



The Purple Heart

Magazine

July / August 2025



AUGUST 7TH NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY

Camaraderie Among
Combat Wounded Veterans

See you in
RENO!

Features

24 - [Breaking the link between homelessness and suicide](#): Homelessness is one of those factors. In 2022, among Veterans using VA health care, the risk of suicide was 110% higher for Veterans who had experienced homelessness than for those who hadn't.

37 - [National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day](#): Purple Heart recipients of the Korean War span every branch and background—Their injuries, often endured in silence afterward, are a solemn strand in the fabric of our Order.

41 - [National Purple Heart Day](#): The Purple Heart traces its origins to **General George Washington**, who established the **Badge of Military Merit** on **August 7, 1782**. It was awarded for “any singularly meritorious action” and is considered the first military decoration made available to common soldiers.

54 - [Purple Hearts for Tower 22 Attack](#): Ten New York National Guard soldiers received Purple Hearts for injuries sustained in a 2024 Iranian-backed militia drone attack on a U.S. outpost known as Tower 22 in Jordan.

64 - [Are you a woman Veteran battling migraine?](#) Migraines are not just regular headaches—they can disrupt your entire day. Everyday triggers such as stress, light, noise, smells, disrupted routines and lifestyle habits can make them worse. So can prior military experiences and hormone changes.

68 - [WWII and Korean War Veteran turns 106](#): “Always smile and have a good heart,” the 106-year-old, **12-time Purple Heart recipient** said when asked his secret to longevity.

69 - [WWII Veteran suits up for hockey at 98](#): “I came from a [hockey](#) family with my brothers,” Wagner said. “We played hockey. We played baseball. We played everything. That was during the Great Depression in the ‘30s.”

73 - [Are you a caregiver for a Veteran?](#) The key to better health outcomes for Veterans is to ensure that both you and the Veteran you care for are part of the care team. Together, you bring valuable insights that can make all the difference in improving the quality of life for everyone involved.

76 - [New Badge of Military Merit Society](#): an honorary recognition program that revives the spirit and historical roots of the original Badge of Military Merit, the precursor to today's Purple Heart.

82 - [Statue creation in progress to honor a Flagstaff hero](#): “I think the world of the guy, he's my buddy,” Logan said. “He's always doing neat stuff for all the veterans, and I would like to see somebody get credit for all the good things they do while they're still around to acknowledge it.”

19 - [Never too late to sign up for VA benefits](#): Like other Veterans, the Belangers assumed they weren't entitled to [VA health benefits](#) because they only served a few years at a stateside location.

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(Publications@purpleheart.org):

- National Commander: Robert Olivarez
- Member (4-yr term): Vacant
- Member (3-yr term): Jo Keller
- Member (2-yr term): Larry Leighton (Chair)
- Member (1-yr term): Alan Gibson
- MOPHA Liaison: Colleen Orfanello

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Commander's Message

Robert Olivarez

National Commander



Patriots, as we conclude this year and prepare for our National Convention, here is an update on our accomplishments.

As many of you are aware, my team and

I've been working on completing the 990s and audits; however, we've encountered a roadblock. However, we continue to work diligently to complete them.

This year has been an excellent year for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. We began by attending an AUSA event, where we established numerous connections, future partnerships, and collaborations. Our team contacted key companies willing to honor their commitments to our Purple Heart recipients. In the process, I approached any Veteran Service Organizations that were present at the AUSA event and expressed our willingness to work with them on current veteran issues and legislation, and in doing so, we had the opportunity to start to work with a few of them, which are the U.S. Army Ranger Association, Special Forces Association, Military Order of the World Wars.

Having our organizations work together towards the same goal of improving and caring for our veterans and service members is a massive win for us! The National leadership team was able to attend the Veterans Day event in November, and I can proudly say we were able to represent the MOPH in full this year. Not only did we have the National leadership team all present, but we also had representatives at each monument to ensure the Military Order of the Purple Heart was there and would remain for the foreseeable future. We stood out and were

recognized by all; other organizations were also happy to see us there in force. After the Veterans Day event, the U.S. Army Ranger Association reached out to me and invited us to join them in the Christmas Day Parade in Hollywood. We accepted the invitation, and members from the Department of California and Local Chapter 210 attended the event. During the event, the President and Regional Area President arranged radio and television interviews for me and Past Department Commander Jo Keller, which were beneficial for the MOPH. To top it all off, we were also featured on National Television and had our name announced to all, so everyone could hear and know who we are.

Following the Parade, I had the Honor of representing us in Hawaii and the 83rd Pearl Harbor Day event. I was again able to connect with other organizations who were present at the event and make a connection to start a future partnership and collaboration to work together for the same goals at that time I spoke with the National Commander of the American Legion and National Commandant of the Marine Corps League to start a working relationship with them. I am pleased to announce that they both wish to have a sit-down and explore how our two Organizations can best support not only our veterans but also active duty servicemembers.

After returning home, we started to gear up for our speech to the Veterans Affairs Committee. This year, we had the honor of speaking on various veteran issues and made a significant impact on how the committee viewed the MOPH. We had a few Senators and Congressmen willing to endorse our legislative issues and had asked us to come back for a sit-down to see how we could ensure this would be done right the first time. After we gave our speech, we had a few more Organizations reach out to us and express their desire to work with us on legislation and endorse the issues we push through again. Without the dedication of the National Leadership Team, along with our Legislative team, we were able to make this all possible. Now, we have significant backing and will be able to address more veteran issues legislatively,

benefiting from the support of our partnerships with other Veterans Service Organizations.

In May, the National Leadership Team attended the Memorial Day events in Washington, D.C. This year was our best one to date. Not only did the MOPH represent, but we also had the Auxiliary in full force alongside our leadership at every monument, and we stood out as we should. The importance of the MOPH being at this event is and should be a focal point for our Prestigious organization. Not only is every name on all those walls and monuments a service member who gave selfless sacrifice, but it is also a Purple Heart recipient. So, we as the Military Order of the Purple Heart should be first in line to honor them and to keep their memory alive until the end of time.

I was also able to speak in a few podcasts, one being the very popular Warfighter, while in Texas at the monument unveiling with the San Antonio Chapter 1836.

Being able to speak on this podcast was a great movement forward for the MOPH, not only did we give their listeners a better understanding of who the Military Order of the Purple Heart is and what we do, but this went out to all of their social media platforms as well thus bringing more attention to the MOPH and putting us up in the limelight for all to see. I also had the honor of attending a very popular East Coast podcast with one of our very own members and chief of staff out of Tennessee. Richard Farrer, with the Scuttlebutt TPS podcast, where we spoke about the mission of the MOPH and the Auxiliary, and how they support us daily, noted that the Auxiliary has been brought up every time to show our patriots and has supported us in all that we do.

We were once invited out again by the Army Ranger and Special Forces Association to attend a Pacific Palisades event and tour the affected areas that were ravaged by the fires. I was able to sit down with congressmen Brian Mast another MOPH member and talk about key point affecting out veterans and what we all can do to help and how

we can work together and accomplish the mission. I can say we do have the support from Congressman Mast and will be setting up a few sit-down meetings with him soon. I was also able to have a sit-down meeting and set up a future collaboration with John Roeke, who runs The We Fund and The Blue Organization, and helps give back to our communities and make them better, showcasing how our Patriots care and give back. Lastly, I was also able to do a podcast and have a radio personality, Kerri Kasem showcase the Military Order of the Purple Heart and also put me in contact with other radio show host so that we can get our name back out there and advertise for the MOPH and let more Purple Heart recipients know about our great organization in hope for them to join and be a part of this great family.

Thank you all for all you do!

Yours in Patriotism!

Robert Olivarez Jr

Senior Vice Commander's Message

Tracey Brown Greene
National Sr Vice Commander



From Completion to New Beginnings

This year has been one to remember. We have been collaborating with various partners and stakeholders, and we

have seen firsthand that working together truly works. Teamwork always makes the dream work. As Andrew Carnegie wisely noted, *"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."* As a unified team, we have engaged both civic and government officials to advocate for changes in laws that will positively impact us all. This aligns with the sentiment expressed by Margaret Mead: *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."* Each year, we strive to make the organization better than the year before. As Henry Ford said, *"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."*

This year, we have attended conferences, participated in parades, and joined ceremonies, representing each and every one of you—the body of our organization. As Phil Jackson aptly put it, *"The strength of the team is each individual member. The*

strength of each member is the team." Our collective efforts have not only led to tangible changes but have also strengthened our internal bonds. Through collaboration, we've harnessed diverse perspectives, leading to innovative solutions and more effective problem-solving. Working together has enhanced our efficiency, allowing us to accomplish tasks more swiftly and with greater impact. Moreover, these shared experiences have fostered a sense of community and belonging, boosting morale and engagement across our team.

As we look ahead, let's continue to build on this momentum. By maintaining open communication, embracing diverse ideas, and supporting one another, we can ensure that the coming year is even more successful than the last. Together, we can achieve remarkable things. As Mother Teresa beautifully expressed, *"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful."*

As we continue to move forward, let us take a moment to reflect on our strengths the values, talents, and shared purpose that define us. Let us harness these strengths to broaden our reach in our communities and take an active role in educating America about who we are and what we stand for. Together, we can shape a narrative rooted in truth, unity, and progress. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, *"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."* Now is the time to speak up, to act boldly, and to lead with purpose.

Yours in Patriotism,

Tracey Brown Greene

Junior Vice Commander's Message

Frances Figueroa-Lowe
National Junior Vice Commander



Reflecting on a Year of Growth and Dedication

Fellow Patriots,
Family, and
Auxiliary members,

As we approach
the end of another

organizational year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a productive and meaningful period for the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

This year, we had the honor of representing our organization at key national events. At the AUSA (Association of the United States Army) symposium, we engaged with a wide range of military and veteran-focused organizations, opening doors to new partnerships and collaborative opportunities that will benefit our members and mission.

We also proudly participated in the National Veterans Day Ceremony in Washington, D.C., where we laid wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Vietnam Veterans

Memorial, and the Korean War Memorial. On Memorial Day, we returned to lay wreaths at all of those same memorials and were honored to add a wreath at the Women's Memorial. Additionally, we attended the groundbreaking for the future Global War on Terrorism Memorial—an important symbol of recognition that we intend to support by providing a wreath once the memorial is completed.

Our JROTC Awards Program continued to thrive this year, concluding with 306 orders totaling approximately 2,033 medals distributed—including about 10 international orders. This strong response shows that our values and recognition efforts are resonating with the next generation of military leaders.

The Scholarship Program also saw incredible engagement, with 206 applications submitted. Our heartfelt thanks go to Scholarship Committee members Connie Johnson, Gus Wittschack, and Raymond Wetzel for their dedication in thoroughly reviewing and scoring each application. The winners will be announced no later than July 1st.

The Purple Heart Trail continues to grow as well. While we do not yet have a final count, we know several new entities across the country have joined the trail, expanding the national presence and awareness of our honored legacy.

As your National Jr. Vice Commander, I have strived to maintain consistent communication and provide timely updates to support our shared goals. I hope my

efforts have served you well.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve. I look forward to the year ahead and to continuing the work of helping our great organization grow stronger.

Here's to another successful year.

Yours in Patriotism,

Frances Figueroa-Lowe

MOPHA President's Message

Fran Holtgreven
National President



National President's Report 2024-2025

On August 10, 2024, as my husband Bill pinned the

Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary President pin on me on the National Zoom Convention meeting, I did not completely understand the honor that was ahead of me for the coming year. Yes, I knew there would be Zoom meetings, paperwork, challenges, and problems to solve, but representing the MOPH Auxiliary throughout the country was an honor and a humble experience that I will

remember forever.

Zoom meetings with the leadership team were held on the 2nd Monday of each month and the National Zoom meetings were held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. NEC, Finance Committee, General Fundraising Committee, Ways-n-Means Committee and Bylaws meetings were held when needed. Region Presidents and Chaplain Zooms were attended via Zoom. As a representative for the 92nd MOPH and MOPHA National Convention, Google Meet was attended monthly. Also attended when invited was the MOPH monthly meeting and the MOPH Chaplain meeting.

General Orders were sent out each month by Constant Contact. Additional information for special occasions or reminders to Auxiliary members was also sent out when needed by Constant Contact. The Purple Heart Magazine provided an article every other month when published to show our support to the Patriots.

October 14th-16th, 2024 found me in Washington, D.C. attending the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting & Exposition along with the MOPH National Officers. This was the first time for both MOPH and MOPHA to attend this event. 1000 brochures were printed with information about the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary mission, membership, fellowship, and service. These brochures were handed out to give attendees knowledge of what the Auxiliaries are doing across the country to help Veterans and how to contact the organization for

more information about membership and donations to the MOPHA. The three days were long days, but talking to attendees, explaining what a purple heart means and meeting possible new members was worth long days and tired feet.

