



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

National Headquarters
5413-B Backlick Rd | Springfield, VA 22151
O: 703-642-5360 | F: 703-642-1841

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 11, 2017

Military Order of the Purple Heart 2017 Purple Heart Truck Run Underway

Washington, DC -- The **2017 Purple Heart Run** is underway with the theme “**Mobility is Freedom.**” Sponsored jointly by the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) and Wounded Warriors Family Support (WWFS), the **Purple Heart Run** features a mobility-equipped, 2017 Ford F-150 Raptor truck, adapted to accommodate combat-wounded veterans who are paralyzed or have lost legs and/or arms. Our belief is that, given the right vehicle for mobility, a combat-wounded veteran will have the freedom to live a productive and quality life with his or her family.

Driven exclusively by amputee Veterans, the **Purple Heart Run** is making its way from coast-to-coast and back on an 8,500 mile odyssey, rallying communities across America to thank our Nation’s military veterans and support this great mission. The Purple Heart Run began at the foot of the Iwo Jima Memorial in our Nation’s capital area on July 1st, is traversing the nation to California and will return to end in Dallas, Texas on August 13, 2017, at the [MOPH National Convention](#). On its way across America, the truck, provided by Ford Motor Company, will be powered by Pilot and Flying J fuel, and will stay overnight at Marriot brand hotels – all made possible by our generous sponsors. At each stop, they will distribute special parking signs that mark spaces to be used exclusively for Purple Heart recipients.

At the conclusion of the Purple Heart Run, the keys to the truck will be presented to Marine Sergeant (Ret.) Marshall Kennedy, a Purple Heart recipient from Farmington, Arkansas, who was chosen from a nation-wide search of eligible and deserving nominees. Patriot Kennedy was on his fourth deployment when he lost both of his legs and sustained severe damage to his left arm after stepping on an improvised explosive device (IED) in Sangin, Afghanistan on June 13, 2011. For his injuries he was awarded the Purple Heart medal.

Scheduled stops for the Purple Heart Run include:

- TUE 27 JUN—Truck Arrives in Washington, DC
- WED 28 JUN
 - On air radio interview with Paul Berry, Radio America
 - Pentagon City Marriott Residence Inn
- THU 29 JUN
 - Capitol Hill, the White House and various national memorials
- FRI 30 JUN
 - Marriott HQ, Bethesda, MD, and CBS Radio’s ConnectingVets.com interview



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- **SAT 1 JUL**
 - Departure Ceremony from Marine Corps War Memorial.
 - Goldsboro, NC welcoming ceremony followed by guest speakers, demonstration of truck and truck signing.

- **MON 3 JUL**
 - Ceremony at Wayne Community College, Goldsboro, NC (MOPH Chapter 657) Welcome by Mayor Chuck Allen, Escort by local motorcycle club.
 - Jacksonville, NC—Chapter 642 welcoming ceremony at Sanders Ford. Truck escort by Purple Heart Riders.

- **TUE 3 JUL**
 - Patriots Point, Mt. Pleasant—Fourth of July fireworks

- **WED 5 JUL**
 - Charleston, SC (Chapter 1670) at Patriot Point Maritime Museum, home of the USS Yorktown and site of the Charleston Purple Heart Monument.

- **THU 6 JUL**
 - Jacksonville, FL (Chapter 524) Ceremony at Duval County Veterans Wall. Guests include K9s for Warriors and representatives from the Jacksonville Jaguars, the first AFC team to become a Purple Heart franchise.

- **FRI 7 JUL**
 - Tallahassee, FL Ford Lincoln Ceremony with Veterans Affairs officials and Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representatives.

- **SAT 8 JUL**
 - Cumming, GA (Chapter 576) Ceremony at Billy Howell Ford and a visit to American Legion Post 201.

- **MON 10 JUL**
 - Knoxville, TN Pilot/Flying J HQ
 - 9:00 AM at Pilot Flying J Main Building, 5508 Lonas Dr. Knoxville, TN

- **TUE 11 JUL**
 - Knoxville, TN (Chapter 356) Ceremony with Military Vehicle Preservation Association static display and Patriot Guard Riders escort.
 - 10 AM at Pilot Food Mart, 7686 Northshore Dr.
 - 4-9 PM at 'Hangar 5' Vintage Warbirds, 2800 Moran Ave.



