander shall:

A. Be the executive head of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., within limitations of these Articles, and shall have full power to enforce the Constitution and Bylaws of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., and the orders of the National Convention and the Executive Committee; and for this purpose he may issue such orders as may be necessary.

B. Preside at the National Convention and National Executive Committee meetings, and decide all questions of law and usage. Decisions can be appealed to the National Convention or the National Executive Committee. He shall be a member of the National Finance, Publications, and Executive Committees with a vote.

C. Sign all warrants properly drawn on the Finance Officer by the National Adjutant, official papers, and only such contracts properly authorized and approved by the National Convention or approved by the National Executive Committee within the authorization prescribed in these Articles or the mandates specifically granted to it by the National Convention. In addition, he will co-sign all checks properly issued by the Finance Officer.

D. Appoint, promptly upon entering office, a National Adjutant and a National Service Director unless such officers are held over by reason of a contract approved by the National

Convention as hereinafter provided; a Legislative Director, Welfare Officer, Historian, Chaplain, Americanism Officer, Public Relations Director, Surgeon, VAVS Director and a Chief of Staff in each state which has no Department organization; such Deputy Chiefs of Staff and Aides-de-Camp as may be necessary; and such Committees and officers not otherwise provided for. All such appointments shall be published by direction of the Commander by the National Adjutant, not less than 30 days after appointment, through a bulletin or official publication.

The Commander may also appoint any such officers who are salaried or receive an expense allowance exceeding \$100.00 per month, such appointment to be made subject to approval by a majority vote of the National Executive Committee. Such offices may likewise be removed only by a two-thirds vote of the National Executive Committee after the National Commander has recommended removal.

In removing other officers, the National Commander may request an endorsement vote of the Executive Committee, but this endorsement is not mandatory.

E. Be responsible for developing a nationwide program of publicity for the Order, and for cooperating with other veterans organizations on mutually beneficial programs of legislation, DVA, and other veterans' activities. He shall devote his major time to the coordination of all the activities of the National Officers, Departments, and Chapters.

Section 2 -- NATIONAL SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER. The Senior Vice-Commander shall:

A. Assist the Commander by counsel and otherwise; and in his absence or disability shall discharge the duties of his office. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Commander, the Senior Vice-Commander shall at once succeed to the title and duties of the position.

B. Be responsible for membership activities, and for Chapter and Department organization. He will be assisted in the execution of his membership responsibilities by the Junior Vice-Commander and the six Region Commanders. He shall serve as an ex-officio member of the National Finance Committee without a vote, and as a member of the National Executive Committee with a vote.

Section 3 -- NATIONAL JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER. The Junior Vice-Commander shall:

A. Assist the Senior Vice-Commander and the Commander by counsel and otherwise; and in the absence or disability of the Senior Vice-Commander he shall discharge the duties of that office. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Senior Vice-Commander, the Junior Vice-Commander shall at once succeed to the title and duties of the National Senior Vice-Commander. The Junior Vice-Commander shall serve as an ex-officio member of the National Finance Committee without a vote, and a member of the National Executive Committee with a vote.

B. Be directly responsible to the Senior Vice-Commander for the membership activities and organization of new Chapters as well as reorganization of inactive Chapters. He shall supervise the activities of the six Region Commanders and the National Chiefs of Staff.

Section 4 -- NATIONAL REGION COMMANDERS. The Region Commanders shall:

- A. Be under the supervision of the National Junior Vice-Commander.
- B. The Region Commander shall supervise the activities of each Department and/or State within their regional boundaries and for this purpose issue such orders as may be necessary to enforce a strict observance and compliance of all orders from the National Headquarters.
- C. Be directly responsible for the development of effective programs for new membership, early renewals, and organization of new Chapters and Departments in their respective regions.
- D. Assist the Junior Vice-Commander, the Senior Vice-Commander, and Commander by counsel and otherwise. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Junior Vice-Commander, the National Executive Committee shall elect one of the six Region Commanders to fill the position of Junior Vice-Commander until the next National Convention.
- E. Have authority to appoint National Region Chiefs of Staff to assist in membership activities and new Chapter organization.
- F. Serve as members of the National Executive Committee with a vote and on any other Committees as appointed by the National Commander.
- G. Have the authority to appoint an unpaid Adjutant to assist them in communications and record keeping.**

Section 5 -- NATIONAL ADJUTANT. The National Adjutant as the Executive Secretary of the Order shall:

- A. Be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the National Headquarters.
- B. Be responsible for the recording and transcription of complete and full minutes of the entire proceedings of the National Convention, the National Finance Committee, and the National Executive Committee.
- C. Publish the minutes of the National Convention and make them a matter of record. In addition, the minutes of the National Finance and Executive Committees shall be distributed by him to the entire membership of the respective Committees. The National Adjutant shall also prepare briefs of the meetings of the Finance and Executive Committees, held immediately before each National Convention, which shall be available for such Committee meetings held immediately after the National Convention.
- D. Conduct the necessary correspondence for the National organization and issue the necessary orders, under the direction of the Commander or those of other authorized officers or committees, referring such matters as are defined in the duties of other officers to them for execution. The National Adjutant shall prepare all forms and publications required for the use of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., under the direction of the Commander, or as the successful performance of his duties may require. He shall keep proper files of all correspondence, applications for active membership, general and special orders issued, and other papers and records of his office.

E. Before each National Convention, submit to the Convention a list showing the Chapters in good standing as of June 30 in each year and the number of delegates to which each Chapter is entitled.

F. Be responsible for the preparation and annual publishing of the names and addresses of every National Officer, National Executive Committeeman and Alternate, Department Commander and Adjutant, Chapter Commander and Adjutant, and such other officers and committees as may be desirable. As subsequent names and addresses or corrections are received the list shall be updated accordingly.

G. Prepare, approve, and sign all warrants drawn upon the National Finance Officer which shall be substantiated by bills or other proper authority, and determine that budgets have not been exceeded prior to signing such warrants. All requests for payments to be made by the National Corporation of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., including petty cash funds, whether covered by budgetary allowance or otherwise, must be submitted to him for approval and vouchering. He shall immediately advise the National Commander and the Chairman of the Finance Committee and all members of the National Finance and Executive Committees of any attempt to circumvent this procedure that comes to his attention.

H. Maintain a complete and accurate inventory of all present and newly acquired office equipment, office furniture, files, desks, chairs, and other property owned by the National Corporation and used in any other office or by any officer or member at any location. He shall semiannually release the list to the National Finance Officer for inclusion in his semiannual and annual financial reports.

I. Be directly responsible for the operation of the supply department of the organization, subject to such regulations as are hereinafter defined.

J. Be bonded in an amount and by such surety company as may be determined by the National Finance Committee, and approved by the National Executive Committee, for the faithful discharge of his duties.

K. Receive as compensation for his services such sum as the National Executive Committee shall determine, whether on an annual basis or by contract in writing and approved by the National Finance and Executive Committees, provided such a contract extending beyond one year is ratified by two-thirds of the National Convention and does not exceed two years, with renewable option for one year if mutually accepted.

L. Upon termination of his office, transfer to his successor in office without delay all books, papers, records, and property of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., in his possession.

M. Be a member ex-officio of the National Executive, Finance and Publications Committees without a vote.

Section 6 -- NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER. The National Finance Officer is responsible to, and under the direction of, the National Finance Committee for all functions and operations of his office and shall:

A. Take charge of all the funds of any nature or any source and deposit these promptly only in such separate or consolidated bank deposit accounts, and only in a bank or banks approved by the National Finance Committee.

B. Keep a correct account of all money due and receivable. He shall disburse all monies payable by the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., only upon receipt of warrants properly drawn and signed by the National Adjutant, accompanied by substantiating bills or other proper authority. After determining that sufficient funds are available, he shall promptly issue such checks. If, for whatever reason, he fails to issue any check, he shall notify the National Adjutant accordingly. In no instance shall he issue a check in an amount greater than that first drawn by the National Adjutant. All payments shall be made by check, co-signed by the National Commander. No check shall be issued for any expenditure that will exceed the budgetary amount approved by the National Finance and Executive Committees for any office, committee, department, or subdivision of the National Corporation. He shall immediately notify the Chairman of the National Finance Committee of any request for expenditures beyond budgetary amounts, so that the National Finance Committee can take whatever action it considers necessary.

C. Take possession of and be responsible for all securities or other negotiable instruments, or other similar property of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., and shall deposit same in a safety depository approved by the National Finance Committee. All such securities and negotiable documents of monetary value shall be properly inscribed with instruction that they cannot be sold, transferred, or posted for loan purposes without proper documented authorization issued, signed and notarized by the National Finance Committee after approval by the National Executive Committee

D. Keep a complete detailed record of all liabilities of the Corporation. He shall keep his books, warrants, vouchers, and records according to forms and procedures authorized by the National Finance Committee. He shall prepare and publish semi-annually a duplicated copy of a complete financial report consisting of: (1) a detailed account of all cash receipts and disbursements by category, with every salary or expense account of an officer, employee, or member shown separately, and such other itemizing as may be prescribed by the National Finance Committee; (2) a full detailed inventory of all equipment, furniture, and supplies of the National Corporation; and (3) a complete list of all current liabilities. This shall be mailed, within 30 days, to each such officer absent at such National Convention.

All of the above shall be in a form acceptable to the National Finance Committee. These reports shall reflect the six-month interim period account balances ending December 31, and for the June 30 end-of-the-year balances. The six-month report for the period ending December 31 shall be prepared and published not later than the following March 1 and shall be distributed to the entire membership of the National Finance and Executive Committees. The annual report for the period ending June 30 of each year shall be prepared, published, and issued not later than the National Convention each year, and shall be distributed to every member present at such National Convention, every Department and Chapter Adjutant, members of the National Executive Committee, and members of the National Finance Committee.

The report for the fiscal year shall be audited annually by an independent Certified Public Accountant engaged by and responsible to the National Finance Committee. Reports of the National Finance

Officer and of the Certified Public Accountant shall comply in every respect with the requirements as set forth in the Congressional Charter, Public Law 761, 85th Congress.

E. Be bonded in an amount and by such surety company as may be determined by the National Finance Committee, and approved by the National Executive Committee, for the faithful discharge of his duties.

F. Receive such compensation for his services, as may be recommended by the National Finance Committee and approved by the National Executive Committee, for the faithful discharge of his duties.

G. Be a member ex-officio of the National Executive Committee with a vote, and of the National Finance Committee and the National Publications Committee without a vote.

H. Upon termination of his office, deliver to his successor in office all monies, books, records, equipment, files, office furniture, and other property of any nature belonging to the National Corporation that is in his possession.

Section 7 -- NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE. The National Judge Advocate shall:

A. Be a licensed attorney. He shall be the legal advisor and parliamentarian of the National Corporation at its National Convention, Executive, and Finance Committee meetings, and at other times when such legal advice on the interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws by any National or Department officer may be requested. Requests of Chapter officers shall be made through the Department Judge Advocate.

B. Make advisory rulings and usage of the Constitution and Bylaws of the organization. The National Commander shall render the decisions, which shall be subject to appeal, to the National Executive Committee and National Convention, which shall have power to rescind or modify. In all such cases the decision of the National Convention shall be final.

C. Be the primary legal counsel on all legal matters of any nature involving contracts of all kinds, lawsuits, or threatened suits involving the National Corporation. He is responsible for making such advisory opinions as are necessary, or for referring such matters to outside legal firms as shall be employed by direction of the National Commander with the approval of the National Executive Committee.

D. Be a member of the National Executive Committee with a vote and an ex-officio member of the National Finance Committee without a vote. The National Judge Advocate shall not vote on any appeals from his decision or rulings.

E. Provide approval, as provided in Article XV, Section 1, to Chapters, Departments, or any subsidiaries of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., which desire to incorporate.

F. Review all Bylaws submitted by Departments and non-Department Chapters.

Section 8 -- NATIONAL INSPECTOR. The National Inspector will give suggestions to the Department Inspectors, and shall make such inspections of Departments or Chapters as necessary or

are requested or are delegated to him. Inspections of Chapters shall be made by the Department Inspector unless a request shall be made by the Department or Chapter to the National Inspector. The National Inspector shall also have the authority to make inspections without notice to the Department or Chapter to be inspected. Criticism and correction of the methods of bookkeeping, keeping of records, and the manner of the use of the Ritual are the functions of the Inspector. The National Inspector shall consolidate all reports made to the Department Inspector by Chapters and include them in his annual report to the National Convention. He shall be a member of the National Executive Committee with a vote.

Section 9 -- NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall take his post at the inside door of the meeting room at meetings of the National Convention and National Executive Committee, and shall admit only those who are entitled to attend the meetings. He shall perform such other duties incident to his office, or as the National Commander or National Convention may direct. He shall be responsible for the National Colors. He shall be a member of the National Executive Committee with a vote.

Section 10 -- NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN.

A. National Executive Committeemen and Alternate Executive Committeemen, appointed and from Departments having more than 500 members as prescribed in Article VII, Section 5, are National Officers.

B. Department Commanders and Senior Vice-Commanders from Departments having fewer than 500 members, as prescribed in Article VII, Section 5, shall serve as the member and alternate member to the National Executive Committee, respectively. As such, they are not National Officers.

C. Those referred to in paragraphs A and B above shall make periodic reports to their respective Departments concerning the National organization, and shall make detailed reports of meetings attended in conjunction with the National Convention, or otherwise.

Section 11 -- NATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR. The National Service Director of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., shall:

A. Be a National Service Officer accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs

B. Direct, supervise, and coordinate the activities of all National Service Officers. Coordinate the activities of National Service Officers in support of Chapter and Department Service Officers.

C. Make qualified recommendations to the Department of Veterans Affairs for accreditation of National Service Officers.

D. Supervise and direct Military Order of the Purple Heart personnel in appeals on compensation or pension claims, or other similar matters pertaining to members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, veterans, their widows and orphans, and their families and dependents,

involving the Central and Regional Offices of the Veterans Administration. Make arrangements for the representation of such persons in the presentation of claims before the Appeals Board of the Department of Veterans Affairs, provided that a Power of Attorney has been received authorizing the Military Order of the Purple Heart to represent such persons.

E. Review monthly and periodic reports of activities by all National Service Officers.

F. Provide an annual report of service programs to the National Convention

G. Coordinate with the Legislative Director in all federal legislative activities, and assist in the promotion and execution of federal legislation affecting veterans and their families. Coordinate with the Legislative Director in the preparation and presentation of federal legislation pertaining to compensations, pensions, claims and other service-related matters. Act as the Legislative Director in his absence.