A few weeks later, I was in Washington, D.C. to attend the National Veterans Day Ceremonies. I attended the ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery Veterans Day program. After the program, the National Commander, Robert Olivarez, and I were honored to present a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Vietnam Memorial was the next stop, and I watched as National Sr. Vice Commander Tracey Brown-Greene and National Jr. Vice Commander Frances Figueroa-Lowe presented a wreath along with Auxiliary Member, Christine Day. At the Korean Veteran Memorial National Region IV Commander, Craig Wertheim and I were honored to present the wreath. I represented the MOPHA at the Women's Monument and watched as the National Sr. Vice and National Jr. Vice Commanders represented the MOPH. This was a humble experience and brought tears to my eyes at each monument.

I was honored to be invited to the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day December 7, 2024, for the 83rd Commemoration of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The day started early as the Anniversary Ceremony started at 0750. A Moment of Silence, Missing Man Flyover, Presentation of Colors, Hawaiian Blessing, Guest Speakers, and a Wreath Presentation was an honor to attend. Later in the afternoon, I was honored to sit on

the main stage along with the National Commander, survivors of Pear Harbor and three Rosie the Riveter's at a program honoring the Survivors and the Rosie's. An amazing night parade was the last event of the day. The Purple Heart recipient's that attended the events from the Hawaiian Chapter of MOPH, along with the National Commander and my husband, each were placed in a convertible corvette to ride in the parade. And to my surprise, I was honored to ride in a red 65 Mustang convertible holding the United States Flag.

On February 22, 2025, I was asked to speak about projects the National MOPHA organization, Departments and Units were completing to help the Patriot's and Veterans in the United States at the Founder's Day dinner at Alamo Chapter 1836 in San Antonio, Texas.

On the 23rd of February, I was on an early flight back to Washington, D.C. to attend the legislative March to the Hill the next morning. Commander Olivarez and I visited approximately sixteen Senators Offices to talk and hand out a 2024-2025 Military Order of the Purple Heart Legislative Agenda packet to the elected representatives of each office. I provided each one with a MOPHA brochure and explained what the Auxiliary was doing to help veterans. I was surprised when I returned home that two Senators sent me a note thanking me for letting them know about the MOPH Auxiliary. February 25, 2025, I represented the MOPH Auxiliary with MOPH representatives at the Joint Hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs as Commander Olivarez made a statement to

the Committee.

In April I attended the Department of Texas MOPHA Convention in Houston as a Unit 1836 member and then as the National President, I installed the new officers of the MOPHA Department of Texas for 2025-2026. I also attended the Department of Georgia Convention in Atlanta and installed their newly elected officers for 2025-2026. I also attended the Department of Florida for their MOPHA Convention in Daytona Beach, Florida in May. I attended the 2025 Department of Michigan in Bay City, Michigan on May 22, 2025

Memorial Day was spent in Washington, D.C. at the Arlington National Cemetery and presenting a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with the National Commander. Along with myself, Jan Huffman and Becky Amaya from Colorado Unit 375 will be attending and representing the Auxiliary at the Korean and Vietnam Memorial. National Sr. Vice President will be representing the Auxiliary at the Women's Monument. I am excited to share this honor with these Auxiliary members. THANK YOU for your participation.

It has been an honor to serve and represent you as your National President. It has been a wonderful year, full of excitement, honors, work, activities, and camaraderie with all the Auxiliary members and with the MOPH patriots. A big THANK YOU goes out to the Order for working and including me in your activities. It has shown each of our organizations that by working together,

we can accomplish many things. THANK YOU goes out to all Auxiliary members for all the accomplishments and activities that you have completed during the 2024-2025 year.

I would like to THANK all my officers and committee members for helping and supporting me this year. Without each of your commitments and encouragement I would not have been able to have had such a memorable year.

Fran Holtgreven

Chaplain's Messages

Carlton Cannon
National Chaplain



Urgent Prayer Request

Dear Military Order
Purple Heart USA,

ACTS 6: 1 – 7; I am reminded that the church in Jerusalem was having a conflict: "While the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food" **(v.1)**. The "Hellenistic," or Greek-speaking, Jewish believers felt that they were the victims of classism on the part of the Jewish believers who still spoke Aramaic, a dialect of Hebrew.

So, the Jerusalem church prayed and took action. They appointed seven leaders, and the apostles commissioned them for their task (v.6). **Can you see what happens when we have the right leadership?** Conflicts are quickly resolved, unity is maintained, and its impact increases tremendously because its people are carrying out GOD's kingdom agenda!

As National Chaplain, I ask all Patriots to join with me in a time of prayer for our 92nd National Convention in Reno, Nevada, July 14 – 18, 2025. The first week of July, for at least **10 minutes each day**, we have dedicated **July 1, 2, and 3 to a time of intercessory prayer for our convention. (NOTE)** A designated time of prayer is also planned at the convention! Together we can "GIT'ER Done."
WE MUST PRAY!

"CRITICISM Is Part of The Cost Of LEADERSHIP"

We must let passion and vision drive our leadership. We live in a time when leaders are abandoning their post and have become **AWOL** - absent without leave. Many have lost their desire to lead because of the harsh criticism. **Many of us including myself have been victims of criticism!**

Being a 21st century minister of the Gospel has become unusually difficult for some. Many ministers have become nothing more than storekeepers with consumers' concerns – how to keep customers happy, how to lure customers away from the store down the street, how to package a better product for more money. There was a time when the

minister was the most respected person in the community. In the early days of our country, the first building that was built in a new settlement was the church, because the church was central to the livelihood in the community.

Today there are so many "go to" places to learn leadership. Many look to the world of business. Most seem to look to successful CEO's, Fortune 500 companies, management consultants, and the list goes on. But the truth is, the best "go-to" source of leadership teaching today is the same as it has been for literally thousands of years. If we want good leadership, go to the greatest book of all time, and the greatest book ever written on leadership is the BIBLE!

There are four leadership principles I want to share:

TIME IS VALUABLE

Let's face it, our time is valuable! The danger in doing anything without a vision is that many times we are doing nothing more than carrying out a motion. What I mean by that is your activities become meaningless instead of passionate. Anyone can appear to be diligent executing various assignments, but the key is dedicating your time to the success of your vision and dreams. Vision is what persuades people to engage battle and go forward.

THE WORLD IS CHANGING

The world is ever changing, and I want to make sure that I never lead in the 21st century with a 20th century mentality. Remember,

gratification should be a temporary feeling. In whatever field you are currently serving in or see yourself in the future has to be viewed with a perspective and attitude of **“I will constantly have to improve.”** This doesn't mean that you shouldn't appreciate what you have done. This means that you should be thankful for everything you have achieved while you continue to better yourself in every area. We must consistently remind ourselves that there is always room for improvement!

PEOPLE PICK THEIR LEADERS

People will pick and choose whom they want to follow, why they follow, and even how long they will follow. In fact, since it is individuals who are the ones to choose their leaders, then the question I have to ask myself is, “how will they do that?” They will be motivated by a leader's actions and attitude. If you want people to follow you, you must lead with authenticity, showing you are more than the words you speak. You are exhibiting the reality of how you lead with your actions and attitudes. I have always felt that leaders are the ones who inspire people to realize and to utilize their greatest potential.

SET REACHABLE GOALS

Most leaders set unreachable goals for themselves and that in return gives them very little reason to celebrate wins. Set goals for yourself or your team that are reachable. Celebrate the wins! Most individuals are just looking for a reason to party anyway! **Let your leadership be driven by your passion and vision.** Where there is no vision, there is no life. Allow room for change in your

leadership style as the world and culture around you are changing. Be willing to grow as a leader as those around you are growing. Remember the old adage that actions speak louder than words. This is especially true in leadership. **Expect and learn from your critics' criticism.** Leadership is behavior, not position. A title is just a word, but behavior is what defines a true leader! Regardless of criticism, and as time marches on, always celebrate the wins, big or small. Recognizing the victories will keep you, and those around you, pushing forward to the next accomplishment!

GOD bless the Military Order Purple Heart USA and our 92nd National Convention! Together we will “GIT'er DONE!”

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

The captain of the Lord's host said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so. **(Joshua 5:15)**

We all know that Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, and the walls tumbled down as Israel marched into Canaan and proceeded to lay claim to their inheritance (Joshua 6).

But the key to the victory at Jericho is revealed back in **(Joshua 5: 13-15)**, when the “captain of the host of the Lord” appeared to Joshua. This was the preincarnate JESUS; and Joshua fell on his face in worship and said, in essence, “What do you want me to do Lord?”

The answer was, “March around Jericho for six days, and then march around it seven times on the seventh day. Blow the trumpets,

and the walls will fall down.” (Joshua 6:3-5). Joshua gave the order, the people obeyed, and they took Jericho without firing an arrow! They united the word with faith and obedience!

Do you know what God wants from us today? He wants some “Joshua” Christians who will obey Him and see the walls come down. If you have some walls in your life that just won’t come down, it could be because you are trying to knock them down your way rather than letting GOD knock them down His way! That is why we must

unite HIS WORD with our faith, which means we must do what GOD says and the way GOD says to do it!

If you have areas of your life you are attempting to do “good” things with your own methods and in your own strength, ask GOD for HIS strength and HIS wisdom as you endeavor to please HIM!

Carlton Cannon

National Chaplain

Memorial Day Reflection

David Metoyer, Chapter 2929-CA-6

One More Tomorrow Memorial Day 2016

***Dear Lord, please give me one more
tomorrow***

***That’s not too much to ask as I lay here
mangled and shot up in the mud.***

***Please give me one more tomorrow to
finish my bucket list I don’t want to miss.***

***Playing billiards in that smoky and dimly lit
pool hall with my brothers and Dad***

***Or wrapping my arms around my love
cheek to cheek touching the soft silky skin
next to mine***

***Oh, the fragrance of fresh washed hair
and the aroma of squeaky-clean ivory soap***

***What I would give to wash my muddy
bloody hands***

with that squeaky clean ivory soap

This seems like Heaven

Heaven

If this is heaven Lord take me there now.

***Take me from this mangled and shot up
body lying in the mud***

***And Lord please bring my buddies along
and leave their mangled and shot up bodies
lying next to mine***

***For this being our final battle field in
Vietnam.***

***Lord if you can’t give me one more
tomorrow, I’ll understand.***

Amen

***Panel 02E Rows 035 and 036 (6 good men
died on 12July65)
And few more 26W Row 086
Still more 29E Row 045***

Monthly Chaplains Meeting

National Chaplain Carlton Cannon is inviting all MOPH Chaplains to a virtual Chaplains meeting, the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM Eastern.

Please contact Chaplain Carlon with any questions: cancarl03@comcast.net or 302-448-0852.

Join the Monthly Zoom meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87913323197?pwd=HZnLLtOKs7ZHYSR0J7BrfxHfvQba8F.1>

Meeting ID: 879 1332 3197
Passcode: 069730

One tap mobile
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US (Tacoma)
+13462487799,,87913323197#,,,,*069730#
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- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
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- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 360 209 5623 US

- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 879 1332 3197
Passcode: 069730

Publications Committee Message

Larry Leighton, NPC Chair



Publications Committee Vacancies

Per our bylaws (Article XII, Section 6), the NPC is made up of four elected members in addition to the

National Commander who is an ex officio member. The committee has been working with three members for two years. Jo Keller and Alan Gibson are going to resign from the committee during this year's National Convention.

Committee members are elected by the National Executive Committee (NEC) after the Convention. If you are interested in joining the committee, please let your Department Commander know so he can

submit your nomination.

Information about the Publications Committee duties is in the bylaws (Article XII, Section 6). If you have questions, feel free to give me a call (623-776-5443).

2025 National Convention

Invitation from the Co-Chairs

If you haven't already registered for this year's national convention, do so today at www.purpleheart.org/NationalConvention. Don't delay! Its July 14 – 18, 2025, in Reno, Nevada, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The convention theme is "Purple Hearts are WILD in Reno."

This year, the Departments of Nevada and California are jointly co-hosting the convention, which is shaping up to be one of the most exciting Purple Heart Conventions in some time, according to co-chairmen Andy LePeilbet, NV, and Jo Keller, CA

The headquarters hotel is the Nugget Hotel & Casino in Sparks (adjacent to Reno). This hotel offers fantastic rooms, free Wi-Fi, free parking, a beautiful pool, great casino, and world-class entertainment. The convention hall has plenty of room for all of our business needs. For after-hours we have access to the exciting cities of Reno and Sparks with fun and excitement only Nevada can offer.

The convention registration desk will be

open Saturday, July 12th from 3 pm to 6 pm, and on Sunday from 2 pm to 6 pm. Late registration can be accomplished Monday at 7 am. The final event is the Gala Dinner Thursday at 7 pm.

On Wednesday visit historic Virginia City, a gold rush mining town where Mark Twain was editor of the *Territorial Enterprise* newspaper in the 1850's. On the city's main street, you'll wander back in time visiting saloons such as the Ponderosa and Bucket of Blood, Piper's Opera House, mines, the train depot, and the Storey County Courthouse.