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- WED 12 JUL
 - Louisville, KY (Chapter 146) Ceremony with UAW 862
 - 9 AM-Noon at Ford Louisville Assembly Plant, 2000 Fern Valley Rd.
 - Lafayette, IN (Chapter 1922) Ceremony
 - 4 PM at Indiana Veterans' Home, 3851 N River Rd. West Lafayette, IN

- FRI 14 JUL
 - Tinley Park Ceremony with police escort
 - Noon-1 PM at Tinley Park Police Department, 7850 183rd St.

- SAT 15 JUL
 - Madison, WI (Chapter 165) Ceremony and Family Picnic
 - 11 AM at Lakeview Park, 6300 Mendota Blvd. Middleton, WI

- MON 17 JUL
 - Hopkins, MN (Chapter 8) Ceremony. Members of the Minnesota Patriot Guard lining street with honor guard of flags. Ceremony includes Presentation of the Colors by local Boy Scout Troop; Welcome from MOPH Chapter Commander, Hopkins VFW Post Commander; Mayors of City of Hopkins and Minnetonka may designate Purple Heart Cities; Local Businesses and Churches receive their Purple Heart Parking spot signs. Disabled Veteran speaks about his experiences; Ford Dealership Representative gives his perspective on Purple Heart Truck Run and Ford's commitment.
 - 3 PM at VFW Post #425, 100 Shady Oak Rd.

- TUE 18 JUL
 - Minneapolis, MN (Chapter 268) Ceremonies
 - 10 AM at Minneapolis VAMC, 1 Veterans Dr.
 - 11 AM at Minnesota Veterans Hom, 5101 Minnehaha Ave.

- WED 19 JUL
 - SD Army and Air National Guard visits
 - Sioux Falls Ceremony
 - 10 AM at Sioux Falls Ford, 4901 W 26th St.
 - Photo Op Stops in Mitchell, Chamberlain, and Wall, SD.

- THU 20 JUL
 - Camp Rapid—SD Army and Air National Guard HQ visits
 - Rapid City, SD Ceremony with Mayor and government representatives
 - 9:30 AM at McKie Ford, 2010 E Mall Dr.
 - Photo Op Stops at Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse Monument



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- **FRI 21 JUL**
 - Cheyenne, WY (Chapter 800) Ceremony featuring a POW survivor.
 - 10 AM at Cheyenne VAMC Flag Circle, 236 E Pershing Blvd.
 - Lunch with local American Legion
 - Noon at Legion Post #6, 2001 E Lincolnway
 - Casper, WY (Chapter 707) Ceremony and BBQ with local government officials
 - 3:30 PM at Greiner Ford, 3333 CY Ave.

- **SUN 23 JUL**
 - Missoula, MT (Chapter 2015)
 - 1-4 PM at Tamarack Brewing Co. 231 W Front St.

- **MON 24 JUL**
 - Purple Heart City Ceremony featuring Mayor proclaiming Missoula a PH City
 - 9 AM at Missoula Courthouse steps, 200 W Broadway St.
 - Mayor reads proclamation to City Council
 - 7 PM at Missoula City Council Chambers, 140 W Pine St.

- **TUE 25 JUL**
 - Spokane, WA (Chapter 470) Ceremony with local government officials
 - 9 AM at Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena, 720 W Mallon Ave.

- **WED 26 JUL**
 - Lakewood, WA (Chapter 407) Ceremony
 - 9 AM-Noon at American Lake Veteran Center, 9600 Veterans Dr. SW, Tacoma, WA, in JB Lewis-McChord

- **THU 27 JUL**
 - Medford, OR (Chapter 147) Ceremony
 - 10 AM-Noon at Crater Lake Ford, 2611 Biddle Rd.
 - Redding Veterans Home Visit
 - Time permitting, 3400 Knighton Rd. Redding, CA

- **FRI 28 JUL**
 - Redding, CA (Chapter 2001) Ceremony with local VSO Chapters
 - 9 AM at Crown Motors Ford Dealership, 555 W Cypress Ave.