H. Be a member *ex-officio* of the Legislative Committee with a vote, and a member *ex-officio* of the Finance Committee without a vote.

I. Maintain good relations with other veteran service organizations and activities and with government agencies for the benefit of veterans and their families. Cooperate with Welfare Officers in handling service claims of hospitalized veterans. Cooperate in the VAVS Program as requested.

J. Use the *Purple Heart Magazine* and other publications to provide information relating to matters of service, rehabilitation, welfare, and service-related legislative activities.

Section 12 -- NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR. The National Legislative Director shall:

A. Direct and supervise all federal legislative activities of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., and shall promote and carry out an aggressive federal legislative program on behalf of combat-wounded veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States. He shall be present in behalf of this organization before Congressional Committees and shall, with the assistance of the National Service Director, present such a program to Congress as has been prepared by the National Legislative Committee in accordance with Article XII, Section 6.

B. Prepare a legislative program to include resolutions and recommendations on legislation affecting combat-wounded veterans that may have been mandated by the National Convention or by the National Executive Committee in the interim. No federal legislation shall be sponsored or endorsed by the Legislative Director or by any National Officer or any member or officer of any subordinate unit unless it has been approved by a National Convention or National Executive Committee.

The National Legislative Director, with approval of the National Commander, may appear on any issues that pertain to Veterans to speak for or against in the best interest of our Order.

C. Coordinate his activities with the National Service Director, who shall cooperate in the preparation and presentation of bills to Congress pertaining to compensation, pensions, claims, and other service matters.

D. Inspect all copies of bills or proposed bills for state legislatures sent to him by the Department Legislative Officers, and shall recommend for approval or disapproval all proposed legislation to be sponsored by this organization in any state, so that no legislation of conflicting purposes will be introduced in different states.

E. Serve as Chairman of the Legislative Committee and select the members of such Committee, with the approval of the National Commander, who shall serve as an ex-officio member, as shall the National Service Director and the National Adjutant.

Section 13 -- NATIONAL WELFARE OFFICER. The Welfare Officer shall:

A. Perform the duties incident to his office and such other duties as may be required or the Commander may direct.

B. Assist and cooperate with Chapter and Department Welfare Officers in the development of suitable programs for the comfort, entertainment, and assistance of hospitalized veterans and their families.

C. Cooperate with, or may serve as, the National VAVS Representative or Deputy National VAVS Representative. He shall cooperate and coordinate with the National Service Director and the National Legislative Director, and shall submit recommendations for consideration by the National Legislative Committee.

D. Serve as an ex-officio member of the National Viola Committee and assist to the best of his ability in the development of this source of welfare funds.

E. Make periodic reports of his activities, as necessary, and compile and consolidate all reports from Chapter and Department Welfare Officers for his complete written report to the National Convention. He shall prescribe and distribute such forms as may be required for reports of the Chapter and Department Welfare Officers.

Section 14 -- NATIONAL HISTORIAN. The Historian shall compile a history of the activities of the National organization during his term of office, to be kept as a permanent record of the National organization. He shall be responsible for obtaining an 8 x 10-inch photograph of each Past National Commander, suitable for framing, and shall submit them to the National Adjutant for display at National Headquarters. He shall perform such other duties as his office may require or the Commander may direct.

Section 15 -- NATIONAL CHAPLAIN. The Chaplain shall be an ordained clergyman or licensed minister. He shall perform such duties as may be required.

Section 16 -- NATIONAL AMERICANISM OFFICER. The Americanism Officer shall direct and coordinate the activities of the Chapter and Department Americanism Officers in the development and promotion of a program of "positive Americanism." Such program shall be in harmony with the principles and objects of this Corporation as set forth in our Congressional Charter. *The Purple Heart Magazine* shall be the medium for the advancement of such a program. He shall

make periodic reports of his activities as necessary and shall compile and consolidate reports from Chapters and Departments for his complete annual written report to the National Convention. He shall perform such other duties incident to his office or as the National Commander may direct.

Section 17 -- NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR. The Public Relations Director shall perform the duties incident to his office and such other duties as the Commander may direct. He shall assist Chapters and Departments as he may determine, and it shall be his responsibility to develop and promote good publicity and public relations for the National Corporation and Convention. He may also serve as the National Editor of *The Purple Heart Magazine*.

Section 18 -- NATIONAL SURGEON. The Surgeon shall be a licensed physician, or medical practitioner, and shall perform such duties incident to his office or as the Commander may direct. He shall give advice to the National Service Director as may be required and shall submit recommendations to the National Legislative Committee.

Section 19 -- NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTEER SERVICE (VAVS) DIRECTOR. The National Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service (VAVS) Director shall be appointed by the National Commander and shall be responsible for all aspects, programs and protocols of the MOPH VAVS Program.

A. The National VAVS Director may appoint up to three (3) National Deputy VAVS representatives. One of these deputies will serve as the National Certifying Official. His responsibility will be to make appointments of local representatives and deputies to the Veterans Administration Medical Centers (VAMC) and State Veterans Homes based upon recommendations of the Department Commander.

B. The VAVS Director shall annually update the MOPH National VAVS Handbook, and provide training of Department VAVS Officers. The VAVS Director shall submit an annual report to the National Convention.

C. The VAVS Director shall serve as the voting member representing the Military Order of the Purple Heart on the VA National Advisory Committee.

D. The VAVS Director shall submit an annual budget.

Section 20 -- NATIONAL CHIEFS OF STAFF. National Chiefs of Staff, in states not departmentalized, shall be responsible for the coordination of the activities of existing Chapters and the organization of new Chapters in the state for the purpose of organizing, as soon as possible, a Department. They shall be directly responsible to their respective National Region Commanders and may recommend to them, for appointment by the National Commander, such other Deputy Chiefs of Staff in their areas as are deemed desirable.

Section 21 -- NATIONAL AIDES-DE-CAMP. National Aides shall, at the request of the National Commander, represent him at various functions and meetings. They shall make such necessary preparations in conjunction with official visits of the National Commander in their respective areas and shall be prepared to accompany and assist him as may be required.

Section 22 -- NATIONAL REGION CHIEFS OF STAFF. National Region Chiefs of Staff shall be appointed by and be responsible to their respective National Region Commanders. They shall assist in membership activities and new Chapter organization in conjunction with the National Region Commander and perform such duties as may be required by the Commander in order to assist him in the performance of his duties as outlined in Article XI, Section 4.

ARTICLE XII

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Section 1	National Executive Committee
Section 2	Duties of National Executive Committee
Section 3	National Finance Committee
Section 4	Duties of National Finance Committee
Section 5	National Publications Committee
Section 6	National Legislative Committee
Section 7	National Investment Committee

Section 1 -- NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The National Executive Committee shall:

A. Consist of the National Commander, PNC in good standing, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, six Region Commanders, National Finance Officer, National Judge Advocate, National Inspector, National Sergeant-at-Arms, Department Commanders and the National Finance and Public Relations Committeemen, all with votes; and the National Adjutant, National Service Director, **Chief Financial Officer**, National Legislative Director, National Welfare Officer, National Historian, National Chaplain, National Americanism Officer, National Public Relations Director, National Surgeon, and VAVS Director -- without votes.

B. Hold office, from the time the members take office, for one year or until their successors are chosen and duly installed. Executive Committeemen and their Alternates from the Departments shall hold office for one year from the time of their election and installation at their respective Department Conventions, or until their successors are chosen and duly installed.

C. At the discretion of Department Commanders, have a National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman who are appointed from Departments having more than 500 members as of the time of the Department Convention. Otherwise the Department Commander and Department Senior Vice-Commander shall, in addition to their other duties, serve as the National Executive Committeeman and Alternate Executive Committeeman, respectively.

Section 2 -- DUTIES OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The National Executive Committee shall:

A. Meet in the convention city immediately preceding the National Convention, and the new Executive Committee shall meet in the convention city within 24 hours following adjournment of the National Convention. It may meet during the interval between National Conventions at the discretion of the National Commander, with the approval of the National Executive Committee or at the written request of a majority of the National Executive Committee. One third of the eligible membership shall constitute a quorum.

B. Be vested, in the interval between Conventions, with full administrative powers of the National Organization delegated to it by the National Convention within the limitations prescribed in these Articles. All actions of the National Executive Committee, however, shall be subject to approval by the National Convention.

C. Conduct its sessions in accordance with *Roberts Rules of Order*, as revised, and shall be recorded and transcribed by the National Adjutant's office, as prescribed in Article XI, Section 5. The National Adjutant shall present the proceedings in his report to the National Convention for consideration and action by that body.

D. Have exclusive power to fix salaries of all Officers and employees and approve all budgets of the National Corporation, both of which shall be submitted to it by the National Finance Committee within 30 days after the close of each National Convention.

E. Have the power to approve contracts involving salaries and income producing ventures of the National Corporation, which must first be reviewed by the Judge Advocate and recommended to it by the National Finance Committee. Said contracts and/or non-contractual ventures may not exceed one year's duration or extend beyond the next Convention. Contracts and ventures extending beyond these limits can only be approved by the National Convention by a two-thirds vote, unless the National Convention previously approved and mandated to the Executive Committee authority for specific action beyond these limitations.

1. Contracts for the normal administrative operations of a business by the National Adjutant and National Service Director do not have to be reviewed by the Judge Advocate or the Finance Committee. Approvals of the line item expenditure in the National Budget by the National Finance Committee and ratified by the National Executive Committee will be de jure approval to sign contracts to continue the usual and customary operation of business covered by that budget item.
2. Any questions as to whether the aforementioned contracts are usual and customary will be referred to the Judge Advocate for an opinion.

F. Be polled by the National Adjutant through a mail vote on any matter which, in the opinion of the National Commander, requires emergency action; or upon the request of a majority of members of the Executive Committee; or upon a request which shall be made through the National Commander from the chairman of a standing committee. Tellers, who must be members in good standing of the Order, will be appointed by the National Commander, and the entire NEC will be notified who those Tellers are in the same mailing as the ballots. Employees of the Military Order of the Purple Heart or the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation may not be appointed as Tellers. After the Tellers have counted and certified the results, the vote tallies - by name - will be sent out to every member of the NEC to insure them that their ballot was received and counted properly.

G. Be estopped from delegating its authority to any other committee set up by the Commander, or at its own request, except as may be specifically provided in these Articles.

H. Make disposition of all properties of Chapter and Departments returned to or taken over by the National Adjutant from Chapters or Departments which have surrendered or forfeited their Charters, or which have been declared defunct. Its action thereon shall be final.

Section 3 -- NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE. The National Executive Committee shall, immediately following the National Convention, set up a National Finance Committee to be composed of ten members. The National Adjutant shall be *ex-officio* Secretary and the National Senior Vice-Commander, the National Junior Vice-Commander, the National Finance Officer, **the Chief Financial Officer, the National Service Director** and the National Judge Advocate shall serve, all without a vote. The National Commander shall be an *ex-officio* member with a vote. Four additional members shall be elected by a majority vote of the National Executive Committee. The Finance Committee shall meet at least twice each year -- once before

and once after each National Convention. If a vacancy in one of the four elected "additional members" occurs, such vacancy should be filled at the next regular meeting of the National Executive Committee. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chairman of the Committee; or by him upon request of the National Commander; or by a majority of the members of the National Finance Committee, both voting and nonvoting members.

Section 4 -- DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE. The National Finance Committee shall:

A. Be responsible for the preparation and/or review of all annual budgets for all Departments of the National Corporation after receipt of budgetary requests from all committees, departments, and officers. It shall supervise and control all expenditures and the handling of regular funds and those of all income-producing programs of the National Corporation.

B. Present all budgets within 30 days after the close of each National Convention, or adjustments thereto, to the National Executive Committee for its final action. The Finance Committee shall have the power to allocate for budgetary purposes all funds received from any source within the limitations prescribed in these Articles, and subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee. It shall have authority to approve expenditures beyond budgetary limits approved by the National Executive Committee in a total not exceeding ten percent of the individual item. Requests for expenditures in excess of this allowance must be submitted to the National Executive Committee for approval.

C. Exercise unquestioned fiscal responsibility. Whenever any warrants or checks are issued and money disbursed as a result thereof, in an amount exceeding the approved budget or amended budget, or in any amount exceeding any item of such approved budget or amended budget, such person or persons approving such vouchers and/or checks shall be personally liable for this overdraft, and shall repay to this Corporation the amount of such overdraw. The National Adjutant, National Commander, and National Finance Officer shall each be jointly and severally liable for such repayment to this Corporation.

D. Be charged with the investigating and the reporting to the National Executive Committee on all contracts that exceed \$10,000 submitted to the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.

1. Contracts for employment of employees, rental or purchase of new office space, or other high priced capital expenditures will be reviewed by the Judge Advocate prior to submission to the National Finance Committee. Each year at the National Finance Committee meeting held after the National Convention, the Committee will set "high priced capital expenditure" criteria.
2. Approval of the line item expenditure in the National Budget by the National Finance Committee and ratified by the National Executive Committee will be de jure approval for the National Adjutant and National Service Director to sign contracts to continue the usual and customary operation of business covered by that budget item.
3. It shall render advice to the National Executive Committee on all financial questions.

E. Not allow any Chapter, Department, Auxiliary, or other unit of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., with the exception of membership assessments, to raise or acquire any money, funds, or other things of value with the help or assistance of any paid or otherwise compensated person, employee, individual, or company unless such unit has first in writing notified the National Commander, National Adjutant, National Judge Advocate, and the Chairman of the National Finance Committee as to all the details and received a letter from the National Commander or National Adjutant certifying that a majority of the National Finance Committee has approved such a fund-raising project. In the event such unit does not receive such a letter in 60 days it can assume approval unless otherwise notified.

1. It shall be the duty of the National Commander, the National Adjutant, and the National Judge Advocate, within 30 days of the receipt of such request, to make a recommendation to all of the members of the National Finance Committee regarding such a fund-raising project. The National Commander or the Chairman of the National Finance Committee shall forthwith call for a vote of the National Finance Committee.
2. The Chapter, Unit, Department, or any subsidiary of the Corporation requesting permission for such fund-raising activities shall comply with all local ordinances, codes, or laws; and federal ordinances, codes, laws, or regulations covering the various fund-raising activities.

F. Determine that funds raised by such fund-raising activities or programs shall be used only for such purpose or purposes as are advertised in the solicitation thereof and for which approval has been granted by the National Finance Committee.

G. Institute such additional regulations for the licensing, fees, and overall supervision of any and all fund-raising activities by any and all subsidiaries of this Corporation, as may be determined and promulgated by the National Finance Committee. It shall determine that the regulations are fully complied with by all concerned.