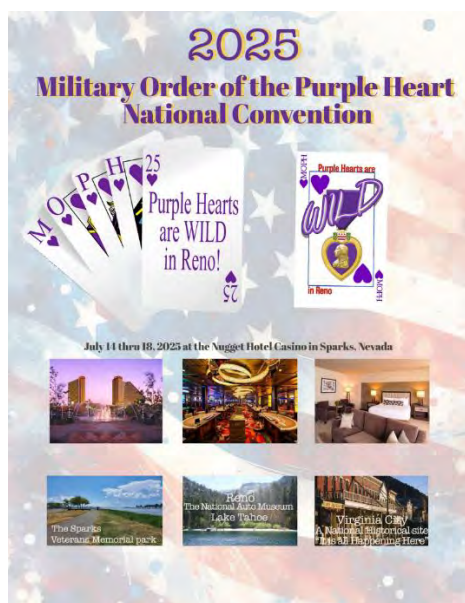
The Nugget Hotel & Casino is located at 1100 Nugget Ave, Sparks, NV, 89431, ten minutes' drive from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. The convention room rate of \$132.37 per night (\$99.00 base plus \$20 resort fee and 13.5% tax) applies July 13th through 18th. Rates for Friday and Saturday are approx. \$45 more. You can make your hotel reservation at www.purpleheart.org/NationalConvention or by dialing (775) 356-3300 and mentioning Group Code GMOPH25.

Co-chairman Andy LePeilbet, Dept of NV Commander, (775) 772-8747, Andy@NevadaAndy.com

Co-chairman Jo Keller, Past Dept of CA Commander, (951) 544-9270, ChiefJoKeller@gmail.com

Come and be WILD in Reno during our 92nd National Convention!

Purple Hearts are WILD in Reno!



Convention Registration

This will be the 92nd Annual Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention. It will be held in Reno/Sparks, Nevada. This year's theme is "Purple Hearts Are WILD in Reno." The National Convention will be held from July 14th to July 18th, 2025, at the Nugget Hotel Casino located at 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, Nevada 89431.

Reserve your spot in this important convention by registering on the logging in to the National website:

<https://www.purpleheart.org/NationalConvention>



Hotel Registration

Group Code **GMOPH25**

Our Daily Group Rate for July 13, Sunday night through July 17, Thursday night is \$99, plus a \$20 Resort Fee, and a 13.5% room tax = **\$132.37** per night.

Friday and Saturday Rates are \$139 per night, plus \$20 Resort Fee and 13.5% room tax for those who wish to come early and/or wish to stay later.

There are two ways to register using our Group Code **GMOPH25** call 775-356-3272 or click [here](#).



About Nugget Casino Resort

This Sparks casino hotel is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This resort features a casino and 8 restaurants and bars. Free Wi-Fi is provided in each guest room at Nugget Casino Resort. Rooms include a cable TV with in-room movies. The spacious private bathrooms are equipped with hairdryers. The casino at Nugget Casino Resort offers 24-hour gaming, including blackjack, roulette, craps, specialty table games and a Poker Room, as well as Keno, a new Bingo Hall, a full-service Sports Book, slots, and video poker. Nugget Casino Resort offers guests an indoor pool, 8 individual bubble pools and a gym. The Skywalk Arcade, located in the hotel, provides a variety of games and a large gift shop is located on site. Reno-Tahoe International Airport is 10 minutes' drive from Nugget Casino Resort.

Nugget Amenities

- 24-hour front desk Fitness Center
- Property is cleaned with disinfectant Restaurant
- Property confirms they are implementing guest safety measures
- Bed sheets and towels are washed at a temperature of at least 60°C/140°F
- Hot Tub or Spa Swimming Pool - Indoor
- Masks are available to guests
- Contactless check-in and check-out are available
- In room safe
- Internet Access - Free Public Access ATM Machine
- Currency Exchange Airport Transportation Business Center Lounge/Bar
- Where to eat in the Nugget:
 - Steak House
 - Oyster Bar
 - Game On
 - Tailgate Deli
 - The Rotisserie

- Noode Nut & Sushi Bar
- Rosie's Café
- Starbuck's



Please share the letter below with business you frequently visit and ask them to be a Convention Sponsor or to make a donation.



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Department of Nevada
and
Department of California



Dear (Company or Person Name/ Title),

The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA Inc (MOPH) is a Congressionally Chartered Veterans Organization formed in 1932. MOPH is unique in that it is the only veteran organization exclusively for recipients of the Purple Heart Medal.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war and posthumously awarded to the next of kin in the name of the individual killed in action or dies of wounds received in action.

The organization has several departments and chapters throughout the country, in addition to Guam and Puerto Rico. The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat-wounded veterans, promote Patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and, most importantly, provide service and assistance to veterans and their families in their time of need.

National Conventions are the milestone of MOPH. The annual Convention allows members to meet and decide on the organization's future course. Not only are leaders chosen, but it's often the only time members from all over the country can socialize and exchange ideas that will assist in moving the organization forward and serving the veteran community. It is also one of the few opportunities for members to voice their issues and concerns to the national leadership directly.

In 2025, we are taking a different approach to our National Convention by having Departments Co-host the event. California and Nevada will jointly Co-Host the 2025 National Convention. The convention dates are July 14 through 18, 2025, at the Nugget Hotel and Casino in Sparks, Nevada.

This event would not succeed without the support of patriotic organizations such as yours. Your sponsorship is needed to make this a successful convention. We have created the following levels of support for your consideration. Should the levels of support not fit your budget, please contribute any amount to show your support.

Badge of Merit Sponsor	Premier Seating, one table for 8*, Full Page Advertisement, Organization or Corporate Logo in all convention marketing material**	\$7,500+
Valor Sponsor	Preferred seating, one table for 8*, 1/2-page Advertisement, Organization or Corporate Logo in all convention marketing material**	\$5,000+
Silver Star Sponsor	Preferred seating, 1/2 table for 4*, 1/2-page Advertisement, Organization or Corporate Logo in all convention marketing material**	\$2,500+

The Convention Gala is held on the last evening of the Convention, which will be on Thursday evening.

Organization or Corporate logo will be placed in all advertising/ marketing, showing the sponsorship level where appropriate.

Respectfully yours in Patriotism,

Jo Keller

Jo Keller, Commander
Department of California

Andy LePeilbet

Andy LePeilbet, Commander
Department of Nevada

***Please make your sponsorship payable to the MOPH Fund.**

The MOPH FUND, Inc. (Fund) is the charitable non-profit fundraising arm of the MOPH and is managing registrations, donations, and sponsorships for the MOPH. When you become a sponsor or make a donation, you will receive a thank-you note and a tax receipt from the Fund. The Fund is a 501.c.3 non-profit organization (EIN: 87-3168304). Your donation is 100% tax deductible, but we recommend seeking the advice of your accountant. Please use the following link or QR Code for your sponsorship:

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/d3fdf9ba-c410-4c04-b768-4ef3b613281d>



If you prefer to use a check to become a sponsor or to make your donation, **please make your checks payable to MOPH FUND and send them to: MOPH FUND, ATTN: Treasurer, 22511 N. Galicia Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375.** If you have any questions regarding this transaction, please contact Larry Leighton at 623-776-5443.

Plan ahead and make it a true summer vacation

Suicide Prevention Program

Anthony Hixon
National Suicide Prevention and Awareness
Officer



Everyone will need to face challenges and hardships during this life. Dealing with life's challenges successfully requires emotional resilience. Emotional resilience is:

- The ability to adapt to stressful situations or crisis with courage.
- Helping yourself and others the best you can.
- Reaching out for additional help when needed.
- Having strong feelings without becoming ineffective or destructive.

Challenges or unexpected changes may seem unfair. We may be tempted to

respond in ways that are unproductive such as blaming others, make excuses, complain, find fault, give up, get angry, indulge in self-pity, or allow fear to rule. Becoming emotionally resilient involves recognizing these responses in ourselves and using our agency to choose a more appropriate response.

Here are some practices for better emotional resilience.

- **Regular Exercise:** Regular exercise can greatly benefit your emotional health. Physical activity stimulates your brain and releases chemicals that help with your emotions. Taking time to be active can leave you feeling happier and more relaxed.
- **Sleep and rest:** Quality sleep can help protect your mental health, physical health, quality of life, and safety. When you're tired, you might find it hard to make decisions, solve problems or control your emotions and behavior.
- **Personal Hygiene:** Prioritizing small things like washing our hands, bathing regularly, brushing our teeth, and keeping our clothes clean will improve our health and can help us feel better about ourselves.
- **Healthy Eating:** Make sure to drink plenty of clean water throughout the day. Eat enough of the right food to fuel your body so you have the energy you need to accomplish your daily tasks. In general, consider eating more vegetables, fruit, whole grains, legumes, and nuts. Also

consider reducing refined sugar, salt, sweetened beverages, and saturated fat.

- **Self-Care:** When you face challenges, you need to do all you can to take care of yourself. Do such things as take a nap, slow down, read a book, listen to music, pray, take a walk, dance, sing, or enjoy a nice meal.

Emotional Resilience is something we can develop throughout our lives by reading books, research, taking classes or help with a professional. **Remember it is ok to ask for help.**

Anthony "Tony" Hixon

Let's talk about Veteran suicide prevention

Shed a light on how to prevent Veteran suicide

May 2, 2025, Matthew Miller, Ph.D., MPH
Executive Director, VA Suicide Prevention,
Office of Suicide Prevention

When you're overwhelmed or struggling, it may seem like you're stuck in the dark. Reaching out for support can make a big difference. It's like flipping on a light switch. It may not solve everything right away, but it can help you see a path forward.

So how do you ask for help when you need it? And if you're worried about a Veteran in your life, how can you shine some light for them?



[Read the rest.](#)

Suicide prevention resource of the month: Safety plan app

VA Safety Plan app

May 6, 2025, Matthew Miller, Ph.D., MPH
Executive Director, VA Suicide Prevention,
Office of Suicide Prevention

Having a plan can make a big difference in how your day goes. It doesn't have to be complicated—sometimes it's as simple as “get up, take a shower, grab some breakfast.” Having structure in your day can provide direction and help you know what to expect.

For Veterans who may be struggling with thoughts of suicide, having a safety plan is critical for addressing a crisis. That's why VA worked with Veterans and health care providers to create an [app](#) to help you easily build your own safety plan with a mental health provider and easily access it at any time.

The app guides you through the process step by step, making it easier to create a plan that works for you. For extra encouragement, you can tap a sun icon to read hopeful messages from other Veterans who've faced similar experiences. These messages serve as powerful reminders that

even though you may be facing life challenges, you don't have to face them alone.

What can I expect when I download the app?

When you first open the app, you'll see quick tips on getting started and information about privacy. No identifying information is shared, and no account is required.

The main screen includes sections to create your safety plan and lists 'Reasons to Live.' In the upper right, you'll see the sun icon. At the bottom, a 'Get Support' button gives you quick access to call 911 and the Veterans Crisis Line.

Creating your Safety Plan

The main goal of the app is to help you develop your safety plan. To do that, you'll complete six steps with guidance from the app along the way:

- Step 1: Warning Signs (that I may be headed toward a crisis).
- Step 2: Ways I Can Cope (on my own).
- Step 3: My Distractions (places I can go, and people I can call).
- Step 4: Friends and Family I Can Call (for support).
- Step 5: Professionals I Can Call (in times of crisis).
- Step 6: Keeping Myself Safe (by limiting my access to dangerous objects).

Remember that while the Safety Plan app can be used on its own, creating your plan with a mental health provider can be helpful. A safety plan is not intended to replace professional care.

Adding Reasons to Live

A safety plan can play a key role in interrupting thoughts about wanting to die, which can be very difficult to move away from. And while it can be helpful to understand why you're experiencing life in the way you are, moving toward reasons to live can help quiet those negative thoughts.

The 'Reasons to Live' section lets you add anything that enriches your life and brings you hope. Add text, photos, or videos—whatever brings you joy and helps remind you why you're here. This can be done before or after you complete your safety plan.

Be prepared with a concrete plan

It can be hard to think clearly during a time of crisis. Downloading the Safety Plan app is a great way to prepare with actionable steps to take before any crisis.

[Download the Safety Plan app today.](#)



<https://news.va.gov/139873/suicide-prevention-resource-of-the-month-plan/>

Breaking the link between homelessness and suicide

Housing saves Veterans' lives and futures

June 8, 2025, Shawn Liu, National Homeless Program Manager, VHA Homeless Programs Office

Content warning: This article addresses suicide, so reader caution is advised. If you are a Veteran in crisis, dial 988 and press 1 to reach our Veterans Crisis Line.

There's rarely a single reason why a Veteran attempts suicide. Instead, it's often the result of many overlapping risk factors.

Homelessness is one of those factors. In 2022, among Veterans using VA health care, the risk of suicide was 110% higher for Veterans who had experienced homelessness than for those who hadn't. For Veterans involved with the justice system, the risk was even greater.

That's why ending Veteran homelessness isn't just about housing. It's about saving lives.

'I hated myself'

Army Veteran [Lonnie Conerly](#) is here today because VA gave him the help he needed.

Conerly once held top-secret clearance and was trusted to test nuclear weapons. But for years after leaving military service, he battled bipolar disorder, drug addiction, homelessness, and incarceration. Eventually, he felt so worthless that he tried to take his own life four times.