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- SUN 30 JUL
 - Yountville, CA, Ceremony hosted jointly by Mondavi Wine, the Purple Heart Service Foundation and MOPH Chapter 78.
 - 11 AM at Veterans Home of California, 260 California Dr.
 - Founded in 1884, largest of its kind in the U.S., with a population of 1200 aged and disabled Veterans.
- MON 31 JUL
 - Simi Valley, CA (Chapter 750) Ceremony
 - 1-4 PM at Ronald Regan Library main entrance, 40 Presidential Dr.
- TUE 1 AUG
 - San Diego, CA (Chapters 49 and 493) Ceremony
 - Noon-2 PM at The Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in front of Balboa Park Purple Heart Monument, 2115 Park Blvd.
 - The Navy Southwest Ceremonial Band will perform and a San Diego City proclamation will mark Purple Heart Day.
- THU 3 AUG
 - Phoenix, AZ (Chapter 790) Ceremony featuring PHX Mayor & Dept of AZ Cdr
 - 8:30 AM-10 AM at the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, 1616 W Washington St.
- FRI 4 AUG
 - Flagstaff, AZ (Chapter 793) Ceremony
 - Morning TBA at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, 22181 Resort Blvd.
- SAT 5 AUG
 - Albuquerque, NM (Chapter 1966 & 176) Ceremony, joined by local VSO's and military personnel.
 - 11 AM at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial, 1100 Louisiana Blvd. SE
- TUE 8 AUG
 - Lawton, OK (Chapter 602) Ceremony
 - 10 AM at Lawton/Ft. Sill Veterans Center, Oklahoma's newest long-term care home for Veterans. 501 SE Flower Mound Rd.
 - Broken Arrow, OK Ceremony with Patriot Guard Riders celebrating the Purple Heart Truck Run, National Purple Heart Day, and becoming a Purple Heart City
 - 3 PM at Veterans Park, 1111 S Main St.



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- WED 9 AUG
 - Broken Arrow Departure Ceremony with Patriot Guard Riders
 - 10 AM at Matthews Ford, 1101 W SW Expy Dr.
 - St. Robert, MO (Chapter 140 and Ft. Leonard Wood) Picnic
 - 4:30 PM at Sellers-Sexton Ford, 341 VFW Memorial Dr.

- THU 10 AUG
 - Houston, MO, Ceremony
 - 10 AM at Romines Ford, 1100 S Sam Houston Blvd.

- FRI 11 AUG
 - Branson, MO (Chapter 621), Ceremony, including a parade down the Branson Landing.
 - 10 AM at Radisson Hotel Branson, 120 Wildwood Dr. S

- SAT 12 AUG
 - Little Rock, AR (Chapter 431) Ceremony, where keys will first be presented to Marshall Kennedy, who is from AR. Government and VSO leaders representing the state's 250,000 veterans will attend.
 - 10 AM at War Memorial Stadium, 1 Stadium Dr.

- TUE 15 AUG
 - Dallas, TX—MOPH National Convention Official Arrival Ceremony and Award Presentation of Truck Keys to Marshall Kennedy.
 - 8 AM at Hotel Concourse



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The mission of ***Wounded Warrior Family Support (WWFS)*** is to provide support to the families of those who have been wounded, injured or killed during combat operations. The families of our casualties suffer in many ways: some financially, some psychologically, and the overwhelming stress of the recovery process can threaten to tear a family apart. Programs include: A Family Retreat program to provide vacation retreats, free of charge; a Caregiver Respite Program provides respite and supplemental services nationwide to the caregivers and families of wounded war veterans; and the “Mobility is Freedom” program provides grants to qualified combat-wounded veterans for the purchase of a Ford vehicle, specially adapted to suit veterans who are paralyzed or have lost legs or arms.

The “[Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Inc.](#),” (MOPH) was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all combat wounded veterans and active duty men and women who have received the decoration. Chartered by the Congress, The MOPH is unique among Veteran Service Organizations in that all its members were wounded in combat. For this sacrifice, they were awarded the Purple Heart Medal. With grants from the MOPH Service Foundation, the MOPH and its Ladies Auxiliary promote Patriotism, Fraternalism, and the Preservation of America’s military history. Most importantly, through veteran service, they provide comfort and assistance to all Veterans and their families, especially those requiring claims assistance with the VA, those who are homeless, and those requiring employment assistance. Programs of the MOPH include VA Volunteer Service, JROTC Leadership Awards, Scholarships, Americanism, Purple Heart Trail and Cities, Welfare, and numerous community service programs, all with the objective of service to Veterans and their families.

To learn more or to make a donation, go online to www.purpleheart.org and www.wvfs.org.

For information contact:

National Public Relations Director, [John Bircher](#), 352-753-5535

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