H. Define for the National Finance Officer in detail the accounting system to be used by the Corporation and the form and frequency of regular and special reports that it may require of him covering all funds, offices, officers, expenditures, and similar items.

I. Be responsible for the annual audit of all funds of the National corporation by an independent Certified Public Accountant, and shall audit on specifically designated dates.

J. Determine that the reports of the National Finance Officer and the independent Certified Public Accountant shall comply in every respect with the requirements as set forth in the Congressional Charter, Public Law 761, 85th Congress, as follows:

AUDIT OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

Section 14.

(a) The accounts of the Corporation shall be audited annually in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by independent Certified Public Accountants, or independent Licensed Public Accountants, certified or licensed by a regulatory authority of a state or other political subdivision of the United States. The audits shall be conducted at the place or places where the accounts of the Corporation are normally kept. All books, accounts, financial records, reports, files, and all other papers, things, or property belonging to or in use by the Corporation and necessary to facilitate the audit shall be made available to the person or persons conducting the audit; and full facilities for verifying transactions with the balances or securities held by depositories, fiscal agents, and custodians shall be afforded to such person or persons.

(b) The report of such independent audit shall be submitted to the Congress not later than six months following the close of the fiscal year for which the audit was made. The report shall set forth the scope of the audit and include such statements as are necessary to present fairly the Corporation's assets and liabilities, surplus or deficit, with an analysis of the changes therein during the year supplemented in reasonable detail by a statement of the Corporation's income and expenses during the year, including the results of any trading, manufacturing, publishing, or other commercial-type endeavor carried on by the Corporation, together with the independent auditor's opinion of those statements. The report shall not be printed as a public document, except as part of proceedings authorized to be printed under the Act of March 2, 1931, Chapter 378, Section 1, as amended.

K. Will act as custodian of the Life Membership Fund and as such will review all claims for withdrawal of any part of the principal from this account in order to submit its recommendation to the National Executive Committee for approval. Approval to withdraw funds will require two thirds of the votes received from the National Executive Committee at a National Convention. Recommendation to withdraw funds must include a plan for repayment over a specific period of time.

Section 5 – NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE – The National Publications Committee shall:

A. Be composed of the following members:

- 1. The National Commander who shall be an *ex-officio* member with a vote;**
- 2. An additional four members, each with a vote, shall be elected by the National Executive Committee. One member shall be elected each year**

to serve four years. If a vacancy occurs for one of the “additional four member” positions, such vacancy will be filled by a vote of the National Executive Committee after notification of the opening in the *Purple Heart Magazine*.

3. The Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, National Adjutant and the National Finance Officer shall be *ex-officio* members without a vote.
4. The Editor will be an *ex-officio* member of the Committee without a vote if he/she is a member of the Order.

B. Meet during the National Convention each year and such other times at the call of the Chairman. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman each year at the meeting held at the National Convention.

C. Hold the Editor responsible (through the Chairman) for the editing and publishing to ensure the successful administration of the *Purple Heart Magazine*.

D. Shall charge the Chairman with forming a search committee from among the members of the National Publications Committee, when there is an opening for the position of Editor of the *Purple Heart Magazine*. The National Adjutant will use the services of his office to assist in advertising for the opening.

E. Elect the Editor subject to approval by the National Executive Committee.

1. The Editor may be removed by a majority vote of the National Publications Committee, but such removal must be ratified by two-thirds vote of the National Executive Committee.
2. The Publications Committee may provide the Editor support staff to assist in the production of the *Purple Heart Magazine*.

F. Determine the publishing, advertising and editorial policies of the *Purple Heart Magazine*, which shall be the official publication of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc. Official notices and orders published in the *Purple Heart Magazine* shall be deemed to be sufficient and lawful notice to all members for all purposes whatsoever.

G. Ensure that the *Purple Heart Magazine* be sent to every member in good standing. The correct address for every member in good standing shall be provided by the National Adjutant.

H. Hold the Chairman responsible for the preparation of a budget for the operation of the publication, which shall be submitted to the National Publications Committee for its approval and subsequent submission to the National Finance Committee prior to the National Convention.

I. See that the Editor and production support staff receive as compensation for services such sum as may be recommended by the National Publications Committee and approved by the National Finance and Executive Committees.

Section 6 --NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE. The National Legislative Committee shall:

A. Determine that the policy of the National Legislative Committee shall be such as will ensure fair and just treatment to the combat-wounded veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and the prosecuting of an aggressive federal legislative program affecting such veterans and their dependents, by and through the National Legislative Director. The overall program of service, legislation, welfare, and rehabilitation shall emphasize primarily the service-connected disabled veterans, which shall not necessarily imply opposition to the nonservice-connected disabled veterans but shall establish a priority.

B. Be responsible for preparing a legislative program it may consider necessary, or which may be mandated by the National Convention or National Executive Committee, for presentation to the National Convention, or National Executive Committee in the interim.

C. Coordinate all resolutions and material of national veterans' service and legislative nature from any source whatsoever -- including Chapters and Departments -- in preparation for submission to, and action by, the National Executive Committee.

D. Determine that no federal legislation be sponsored or endorsed by this Committee, or by any National Officer, or any member or officer of any subordinate unit, unless it has been approved by a National Convention or the National Executive Committee.

E. Allow the National Legislative Director to serve as Chairman of the Committee and select the members of such Committee with the approval of the National Commander, who shall serve as a member ex-officio, as shall the National Service Director and National Adjutant.

Section 7 --NATIONAL INVESTMENT COMMITTEE. The National Investment Committee shall:

A. Include the Chair of the National Finance Committee, the National Finance Officer, and the **Chief Financial Officer**. The Investment Committee will conduct periodic reviews of investment policies. These reviews will be done at least annually, but preferably, more often.

B. Based on these reviews, the Investment Committee will advise the Finance Committee – every time that Committee meets – regarding the investment of funds controlled by the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

ARTICLE XIII

DUES

Section 1	National Dues
Section 2	National Per Capita
Section 3	Department Per Capita
Section 4	Chapter Per Capita
Section 5	Life Member Rebates
Section 6	Escrowed Dues
Section 7	Exceptions

Section 1 -- NATIONAL DUES. Annual dues and Life Membership payments will be established by the National Convention. The Member-at-Large dues shall be the same as the annual dues, but in no case less than \$10.00. Associate Member dues may not be less than one-half of the stated National dues.

Section 2 -- NATIONAL PER CAPITA. The National corporation shall retain a minimum of fifty percent of the annual dues as its per capita share.

Section 3 -- DEPARTMENT PER CAPITA. The Department shall be rebated, by National, twenty percent of annual dues paid by each member of that Department.

Section 4 -- CHAPTER PER CAPITA. The Chapter shall be rebated, by National, thirty percent of annual dues paid by each member of the Chapter.

Section 5 -- LIFE MEMBER REBATES. The Departments and Chapters will be rebated annually for all eligible Life Members on record as of June 30, and who have been verified by October 1st of each year. The per capita payment will be based on zero percent (0%) of the investment income net of fees of the Life Membership Fund to National, fifty percent (50%) to the Department, and fifty percent (50%) to the Chapter.

Section 6 -- ESCROWED DUES.

A. Rebates due to the Chapters will be held in escrow should such Chapter fail to submit a timely election report (see Article V, Section 4C). If no election report is submitted to National by June 30, Chapter escrowed funds will revert to the National General Fund.

B. Where no Department exists, the 20 percent normally earmarked for Departments will be placed in escrow until the end of the following fiscal year. Should a Department be formed during this period, such escrowed funds will be released to the newly formed Department. If no Department is formed during this period, escrowed funds will revert to the national General Fund.

Section 7 -- EXCEPTIONS.

A. Residents of a Soldiers Home or DVA or Military Hospital, of six months duration, who have been awarded the Purple Heart may become active members in good standing at one-half the annual dues. An affidavit by an official of such Soldiers Home or DVA or Military Hospital certifying to the applicant's period of residency shall also accompany each such application.

B. Holders of the Medal of Honor, who also have been awarded the Purple Heart, and Past National Commanders of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., will be given Life Membership at no cost.

C. No rebates to Chapters or Departments will be made for the categories of membership listed in paragraphs A and B above, or for Annual Associate Members.

ARTICLE XIV
UNIFORMS AND SUPPLIES

Section 1	Supply Department
Section 2	Caps
Section 3	Flags
Section 4	Uniforms
Section 5	The Viola
Section 6	Certificates and Citations

Section 1 -- SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

- A. The Supply Department shall be the direct responsibility of the National Adjutant.
- B. All supplies shall be purchased and sold through this Department and shall be available for sale to members in good standing and to subordinate units.
- C. The National Adjutant shall determine the nature of such materials as are to be offered for sale; he shall also determine the selling price.
- D. The funds of this Department shall be included in the General Fund.
- E. The National Adjutant shall maintain a complete and accurate inventory of all items and materials handled through this Department and shall semiannually release the list to the National Finance Officer for inclusion in his semiannual financial reports.
- F. The National Adjutant shall report on the operation of the Supply Department to the National Convention each year.

Section 2 -- CAPS.

- A. Chapter caps shall be purple with white piping and white lettering.
- B. Department caps shall be purple with white tops and have white lettering and gold piping.
- C. National caps shall be all white with purple piping and lettering.
- D. Every National and Department Officer, upon termination of such office, shall immediately discontinue wearing the cap of such office, unless the years during which such office was held are added to such cap.

Section 3 -- FLAGS.

- A. Chapter Flags shall be purple with white ribbon streamers, gold lettering, pole hem, and two-inch gold fringe.

B. Department Flags shall be white with purple ribbon streamers, gold lettering, pole hem, and two inch gold fringe.

C. National Flags shall be the same as Department Flags.

Section 4 -- UNIFORMS. The standard Patriot uniforms shall be as follows:

A. Dress

1. Navy or black single-breasted blazer with the Military Order of the Purple Heart emblem affixed to the left breast pocket.
2. Dress white shirt with long or short sleeves.
3. Medium grey trousers or skirt.
4. Black shoes.
5. Purple necktie with white edged George Washington emblem sewn thereon, or regimental stripe necktie with Purple Heart Colors.
6. Cap as appropriate in Section 2 above.

B. Honor Guard – same as dress uniform except that a purple ½ inch stripe sewn down the full length of the outside seam.

C. Exceptions – Variations from the above-described uniforms may be made only with the prior written approval of the National Adjutant.

D. Informal uniforms can be established by Department and/or Chapter Commanders to be worn at Department and/or Chapter events. Items that can be approved by local commanders are golf shirts with the Military Order of the Purple Heart emblem affixed or embroidered on, other button type shirts with the Military Order of the Purple Heart emblem affixed or embroidered on, jackets with the Military Order of the Purple Heart emblem affixed or embroidered on, etc. Commanders can authorize local modifications to these items of clothing with items such as state or regional symbols that will add to the esprit de corps of the Department and/or Chapter. Uniforms selected at the local level should always include caps as authorized in Section 2 above and should reflect favorably upon the Order.

Section 5 -- THE VIOLA. The Viola is the official flower of the Corporation, and must be purchased through the Supply Department. The use of any other flower by any subordinate unit is prohibited; and the use of the Viola for fund-raising purposes shall be in accordance with Article XII, Section 4, Paragraph E. In some local areas where the use of such flowers for fund raising may be forbidden by law, the subordinate unit may be granted special permission, by the National Adjutant with approval of the National Finance Committee, for the use of a similar flower or item.

Section 6 -- CERTIFICATES AND CITATIONS.

A. A Past Commander's Certificate, signed by the National Commander and National Adjutant, for Past National, Department, and Chapter Commanders shall be available through the Supply Department and shall be presented at an appropriate ceremony to such Commanders at the expiration of their term of office. In addition, Past National Commanders shall be awarded the Past National Commander's gold pin with diamonds at the expense of the National Corporation.

B. Citations for "Conspicuous and Meritorious Service to the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Inc.," and for "Conspicuous and Meritorious Service to Your Community, Fellow Citizens, and Veterans" shall be available through the Supply Department. Recommendations for Citations shall be written and describe the outstanding services of the proposed recipient; they may be made by any member, approved by the Department and/or National Adjutant. Citations shall be signed by the National Commander and National Adjutant.

C. Citations for peace officers who were wounded in the line of duty and for firefighters who were injured in the line of duty shall be available through the supply department. Recommendation for citations shall be written, describing the circumstances and the date of presentation. Posthumous awards may be made. Citations shall be signed by the National Commander and National Adjutant.

ARTICLE XV

TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE ORDER

Section 1	Incorporation
Section 2	Elected Officers
Section 3	Welfare Funds
Section 4	Bond
Section 5	Inspection
Section 6	Politics
Section 7	Ineligibility
Section 8	To Suspend, Cancel, or Annul Charter of Department or Chapter
Section 9	To Suspend and Revoke a Chapter Charter
Section 10	Surrender of Property
Section 11	Use of Purple Heart
Section 12	Grievance
Section 13	Discipline, Transfer and Expulsion of Members
Section 14	Recall of an Elected Officer
Section 15	Authority
Section 16	Lawsuits

Section 1 -- INCORPORATION.

A. No subordinate unit of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., shall incorporate under the laws of the state in which the said unit is located for any purpose whatsoever without first having obtained permission through the National Judge Advocate.

B. Before permission is given by the National Judge Advocate to any subordinate unit to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the said unit is located, the proposed certificate of incorporation must be submitted to him for his approval, together with a copy of the laws of the state under which the unit is to be incorporated. All applications and certificates of incorporation shall state the unit shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.

Section 2 -- ELECTED OFFICERS. No person shall hold more than one elective office in the national organization, or more than one elective office in the Department, or more than one elective office in any Chapter. No National Elective officer shall hold a Department elective office, and no person shall hold any office unless he *or she* is an active member in good standing. *A salaried employee of the National or Department organization, or the spouse of a salaried employee of the National or Department organization, shall not hold a National or Department Elective office, nor be an elected or appointed voting member of a National Committee.* Election as a non-voting member of one of the National Committees is not to be considered an elective office as referred to above.

Section 3 -- WELFARE FUNDS. A welfare fund for the assistance of needy members or veterans and their dependents may be established by Chapters and Departments, and donations to such funds

shall be used exclusively for that purpose. Donations to needy members from the fund shall be regarded as strictly confidential.

Section 4 -- BOND. Each accountable officer of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., must be bonded in a sum at least equal to the amount of funds and value of property for which he is accountable. The fee for the bond shall be paid from the funds of the National organization, Department, or Chapter as the case may be, to which each officer is accountable.