“I slashed my wrists, took a bunch of pills, turned all the gas jets on, waited until the house filled up with gas and lit a cigarette,” said Conerly. “I took 20 sleeping pills, woke up, and was pissed off because I woke up. My life sucked. I hated myself.”

Then he connected with VA. With treatment, housing and support, Conerly was able to get sober, strengthen relationships with his family and begin working in the [Houston VA](#) vocational rehabilitation program.

Bringing hope

Like Conerly, many Veterans who are homeless and have had issues with the law begin to question their self-worth, how they fit in and whether they are a burden to friends, family, and society.

VA provides services to help Veterans overcome these feelings, including mental health care, physical health care, substance use treatment and employment services. VA’s [Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams](#) are able to provide the kind of personally-tailored services that Conerly received to address all the factors contributing to homelessness.

Learn about VA programs

- If you are a Veteran who is homeless or at risk of homelessness or need to connect with a Veterans justice outreach specialist, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838).
- Visit the [VA Homeless Programs](#)

[website](#) to learn about housing initiatives and other programs for Veterans exiting homelessness.

- Learn how to [get involved with housing homeless Veterans](#).
- If you’re a community partner interested in helping aging and disabled homeless Veterans, contact homelessvets@va.gov.

<https://news.va.gov/140529/breaking-link-between-homelessness-suicide/>

Suicide prevention: Veterans Crisis Line

No matter what you’re facing, the Veterans Crisis Line is here for all Veterans

June 10, 2025, Dr. Matthew Miller, Executive Director, VA Suicide Prevention

You know, a lot of folks think that when Veterans hang up the uniform, life just picks up right where they left off. But the truth is not that simple. One day you’re in a tight-knit crew with a solid routine and a clear purpose, and the next thing you know, you’re out—everything’s quiet. Maybe it’s too quiet.

It’s in these moments, the quiet ones when we’re alone, when some might feel isolated, lacking purpose, finding it hard to move forward. That’s why suicide prevention matters and what the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) is for. It’s here to remind Veterans, active-duty service members, National Guard,

Reservists, friends, and their families that someone is always listening. No judgment. Just help.

What is the Veterans Crisis Line?

The Veterans Crisis Line offers free, confidential support, 24/7—by phone, chat, or text. A real person will answer and help, no matter what you're experiencing. You don't have to give your name or address or any identifying information. Veterans, I want you to know: You're in charge of the conversation; you share what you want to share.

Responders can work with you to find helpful resources or refer you to other services that match your situation, and it's up to you whether to use them. Follow-up support with a VA suicide prevention coordinator (SPC) is also available.

How does the Veterans Crisis Line work?

If you reach out to the Veterans Crisis Line by phone, chat, or text, you can expect the responder to be trained in crisis intervention and military culture. They'll listen without judgement or interruption.

The responder may ask questions to determine if you're in immediate danger or have thoughts of suicide. Responders will be ready with resources or services to support you and will walk you through each one, including offering to help you create a plan to stay safe.

If the responder thinks it would be useful for you to speak to a VA SPC, they'll get your permission before arranging for an SPC to

call you.

You're in control. You choose what information to share, whether to use resources, whether to speak with an SPC and when to end the conversation.

As a Veteran, how do I know if I should contact the Veterans Crisis Line?

Crisis looks different to everyone. Every Veteran has a different reason for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line—whether that's a distressing medical diagnosis, divorce, job loss or simply needing someone to talk to. The bottom line is this: If you're struggling and need to talk, the Veterans Crisis Line is here for you.

The Veterans Crisis Line is a place for you to call, text or chat when you're overwhelmed. They get it. No lectures, just people who answer and listen.

[Dial 988 then Press 1](#), chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text [838255](tel:838255).

And remember:

- It's confidential. You decide how much information to share.
- It's free, and VA enrollment isn't required.
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Healing Through Hunting: Make A Difference Outdoors



By Steve Osterholzer,
Lieutenant Colonel
(Ret.), U.S. Army

"Bear!" Joe whispered as the hulking black bear slowly lumbered into

view in the dark timber of the Wyoming mountains. *"Get ready!"* Ted Snyder, a retired Army soldier who served numerous combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, knew what to do. Slowly bringing his rifle up and settling the crosshairs on his target, he waited for the large boar to give him a clean broadside shot at sixty yards. The bear, totally focused on feeding, soon cooperated. Ted slowed his breathing, forcing himself to focus on the bear's midsection. *"When you're ready,"* Joe quietly whispered, *"take him."* Ted's world shrank to the world inside his scope, as he took a deep breath and slowly squeezed the trigger..."

The last three decades have seen thousands of American service members severely injured as they selflessly sacrificed for their country. Limbs lost to IEDs, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are just a few ways that war tears apart the lives of veterans and their families. Fortunately, many organizations stand ready to help them. They all share the same goal: to help the veteran heal through various treatments and methods. One unique non-profit uses the therapeutic value of the outdoors to heal wounds both seen and unseen: Make A Difference Outdoors.



"Make A Difference Outdoors (also known as M.A.D. Outdoors) was founded thirteen years ago by a group of friends who love the outdoors and wanted to give back to veterans," said co-founder Jerry Dulap. "Everything we do for our veterans and their kids comes from the heart. We believe a man stands tallest when he stoops to help others."

Their mission statement is to provide rewarding outdoor experiences for veterans and disabled veterans, honoring their sacrifices to the nation and strengthening the bonds of camaraderie and trust. They also serve children with special needs, helping them improve their body, mind, and character through inclusive outdoor skills development.

"We pride ourselves on providing a wide variety of outdoor adventures such as deep-sea fishing, trap shoots, hog and duck hunts, and kid fishing," Jerry explains. *"We even run big game hunts for bear, elk, and pronghorn.. Nobody at M.A.D. collects a paycheck - we're all volunteers who simply want to give back to those who have given*

so much."

These trips span the width of the country but the continent, as Montana, Washington, Oregon, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Manitoba have all hosted M.A.D. events. One event that's especially meaningful to M.A.D. leadership is their Kid Fishing Day. *"For 10 consecutive weekends in a row, we hosted kids of veterans and special needs kids at our Trout Pond,"* Jerry said. *"We served nearly 250 youth and more than 130 veterans. Most of these kids have disabilities or are without parents. They play, eat, fish, and get to be 'free' for a day. I simply can't explain the size of their smiles."*

Numerous studies have demonstrated the therapeutic benefits of the outdoors in aiding the recovery of injured service members. M.A.D. provides veterans not only the healing power of nature but also the unique camaraderie they once shared in the military. Army veteran Steve Osterholzer, who experienced an M.A.D. hunt, agrees. *"When I returned from Afghanistan, many of my fellow soldiers refused to talk to counselors and therapists because 'they haven't walked in my boots. They haven't experienced the horrors of war and simply don't understand.'" Steve then unpacked what makes M.A.D. so unique. "On a M.A.D. adventure, they're surrounded by fellow vets who have shared the same experiences and trauma. They let their guard down and feel comfortable expressing deep feelings. Just sharing their thoughts and emotions is incredibly healing."*

Making these trips happen takes hundreds

of volunteers and thousands of dollars.

"We're always in need of people willing to invest in these veterans, whether with their finances or their time in volunteering," Jerry said.

One patriotic American willing to help is Joe Kondelis, President of the American Bear Foundation. Joe donated a Wyoming black bear hunt to M.A.D., with "Doc" Ted Snyder being the recipient. *"I started doing this as a way to give back to veterans who have sacrificed so much for this country,"* Joe said. *"It's truly an honor to provide these heroes with an adventure of a lifetime."*

"Doc" Ted Snyder served more than twenty years in the Army as a Flight Medic and a Physician's Assistant with a combat arms unit. *"I saw a lot of tough stuff in Iraq and Afghanistan,"* Ted said. *"I thought that my PTSD was under control, and I was pretty much okay. Several friends intervened and told me that I wasn't okay. That's when Make A Difference stepped in."*

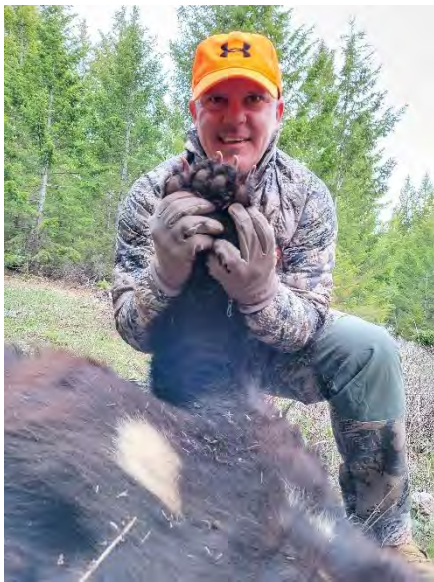
Scott Jones, who helped found M.A.D. with Jerry, Robert Dunlap, and Dave Schiavon, said these trips have a huge emotional impact on the organization's leadership. *"It's tear-jerking when a hero who's been blown up and missing body parts humbly thanks us for giving them an escape from their challenges,"* Scott says. *"They're thanking us, when we should be thanking them."*

Kawhoom! As the echo of the shot echoed off the Bighorn Mountains, the bear roared and thrashed down the hill. Doc's shot was perfect; within moments, all was still once more on the mountainside. Doc had just

harvested his first bear.



"It wasn't till I put my hand on that bear that I realized what a dark place I'd been in," Doc recalls. "Stroking that beautiful fur released a massive amount of emotion. I cried hot tears as I felt the dark pain I'd been carrying for so long drain away."



As Joe and Doc knelt over the bear, they didn't speak for a few moments. Finally, Doc wiped away his tears, looked at Joe, and smiled. *"Thanks, brother,"* he said. *"I needed this win. I don't have to fight this fight alone."*

To learn more about how you can help injured veterans through M.A.D. Outdoors or are a vet wanting to experience one of their healing adventures, please visit their website at www.madoutdoors.org/

About the Author: Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Steve Osterholzer served 23 years on active duty as an Army Aviation and Public Affairs Officer. He's the author of two books on wilderness and has been published in more than 20 magazines. To learn more about Steve, please visit

www.steveosterholzer.com

Social Media Program

Beth Bucek

Social Media Director



A Note from Social Media!

Hello everyone,

As always, I want to start by thanking all of our veterans and active-duty service members. To our dedicated Patriots, thank you for your continued support of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. If you're not already following us on social media, we'd love for you to stop by and say hello! It's a great way to stay connected, uplift each other, and see the heart of our community in action. Each week, we host regular features like our **Warrior & Supporter Wednesday Check-In** and **R.E.D. Friday** to remember everyone deployed.

These moments give us space to share, reflect, and support one another, whether you've worn the uniform or stood beside someone who has. Here are a few standout posts from our Facebook page that you may have missed:

Respectfully,
Beth Bucek

Social Media Director
Military Order of the Purple Heart
socialmedia@purpleheart.org
[931-220-0122](tel:931-220-0122) (Call or Text)



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Shared photos



The three photos above were shared by Dale P Zahn

The Arizona Republic
Tue. Aug 14, 1951 Page 1

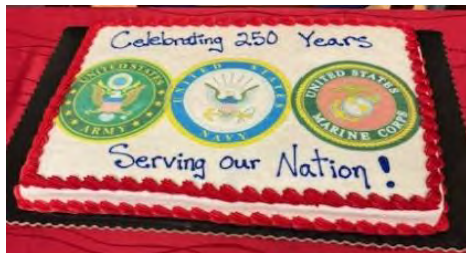


Convention Planners Officers of the Military Order of the Purple Heart go over last minute plans for their annual national convention in Hotel Westward Ho beginning Tuesday. At left is John D. Goodin, Johnson City, Tenn., national commander. Victor Kubly, North Grafton, Mass., senior vice-commander, is at the typewriter, flanked by Ned Doty, 2018 N. 11th St., convention secretary-treasurer. The convention will continue through Saturday.—(Republic Staff Photo)

Shared by: John R. Moore (National Convention Phoenix AZ 1951)



Shared by: Mike Piccone; Our service for two of our Brothers, Cliff Welding and Stanley Green 2/17 Air Cav; Phan Thiet. Cliff was the pilot, Stan was observer.



Golf Anyone?

If you are a golfer, you will find this interesting. If you're not a golfer, go ahead and read it for its educational value about golfers.

Phillip E. "Skipper" Young, a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, founded Titleist in 1932. When playing a round of golf with his dentist, Young missed a sure putt that seemed to be caused by the weight of the ball.

He then asked his dentist friend to X-ray the ball and the film showed that the rubber core was off center. After this initial discovery, Young took X-rays of more golf balls and found that most were poorly

constructed with off center cores and prone to erratic shots. This inspired Young to produce his own line of golf balls, which would become known as Titleist.

1930: Young developed a machine that could uniformly wind rubber string around a rubber core, making a "dead center" golf ball. He named the ball "Titleist," noting it was the "winner" of the quest to create the best for the game.

1935: The golf division of the Acushnet Process Company produced the Titleist golf ball which had consistently been the company's most successful product

1948: Introduced "Dynamite Thread" to increase the yardage of their balls.

