



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART FACT SHEET JANUARY 2009

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The National Headquarters of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is located in Springfield, Virginia. The Order now includes about 41,000 total Members, organized into 6 Geographical Regions, 47 State Departments, and 470 Chapters. The Order's Annual Operating Budget is approximately \$9 million of which \$7.5 million goes to support the Service Program. The majority of the funding is received from the MOPH Service Foundation through either restricted or unrestricted grants. The Service Foundation receives their money through various fund raising activities, such as thrift stores, car donation program etc.

The following are highlights of the National Programs:

SERVICE PROGRAM

1. A nation-wide network of more than 85 offices, staffed by over 170 trained National Service Officers (NSO) and assistants, accredited by the Department of Veteran Affairs. In addition, the order has a corps of Department and Chapter Service Officer Volunteers who assist Veterans and their families throughout the country.
2. In 2008, NSO's assisted more than 66,000 Veterans in obtaining over \$200 million in VA Benefits, submitted over 15,000 claims to the VA, appeared at over 400 hearings, and made over 2,700 outreach visits to Vet Centers, Hospitals and Military Installations.
3. MOPH also provides expert legal opinions and representation for Veterans before the Board of Veterans Appeal (BVA) and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). MOPH is one of only four Veteran Service Organizations that provide appellate services before the CAVC, regardless of membership or affiliation with any Veteran organization. The MOPH does not accept government funds for any case brought to appeal. There are currently 23 cases before the court. In 2008, the court issued 13 MOPH opinions of which 5 were successful.

VETERAN AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICES (VAVS)

1. The Order is one of 64 Veteran and fraternal organizations that make up the VAVS program.
2. Each quarter the Service Foundation provides each Department with VAVS grants to provide clothing, personal hygiene items, etc. to Veterans in need.
3. The Order has volunteers throughout the country, who donate their time at VA facilities to assist Veterans, in 2008 the Order donated almost 83,000 hours to the VA (the auxiliary donated an additional 18,000 hours).
4. Established a VAVS scholarship program for youth volunteers working with MOPH Chapters and Departments.

AMERICANISM

1. MOPH distributes historic and patriotic book covers to schools throughout the country.
2. In conjunction with the VA and Department of Labor, MOPH conducts Job Fairs which lead to the hiring's of Veterans, especially those Veterans of the War on Terror.
3. MOPH provided over \$250,000 in scholarship grants in 2008. These grants went to recent Purple Heart recipients, their spouses and to children and grandchildren of Purple Heart recipients.
4. In 2008, MOPH provided almost \$500,000 dollars in grants to its members who survived Hurricane Katrina to help them restart their lives.

LEGISLATIVE

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

FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT

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