Section 5 -- INSPECTION. The National Commander or any Department Commander may require the inspection of any Department or Chapter in his respective jurisdiction whenever he may believe that the best interests of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., requires it.

Section 6 -- POLITICS. The Corporation, including all Departments and Chapters, and its officers and directors as such, shall not contribute to or otherwise support or assist any political party or candidate for public office. No discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any meeting of the Corporation, nor shall any nominations, recommendations, or endorsements for political office be made.

Section 7 -- INELIGIBILITY.

A. In the event the eligibility of a Patriot who has been obligated in good faith is questioned, a statement of facts together with his application should be forwarded to the Department and National Adjutant. The National Adjutant shall determine such eligibility through official sources and advise those concerned accordingly.

B. Although all new member applications bear a signed certification attesting that the eligibility of the applicant has been verified, a member in good standing may be compelled by a majority vote of the Chapter, Department Executive Committee, Convention, or the National Adjutant to produce proper documentary evidence of his having been awarded the Purple Heart. Failure to provide such evidence within 120 days shall result in forthwith expulsion from the Corporation. A member who has been expelled may be restored to eligibility only with the approval of the Department or National Executive Committee.

Section 8 -- TO SUSPEND, CANCEL, OR ANNUL CHARTER OF DEPARTMENT OR CHAPTER. The National Commander, with prior approval of the National Executive Committee, may suspend, cancel, annul, or declare forfeited the Charter of a Department or Chapter for insubordination, failure to pay National obligations, or violation of the Constitution or Bylaws of the Corporation. Said Department or Chapter shall be notified in writing of such action, and given reasonable opportunity to appear or file a brief before the National Executive Committee by representatives to explain, justify, or plead for mitigation of the alleged offense.

Section 9 -- TO SUSPEND AND REVOKE A CHAPTER CHARTER. The Department Commander may suspend the Charter of any Chapter within the jurisdiction of his Department, for a period of 60 days, for its refusal to comply with the lawful mandates of the National organization or Department. The Department Commander needs to obtain the concurrence of the Region Commander and approval of the National Commander before issuing the suspension. If no appeal is processed through the chain of command, [Department, and Region] and received at the National

Headquarters within such 60-day period, the Charter of the Chapter may be revoked by mail ballot of the National Executive Committee or voice vote at a National Convention. No revocation of the Charter shall be accomplished unless notice in writing, via certified mail, of such proceeding, is duly served on the Chapter. As for the affected Chapter, a reasonable opportunity (60 days) is provided to file a brief with the Department Commander, thru the Region Commander to the National Commander, stating its objections and defense to the proposed cancellation of the Charter. Upon approval by the National Executive Committee, the Charter shall stand as officially revoked.

Section 10 -- SURRENDER OF PROPERTY. When a Chapter or Department is declared defunct or its Charter is revoked the Charter, Rituals, paraphernalia, and all monies and property must be sent to the National Corporation to be held in trust for a period of 18 months. In the event such Charter is not reinstated within a period of 18 months, the monies from any Chapter that was in a duly Chartered Department shall automatically become the absolute property of said Department.

Section 11 -- USE OF PURPLE HEART.

A. Replicas or facsimiles of the Purple Heart as awarded by the Government of the United States shall not be made, caused to be made, or used in any manner that would tend to degrade the award, or permit any commercial use thereof.

B. Replicas or facsimiles may be used only for the official papers of the Corporation or subordinate units thereof. All other uses of the Purple Heart must have prior approval of the National Headquarters.

Section 12 -- GRIEVANCE.

A. A grievance is a complaint from a member for some action which causes suffering, distress, or disruption within the Order. Grievances consist of minor disagreements, arguments, or misunderstanding that does not involve misfeasance, malfeasance, or intentional violation of the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.

B. A grievance may be submitted by a member (the Petitioner) to the appropriate Commander or Judge Advocate. The grievance complaint, in order to be heard, must be in writing and in sufficient detail to establish facts. It must be signed and notarized. The Judge Advocate shall review the grievance and act to try and mediate the dispute. If his efforts fail, he shall so report to the Commander.

C. Grievances will be heard by a grievance committee comprised of three Past Commanders at the appropriate level and a member who will act as a recorder of the proceedings but has no vote. Chapter grievances will be heard at the Department level. Department grievances will be heard at the Region or National level. National grievance committees will consist of three Past National Commanders. The Commander who appoints committee members will take care in selecting members who have no personal involvement or prejudice with the grievance to be heard. Members of the grievance committee will select their chairman.

D. A salaried employee, who is also a member, in regards to matters of employment, may only use such grievance procedures as provided for in the MOPH Policy for Salaried Employees.

E. There will be an accurate record kept of the proceedings, which, along with a summary of the findings and recommended decision, will be forwarded to the appropriate Commander, Petitioner, and all participating parties within fifteen (15) days from the date of the close of the hearing.

F. Although a recommendation for charges under Section 13 may result from the grievance proceedings, the usual cases should result in arbitration and/or actions to eliminate the grievance. The usual recommendations to the appropriate commander from the grievance committee for penalty would include one of the following: (1) A Commander's Meeting (2) A Verbal Reprimand (3) A Letter of Reprimand.

Section 13 – DISCIPLINE, TRANSFER, AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

A. No active or associate member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., may be punished or have their membership rights abridged except for the following reasons:

1. Intentional violation of the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.
2. Misfeasance or Malfeasance.
3. Refusal to comply with the lawful orders of the Department or National Convention.
4. Action which brings discredit to the Order.
5. Conviction of a crime involving theft or moral turpitude.

B. Punishment which may be imposed under this section is defined as follows:

1. Censure – shall consist of a written reprimand of admonition to the member by the appropriate Commander.
2. Transfer – shall be the permanent transfer of membership to another Chapter or to either a Department or National Member-at-Large status.
3. Suspension – shall remove the member from membership and/or from any office held by them for not more than one year.
4. Restriction – shall be allowed to remain a Chapter member, but shall have a permanent restriction from being allowed to hold any elected or appointed office for life.
5. Expulsion – shall permanently remove the individual from membership.

C. The preferring of charges should be an action of last resort. Every effort should be made, in the chain of command, to solve problems without the necessity for filing formal charges. Should all efforts fail, including the use of procedures outlined in Article XV, Section 12, charges may be filed as follows:

1. Any Commander may bring charges on any member with the assent of the Judge Advocate who is elected but not in the chain of command. The National Commander may always bring charges with the approval of the National Judge Advocate. Also, any three members of the Order, who are in good standing, may join in the submitting of charges. The charges must be written with sufficient detail to establish fact. Charges must be signed, notarized, and sent via certified mail to the appropriate Adjutant and copied to the National Adjutant.
2. Adjudication shall be imposed at the next higher level. Charges brought against a Chapter Member will be heard at the Department level. Charges brought against a Department Officer or members-at-large for Departments or National (DML & NML) will be heard at the Region or National level. Charges against members of the National Executive Committee will be heard by a disciplinary hearing panel consisting of three Past National Commanders.

D. Procedure for the Handling of Received Charges:

1. The convening authority which is the Commander at the next highest level will, in turn, provide the accused with a copy of the charges, related documents, and a clear statement of the alleged violations along with notification of the hearing time, date, and place. All correspondence with the accused will be by certified mail (return receipt requested). All hearings will be fixed for a date not less than 20 days or more than 60 days from the date the accused is served their charges.
2. The convening authority will appoint a disciplinary hearing panel of three impartial Past Commanders who will select their Chairman and an impartial member without a vote who will act as a pro-tem secretary and keep an accurate record of the proceedings.

E. Procedure for a Disciplinary Hearing Panel:

1. This is an administrative hearing and rules of evidence as in a court of law do not apply. A prior confidential investigation by an elected Inspector in an effort to learn all relevant facts is encouraged. Due to the problems in accurate transcription of the hearing, a court recorder is required.
2. The accused may represent them self or may retain counsel. Counsel can advise the accused but may not address the hearing panel. The accused has the right to speak and produce witnesses in his own defense. If the accused fails to appear as directed, the hearing will proceed without him. Should the

accused require additional time to prepare his case, the convening authority may allow one adjournment of the hearing date for a period of not more than 30 days if the convening authority is notified a minimum of 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing date.

3. The Chairman will read the notifications, introduce the parties on both sides and the panel, and will read the charges. The Chairman will then ask the accused how he pleads guilty or not guilty to each charge.
4. Opening statements are made by both sides with the hearing panel starting first. Following is testimony of any witnesses produced by the panel followed by testimony of any defense witnesses. Rebuttal witnesses are allowed with the panel going first followed by the defense. After closing arguments are completed by both sides; the accused must leave the room. The chairman then polls each member of the panel in executive session on their finding of guilt on each charge.

F. Determination of Penalty – A member of the hearing panel in executive session makes a motion for an appropriate penalty as listed in “B” above. After debate, a decision by the panel for recommended punishment is rendered and the hearing can be adjourned.

G. Post Hearing Procedures – Within 15 days after the close of the hearing, a written decision for recommended punishment shall be rendered. One copy will be sent via certified mail to the accused. Additional copies along with an accurate record of the proceedings will be sent to the Commander that is the convening authority, the Chairman of the hearing panel, and the appropriate Adjutant with a copy to the National Adjutant. In all cases of recommended expulsion, the National Adjutant must be notified immediately.

H. Review and Appeal

1. A member may appeal the decision of the hearing panel to the next higher level within 15 days of receipt of the decision. Such appeals shall not be limited to the issue of arbitrariness of the decision, but must be based on specific violations of established procedures or the rights of the accused or on new evidence. The reviewing Commander will decide on the merits of the appeal and may take any action other than increasing the recommended punishment. The National Commander is the final appeal on all actions taken below his level.
2. All appeals by members concerning any decision rendered by a National disciplinary panel will be presented to the National Executive Committee with the facts and actions taken. The accused will be allowed to provide documentation setting forth his case to be included with documents provided by the National Commander. The National Executive Committee must be allowed 15 days to review the case before voting on the matter.

3. All hearing decisions, with the exception of expulsions, will be final after allowing a 15-day period for an appeal after the decision has been received by the accused. All recommendations for expulsion will be reviewed by the National Commander. With the approval of the National Executive Committee, he shall render the final decision by mail ballot or at their next scheduled meeting. After all appeals have been exhausted, the National Adjutant will advise the accused of the decision.
4. The National Commander, with the approval of the National Executive Committee will take the action that he deems appropriate on all punishment recommended. The National Convention is the Supreme Body of the Order and will accept or refuse the actions on expulsions from the Order voted on by the National Executive Committee during the year.

Section 14 – RECALL OF AN ELECTED OFFICER.

A. This section is reserved for those elected officers at all levels who are not accused of wrong doing and not subject to the provisions or charges of Article XV, Section 13A. Furthermore, this section provides procedure for removal of elected officers who do not fulfill the responsibilities of their elected office. Usual reasons for removal of an elected officer would be incompetence, non-activity, poor attendance, or egregious performance of their duties. These are elected officers who hold position by title alone.

B. The initiation of a recall of an elected officer for removal from office for reasons listed in “A” above must be accomplished by a Commander from the Chapter, Department, Region, or National. A minimum of two other Commanders must endorse this recall.

C. A transmittal letter requesting recall of an elected officer at any level must be prepared with specific detail for the reasons, signed by three commanders, notarized, and forwarded to the National Adjutant. The National Commander must approve and have oversight.

D. Jurisdiction exists at the local level supervised by the National Commander. At the Chapter level, all Past Chapter Commanders and Chapter elected officers have one vote. The rules for voting at Department and National Executive Committees apply at those levels. A super majority of 3/4ths of all members eligible to vote is required to remove an elected officer.

Section 15 – AUTHORITY. In the event that the Commander is the subject of a grievance, charge or recall, the Senior Vice-Commander shall assume the role of the Commander for the purpose of adjudicating the matter.

Section 16 -- LAWSUITS. In addition to any other grounds therefore, a member may be suspended and tried should he resort to or join in civil court action against a Chapter, Department, or the National Organization, or officers thereof, as such, before exhausting all remedies available within the Organization.

ARTICLE XVI

LADIES AUXILIARY

Section 1	Recognition
Section 2	Membership
Section 3	Purpose
Section 4	Reports
Section 5	Bylaws

Section 1 -- RECOGNITION. The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., recognizes a "Ladies Auxiliary, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc." Subordinate organizations to be known as Ladies Auxiliaries to such Chapters and Departments of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA shall approve the same. Said associations shall be subject to the authority of the National Convention of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA, under the jurisdiction and supervision of the National Commander and the National Executive Committee

Section 2 -- MEMBERSHIP. Membership in the Ladies Auxiliary, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., is hereby granted, subject to the terms and conditions as set forth in the Congressional Charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc. (Public Law 85-761), and subject to the various restrictions and limitations as set forth in the Ladies Auxiliary Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations as adopted at their 1959 National Convention, and amended, and subject to such limitations as might from time to time be imposed by our National Organization. The before referred-to Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the Ladies Auxiliary as adopted at their 1959 National Convention shall act as limitations to the various powers and authorities of the Ladies Auxiliary, and in no case shall be interpreted as broadening or increasing the authority or power of such Auxiliary beyond the specific limitations as set forth in Public Law 85-761 of the Congress of the United States of America, or our own Resolutions, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations.

Section 3 -- PURPOSE. The purpose of the Ladies Auxiliary is to assist in furthering and perpetuating the objects of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., as set forth in Article III of the Constitution of the National Corporation, particularly that part that pertains to "assisting, comforting, and aiding all distressed members and their dependents."

Section 4 -- REPORTS.

A. The Ladies Auxiliary, through its National Secretary, shall give a complete report as of June 30 each year to the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., at its annual National Convention. This report shall include by way of enumeration and not limitation:

1. A detailed list of Departments and Units, showing number added, reinstated, reorganized, and Charters forfeited.
2. The total membership, showing increase or decrease.

B. Within 15 days following the close of the annual National Convention, the Secretary shall submit to the National Adjutant a complete list of elected and appointed officers for publication in *The Purple Heart Magazine*.

C. The Ladies Auxiliary is responsible for submitting the necessary reports directly to the Internal Revenue Service as prescribed by law.

D. The Ladies Auxiliary shall also submit a complete financial report, as of June 30 each year, to the National Adjutant no later than July 31.

Section 5 -- BYLAWS. No National, Department, or Unit of the Ladies Auxiliary shall adopt any Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, or Regulations, or adopt any policy or take action inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Corporation of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., or of the Department or Chapter to which it belongs.