1949: Titleist became the most used ball at the U.S. Open Tournament.

1976: Titleist was purchased by American Brands (now known as Fortune Brands).

1985: Fortune Brands sold off the Acushnet Company's Acushnet Rubber division, which was Acushnet's original business (circa early 1900s).

2002: Titleist reached the \$1 billion mark in annual revenues.

December 8, 2010: Fortune Brands announced that it would soon sell or spin off Titleist and some other brands.

May 20, 2011: It was then announced that a Korean group associated with Fila Korea,

Ltd. and Mirae Asset Private Equity would purchase Acushnet for \$1.23 billion in cash.

Acushnet employs roughly 3000 people in Massachusetts, making it one of the largest employers in the region. It is headquartered in Fairhaven, Massachusetts alongside its Packing and Distribution Center about three miles south of its original location. They also have two golf ball manufacturing plants and an R&D Technology

Center located in the New Bedford Industrial Park, as well as a Custom Golf Ball plant located in New Bedford. And all of this due to a missed putt.. and a lot of blood sweat and tears, persistence, & dedication to making things happen!

GOLF NOTES:

Golf balls are like eggs - they're white, they're sold by the dozen, and a week later you have to buy more.

It's amazing how a golfer who never helps with house or yard work will replace his divots, repair his ball marks, and rake his sand traps.

Did you ever notice that it's a lot easier to get up at 6:00 a.m. to play golf than at 10:00 to go to church?

It takes longer to become good at golf than it does brain surgery. On the other hand, you seldom get to ride around in a cart, drink beer and eat hot dogs while performing brain surgery.

A good drive on the 18th hole has stopped many a golfer from giving up the game.

A good golf partner is one who's slightly worse than you.

The rake is always in the other trap.

If there's a storm rolling in, you'll be having the game of your life.

If your opponent has trouble remembering whether he shot a six or a seven, he probably shot an eight

Golf appeals to the child in all of us. This is proven by our frequent inability to count past the number 5.

It's easy to keep your ball in the fairway, if you don't care which fairway.

If profanity had any influence on the flight of a ball, most everyone would play better.

The greatest sound in golf is the "Whoosh, Whoosh, Whoosh" of your opponent's club as he hurls it across the fairway.

A recent survey shows that of all jobs, caddies live the longest. They get plenty of fresh air and exercise, and if there's ever a medical emergency, a doctor is always nearby.

It's difficult to decide which is more stressful - hitting 3 off the tee or lining up your 4th putt.

With practice and strength training you can

easily get more distance off your shank.

The only sure way to get a par is to leave a 4-foot birdie putt 2 inches from the hole.

Nothing straightens out a nasty slice like a sharp dogleg to the right.

Golden Rule: Never wash your ball on the tee of a water hole.

No matter how badly you are playing, it's always possible to get worse.

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Key Dates and Military Activities

Jul 4 th	Independence Day
Jul 4 th	US PHS Commissioned Corps Birthday 1889
Jul 13 th	Mother's Day
Jul 25 th	National Hire A Vet Day
Jul 28 th	National Buffalo Soldier's Day
Jul 29 th	National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
Aug 1 st	Air Force Day - 1947
Aug 4 th	Coast Guard Birthday – 1790
Aug 7 th	National Purple Heart Day
Aug 10 th	Agent Orange Awareness Day
Aug 10 th	Department of Defense Birthday – 1949
Aug 16 th	National Airborne Day
Aug 29 th	Marine Forces Reserve Birthday – 1916
Sep	National Suicide Prevention Month
Sep 1 st	Labor Day

Celebrating the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Birthday

Each year, the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps marks its official birthday on **January 4th**—a celebration of one of the nation's eight uniformed services, with a mission focused not on warfare, but on *protecting, promoting, and advancing the health and safety of the American people*.

A Uniformed Service with a Unique Mission

While often less visible than their

counterparts in the armed forces, officers of the USPHS Commissioned Corps wear the uniform proudly and serve on the front lines of America's public health challenges. Whether deployed in response to natural disasters, pandemics, or humanitarian missions, these professionals are military-trained and medically focused.

Established formally in **1889**, but with roots tracing back to 1798, the USPHS Commissioned Corps is comprised of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, engineers, veterinarians, scientists, and other healthcare professionals who stand ready to respond wherever they're needed—domestically or internationally.

Serving the Nation in Crisis

USPHS officers have responded to nearly every major health emergency in recent memory—from the **Ebola outbreak** in West Africa to **COVID-19** deployments across the United States. In the wake of hurricanes, wildfires, or tribal health crises, USPHS personnel often arrive as the federal government's healthcare first responders. During the COVID-19 pandemic, thousands were mobilized to support overwhelmed hospitals, administer vaccines, and manage logistics for national relief efforts.

Standing Shoulder to Shoulder with the Military

Though not a branch of the Department of Defense, USPHS officers work closely with their military counterparts. They serve alongside the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard in joint humanitarian and

health missions, and many are embedded in federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Prisons, Indian Health Service, and CDC.

Their work may not involve bullets or battlefields, but it is combat in a different form—a battle against disease, trauma, and inequity.

Recognizing a Legacy of Sacrifice

Like other uniformed services, the USPHS Commissioned Corps has its share of sacrifice. Officers have perished while deployed to combat zones, disaster zones, and disease zones. In 2020, the Purple Heart Magazine recognized the awarding of the Purple Heart to **USPHS officers embedded in combat theaters** in support of military health operations—reminders that these officers serve with courage under fire.

Honoring Their Service

As we celebrate the USPHS Commissioned Corps birthday this January 4th, let us take a moment to honor their distinct and indispensable contribution to our national health and security. Their dedication to service—often far from the spotlight—demonstrates the shared values that unite all uniformed services: duty, honor, and country.

National Hire a Veteran Day:

Unlocking Opportunity, Honoring Service

July 25th marks **National Hire a Veteran Day**, a powerful call to action for employers across the nation to recognize the

unmatched value that Veterans bring to the civilian workforce. Founded in 2017 by Marine Corps Veteran Dan Caporale, this day isn't about symbolism—it's about action. It's about giving those who have served the tools, trust, and opportunities they've earned.

Why Hire a Veteran?

Veterans are more than their uniforms and medals. They are trained leaders, disciplined team players, problem solvers, and professionals who have worked in high-pressure environments where failure was not an option. Many have held security clearances, managed multimillion-dollar operations, or led troops through complex logistical and humanitarian missions. Those are not just military skills—they're assets in any workplace.

For recipients of the Purple Heart, the transition to civilian life can come with additional challenges—physical, emotional, and logistical. But their resilience, adaptability, and loyalty remain unwavering. Hiring a Purple Heart recipient is not an act of charity; it's an investment in excellence, in character, and in proven commitment.

Breaking Down Barriers

Despite their strengths, Veterans often face barriers when reentering the workforce—misunderstandings about military experience, lack of corporate networks, or gaps in formal credentials. National Hire a Veteran Day is a reminder for employers to look beyond job titles and see potential. It's also a reminder for Veterans to stand tall

and know their worth.

Organizations like the **Department of Labor’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS)**, **Hire Heroes USA**, and **Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)** under the VA offer tools to bridge the gap between service and civilian success. Many states also operate **Veteran Employment Centers** to support both job seekers and hiring managers.

What You Can Do

- **Employers:** Review your hiring practices. Consider translating military occupational specialties into job qualifications. Join initiatives like the **Veteran Employment Pledge** or **DoD SkillBridge Program**.
- **Veterans:** Tap into transition programs, refine your résumé, and connect with mentors. Your experience matters.
- **Communities:** Promote businesses that actively hire Veterans and advocate for inclusive hiring policies.

More Than a Job

To a Veteran, a job is more than a paycheck—it’s purpose, belonging, and stability. For Purple Heart recipients, many of whom have faced the consequences of combat head-on, meaningful employment can be a key part of recovery and reintegration.

On **National Hire a Veteran Day**, let’s move beyond thanking Veterans for their service

and start showing it—by hiring them, empowering them, and welcoming them into the heart of American enterprise.

National Buffalo Soldiers Day

Honoring National Buffalo Soldiers Day: Courage Beyond the Battlefield

By [Author Name]

July 28th is recognized each year as **National Buffalo Soldiers Day**, honoring the legacy of the African American soldiers who served with valor and distinction following the Civil War. These men—many of whom were former slaves—helped shape the frontier, safeguard settlers, and uphold the ideals of duty and service in the face of discrimination, hardship, and historical invisibility.

Who Were the Buffalo Soldiers?

In 1866, Congress established six all-Black regiments: the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st Infantry. These units were later reorganized into the **24th and 25th Infantry Regiments** and the **9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments**. The nickname “Buffalo Soldiers” was reportedly given to them by Native American tribes who saw in these men the same fierce spirit and rugged endurance of the buffalo. The name stuck—and was worn with pride.

Buffalo Soldiers served across the American West, protecting settlers, building roads and infrastructure, and engaging in battles that helped define the boundaries and identity of

the growing United States. But their service did not end there.

A Legacy of Continued Service

Buffalo Soldiers went on to serve in the **Spanish-American War, Philippine-American War, World War I, and World War II**. Despite being relegated to segregated units and often denied recognition or advancement, their record of bravery, professionalism, and patriotism stands among the finest in military history.

Many modern-day African American service members trace a legacy of pride back to these units. In 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981, desegregating the Armed Forces—but it was the decades of steadfast service by Black units like the Buffalo Soldiers that laid the foundation.

Remembering Their Sacrifice

While Buffalo Soldiers may not be widely remembered for receiving the Purple Heart, many of these warriors were wounded or killed in service long before adequate recognition or recording systems were in place. Their sacrifices remain woven into the American story—quiet, dignified, and deserving of honor.

In 1992, General Colin Powell—then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the first African American to hold that position—dedicated a monument to the Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. It was a fitting tribute from a man who had walked through doors first opened

by their courage.

Preserving the Memory

Today, Buffalo Soldier organizations, museums, and reenactment groups across the country keep the story alive. National Buffalo Soldiers Day serves as a reminder not just of their history, but of the continuing need to recognize contributions that have too often been left out of textbooks and ceremonies.

As members of the Purple Heart community, we understand the meaning of service under fire—both literal and symbolic. The Buffalo Soldiers endured both. Their story is a cornerstone in the edifice of American military history.

A Final Salute

On July 28th, let us salute the Buffalo Soldiers—soldiers who rode on horseback across vast, untamed landscapes and into the annals of American valor. Let their perseverance, loyalty, and legacy inspire a new generation to serve with honor and demand justice with dignity.

National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day: 72 Years of Courage, Commitment, and an Unbroken Alliance

By [Author Name]

A Date Worth Remembering — July 27

Every summer, the nation pauses on **July 27** to mark **National Korean War Veterans**

Armistice Day, remembering the moment in 1953 when the guns fell silent on the Korean Peninsula and honoring the Americans who fought there. In his most recent proclamation, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. called on all citizens to “reflect on the strength, sacrifices, and sense of duty” of those who served—a reminder that the so-called “Forgotten War” must never be forgotten. [presidency.ucsb.edu](https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu)

The War and Its Human Cost

From 1950-1953, more than **1.8 million** U.S. service members deployed to Korea. The price was steep: **36,574** Americans were killed and over **118,000** were wounded badly enough to earn the Purple Heart—testimony to brutal mountain fighting, sub-zero winters, and close-quarters engagements from the Pusan Perimeter to the Chosin Reservoir. [medalsoftamerica.com](https://www.medalsoftamerica.com)

Why the Armistice Still Matters

Unlike most U.S. wars, Korea ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. That uneasy cease-fire has lasted 72 years, upheld in no small part by the steadfast U.S.–Republic of Korea alliance—an alliance “forged in bravery and sanctified by sacrifice,” as the 2024 proclamation notes. [presidency.ucsb.edu](https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu)

A Legacy Carved in Stone

On **July 27, 2022**, thousands of surviving veterans and Gold Star families gathered on the National Mall for the dedication of the **Wall of Remembrance**, a new addition to the Korean War Veterans Memorial etched

with the names of 36,634 U.S. service members and 7,174 KATUSA soldiers who gave their lives. [koreanwarvetsmemorial.org](https://www.koreanwarvetsmemorial.org) The wall ensures that future generations can see, in granite and light, the cost of a freedom still enjoyed by tens of millions of Koreans today.

The Purple Heart Connection

Purple Heart recipients of the Korean War span every branch and background—infantrymen who held the line at Heartbreak Ridge, Navy corpsmen who braved incoming fire to treat the wounded, Air Force pilots shot down over MiG Alley, and Marines who battled out of Chosin’s frozen cauldron. Their injuries, often endured in silence afterward, are a solemn strand in the fabric of our Order.

“Forgotten” No More — How You Can Honor Them

- **Share their stories.** Interview Korean War vets in your community and submit their oral histories to the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.
- **Visit the memorial.** If you find yourself in Washington, D.C., walk the Wall of Remembrance and leave a small American flag or flower.
- **Fly the flag.** The Presidential proclamation invites all Americans to display the U.S. flag on July 27 in tribute.
- **Advocate for POW/MIA accounting.** More than 7,500 U.S. personnel

remain unaccounted for; support ongoing recovery missions until every family has answers.

A Closing Salute

They fought in a war without victory parades, then came home to build lives in quiet dignity. On this National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day—72 years later—we salute their resilience, honor their sacrifices, and pledge that, within the pages of **Purple Heart Magazine**, their war will remain anything but forgotten.

Air Force Day - 1947

Air Force Day: Honoring the Skyward Legacy of America's Airmen

Each year on **August 1st**, we commemorate **Air Force Day**, a date established in 1947 to recognize the aerial achievements and unmatched contributions of the United States Air Force. Though the holiday is no longer officially observed by the Department of Defense, it remains an important moment to reflect on the history, heroism, and evolution of America's air power—and to honor the men and women who have soared into danger in defense of our freedom.

A Day Born in the Jet Age

Air Force Day was first declared by President **Harry S. Truman** on August 1, 1947, to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Aeronautical Division of the U.S. Army Signal Corps—the earliest forerunner of the Air

Force. Just weeks later, on **September 18, 1947**, the Air Force became an independent branch of the military under the newly formed Department of Defense, forever changing the shape and strategy of American warfare.

Air Force Day was intended to celebrate this new frontier in military operations and to honor those pioneering aviators, engineers, and support crews who took America's fight from the trenches to the clouds.

From Biplanes to Bombers: A Legacy of Service

From the dogfights of **World War I** to the strategic bombing campaigns of **World War II**, from Cold War deterrence missions to modern drone warfare and space operations, the United States Air Force has remained on the leading edge of innovation and national defense.

Airmen have flown over Normandy, Berlin, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and countless other fronts—often in hostile skies and under enemy fire. Many paid the ultimate price; thousands were wounded in action and have since become part of the Purple Heart legacy.

The Purple Heart and the Blue Uniform

Among the many recipients of the Purple Heart are **Air Force pilots, loadmasters, combat controllers, and para-rescue specialists** who were wounded while evacuating the wounded, delivering vital supplies under fire, or taking part in rescue and close air support missions.

The courage of these airmen is often performed at high speed and high altitude—but never out of reach of our gratitude.

Continuing the Mission in the 21st Century

Today's Air Force is more than fighters and bombers. It includes **cyber warriors, space operations, intelligence analysts, and global mobility teams** who respond at a moment's notice. Whether flying into combat zones, delivering humanitarian aid, or defending American satellites in orbit, the U.S. Air Force remains mission-ready and globally engaged.

Its guiding values—**Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do**—mirror those of every Purple Heart recipient.

A Day to Reflect and Salute

Though Air Force Day is no longer an official federal holiday, it endures in spirit. Air Force installations and veterans' groups across the country often mark the occasion with flyovers, ceremonies, and moments of remembrance.

As members of the Purple Heart community, we take this opportunity to thank our Air Force brothers and sisters—past and present—for standing guard in the skies, often at great personal cost.

On **August 1st**, raise your eyes to the heavens and offer a silent salute to those who have served with wings on their chest and valor in their hearts.

Coast Guard Birthday - 1790

Celebrating the U.S. Coast Guard Birthday: 234 Years of Service and Sacrifice

Every year on **August 4th**, America celebrates the **birthday of the United States Coast Guard**, honoring a branch of service that predates the U.S. Navy and continues to play a vital role in national defense, law enforcement, and lifesaving missions. From icy northern seas to hurricane-ravaged coastlines, the Coast Guard has served with valor, often underrecognized but never undaunted.

A Legacy from the Founding Fathers

The Coast Guard's origins date back to **August 4, 1790**, when President **George Washington** signed legislation establishing the **Revenue Cutter Service**, the nation's first maritime law enforcement agency. Tasked with preventing smuggling and enforcing tariffs, the Service quickly became the nation's frontline at sea.

In **1915**, the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service to form what we now know as the United States Coast Guard—an agile, multi-mission force that operates under both the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of the Navy during wartime.

Always Ready: "Semper Paratus"

The Coast Guard motto—**"Semper Paratus," meaning "Always Ready"**—is more than just a phrase; it's a lived commitment. Coast Guardsmen have served in **every major conflict** since the War of 1812, including both World Wars, Vietnam, Iraq, and

Afghanistan. During World War II alone, over 240,000 personnel served in the Coast Guard, including on transport ships, patrol boats, and landing craft during the D-Day invasion.

Their mission spans **search and rescue, drug interdiction, maritime law enforcement, environmental protection, port security, and national defense**. And often, these operations bring Coast Guard members face-to-face with peril.

The Purple Heart Connection

While many Americans may not associate the Coast Guard with combat, the branch has suffered significant losses and injuries during wartime and high-risk peacetime missions. Coast Guardsmen have earned the **Purple Heart** in theaters of war and during rescue operations gone wrong.

From Normandy to the Persian Gulf, from daring rescues in Arctic storms to facing down armed smugglers, the Coast Guard's role is as dangerous as it is essential.

Celebrating the Unsung Heroes

On their birthday, we salute not just the historic legacy of the Coast Guard, but the quiet professionalism of those currently serving. These men and women train daily to save lives, stop threats before they reach our shores, and provide humanitarian aid when disasters strike—often without fanfare, and always with courage.

As members of the Purple Heart community, we recognize the sacrifices made by all who wear the uniform—regardless of branch or

battlefield.

How to Honor the Coast Guard's Birthday

- **Fly the Flag:** Show your support by flying the American flag or the Coast Guard ensign on August 4.
- **Visit a Local Station or Museum:** Many Coast Guard bases and maritime museums offer public tours or events.
- **Share a Story:** Know a Coast Guard veteran? Share their story online or in your local community.
- **Support Coast Guard Charities:** Organizations like the Coast Guard Foundation offer support to service members and their families.

On August 4th, let's lift our voices and our gratitude to honor the guardians of our coastlines and the protectors of our maritime freedom. Happy Birthday, United States Coast Guard—Semper Paratus.

National Purple Heart Day



National Purple Heart Day: Honoring the Wounded, Preserving the Legacy

Each year on **August 7th**, Americans pause to observe **National Purple Heart Day**—a solemn occasion to honor the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who were wounded or killed in action. For recipients, their families, and

those who wear the medal with quiet pride, this day is more than symbolic—it is personal, powerful, and deeply patriotic.

A Medal Born of Merit

The Purple Heart traces its origins to **General George Washington**, who established the **Badge of Military Merit** on **August 7, 1782**, during the Revolutionary War. It was awarded for “any singularly meritorious action” and is considered the first military decoration made available to common soldiers.

Though it fell into disuse, the concept was revived in **1932**, on the bicentennial of Washington’s birth, when the modern Purple Heart medal was officially created. Since then, it has become one of the most recognized and respected symbols of military sacrifice.

More Than a Medal

Unlike awards given for heroism or valor, the **Purple Heart is earned in blood**. It is presented to those who have been **wounded or killed by enemy action**, making it the only U.S. military award that requires no recommendation or citation—only proof of sacrifice.

For many recipients, the Purple Heart is a quiet companion. It represents pain endured, lives changed, and brothers and sisters lost. It also stands as a badge of resilience—a reminder that despite wounds seen or unseen, they continued to serve with honor.

Remembering All Who Sacrificed

Since 1932, over **1.8 million** Purple Hearts have been awarded, spanning every conflict from **World War I** to today’s global fight against terrorism. Some were earned in the mud of the trenches, others in dense jungles, deserts, or city streets.

Each one tells a story.

- Of the young Marine hit by shrapnel in Fallujah.
- The Army medic wounded while treating the fallen.
- The sailor injured during the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- The airman shot down over Korea.
- The Vietnam Veteran still carrying fragments of war, decades later.

And yes—some of those honored never returned home. For Gold Star families, the Purple Heart is a sacred keepsake, a symbol of valor that outlives the fallen.

How to Observe National Purple Heart Day

- **Fly the American flag** in honor of all Purple Heart recipients.
- **Attend or host a local remembrance ceremony** through veteran organizations or civic groups.
- **Share the story of a Purple Heart recipient**—whether your own or that of someone you know.

- **Support organizations** like the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the MOPH Fund, which continue to serve wounded veterans and their families.
- **Wear purple** or display the Purple Heart symbol to raise awareness and spark conversation.

A Final Reflection

National Purple Heart Day is not a celebration—it is a remembrance. A chance for the nation to recognize those who have given more than most can comprehend. And for Purple Heart recipients, it is a moment to know that their wounds, their sacrifices, and their service have not gone unnoticed.

On **August 7th**, we remember. We honor. And we promise never to forget.

Sidebar: The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

“Combat Wounded Veterans Helping Veterans”

Founded in **1932**, the **Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)** is the only Congressionally chartered veterans service organization composed entirely of **combat-**

wounded veterans who have received the Purple Heart medal.

MOPH serves as both a **fraternal and service organization**, committed to:

- **Advocating** for veterans’ rights and benefits at the federal, state, and local levels.
- **Assisting** all veterans (not just Purple Heart recipients) with VA claims and appeals.
- **Promoting patriotism** through community outreach, school programs, and ROTC recognition.
- **Providing support** to combat-wounded veterans through programs addressing homelessness, suicide prevention, disaster relief, and scholarships for their families.

With Chapters across the nation, MOPH continues its original mission: to honor the sacrifice of those wounded in combat by **supporting their recovery and recognizing their continued service to others.**

To learn more or become involved, visit: www.purpleheart.org or the fundraising arm at www.mophfund.org.

In honor of Purple Heart Day

we've compiled some famous people who have received the Purple Heart.



Dan Blocker (Hoss in *Bonanza*) Blocker was drafted into the United States Army during the Korean War. He had basic training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. In Korea, he served as an infantry sergeant in F Company, 2nd Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, from December 1951 to August 1952. He received a Purple Heart for wounds in combat.



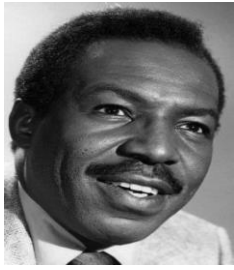
Lee Marvin. Marvin enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on August 12, 1942. Before finishing the School of Infantry, he served as a quartermaster. Marvin served in the 4th Marine Division as a scout sniper in the Pacific Theater during World War II, including assaults on Kwajalein, Eniwetok, and Saipan-Tinian. While serving as a member of Item ("I") Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines, 4th Marine Division, Marvin participated in 21 amphibious assaults on Japanese-held islands. He was wounded in action on June 18, 1944, while taking part in the assault on Mount Tapochau during the Battle of Saipan, during which most of his company became casualties. He was hit by machine gun fire, which severed his sciatic nerve, and then was hit in the foot by a sniper. After over a year of medical treatment in naval hospitals, Marvin was given a medical discharge with the rank of Private First Class. He previously held the rank of Corporal but had been demoted for troublemaking. Marvin's decorations include the Purple Heart Medal.



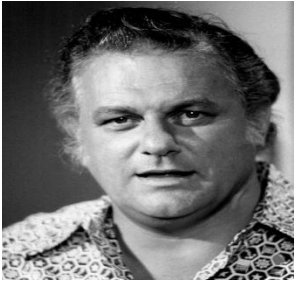
Russell Johnson (Professor in *Gilligan's Island*) On March 4, 1945, while flying as a navigator in a B-25 with the 100th Bombardment Squadron, 42nd Bombardment Group, 13th Air Force, Johnson's B-25 and two others were shot down during a low-level bombing and strafing run against Japanese military targets in the Philippine Islands. The B-25s encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire, and all three had to ditch in the sea off Zamboanga. Johnson broke both his ankles in the landing, and his bomber's co-pilot was killed. Johnson received a Purple Heart for his injuries



George Clifton James. James played the comic-relief role of Louisiana Sheriff J.W. Pepper in the James Bond films *Live and Let Die* (1973) and *The Man with the Golden Gun* (1974) James was a decorated World War II United States Army veteran. He served as an infantry platoon sergeant with Co. "A" 163rd Infantry, 41st Division. He served forty-two months in the South Pacific from January 1942 until August 1945. His decorations include the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and two Purple Hearts.



James McEachin. McEachin served in the United States Army before, and then during, the Korean War. Serving in King Company, 9th Infantry Regiment (United States), 2nd Infantry Division, he was wounded (nearly fatally) in an ambush and nearly left for dead. McEachin was one of only two soldiers to survive the ambush.



Charles Edward Durning. Durning served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was drafted at age 20. Durning landed in France as part of an artillery unit after the D-Day invasion of Normandy. After being wounded by a German anti-personnel mine in the bocage, he spent six months recovering. Durning was reassigned to the 398th Infantry Regiment with the 100th Infantry Division, and participated in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. He was discharged with the rank of private first class on January 30, 1946. For his valor and the wounds he received during the war, Durning was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts.