ARTICLE XVII

SERVICE FOUNDATION

Section 1	Recognition
Section 2	Membership
Section 3	Purpose
Section 4	Annual Report

Section 1 -- RECOGNITION. The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., recognizes a Service Foundation to be known as the "Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, Inc."

Section 2 -- MEMBERSHIP. Membership in the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation is hereby granted, subject to the terms and conditions as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of said Service Foundation, a Wisconsin Corporation without stock and not for profit, as adopted by said Service Foundation at its 1957 Annual Meeting, and as fully approved by the 1957 National Convention of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., a New Jersey Corporation at that time; and fully approved at the November 10, 1958, Incorporators' organizational meeting of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., held in accordance with Public Law 85-761, August 26, 1958, of the Congress of the United States of America, and approved again at the 1959 National Convention of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.

Section 3 -- PURPOSE. The purpose of the Service Foundation shall be:

- A. The raising of funds for:
 1. The service, welfare, and rehabilitation work in connection with the members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., for those who are eligible for membership in the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., or any wounded, disabled, and/or handicapped veteran, his widow, orphan, or survivors, either by contribution to the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., or to independently assist in such work.
 2. The support and maintenance of liaison service in any or all of the offices of the United States Veterans Administration, soldiers' homes, or other administration offices of veterans' affairs wherever and whenever deemed necessary.
 3. The support and maintenance of its legislative service, which service is to advise and confer with the executive offices of the several bureaus and departments of the United States Government on any and all matters of interest and importance to the veteran and to appear before Members of Committee of Congress on any such matters as may properly be the subject of legislation.

B. Any other purpose consistent with the programs of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.

Section 4 -- ANNUAL REPORT. The Service Foundation through its Executive Secretary shall render a complete financial report to the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., at its annual National Convention each year and shall, in addition, render a mid-year financial statement to the National Commander and National Adjutant of said National Corporation, and such other reports and information as may be requested by the National Finance Committee.

ARTICLE XVIII

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Section 1	Recognition
Section 2	Membership
Section 3	Purpose
Section 4	Participation
Section 5	Emblem or Insignia
Section 6	Dues

Section 1 -- RECOGNITION. The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., recognizes the eligibility of Associate Members.

Section 2 -- MEMBERSHIP. Membership as an Associate Member is hereby granted pursuant and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Military Order of the Purple Heart Congressional Charter; Public Law 85-761 of the Congress of the United States of America, and subject to the Bylaws of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Membership as an Associate Member of the Order will be granted to a parent, step-parent, spouse, sibling, or lineal descendant of a living or deceased Purple Heart recipient.

Section 3 -- PURPOSE. The purpose of Associate Membership is to assist in furthering and perpetuating the objects of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., as set forth in Article III of the Constitution of the National Corporation, with particular reference to so much of the same as pertains and refers to "assisting, comforting, and aiding all distressed members and their dependents."

Section 4 -- PARTICIPATION. An Associate Member shall be without a vote and may not hold an elective office but may hold an appointed position except that of Adjutant.

Section 5 -- EMBLEM OR INSIGNIA. Upon acceptance, Associate Members shall be entitled to wear an appropriate emblem or insignia as approved by the National Adjutant. In no event shall such emblem or insignia bear a replica or facsimile of the Purple Heart as awarded by the United States Government.

Section 6 -- DUES. Associate Life Members shall be charged the same dues as active Members whereas annual dues shall be charged at not less than one-half of active Member dues. Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to deprive any Chapter from establishing an assessment or accepting contributions from an Associate Member.

ARTICLE XIX

AMENDMENTS AND CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Section 1	Amendments
Section 2	Conduct of Meetings

Section 1 -- AMENDMENTS. These Bylaws may be amended by a roll call of two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular or special meeting of the National Executive Committee, provided the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the National Adjutant to the members of the National Executive Committee, by mailing same to them at least 15 days prior to the convening of the National Executive Committee, and unless said proposed amendment shall have been first submitted by a Department Convention, Department Executive Committee, National Bylaws Committee, or the National Executive Committee

A. If adopted, such amendment shall have full force and effect until the next National Convention, which shall accept or reject such amendment.

B. These Bylaws may be amended at any National Convention by a roll call of two-thirds vote of the regularly elected and qualified delegates thereat, provided the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the National Adjutant to the members of the National Executive Committee, by mailing same to them at least 15 days prior to the convening of the next National Convention; and provided further, no proposed amendment shall be submitted through the National Adjutant to the members of the National Executive Committee unless said proposed amendment shall have been first submitted by a Department Convention, Department Executive Committee, or the National Executive Committee.

C. These Bylaws may also be amended by unanimous vote of the regularly elected and qualified delegates thereat, provided the proposed amendment shall have been read to the National Convention at least one calendar day before it is voted upon.

D. These Bylaws may be set aside or suspended for the period of the National Convention only if deemed expedient by a unanimous vote of the regularly elected and qualified delegates thereat.

Section 2 -- CONDUCT OF MEETINGS.

A. All Chapter, Department, National, and Committee meetings of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., shall be conducted in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*, as revised, except as otherwise provided for in these Articles.

B. All meetings, observances, and official activities of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Inc., shall be conducted in accordance with the official Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies of the corporation.

C. No closed meetings are allowed.

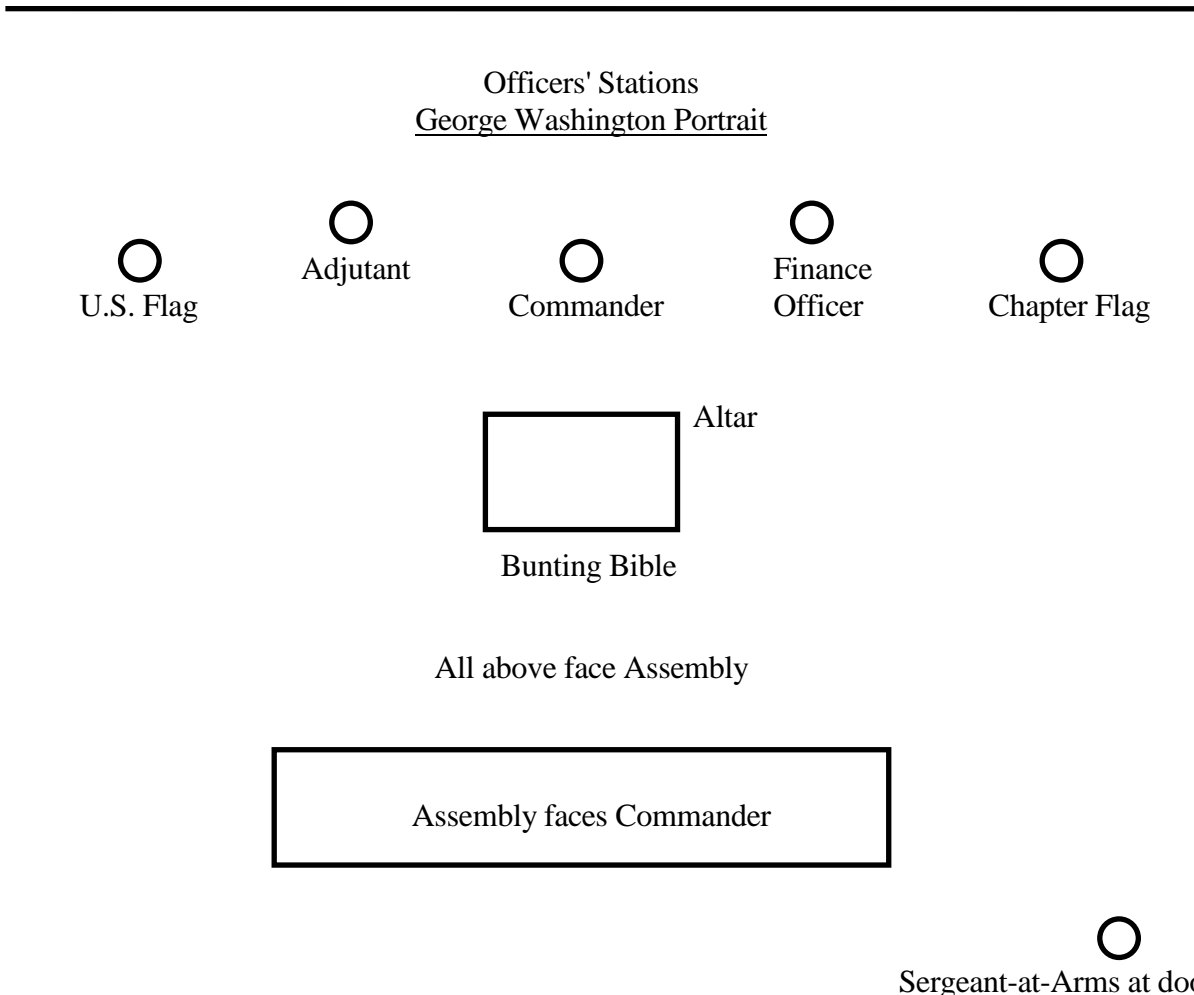
PART III
RITUAL AND MANUAL OF CEREMONIES

FOREWORD

This Ritual and Manual has been updated in its designation to conform with the Federal Charter Incorporation Law No. 761, enacted by the 85th Congress, August 1958, as the "Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Inc."

Except for update corrections, the contents and wording of the Ritual and Manual remain unchanged.

This Manual is intended to be sufficiently flexible to permit adaptation to any function or requirement: (1) By changing or omitting "The Order of Business" for special occasions. (2) By changing the word "Chapter" to Department, or National. (3) By varying the Burial or Memorial Service to conform to the religious faith of the Patriot.



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Decoration: The Purple Heart should be worn at all meetings of the Order, and at all meetings of veterans of other patriotic groups attended by veterans as such, especially at any program in honor of George Washington. Whenever the Purple Heart is not worn, the accompanying purple bar should be on the coat lapel.

Uniform: The uniform and/or cap of the Order should not be worn except at, or going to or from an official meeting or ceremony, or by an official guest or participant at a patriotic function, or by Patriots when officially representing the Order on public occasions.

Manual for Devotion and Tribute: During prayer and silent tribute, the preferred method of devotion is to uncover with the cap in the right hand placed over the heart, facing to the front. In meetings, at salute to the U.S. Flag, National Anthem (or "To the Colors") Right Hand Salute will be used whether or not the cap is worn. Salute to the National Anthem (or "To the Colors") will be held from the first to the last note. If it is to be sung in unison or by radio or recording, the salute will not be given but by uncovering and standing at attention, cap held by the right hand over the heart.

Church or Burial Service: Patriots will uncover on entering Church or other place of Service. While marching or standing in formation, cap will be carried in right hand at left shoulder. At Burial Service, in cold or inclement weather, the cap will not be removed, but "Parade Rest" will be executed during prayer and volleys. Salute at *Taps*. The Color Guard and/or Guard of Honor will not remove caps while in rank or standing guard. When seated or off guard, they will conform to the other Patriots.

Procedure at Meetings: Regular meetings may be open to friends and visitors. The Color Guard will be marched in the center aisle, if possible, to the position of the Flags, facing forward. The Sergeant-at-Arms, taking the cue from the Commander, will give commands in a low voice, "post Colors, order arms," etc. When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff, the Flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the speaker's right as the speaker faces the audience. Any other flag, including Auxiliary or Chapter Flags, are to be displayed on the left of the speaker or to the right of the audience.

Courtesy: Patriot Officers or members when addressed by the Commander will rise, salute, and await instructions. On entering or leaving during a meeting, a Patriot will stand in a convenient position, salute the Commander, and (upon the return of the salute) will take a seat or retire.

Initiations: The initiation or preliminary Admonition and Obligation should be given to the candidate early in the first meeting of the Chapter he attends. In exceptional circumstances the preliminary Admonition and Obligation may be given the candidate at his home, at his work, or in the hospital.

RITUAL

Officers are advised and encouraged to *memorize* their parts for the Ritual, at least so it can be quoted freely from notes carried in hand.

Manual of Gavel: ONE RAP -- calls attention or seats the body when standing -- closes an order of business or meeting. TWO RAPS -- calls officers to standing attention. THREE RAPS -- calls all to attention standing in place.

Officers are personally responsible for their Rituals. Officers' stations are mandatory as prescribed by the Floor Plan. The station of the Sergeant-at-Arms is at the door except when on duty on the floor during a meeting.

This Ritual may not be changed except by approval of the National Convention Body in Assembly.

The use of the altar upon which is draped U.S. bunting and the Bible is mandatory. When the Chaplain offers the opening prayer, he shall open the Bible at the Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament. While the Chapter is in session, no member will walk between the altar and the Commander's station.

All Chapters must hold a public memorial service for departed Patriots once a year.

All Commanders and Chaplains will arrange special religious services -- with the clergymen of the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faiths -- to be held for the Patriot members on the Sundays near Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

The Military Salute and the regulations of the Drill of the Soldiers Manual will be pursued at all ceremonies and meetings

CHAPTER MEETINGS

The Sergeant-at-Arms will see that the hall is in order, with flag stands in place. He will have all Patriots register in the Attendance Book; all visitors, and particularly all visiting Department and National Officers, will be reported to the Senior Vice-Commander. When directed to do so by the Senior Vice-Commander he will escort visiting Officers to the Commander's Station.

Opening Ceremony

The Commander will call the meeting to order by one rap of the gavel or by a bugle call.

Commander: "Patriots will come to order. Officers take your station. We will proceed with the formal opening of the Meeting of _____ Chapter No. _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Sergeant-at-Arms, close the doors and allow no one to enter during the opening ceremony. Patriot Senior Vice-Commander, please introduce the visiting Officers, Patriots, and guests."

Senior Vice-Commander: "Patriot Commander, I am pleased to present Patriot _____," etc. (Visiting National and Department Officers will be escorted to the Commander's station by the Sergeant-at-Arms if space permits.)

Commander: "Patriot Sergeant-at-Arms, Advance the Colors (Three raps) -- Patriots, Right Hand Salute."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Post Colors. Right Hand Salute." (He salutes individually.)

Commander: "Two." (Color Guard is marched to the rear.) "Uncover. The Chaplain will offer our opening prayer." (A chair must be placed centered below the podium and Bible with the POW/MIA banner or flag draped over the back of the chair.)

Chaplain: "Lord God of our Fathers, we thank You for our manifold blessings, the inspirations and joys of life, our companionship and association, one with another. We pray You bless us assembled here tonight, in reverence of God and in loyalty to our country. Guide the deliberations of this meeting. Prosper all our patriotic endeavors. May the policies adopted at this meeting ever uphold the best and finest expressions of patriotism and good citizenship. May our chief concern be the integrity of our nation and the peace of the world. Strengthen us in the service of our country, that our country may be a source of hope and blessing to the world."