Frank Sutton, an American actor best known for his role as Gunnery Sergeant Vince Carter on the CBS television series "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.", enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. He served in the South Pacific, taking part in fourteen assault landings, and was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. After being honorably discharged as a sergeant, he began his acting career on stage



Dale Dye. Dye founded Warriors, Inc. The company specializes in training actors in war films to portray their roles realistically, and provides research, planning, staging and on-set consultation for directors and other film-production personnel. His company is the top military consultant to Hollywood. DYE work with the movie Platoon's, Dye played a role in another Vietnam War movie, Casualties of War, and also prominently appeared as Colonel Robert Sink in the HBO miniseries Band of Brothers, on which his company also worked.

DYE enlisted in the U.S. Marines in January 1964. Officers noticed his keen observational skills and literary interest, and encouraged him to reclassify as a combat correspondent. Dye developed an immense respect for the "grunts" who took the brunt of any action. Dye was wounded during the Tet Offensive in 1968 and had to recuperate in a rear area.

During the next week, the battalion engaged in a number of firefights with units of the North

Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN). On March 18, 1968, Dye replaced an assistant machine gunner who had been killed. Although he was wounded, Dye exposed himself to intense enemy fire to retrieve ammunition for the machine gun to help hold off PAVN soldiers during an all-night firefight. During other engagements, he exposed himself to enemy fire to rescue several wounded Marines and a Navy corpsman. As a result of his actions, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for heroism and three Purple Hearts.



Jack Palance. Palance enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces during World War II, and was trained as the pilot of a B-24 Liberator bomber. He suffered head injuries and burns during a 1943 crash; he was discharged in 1944 after undergoing reconstructive surgery, which contributed to his distinctively gaunt appearance and he was awarded a Purple Heart.



James Arness—Best-known for portraying Matt Dillon in *Gunsmoke*, actor James Arness (1923-2011) earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart following time served in World War II. He was severely injured in his right leg during the Battle of Anzio, which caused him to suffer from chronic leg pain the rest of his life.



Charles Bronson—American actor Charles Bronson (1921-2003) was known for being a hero and a vigilante on screen and in real life. In 1943, he enlisted in the Air Force and, with the 39th Bombardment Group, flew 25 missions and sustained multiple wounds that were later recognized with a Purple Heart.



James Garner—Actor, producer, and voice artist James Garner (1928-2014) was best-known for playing Bret Maverick in *Maverick* and Jim Rockford in *The Rockford Files*. But before he was a Hollywood star, he served in the Army National Guard during the Korean War. He was awarded a Purple Heart and several other military decorations after sustaining injuries from a mortar round and friendly fire.



Rod Serling—Screenwriter and playwright Rod Serling (1924-1975) left a lasting impression on the legacy of television with his science-fiction smash hit *The Twilight Zone*. He is one of the most decorated Hollywood figures, having received a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and the Philippine Liberation Medal, among other military decorations. Serling was awarded the decoration after he was wounded in combat in the Philippines.



Oliver Stone—Prominent writer and filmmaker Oliver Stone, writer of *Scarface*, used his military career to inspire his professional work. Stone rose to prominence after writing and directing a trilogy of films based on the Vietnam War, beginning with the revered anti-war film *Platoon*. In 1967, Stone enlisted in the Army and requested combat duty in Vietnam. He was awarded a Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, and others.



Telly Savalas. Savalas was drafted into the United States Army in 1941. Savalas served in Company C, 12th Medical Training Battalion, 4th Medical Training Regiment at Camp Pickett, Virginia from 1941 to 1943. He was discharged from the Army with the rank of corporal in 1943 after being severely injured in a car accident. Savalas spent more than a year recuperating in hospital with a broken pelvis, sprained ankle, and concussion. Since Telly was injured in action and was subsequently awarded the Purple Heart.



Art Carney. Carney was drafted into the United States Army in 1943 as an infantryman and machine gun crewman during World War II. During the Battle of Normandy serving in the 28th Infantry Division, he was wounded in the leg by shrapnel and walked with a limp for the rest of his life. As a result of the injury, his right leg was $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch (2 cm) shorter than his left. Carney was awarded a Purple Heart.



Al Matthews. AL was a member of the United States Marine Corps who graduated at Parris Island on May 25, 1966, and served during the Vietnam War. AL stated: I spent six years in the United States Marine Corps; I hold thirteen combat awards and decorations, including two purple hearts. I was the first Black Marine in the 1st Marine Division in Vietnam to be meritoriously promoted to the rank of sergeant. He Played in *Aliens*



John F. Kennedy—President John F. Kennedy (1917-1963) is the only president to have received a Purple Heart. He received the Navy's highest honors after bravely contributing as a gunboat pilot during World War II. While volunteering for motorized torpedo boat duty, the Japanese attacked Kennedy's boat, plunging many of his shipmates overboard into a sea of burning oil. Kennedy dove into the waters to rescue three of his fellow shipmates and swallowed some of the water. The future president would later blame the incident for his lifelong stomach problems.



John McCain—The military record of Arizona Senator John McCain (1936-2018) has been widely revered. While serving in the Vietnam War with the Navy, the former presidential hopeful received the Silver Star, two Legion of Merits, the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Bronze Star Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, the Prisoner of War Medal and two Purple Hearts. In October of 1967, McCain was captured by the North Vietnamese and held as a Prisoner of War until 1973. He returned home with serious, lifelong physical disabilities as a result of his time served.



Audie L. Murphy—As one of the most decorated soldiers of World War II, Audie Murphy (1925-1971) received every one of the Army's combat awards for valor, including the Medal of Honor for single-handedly holding off an entire company of German soldiers in France and then spearheading a successful counterattack. He received three Purple Hearts during his time of service. After the war, Murphy went on to become a successful actor, starring in more than 40 feature films, until he died in a plane crash in 1971.



Colin Powell—Former Secretary of State and Army Four-Star General Colin Powell earned many medals, ribbons, and foreign decorations during his lengthy military career. Powell served in Vietnam, where he was awarded a Purple Heart following his first combat tour. When his command helicopter crashed, Powell rescued several of his comrades from the flames, including World War II Medal of Honor Recipient Jack Treadwell. The rescue earned Powell the Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy.



Lewis "Chesty" Puller—Chesty Puller (1898-1971) was a Marine Corps Lieutenant General who earned hero status after fighting off guerillas in Haiti and Nicaragua. For his service in World War II and the Korean War, Puller became the most decorated Marine in U.S. military history. He received five Navy Crosses and one Army Distinguished Service Cross, in addition to one Purple Heart. Some believe that Puller should be awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

We may not have found everyone who has a Purple Heart, but most of us will remember the people on the list above.

Here is a link to some more Famous Purple Heart Recipients:



As August 7 comes around, we can all remember the sacrifices of the brave men and women who answered the call and served our country. Let this be a reminder of those who were there.

Agent Orange Awareness Day

**Agent Orange Awareness Day:
Remembering the Invisible Wounds of War**
By [Author Name]

August 10th marks **Agent Orange Awareness Day**, a solemn occasion to honor and remember the Vietnam Veterans who were exposed to the toxic herbicide known as **Agent Orange**—a chemical that left a legacy of suffering long after the last shots of the war were fired. For many Purple Heart recipients who served in Vietnam, the wounds of combat were visible. The effects of Agent Orange were not—but they were no less devastating.

What Was Agent Orange?

Agent Orange was one of several “rainbow herbicides” used by the U.S. military between **1961 and 1971** as part of **Operation Ranch Hand**, a mission to remove jungle cover used by enemy forces and destroy food crops that sustained them. It was a powerful defoliant, sprayed from aircraft, helicopters, trucks, and handheld sprayers over millions of acres in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

The problem? Agent Orange contained **dioxin**, a highly toxic compound linked to a wide range of serious health conditions.

A Hidden Enemy

Exposure to Agent Orange has been connected to **numerous cancers, Parkinson’s disease, type 2 diabetes, ischemic heart disease, neurological disorders, and birth defects in the children of exposed Veterans**. Yet for decades, Veterans were forced to fight for recognition of their suffering.

It wasn’t until **1991** that Congress passed the **Agent Orange Act**, enabling the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to offer compensation for certain diseases presumed to be connected to exposure. Even today, new conditions are still being added to the VA’s list as science catches up with what Veterans have known for years.

A Legacy Still Felt

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, more than **2.6 million American Veterans** may have been exposed to Agent Orange. Many of them are now in their 70s or 80s. Some have already passed on—never

receiving justice, treatment, or even acknowledgment.

For Purple Heart recipients, Agent Orange sometimes followed wounds sustained in combat with years of chronic illness, adding to the burden of service long after the war ended. In some cases, surviving family members have become caretakers, advocates, and even mourners for a battle that never made the headlines.

Why August 10th?

August 10, 1961, marks the date the first aerial herbicide mission involving Agent Orange was conducted in Vietnam.

Designating this date as **Agent Orange Awareness Day** gives Veterans and families a national day to reflect, remember, and advocate.

What You Can Do

- **Educate yourself and others:** Learn about the long-term effects of Agent Orange exposure and share credible information within your community.
- **Support Vietnam Veterans:** Many are still navigating healthcare, disability benefits, and emotional trauma tied to their exposure.
- **Honor their struggle:** Attend local ceremonies or host a moment of silence on August 10.
- **Advocate for research and accountability:** Support legislation and organizations that push for expanded care, recognition, and

survivor benefits.

Closing Thoughts

Agent Orange didn't care about medals or heroism. It affected the courageous and the wounded alike, often striking silently, years later. On **Agent Orange Awareness Day**, we honor the persistence and dignity of those who bore its burden—and recommit ourselves to ensuring their sacrifice is neither ignored nor forgotten.

Because not all wounds are visible. And not all wars end when the fighting stops.

Department of Defense Birthday – 1949

Happy Birthday to the Department of Defense: 75 Years of Unified Strength

On August 10th, we mark the official birthday of the United States Department of Defense (DoD)—established in 1949 to bring together all branches of the military under a single, unified command structure. Now in its 75th year, the DoD remains the world's largest and most powerful defense organization, guiding the missions and protecting the interests of the United States at home and abroad.

A New Era of Defense

While America has always had a strong military tradition, the world changed rapidly following World War II. The complexity of global threats and the emerging Cold War highlighted the need for a more integrated

and coordinated national defense structure. The solution came in the form of the National Security Act of 1947, which established the National Military Establishment, later renamed the Department of Defense by an amendment on August 10, 1949.

This landmark legislation united the Army, Navy, Air Force, and later the Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard (when assigned to DoD), and National Guard components under the leadership of a single civilian Secretary of Defense.

The Mission: Protect and Defend

Today, the Department of Defense's mission is clear:

"To provide the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's security."

With over 1.3 million active-duty service members, nearly 800,000 civilian employees, and over 811,000 members of the Reserve and National Guard, the DoD operates across land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace. Its reach extends to over 700 military installations in more than 80 countries.

A Purple Heart Connection

Every Purple Heart recipient has served under the Department of Defense. Whether in Vietnam, Korea, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Iraq, or peacetime missions gone awry, it is through DoD leadership that America's service members are organized, trained, equipped—and cared for when wounded.

The DoD not only commands the battlefield, but it also ensures that combat-wounded Veterans receive the recognition, rehabilitation, and respect they have earned. In partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and organizations like the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the DoD helps pave the road from battlefield to healing.

Why It Matters

The Department of Defense represents more than bureaucracy; it embodies unity. The creation of a single defense agency allowed the U.S. to face the modern world with a clear command structure and shared goals. It also ensured that the sacrifice of service members, especially those wounded or killed in action, would be backed by a nation fully organized to honor and support them.

How to Observe the DoD's Birthday

Reflect on the evolution of American military power since 1949 and the ways the DoD has safeguarded liberty.

Thank a service member or DoD civilian—the unseen architects of global stability.

Visit a military installation, museum, or memorial to better understand the depth and scope of the department's responsibilities.

Support wounded warriors through DoD-recognized charities and veteran service organizations.

On August 10th, we wish a happy 75th

birthday to the Department of Defense—a legacy of leadership, forged in unity, and powered by the service and sacrifice of all who wear the uniform.

National Airborne Day

National Airborne Day: Honoring America's Paratroopers and Their Legacy of Valor

By [Author Name]

Every year on **August 16th**, the nation celebrates **National Airborne Day**—a tribute to the elite Soldiers, Marines, and Airmen who have earned the title “Airborne.” From the first jump in 1940 to modern-day combat and peacekeeping missions, these warriors have redefined the meaning of courage by leaping into the unknown, often behind enemy lines, to fight for freedom.

The Origins of the Airborne

National Airborne Day commemorates the date—**August 16, 1940**—when **the U.S. Army conducted its first official parachute jump** as part of the test platoon at Fort Benning, Georgia. This successful jump launched the development of the United States’ airborne forces, which would soon prove their worth during **World War II**.

By the time the U.S. entered the war, airborne operations were a critical part of Allied strategy. Units like the **82nd Airborne Division**, **101st Airborne Division**, and **17th Airborne Division** would parachute into some of the most dangerous battlefields in Europe—**Normandy, Market Garden, the Battle of the Bulge**—changing the course of history.