Almighty God, God of our fathers, our help in ages past, and our hope for the years to come, hear our prayer. Protect and comfort our fellow Americans both missing and held captive by the aggressors of freedom. In your divine mercy, let them know that they are not forgotten. (Point to chair) May this chair, empty of body, but occupied by the spirit, constantly remind us of our devotion to these men and women. May God comfort and protect them always. Amen."

Commander: "Recover. Right Hand Salute. Join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country. Two."

Commander: "(1 rap) I now declare this meeting of _____ Chapter No. _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., regularly convened for the transaction of such business as may be properly brought before it. Sergeant-at-Arms, you will admit all who are qualified to enter."

Commander: "The Objects of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. are patriotic, fraternal, historical, and educational. Patriot Senior Vice-Commander, will you amplify the Patriotic Object of our Order?"

Senior Vice-Commander: (stands and salutes) "By Patriotism we mean true allegiance to the government of the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and Laws. Patriotism is devotion to our Country which demands that we do our utmost to make our home, our city, our state, and our nation a better place in which to live. In time of emergency we must give all we have of loyalty, service, savings, and sacrifice in the defense of our Country and Flag."

Commander: "Patriot Junior Vice-Commander, will you define the Fraternal Object of our Order?"

Junior Vice-Commander: (stands and salutes) "Fraternity requires that we attend all meetings of our Chapter if at all possible, to keep alive our contacts with fellow Patriots, to aid in the deliberations, and to offer suggestions for the good of the Order. Fraternity means a kindly impulse towards all Patriots, a cheerful smile, and a firm handclasp of loyal friendship. It also means that we cooperate with other veteran, patriotic, and civic organizations in worthy objectives."

Commander: "Patriot Chaplain, will you explain the Historical and Educational Objects of our Order?"

Chaplain: (stands and salutes) "Our aim is to keep alive the memory and achievements of our Country's founders and to ever cherish the memory of General George Washington, who instituted the Purple Heart on August 7, 1782, at Newburgh-on-the-Hudson in the State of New York."

"The Educational Objects of our Order are based solidly on the 'Faith of our Fathers,' reverence to God, and loyalty to Country. We advocate the teaching and influencing of our youth and new citizens in a loyal appreciation of the heritage of American Citizenship with its responsibilities, as well as its rights and privileges."

Commander: "We will now proceed to the first order of business."

Order of Business

1. Application for Active Membership.

Commander: "Patriot Senior Vice-Commander, ascertain if any applications or candidates for active membership are waiting."

Senior Vice Commander: "The following candidate(s) for active membership is (are) present, and

application(s) is (are) submitted for Patriot(s) _____ (and _____, etc.)
_____ (Organization), _____ Sponsored by Patriot
_____ " (The same for each candidate.)

Commander: (If investigation has not been made previously) "Patriots _____ and _____ will constitute a committee to investigate the facts of the application. You will retire with the Senior Vice-Commander and candidate(s) and return with report of your findings."

- 2. Roll Call of Officers.** (Adjutant calls roll. Report by Sergeant-at-Arms.)
- 3. Introduction of Guests and New Members Attending for First Time.**
- 4. Reading of Minutes of Last Meeting.**
- 5. Report of Finance Officer.**
- 6. Reading and Action on Bills Payable.**
- 7. Reports of Committees.**

a. Membership candidates. (Upon report of Senior Vice-Commander at this time, or before if possible, the Commander will order a ballot or vote on each application. The initiation or the preliminary admonition and obligation of elected candidates will follow immediately as is convenient.)

b. Welfare Officer.

Commander: "Are there others of our fellow Patriots sick or in need? Is there a Patriot's family in distress?"

c. Americanism.

d. Special Committee(s).

- 8. Reading of Orders and Communications.** (Discussions on same.)
- 9. Unfinished Business.** (Adjutant is responsible to have these items ready.)
- 10. New Business.**
- 11. Good of the Order.** (Talks, inspirational and otherwise, etc.)

Closing Ceremony

Commander: "If there is no further business to come before us, we will proceed to adjourn.

"Once again we come to the close of a meeting of loyal Patriots of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. No human tie can be closer than the association of Patriots who have qualified for this most treasured heritage. Before we adjourn let us stand in silent tribute in honor of our Fellow Patriots who have departed this life." (3 raps, all stand) "Uncover." (After 10 seconds, the Chaplain without announcement offers the closing prayer.)

Chaplain: "Almighty God, we thank You for the opportunity of association and memories. We pray that You will incline our hearts to entertain a brotherly affection for one another and for all fellow citizens. We pray You dispose us all to justice, kindly impulse, and mercy. As we declare our loyalty to our Country, help us to keep in mind the need of faith in God and Immortality, without which life is meaningless and vain. In that faith and conviction we can and do say to one another and to those who have departed from this life, 'Farewell, until we meet again.' Amen."

Commander: "Recover. Patriot Sergeant-at-Arms, Retire the Colors." (After the Color Guard has taken position, facing the Commander) "Patriots, join me in the salute to our National Flag. Right Hand Salute."

Sergeant-at-Arms: (In low voice) "Color Guard, Present Arms. Colors." (With dispatch) "Retrieve Colors. Color Guards, Order Arms (or two)." "Right (left or about) Face Forward March." (Whenever possible, Colors should be carried the length of the hall upon retiring.)

Commander: "Two. I now declare this meeting adjourned."

ADMONITION AND OBLIGATION OF CANDIDATES

(Pending Later Formal Initiation)

Commander: "Sergeant-at-Arms, you will present the Candidate(s) for obligation."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Patriot Commander, I present Patriot(s) _____ for admonition and obligation."

Commander: "Patriot(s), you have been elected to active membership in the _____ Chapter No. _____, of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- an organization of veterans of the United States military services who have served in combat and suffered wounds for their country.

"We are together as a result of this exceptional service which we hold in common -- service which develops close ties of fraternalism and a spirit of brotherhood and loyalty which lives far beyond the actual crucible of war that bore them.

"The Purple Heart -- first created by George Washington in 1782 -- is the symbol of this brotherhood and of our basic Americanism. We value it as a treasured heritage from the very heart of our country's origin. Such a historic background and requisite of membership serves to set us apart from, although not in rivalry with, any other group.

"Nor do we consider it vanity to have honest pride in our eligibility for this distinctive organization. Such pride does not set us above any other honorable service, nor does it overlook the fact that it was the fortunes of war which asked us to sacrifice more than some.

"Rather, it is this pride and this fraternalism -- as well as a deep feeling of responsibility towards those of us in need -- that are the sources of our strength -- and of our future.

"Now, as you take the obligation of active membership, you promise to work for the best interest of the Order, and to strive to maintain its high ideals of patriotism and of mutual helpfulness; you will endeavor always to be worthy of the Purple Heart which stems from our first Commander in Chief.

With a clear understanding of these conditions, are you ready to take the obligation and try to ever faithfully observe its spirit and its meanings?"

Obligation: (3 raps) "You will raise your right hand, give your name when you say 'I,' and repeat after me: I, _____, do solemnly promise and declare -- that I will comply -- with all the laws, rules, and regulations -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- I will never commit or permit -- any injustice or wrong -- to any Patriot of this Order -- or his family -- if it is in my power to prevent it. -- I will endeavor, at all times -- to aid any member -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- his widow and orphans -- as much as is in my power to do so. -- I also promise to uphold and defend -- the Constitution of the United States of America -- and the Flag of our Country. -- All this I do solemnly promise -- upon the honor of a true Patriot -- and a loyal citizen of our great Republic."

(1 rap) All seated except candidate(s) and Sergeant-at-Arms.

Commander: "Patriot(s), we welcome you into the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of our Order, I hereby enroll you and pronounce you to be, (an) active members(s) of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. It is a high honor; cherish and preserve it. You will now be seated among your fellow Patriots."

FORMAL INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Before the meeting the Sergeant-at-Arms will instruct the candidate(s) in the simple maneuvers necessary, and also secure the Purple Heart Medal if recently awarded or if desired for decoration of candidate(s).

Commander: "Sergeant-at-Arms, you will present the candidate(s) for Initiation."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Patriot Commander, I present to you Patriot(s) _____ and _____, who has (have) been found qualified and approved for active membership in the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A."

Commander: "Sergeant-at-Arms, you will conduct the(se) Candidate(s) in turn to the Patriot Past Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, and Chaplain for communication of the principles and objects of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Then, return him (them) to this station."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Patriot Past Commander, by order of the Patriot Commander, I present to you this (these) candidate(s), to whom you will amplify the Patriotic object of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A."

Past Commander: "The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. is founded on definite historical contact with the Founders of our Country. It is our objective to emphasize the responsibility of citizenship as well as the rights and privileges. Citizenship responsibility is the price of liberty.

"When that is achieved, our responsibility as disciples of the principles of George Washington is to demand that the 'Star Spangled Banner' remain now and forever our one and only National Anthem; and that our one and only National Flag be unblended and not be merged with those of any other Nation. To be a true Patriot of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., we must first be a loyal patriot of the United States of America.

Sergeant-at-Arms, you will conduct the candidate(s) to the Junior Vice-Commander, who will define the **Fraternal** object of our Order."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Patriot Junior Vice-Commander, by order of the Commander, I present this (these) candidate(s), to whom you will define the Fraternal object of the Order."

Junior Vice-Commander: "Fraternity requires that we attend all meetings of our Chapter if at all possible; to keep alive our contacts with our fellow Patriots; to aid in the deliberations and offer suggestions for the good of the Order. Fraternity means a kindly impulse toward all Patriots, a cheerful smile, and firm hand clasp of loyal friendship. Fraternity makes impossible any accusation or charge without very careful investigation and positive proof. Fraternity will mark as a violation of our ideals any personal resentment or hostility because of a difference of opinion of any function of our Order. We pledge ourselves to stand by each other in sickness or trouble; to visit and assist a needy Patriot or his family when in illness or distress and to report the facts to our Welfare

Chairman. Most insistent of all our obligations is that Combat Wounded Patriots of all our Wars receive justice in consideration and compensation for disabilities. Our Officers are committed to this duty.

"The Senior Vice-Commander will now explain the Historical Object of our Order."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Patriot Senior Vice-Commander, by order of the Commander, I present this (these) candidate(s), to whom you will explain the History of our Order."

Senior Vice-Commander: "The Purple Heart was established by General George Washington during the War of the Revolution, on August 7, 1782, at his Headquarters at Newburgh, NY His General Order reads in part as follows: `The General directs that whenever any singular meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a Heart, in purple cloth or silk . . . The road to Glory in a Patriot Army and a free Country is then open to all. This Order is. . . . to be considered as a permanent one.' The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration for the American Army and the first ever made available to the enlisted man.

"After the Revolutionary War all records and reference to this decoration were lost.

"On February 22, 1932, the War Department revived the Purple Heart as the oldest of our army decorations. The enacting order reads as follows:

General Order
No. 3

War Department
Washington, February 22, 1932

Purple Heart. -- By order of the President of the United States, the Purple Heart, established by General George Washington at Newburgh, August 7, 1782, during the War of the Revolution, is hereby revived out of respect of his memory and military achievements.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Douglas MacArthur
General, Chief of Staff

"This significant Order has consummated the Order of General Washington, that the Purple Heart be a permanent decoration. It has made it possible for the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. to become the sacred tie, binding closely the fighting men of all our wars. No other organization has such an historical foundation. None is so all inclusive. It was but natural that an association of qualified veterans would follow. The Military Order of the Purple Heart was incorporated in Ansonia, Connecticut, in September, 1932, and Chartered by an Act of the 85th U.S. Congress August 26, 1958, as the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.

"Patriot Sergeant-at-Arms, you will now conduct the candidate(s) to the Chaplain, who will communicate the Educational object of our Order."

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Patriot Chaplain, by order of the Senior Vice-Commander, I present this (these) candidate(s), to whom you will communicate the Educational object of our Order."

Chaplain: "Patriots: The Education Objects of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. are based solidly upon the `Faith of our Fathers,' reverence to God, and loyalty to Country. Our purpose is to emphasize to our youth and immigrants the basic importance of the four Documental Cornerstones of our Republic: the Declaration of Independence; the Constitution; the Bill of Rights; and the precepts and admonitions of George Washington. We believe a full knowledge and understanding of them will develop a more sincere love and loyalty toward our Country, Constitution, and Flag.

"Sergeant-at-Arms, you will now conduct the candidate(s) to the Commander for the **Obligation.**"

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Patriot Commander, the candidate(s) has (have) received the admonitions on the Patriotic, Fraternal, Historical, and Educational Objects of our Order."

Commander: "Patriots, I am pleased to welcome you into the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A." (3 raps, all stand.)

"You will raise your right hand, give your name when you say `I,' and repeat after me: I, _____, -- do solemnly promise and declare -- that I will comply -- with all the laws, rules, and regulations -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- I will never commit or permit -- any injustice or wrong -- to any Patriot of this Order -- or his family -- if it is in my power to prevent it. -- I will endeavor, at all times -- to aid any member -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- his widow and orphans -- as much as is in my power to do so. -- I also promise -- to uphold and maintain -- the Constitution of the United States of America -- and the Flag of our Country. -- All this I do solemnly promise -- upon the honor of a true Patriot -- and a loyal citizen of our great Republic."

(1 rap, all seated except candidate(s) and Sergeant-at-Arms.)

Commander: "By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of our Order, I hereby enroll you and pronounce you to be (an) active member(s) of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Be true and faithful to the admonitions you have received and the obligation you have taken.

"You will now be seated among your fellow Patriots."

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

Under the order of "New Business," or other time if preferred, the Chapter Commander will introduce the Installing Officer and give him the Chapter Charter, Constitution, Ritual, and gavel and will remain in the chair to his left throughout the Installation Ceremony.

If the Officers-elect are of a new Chapter, this Ceremony will follow immediately after the Institution of the Chapter.

Installing Officer: "Patriot Commander-elect, has the Chapter decided upon the Officers for the ensuing year? (_____) Do you vouch for each Officer-elect having received the decoration of the Purple Heart from the government and is in good standing in this Chapter? (_____) We will then proceed to install your officers in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of our Order.

"Patriot Adjutant, you will call the roll of Officers-elect, and they will report to the Sergeant-at-Arms in the rear of the Hall." (They will be arranged in file in reverse order listed in the "Duties of Officers.")

"Patriot Sergeant-at-Arms, present the Officers-elect to this station." (Stand in one rank with the Commander-elect at the right of the Station, facing front.)

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Patriot Installing Officer, I am pleased to present the Officers-elect of _____ Chapter, No. _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A." (He will then remaining standing to the left rear of the Commander-elect.)

Admonition and Obligation

Instituting Officer: "Patriot Officers-elect, you have been chosen to serve as Officers of _____ Chapter, No. _____, Department of _____, for the ensuing fiscal year. It is an honor and an obligation. I am sure that you will strive to be worthy of the confidence and responsibility. Permit nothing to swerve you from the faithful and impartial administration of your office, your service, or your leadership. Upon you will largely depend the record and progress of this Chapter for the year. If you will employ earnest, aggressive leadership, and follow closely the Constitution, Regulations, and Ritual of this Order, the success and growth of your Chapter is assured. If you accept your office, followed by sluggish interest and only occasional cooperation, the Chapter will mark time and its progress will be limited. The fault will be yours. Study carefully and exemplify clearly our principles and objects, which are:

"(1) **PATRIOTIC:** By word and deed let us testify our loyalty. Permit no Patriotic National Holiday to pass without some observance.

"(2) **FRATERNAL:** No Patriot should be allowed to be friendless when lonely, or without aid when in need.

"(3) **HISTORICAL:** The historical foundation of our Order must ever be emphasized. The memory and precepts of George Washington must ever continue as an influence for true Americanism.

"(4) **EDUCATIONAL:** Our constant endeavor should be that our youth and immigrants know and appreciate the blessings and benefits of our Constitution, our Republic form of government, and our American institutions.

"Commander-elect, in accepting your obligation, you promise to build a program for regular meetings and interesting Chapter activity based on these four Cornerstones of our Order.

"Junior Officers-elect, when you take your obligation you agree to assist in this program and each and all of you agree to plan and conduct an aggressive membership activity.

"With this definite understanding of your responsibilities, are you all ready to take the obligation of your office?"

Obligation of Officers

Instituting Officer: (3 raps) "You will raise your right hand, give your name when you say 'I,' and repeat after me: I, _____, do hereby solemnly promise -- that to the best of my ability -- I will faithfully discharge -- the duties of the office -- which I hereby assume -- according to the Constitution -- Bylaws, Regulations, and Ritual -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- and the Bylaws of this Chapter. -- I further promise -- that I will relinquish -- all authority of my office -- and all Chapter property and monies in my possession -- to my successor when elected or appointed -- by the Constitutional provisions of the Order. -- All this I pledge on my honor -- as an active member -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A.

(1 rap) "Patriot Officers of _____ Chapter, No. _____, I congratulate you and enjoin you to make the success, progress, and increased membership of this Chapter your first considerations and very best endeavor.

"Patriot Officers, about face. Patriots of _____ Chapter, No. _____, I am pleased to present your officers for the ensuing year."

(The Instituting Officer, with a list of Officers and Offices, arranged with the Junior on the left, will descend to the line of Officers, grasp each by hand, and congratulate him. Further, in the following or other brief admonitions, suggest his duties and pin on a badge, if used, assisted by the Sergeant-at-Arms.)

Duties of Officers

"Welfare Officer, you are last on the list, as we hope you will be least called upon for service. Your office is, however, of first importance if any Patriot is ill or in need or his family is in distress. It will be your most earnest endeavor to secure justice in the award and compensation for all disabled Combat Wounded Patriots."

"Judge Advocate, you will give advice on the legal aspect of any project, insure justice to all Patriots in meetings, and act as parliamentarian."

"Americanism Officer, you will suggest patriotic participation or special observance at nearest meeting preceding all national holidays, and suggest opportunities for cooperation in patriotic occasions. You will assist in making plans for initiation of classes of new, active Patriot Members."

"Historian, your responsibilities are great, for only through the faithful performance of your duties can the labors and plans of the present Officers become a benefit and heritage for future years."

"Trustee, you become the junior member of the Chapter Trustees. It is your duty to act as secretary and arrange to audit the Adjutant's and Finance Officer's books each quarter and to submit a written report to the Chapter. You will also be consulted in all but routine financial matters."

"Color Sergeant, you will assist the Sergeant-at-Arms in the manual of Colors. Have them ready in advance of meetings and take charge in his absence."

"Sergeant-at-Arms, you will guard the door and prevent any disturbance in or about the meeting hall. You will assist the Senior Vice-Commander in greeting all visitors, have all register who enter, and report to him the presence of all visiting Patriots, particularly visiting National and Department Officers. The respect, care, and manual of our National and Chapter Flags are your responsibility. Guard them well."

"Dept. Executive Committeeman, it is your duty to attend and submit to the Executive Committee all pertinent resolutions from the Chapter and to report back all proceedings."

"Chaplain, by the sincere and serious exemplification of your duties, you will add much to the dignity of our meetings. Let us not forget that as true Patriots we owe reverence to God as well as loyalty to our Country."

"Finance Officer, the success of a Chapter is often determined by the Finance Officer. The amount of money the Chapter has or has not is not as important as that your records are carefully compiled. Standard account forms should be used."

"Adjutant, the duties of other officers are largely inspirational and creative; yours are facts and figures and details which must be recorded carefully and faithfully or the Chapter will suffer. See that the Finance Officer's records agree with yours. Study your duties carefully as enumerated in the 'Rules and Regulations.' They are most important."

"Junior Vice-Commander, your duties are to assist the Commander in providing interesting meetings and entertainment for the Patriots. Also, you are to see that all paraphernalia and accessories for the program are in place. Further, you are to assist the Senior Vice-Commander in making plans for, and in developing, early aggressive membership activities."

"Senior Vice-Commander, you are in complete charge of the membership activities of this Chapter, both early renewals and new active members. You will endeavor to personally greet all guests and see that they are registered with the Sergeant-at-Arms. It is also your responsibility to assist the Commander in advancing the objects of the Order, and to be prepared to take his station in his absence."

"Patriot Sergeant-at-Arms, conduct the Junior Officers to their stations (or seats). Patriot Commander, accompany me to the Commander's station." (at station)

"Patriot Commander (retiring), I now install you as the Immediate Past Commander with duties to give advice when requested and to assist the Patriot Commander in his program. You will aid in the formal initiation of new active members."

"Patriot Commander (new), I congratulate you upon your election to this office. It is a high honor and much will be required from you in return. Guard well the interest of your Chapter, this Department, and the Order. Work for and further the welfare of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. The Patriot Officers who are now associated with you, I believe, will faithfully fulfill their duties. However, the responsibility to see that they do is yours. None of these duties can be waived. Be fair and impartial in your decisions toward all Patriots. Be tactful, cordial, and cooperative with other veteran organizations. They are our Comrades-in-Arms in the bonds of patriotism and aid to disabled veterans and their dependent families.

"In assurance that you will not fail to meet all the obligations, I now assign to your care, use, and protection, the Charter of this Chapter, and the Constitution, Bylaws, and Ritual of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Preserve them carefully and transfer them to your successor when elected. I now present you with this gavel. May it symbolize your authority in fraternal manifestations toward your fellow Patriots.

"As (_____), of the Department of _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., I now proclaim you as Commander, and the other Patriots installed as Officers, of _____ Chapter, No. _____. I bring congratulations and best wishes for your success from our National Commander.

"Patriot Commander, you will now proceed with the (introductions and) program."

NEW CHAPTER

Initiation of Members; Institution of Chapter

Commander-elect will escort Instituting Officer to Commander's Station and introduce him and remain seated at his right.

Instituting Officer: "Patriots, I have been authorized by the National Commander to institute this Chapter in accordance with the Constitution of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. In testimony of our loyalty to our Country, join me in the salute to our National Flag. (3 raps) Sergeant-at-Arms, advance the Flag of our Country -- (or if in place) -- Right Hand Salute -- Two. In testimony of our reverence to God, the Chaplain will lead in prayer for Divine blessing. Uncover."

Chaplain: "God of our Fathers, Whose Almighty Power has protected the destinies of our Nation, continue to show Your favor toward us.

"May we be imbued with that spirit which prompted our Fathers and was reincarnated in their sons, thereby enabling them to uphold the principles for which the Fathers died.

"We would be ever mindful of all the sacrifices made for us whereby we are permitted to be partakers of the liberties so dearly bought. May we always be faithful to those ideals which have been the inspiration for action in this land of ours.

"Enable us to cleanse our thoughts of all evil desires and false ambitions. Inspire us with high motives and noble aspirations.

"May the principles of right, truth, and justice govern us in our conduct at home and abroad that our Flag may never be sullied and that our Nation may prosper.

"To you, O God of Nations, we pray. Amen."

Instituting Officer: "Recover." (1 rap, all seated.)

"Patriots, I congratulate you upon your decision to organize a Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., an organization of Veterans of the United States Armed Forces who have offered their lives and have suffered for their Country. We who have been honored by the award of the Purple Heart prize it highly as a treasured heritage from the Father of our Country. But we claim no credit or distinction above that of any other Veteran who honorably served. It was the fortunes of War which qualified us for the honor. But we did stand in our place with fidelity to essential service. We strive always to be worthy of the salutation 'Patriot.'

"Our order is founded on the Purple Heart which was instituted by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, by his General Order, which reads in part as follows: 'The General directs . . . that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facing over the left breast, the figure of a heart, in purple . . . This Order is . . . to be

considered as a permanent one.' The Purple Heart is the oldest decoration of the American Army and the first ever made available to the enlisted men. After the Revolutionary War the facts and information of the Purple Heart vanished from public knowledge. No trace or record of it appeared in any public document for 150 years. Thus, a great and important event was lost to the pages of history.

"On February 22, 1932, in conformity with Congressional action. President Herbert Hoover directed the War Department to revive the Purple Heart as the oldest of Army decorations. The enacting Order reads as follows:

General Order
No. 3

War Department
Washington, February 22, 1932

Purple Heart. -- By order of the President of the United States, the Purple Heart, established by General George Washington at Newburgh, August 7, 1782, during the War of the Revolution, is hereby revived out of respect of his memory and military achievements.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Douglas MacArthur
General, Chief of Staff

"This significant order has consummated the Order of General Washington, that the Purple Heart be a permanent decoration. It has made it possible for the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. to become the sacred tie binding closely the fighting men of all our wars. No other organization has this historic foundation. None is so all-inclusive. It was but natural that an association of qualified Veterans would follow. The Military Order of the Purple Heart was incorporated in Ansonia, Connecticut, in September, 1932, and Chartered by an Act of the 85th U.S. Congress August 26, 1958, as the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Inc."

Initiation and Institution

The Commander-elect will call the role of Patriots who have applied for active membership in the Chapter. The Sergeant-at-Arms will present the Patriots to this station as their names are read.

Instituting Officer: "Patriots, we have covered the inception, history, and inspiration of our Order. As you accept the Obligation of active membership you will promise to work for the best interest of our Order, to always strive to maintain your own character at a high standard, to endeavor always to be worthy of the Purple Heart, instituted by our first Commander-in-Chief. With a clear understanding of these conditions, are you ready to assume the Obligation, and ever try to observe the same faithfully as long as you live?" (Pause for assent.)

Obligation: (3 raps) "You will raise your right hand, give your name as you say, 'I,' and repeat after me: I, _____, -- do solemnly promise and declare -- that I will comply -- with all the laws,

rules, and regulations -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- I will never commit or permit -- any injustice or wrong -- to any Patriot of this Order -- or his family -- if it is in my power to prevent it. -- I will endeavor at all times -- to aid any member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- his widow and orphans -- as much as it is in my power to do so. -- I also promise -- to uphold and maintain -- the Constitution of the United States of America -- and the Flag of our Country. -- All this I do solemnly promise -- upon the honor of a true Patriot -- and a loyal citizen of our great Republic. (1 rap)

"Patriots, we welcome you into the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of our Order, I hereby enroll you, and pronounce you to be (an) active member(s) of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A." (1 rap, all seated.)

Institution

Instituting Officer: "We will now proceed to the Institution of your Chapter. Have you decided upon a name for your Chapter?" (Or, "I understand you have decided upon the name _____. Is that correct?") (answer) "National Headquarters has assigned to you the number _____. In compliance with your selection and by authority of the National Commander, I now declare this to be a Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., henceforth to be known as _____ Chapter, No. _____, Department of _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., and entitled to all rights and privileges of the Order, so long as its members comply with its laws, rules, and regulations."

(Installation of officers follows immediately)

DEDICATION CEREMONY

This suggested ceremony, with the inclusion of the SPECIFIC Dedication to fit the occasion, is adaptable for any function.

After the advancing and posting of the Colors. --

Commander: "Fellow Patriots of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. and friends. It is fitting that we have assembled for the dedication of this (hall, building, memorial, tablet, tree, Charter, or Colors). Our words and acts here add little to its (their) significance and value, but by them we can and do consecrate ourselves to renewed loyalty to our Country, reverence to our God, and continued fidelity to essential service in days of peace as we did in war.

"In this and in all functions of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., we strive earnestly to follow the precepts and policies of our first Commander-in-Chief, George Washington, who instituted the Purple Heart in 1782. We follow his admonition, as his Patriot disciples.

"The Chaplain will ask the blessings of God upon these ceremonies. Uncover."

Chaplain: "Almighty God, our Divine Father and Guide, we humbly stand before You in acknowledgment of our reverence and faith. We thank You for our manifold blessings and for our associations one with another. We pray for Your blessings on our Republic, the United States of America. Bless and guide our President and all representatives in government. Guide their deliberations that they may rule wisely for the welfare of all our people.

"We ask Your blessings upon this occasion as we dedicate this _____ to the service of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. As we bow before You, may we each and all resolve to consecrate ourselves, our words, our deeds, and our lives to loyal allegiance to Country and reverent faith in God.

We pray for Your care and solace to our sick and needy fellow Patriots. In the conviction that You favor honesty of purpose and unselfish service, we ask Your blessings on this day. Amen."

Commander: (Will introduce him/her who is to make the presentation.)

Presentation Speech: (if desired.)

Acceptance Remarks by a Past Commander or other Patriot.

Commander. (Actual Dedication. Here insert the suggested dedication suitable.)

(Closing prayer and retirement of Colors.)

Dedication of Memorial or Monument

Commander: "In the name of _____ Chapter, No. _____, Department of _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., I now dedicate this Memorial in commemoration of the extraordinary fidelity and essential service of those fellow Patriots who suffered and gave their lives for the cause of justice, liberty, and freedom. Words cannot enhance their Glory. They died for their Country. We can best consecrate this occasion by rededicating ourselves, our words, our deeds, and our lives to loyal, unselfish service, that the cause for which they died will ever live; that our great Republic will ever remain the bulwark of liberty and freedom, and the guarantor and protector of the democratic and American way of life. I dedicate this Memorial to the sacred memory of all our Nation's defenders, and with it I dedicate the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. to continue to be the sacred tie binding the Patriots of all our wars who offered their lives and have suffered for their Country."

Dedication of Chapter

Commander: "In the name of _____ Chapter, No. _____, Department of _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., I now dedicate this Charter, which establishes this Chapter as a part of our Order. May each Patriot whose name is thereon inscribed, and other Patriots who will actively enroll with us, strive to be ever worthy of membership in our Order. Each of us has accepted the responsibility of helping to consummate the last sentence of General Washington's General Order establishing the award of the Purple Heart. 'This Order is . . . to be considered as a permanent one.' As we dedicate this Charter, may each Patriot dedicate himself in loyal fidelity to the principles and ideals of our Order."

Dedication of Hall, Building, Bridge, Tree, Park

Commander: "In the name of _____ Chapter, No. _____, Department of _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., I now dedicate this _____ to the welfare and enjoyment of our Chapter and Community. May it ever remind us that true service is in action, not sentiment alone. We dedicate not an inanimate, beautifully formed figure of metal or stone, but a contribution to our daily life, which we will ever guard in commemoration of our fellow Patriots who have departed this life.

"I dedicate this _____ to the welfare and purpose of this Chapter and Community, and with it I dedicate this Chapter to faithful service to our disabled Patriots and their families, our Community, and our Nation, in commemoration of our heroic deeds."

Dedication of Colors

(All other Colors or Flags present will be advanced at opening of meeting and will remain in place. Stands should be provided for new Colors to be Dedicated.)

Commander: (3 raps, all rise) "Sergeant-at-Arms, display the Colors for Dedication." (Additional Color Guards will take position back of all Colors in place, facing the Chapter. They will retrieve

Flags as Sergeant-at-Arms advances Colors to be dedicated, to midway between first row of seats and Commander, facing forward.)

Commander: "Salute the Colors. Right Hand Salute." (Bugler sounds "To the Colors" or band or piano plays "The National Anthem.")

Commander: "Two." (Color Guard will remain in place.)

"In the name of _____ Chapter, No. _____, Department of _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., I now dedicate these Colors, our National Flag, in design and colors suggested by the Coat of Arms of General George Washington, representing the very spirit of the United States of America. It is the cherished emblem of our free Republic, which we will ever love, honor, and protect with our lives if need be. Beside it stands the beautiful Flag of our Order: Purple, Royal Purple.

"I dedicate these Colors for the purpose and use of our Chapter, our Community, our State, and our Nation. In our hearts and minds we dedicate ourselves to continued fidelity and to essential service to our Order, our Nation, our people, and our Flag. Patriots, join me in the salute to our National Emblem.

"Right Hand Salute. Post Colors."

(Sergeant-at-Arms will direct placing of Colors in stands.)

"Two." (1 rap, all seated.)

MEMORIAL SERVICE

This Commemorative or Memorial Service is suggested with sufficient flexibility to be adapted to any Memorial Service, indoor or out, in regular meeting or at formal Memorial Day Ceremony. The Commander's remarks in the Burial Service may be incorporated if desired.

In Regular Meeting of the Order

Commander: "We will suspend the regular Order of Business and dedicate this part of the meeting to honor the memory of our departed Patriot(s) _____ and _____. The Patriot Chaplain will lead us in prayer. (3 raps) Uncover." (Use prayer below and follow program as printed.)

If In Special Memorial Meeting

Commander: (1 rap) "The Patriots of _____ Chapter, No. _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. will come to order. We are met to honor the memory of our departed fellow Patriot(s) _____ and _____. Patriot Sergeant-at-Arms, advance the Colors. (3 raps) Right hand salute." (Color Guards take positions, face the Charter and remain with Colors, without posting.) "Two."

"The Patriot Chaplain will lead us in prayer. Uncover." (If an outdoor Memorial Service, the above words should be changed accordingly.)

Chaplain: "Almighty God, the God of our Fathers, our Help in ages past and our Hope for years to come, we thank You for the lives of these men whom we today commemorate. Their sacrifice shines down through the years upon us and lightens our path for the future. Help us to walk in the light of that sacrifice. Grant us power and vision to maintain the peace for which these men died, and to work with You for a world where there shall be no more slaughter of man by man, where the war drums no longer throb, and the battle flags are furled.

"Grant us to see the vision of world peace when nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Teach us to love men of every race, color, and language as our own brethren. The glorious ones who died gave their lives as a sacrifice for their nation and they died for peace. Make us ready and willing to sacrifice our all to You, O God of sacrifice. Dear Lord! America needs Your guidance today, that Your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen."

Commander: "Recover. Fellow Patriots and Friends: We have assembled in sincere and heartfelt affection and deep sense of loss to honor the Patriot(s) who served and suffered for his (their) Country and have now departed this life. Not in boasting but as an expression of our specific responsibility in this occasion do we come together. The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. is the sacred tie binding veterans of all our Wars. It is founded upon the 'Purple Heart' established by General George Washington in 1782.

"We meet today to honor our Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Air Force, Aviator, and Coast Guard dead of all our Wars. Other vacant chairs are being placed and may be placed in the future on the hallowed Memorial Altar at our Commemorative Ceremonies. The affectionate regard and fellowship of our

Order will increasingly extend to all the Patriots who, because of wounds or death in battle, are awarded the Purple Heart decoration.

"Patriot Adjutant, read the roll of our departed fellow Patriots."

(Adjutant will read each Patriot's name individually with services and Chapter. As each Patriot's name is read separately, if time and occasion permit, a Past Commander or some Patriot who was close to him will eulogize his memory and give facts of his service to the Order.)

Chaplain: (As each name is completed or the eulogy given, the Chaplain will place a flower in a case.) "In memory of Patriot _____" (last name only).

Commander: "The Chaplain will offer the closing prayer."

Chaplain: "God of the dead and of the living, we come unto You in a prayer of memory for those who died that others might live. For servicemen and women who on many distant fields of death gave their lives for their country and their homes and all who were to come after them. For those who in mortal combat found in the restless ocean their last long sleep. For statesmen who gave of life and health to build a better world. For martyrs who sold their bodies for their souls' desires. For policemen and firemen, who died on duty to protect the homes of all. For the physician who purchased in his death the knowledge to make our lives secure. For these, O God of the Ages, we bring our memorial tribute of praise. Seal You our memories with a new consecration to the unfinished causes for which they gave their all. Your Name, we ask it. Amen." (At this time the Elegy from Page ____, Burial Service, will be appropriate.)

Commander: (If in regular meeting) "Patriots Recover. (1 rap) We will continue the regular Order of Business." (Or, if in special meeting)

Commander: "Patriots. Recover.

"Sergeant-at-Arms, Retire the Colors.

"Patriots, Right Hand Salute; two.

"I now declare this meeting adjourned."

BURIAL SERVICE

All Patriot members are advised to assemble at the home of the deceased or the funeral chapel at 8:00 P.M. on the evening preceding the burial. The Commander of the Chapter must make arrangements for this assemblage with the next of kin of the deceased Patriot and the funeral director.

All Patriots present must bare their heads and place overseas cap to left breast while standing at attention upon the order of "Uncover" by the Commander.

Commander: "We assemble here this evening in honor and reverence to our departed Patriot _____, who has answered the summons of the Divine Commander-in-Chief.

Our departed Patriot served his country well, exemplifying the cherished traditions of America. We admire his extraordinary fidelity and devotion to service. He was awarded the Decoration of the Purple Heart instituted in 1782 by the Father of our Country, George Washington. This loyal soldier (or sailor, marine, airman or coast guardsman) could receive no higher commendation. He was beloved by us all. He was a true Patriot. Chaplain, will you kindly lead us in prayer?"

Chaplain: "O God, Who has placed us in a mysterious universe where some things are known, but much is yet beyond our comprehension, and Who has set us in the midst of life, where there are high joys, but also grim pain, said separation, and final death, You know that the Flag is at half-mast in our hearts in tribute to the dead. We remember those who were once a part of this organization, and served You through their faithful performance of all duties and obligations, but not one whose passing did not leave an empty place against the sky and a lonely place in our hearts. Especially do we pray for our departed Patriot _____. Receive our prayers for Your servant whom death has overtaken. Retain his soul in Your keeping. Pardon all that has been amiss; and draw him nearer and nearer to Yourself. Have compassion, O most merciful Lord, on all who are mourning our Patriot. Be You our Comforter and Friend, and bring us to a fuller knowledge of Your love, assuage the anguish of our bereavement, and leave only the cherished memory of the loved and lost who have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the Altar of Freedom. We pray in Your Name. Amen."

When the Chaplain has finished this prayer, each Patriot member, the Commander preceding, will walk quietly forward to the casket, give a slow, respectful salute, and then clasp the hand of the next of kin and the mourners of the deceased, saying in a low voice some appropriate remark, such as "Heartfelt condolences," and then retire to an outer room or leave the home if every room is filled with mourners.

It is advisable that the National Flag and Chapter Colors be displayed by the Color Guard during the ceremony.

Funeral in Church and at Graveside

The flag of burial, usually wool bunting, will be obtained from a government agency, Postmaster in Post Office, or representative in County Court House, for war veterans or officers or men who died in the Service.

The Purple Heart cortege at funerals ranks as follows in motion: Color Guard, Chaplain, Bugler, Pallbearers on each side of casket, Firing Detail, Commander and officers, members. In time of mourning we must be very solicitous that the wishes of the next of kin of the deceased are affected diplomatically. A representative of the Chapter must contact the family of the deceased before the ceremony and ascertain all essential facts concerning the church ceremony and burial ceremony at the grave.

We must remember not to infringe the Ritual Ceremony upon the actual religious ceremony in the church or at the grave. The wishes of the officiating clergyman and the members of the family of the deceased must be respected.

Usually, today, in our modern times of fast transportation and long distances between a residential district and a cemetery in the urban district, the regular funeral cortege has been eliminated. We are at present concerned with the Ritual Ceremony at the Church and at the graveside, for all members usually travel in automobiles.

The Chapter funeral cortege will not participate in the Church Ceremony. Arriving at the church the Color will march down the aisle to their seat or pew reservation. Colors may be carried into the church and placed in the pew. The Chaplain, Bugler, Pallbearers, Honorary Pallbearers, the Commander, and Chapter members will follow in order and be seated in the pews reserved for them. They will not actually participate in the ceremony but will be attentive as they occupy seats in the pews. If the Chapter Chaplain is of the same faith as the officiating clergyman, he may participate upon invitation. When the church ceremony has ended, the cortege will leave in order up the aisle: Color Guard, Chaplain, Bugler, casket, pallbearers, Commander, and Chapter members. The funeral director will escort them outside the church to the automobiles waiting at the curb to transport them to the cemetery.

Members of the Firing Detail may attend the church ceremony but they must bivouac or leave their rifles outside when they enter the church. However, the custom prevails that members of the Firing Detail do not enter the church, as discretion demands that each member retain his own particular rifle until he has lodged it in a safe place.

The Color Guard and Firing Detail always flank the cortege when standing, entering, or leaving the church, or when arriving at or leaving the grave in the cemetery.

From the very beginning, the casket is to be covered with the burial flag.

It is important that the entire ceremony run harmoniously and smoothly. Some changes may be made in this Ritual Ceremony to accommodate local circumstances.

Army and Navy regulations for military funeral services essentially should be followed. The United States flag is never dipped or lowered. Only Chapter colors are dipped during the sounding of Taps and every time the casket passes. During inclement weather at graveside, all remain covered and do not uncover during the religious ceremony.

Members of the Firing Detail must be certain that their rifles contain only blank cartridges and that they rigidly follow the manner depicted in the manual of arms. The Firing Detail Commander must

have an incisive stentorian voice. His commands are **1. Ready. 2. Aim. 3. Fire.** After the first volley the rifle is lowered to the position of load. The next two commands are: **1. Aim. 2. Squad. 3. Fire.** After the 3rd volley the Firing Detail positions to load and remains so until Taps have been sounded.

At the conclusion of Taps the Chapter Commander and the Chaplain fold the burial flag through 6 prescribed phases to form finally a cocked-hat shape. The Chaplain presents the flag to the next of kin at the graveside.

Usually the officiating clergyman and his attendants perform the religious ceremony at the graveside. When this ceremony has ended, the Chapter Chaplain and the Chapter Commander take their stations and the Ritual Ceremony is begun.

Burial Ceremony at Grave

Commander stands at head of grave behind and to the right of the Chaplain.

Commander: "We are met and assembled here upon a solemn occasion. In our hour of grief we deem it fit and proper to offer our heartfelt tribute to the sublime sacrificial deeds of our worthy Patriot _____, who has been called away by the Father of us all to join in the immortal ranks, in answer to the last roll call. Forgetful of self, oblivious of danger, he offered his life and suffered for his country. Upon his return from the horrors of war he entered civilian life with an abiding faith in God, his Country, and his Flag. Because of war wounds and essential loyalty to this beloved Country, and fidelity and devotion to its principles, he was awarded the Decoration of the Purple Heart instituted by George Washington in 1782. Patriot _____ was a beloved member of Chapter No. _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., a true Patriot of our Order and a loyal citizen of our beloved United States of America. Chaplain, will you kindly lead us in prayer."

Chaplain: "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. These are Divinely spoken words and clearly depict the charitable contribution of the life of our departed Patriot. Patriot _____ truly offered his life upon the altar of sacrifice, so that the principles of our beloved country might survive.

"We pray, Almighty God, All-loving Father, give restful sleep and rest to the soul of this, our Patriot, who has returned to God. Grant also that each one of us here today may return to You in confidence and faith in that final parting hour that, having fought the good fight, we can say with St. Paul that we have attained the reward of everlasting happiness with You and Your Angels. Amen."

("Nearer My God to Thee" may be sung assembled or rendered by the Drum and Bugle Corps, if present.)

Commander: "In deep grief and abiding affection we officially salute our departed Patriot, whose epitaph is indelibly engraved upon the hearts of his buddies and shipmates:

"Soft and safe be the resting place of our Patriot.

Bright and glorious be his rising from it.
Fragrant be the flowers that shall flourish here.
May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauty in perennial loveliness.
And, in the bright morning of the World's resurrection,
May his soul spring into newness of life
And expand into immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies.
Until then, dear friend and Patriot, until then, farewell."

Commander: "Salute our departed Patriot."

The Firing Detail Commander executes 3 volleys.

Taps will be sounded by Bugler followed by echo 220 yards distant.

The Burial flag will be folded in triangle, blue outside, and presented to next of kin by the Chaplain.

Commander: "Farewell, Patriot _____. A fond farewell until we meet again."