A Brotherhood in the Sky

Airborne service is not for the faint of heart. The risks are many—injury during jumps, isolation behind enemy lines, and rapid engagements under fire. Yet the spirit of the airborne is summed up in a single word: **“All the Way!”**

Airborne troops have continued to serve in **Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Afghanistan**, and beyond—often as the tip of the spear. They arrive first, often unsupported, tasked with establishing control, gathering intelligence, or neutralizing threats. These missions come at a cost, and many of our nation’s **Purple Heart recipients** earned their wounds as members of airborne units.

A Legacy of Purple Hearts

From the icy mountains of Korea to the jungles of Vietnam and the deserts of the Middle East, airborne troops have consistently demonstrated unmatched bravery. Many of them have paid for their courage in blood. Whether they were part of a nighttime jump over Normandy or a fast-rope insertion in Afghanistan, their injuries reflect a special kind of sacrifice—one made midair, in freefall, or under fire.

The **Military Order of the Purple Heart** counts many airborne veterans among its members—those who still walk with a limp or carry scars both seen and unseen from their time in the sky.

Celebrating National Airborne Day

In **2002**, President George W. Bush

proclaimed August 16 as **National Airborne Day**, and in **2009**, the Senate passed a resolution recognizing the date annually.

Here's how you can honor the day:

- **Visit a local airborne museum or memorial**, such as the **82nd Airborne Museum** at Fort Liberty (formerly Fort Bragg).
- **Attend a jump demonstration** if available in your region.
- **Reach out to a paratrooper**—past or present—and thank them for their service.
- **Share their stories** online, in your community, or through veteran publications.
- **Display an airborne flag or unit insignia**, such as the "AA" of the 82nd or the Screaming Eagle of the 101st.

All the Way!

Airborne troops do more than jump out of airplanes; they jump into history, into chaos, and into harm's way. On **National Airborne Day**, we salute the generations of paratroopers who have shown that true courage isn't just hitting the ground running—it's jumping into danger for your country and your brothers-in-arms.

To all who have earned your wings and your Purple Heart—thank you. You went all the way.

Marine Forces Reserve Birthday – 1916

Marine Forces Reserve Birthday: A Legacy of Readiness, Service, and Sacrifice

By [Author Name]

On **August 29th**, the United States Marine Corps celebrates the birthday of the **Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES)**—an elite component of the Corps that has stood the watch for **over a century**, ready to deploy at a moment's notice in defense of the nation. These warriors are citizen-Marines, balancing civilian lives with military readiness, and many have earned the **Purple Heart** for valor and sacrifice in combat.

A Force Born from Necessity

Established by Congress on **August 29, 1916**, the Marine Corps Reserve was created to provide a trained pool of Marines who could be called upon in times of national crisis. Since then, Reserve Marines have been activated in **every major conflict**, from **World War I to the Global War on Terror**.

What began as a modest program has evolved into the **Marine Forces Reserve**, headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana, and composed of over **35,000 Reserve Marines** across more than 160 sites in the United States.

"Ready, Relevant, and Responsive"

That's the motto of today's Marine Forces Reserve—and they've lived up to it. Whether responding to natural disasters at home or deploying overseas to reinforce

active-duty units, Reserve Marines bring experience, discipline, and the ethos of the Corps wherever they go.

Reservists have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, conducted humanitarian operations in Haiti, fought in the Pacific in WWII, and landed at Inchon during the Korean War. They've earned a place in every chapter of Marine Corps history.

A Purple Heart Tradition

Many Reserve Marines have bled for this country. They've fought and been wounded alongside their active-duty counterparts in every clime and place. From a Reserve infantryman injured by an IED in Fallujah to a combat engineer hit during route clearance in Helmand Province, the Purple Heart has found its way into the hands—and hearts—of many in the Reserve ranks.

Their service reminds us that the call to duty doesn't distinguish between full-time and part-time—it only asks: **"Are you ready?"**

Celebrating the Reserve's Birthday

The Marine Forces Reserve Birthday is an opportunity to:

- **Recognize the dual-role sacrifices** of citizen-Marines and their families.
- **Visit your local Reserve Center** and learn about the Marines in your community.
- **Share the stories of Reserve Purple Heart recipients**, especially those who returned to civilian life with visible or

invisible wounds.

- **Support Reserve units** with donations, care packages, or community outreach—especially as they balance training with everyday responsibilities.

Semper Fidelis, Always

The birthday of the Marine Forces Reserve is a celebration not only of its founding, but of the enduring spirit that defines every Marine—whether they wear the uniform every day or one weekend a month.

On **August 29th**, we salute the **Reservists who answered the call**, who trained in silence and served with honor, and who, when wounded, showed the same courage and resolve that has defined the Corps for 249 years.

To every Marine Forces Reserve Purple Heart recipient—**we remember, we honor, and we thank you.**

Purple Hearts for Tower 22 Attack

[News Around the World Middle East](#)

10 New York soldiers receive Purple Heart for injuries in Tower 22 attack

Three soldiers died and dozens were wounded in the attack, many with traumatic brain injuries and concussions, when an Iranian drone destroyed a housing unit at the Jordan outpost. By [Patty Nieberg](#),

Published May 19, 2025, 1:18 PM EDT

Ten New York National Guard soldiers received Purple Hearts for injuries sustained in a 2024 Iranian-backed militia drone attack on a U.S. outpost known as Tower 22 in Jordan.



Ten New York Army National Guard Soldiers who received the Purple Heart on May 10, 2025, for their injuries in the attack on Tower 22. The Soldiers were among 14 from the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion who maintained communications equipment at the base. They are joined by their platoon leader and NCOIC at left. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sebastian Rothwyn.

On Jan. 28, 2024, a [drone struck the housing unit](#) at Tower 22 as soldiers slept. The attack killed [three Army Reserve soldiers](#) and injured dozens of other service members, including the 10 New York guardsmen.

The Pentagon has released little details about the attack, but the Purple Heart awards have given some insight into the soldiers assigned to the base and the size and scope of the attack.

Some of the New York guardsmen suffered traumatic brain injuries and concussions, according to Eric Durr, a spokesperson for the New York National Guard.

According to an [Army press release](#) on the

award, 14 New York soldiers were stationed at Tower 22 to maintain communications equipment for the base. In all, the Jordan outpost was manned by 350 service members who were focused on reconnaissance and special forces operations as part of Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S. campaign against ISIS.

Company commander for the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion Capt. Paul Kramarz said his soldiers were part of a “hand-selected team” who “would operate at the far reaches of our area of responsibility.”

After the drone hit, NY National Guard platoon leader 1st Lt. Ian Gallagher said the housing unit looked “crinkled like a soda can.” Soldiers who came out of the attack unscathed lined up to donate blood for airmen and soldiers who were badly injured.

[Read the complete article.](#)

National Officer Candidates

For National Commander

Robert Olivarez



National Commander

Patriots,

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as

your National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Over the past year, we've worked together to strengthen our mission, support our fellow combat-wounded veterans, and uphold the values that define this organization.

With your continued trust, I am humbly seeking reelection for a second term as National Commander. I remain committed to advancing our shared goals, ensuring transparency, advocating for our members, and expanding the reach and impact of our programs.

We have made great strides—but there is more to do. I look forward to the opportunity to keep serving you and building on the momentum we've created together. This past year, we've made meaningful progress—together. From forming new partnerships that strengthen our mission, to launch a podcast that amplifies our voice and stories, we've expanded our reach and impact. I'm especially proud of the strides we've made in connecting with the younger generation of Purple Heart recipients and raising greater public awareness about who we are and what we stand for. We will continue to spread awareness of the MOPH and with all this new forward momentum the MOPH will be back on top and stronger than ever!

With everything we have in the works and future events being planned I would like to rally all our patriots to be involved and to create huge lasting impacts in every community. With your continued support, I am humbly seeking reelection for a second

term. There is more work to be done—and I remain deeply committed to building on the momentum we've created, ensuring our organization continues to grow, modernize, and stand strong for all our members.

Top five achievements:

1. Legislative – Being able to bring awareness to the Veterans Affairs committee and have important issues be recognized by them.
2. Partnerships with other Veteran Organizations and the ability to have them want to work with the MOPH and bring awareness along with legislative support.
3. New Supporters, Sponsors and Donors coming to the MOPH and the MOPH Fund.
4. Audit and 990's: Two of the three have been completed; working on the last one along with PNC Ferguson and we should all be caught up.
5. Being able to get the MOPH on podcasts and interviews to help spread our reach and awareness of our great organization. And to have future interviews and podcasts in the works to help create reach and awareness to those Purple Heart recipients out there who may not know about the Order and to also help and inform those about upcoming events.

Thank you for your support, your service, and your faith in our mission.

Yours in Patriotism!

Robert Olivarez Jr

Tracey Brown Greene
National Sr Vice Commander



I stand before you today as a proud advocate for our members, a committed member with a master's degree in management and leadership and a post master's certification

in finance I could advance the Order while upholding the core values that have been established by this organization. With great honor, I announce my candidacy for National Commander.

Over the past year, as your National Senior Vice Commander, I've worked alongside Department and Region Commanders, as well as our National Commander, to push the order forward through legislative efforts and strategic partnerships. From national visits to attending events that promote Veterans, I've represented you—the Patriots of this Order—proudly, always keeping our mission at the forefront.

During my 22 years in the Army, I managed the budget of the only Camara company to the largest Logistic operations to training the Afghanistan Army on managing their budget to running their daily operations. Since 2018 I have been in the Order filling positions from Americanism officer, Suicide prevention Officer, to post Commander, to Junior Vice to Senior Vice Commander to the Department Commander of Texas to National Jr Vice Commander and now your

Senior Vice Commander. I have proudly served the members of the Order shining a light on the Order. Developing new strategies that stand out, increase production, and create a positive environment for growth and excellence. of teamwork and level requires teamwork, and together, we have become stronger. By adhering to the rules and regulations that govern us, we've been able to enhance our image and show both current and future members that our organization creates a space of peace and freedom. It's a space where we can honor the legacy of those who came before us and influence the future for Patriots, regardless of their background or previous position.

We are making strides in streamlining our reporting systems, and we're committed to ensuring that our operations run efficiently and cost-effectively, securing the future of our Order. We're becoming more relevant and offering more solutions to address the needs of the Veteran population. Our motto is simple: "We can, and We will," and our goal is to continually improve the Order.

As your National Commander, I pledge to proudly represent you with dignity, respect, and dedication. I will support our members, the Auxiliary, our staff, and their families. I will work to build relationships and promote the Order, increase involvement, and enhance our programs, all while strengthening our standing in communities across the globe.

Thank you for your support and your vote.

Yours in Patriotism,

Tracey L Brown Greene

For Senior Vice Commander

Frances Figueroa-Lowe

National Jr. Vice Commander



Patriots, Family, and Auxiliary members,

I am honored to officially announce my candidacy for the position of **National Senior Vice Commander** of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Throughout my time in the Order, I have had the distinct privilege to serve our membership at every level — Chapter, Department, Region, and National. My continued passion for our mission and my unwavering commitment to our values have guided me in every role I have held, and it is with that same dedication that I now seek to serve in this next capacity.

My goals remain simple, but vital:

- **Ensure consistent communication** across all levels of the Order
- **Make sure that critical information reaches all members** — no one should ever feel out of the loop
- **Uphold and follow the chain of command** with integrity and respect
- **Work tirelessly to secure the future of our organization**, by strengthening our foundation and embracing progress where needed

My record of MOPH service includes:

At the National level:

- *Secretary, Bylaws Committee*
- *National Veteran Advocacy Officer (2 years)*

Regional level:

- *Region IV Commander (2 terms)*

Department of North Carolina:

- *Department Commander (2 terms)*
- *Senior Vice Commander (1 term)*
- *Junior Vice Commander (1 term)*

Ft. Bragg Chapter 2226:

- *Adjutant* for the past 4 years (still serving)

I bring not only experience, but a heart for service. Every position I've held has reinforced my belief in what we do and why we do it. If elected, I will continue to put our

members first and uphold the legacy of sacrifice and brother/Sisterhood that binds us together.

I deeply appreciate the support of our members, and I always welcome the wisdom and advice of our seasoned Patriots. Your experience and insight are invaluable as we continue striving to make this organization stronger, more connected, and ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

I humbly ask for your support as we move the Order forward — united, informed, and mission-driven.

In Patriotism,

Frances Figueroa-Lowe

For National Finance Officer

Jim Anderson

National Finance Officer



Patriots, my name is James (Jim)

Anderson and I'm running for the position of National Finance Officer of the Military Order

of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc. for the year 2025-2026.

Background:

I joined the Order in 2006 and was appointed Department Adjutant for the Department of California. That was the same year that California hosted the National Convention in Los Angeles, California. I have held the position of Department Adjutant, Department Finance Officer, Department Trustee, Department Commander, Region VI Commander, and served on the National Bylaws Committee for several years.

I have an accounting/business degree, worked for a CPA firm handling individual and businesses books and tax returns. And I have owned several businesses.

In 2006 the Department decided to use QuickBooks as their accounting program and with my background in accounting and QuickBooks I helped the Department Finance Officer set up the Department books in QuickBooks.

At the National Convention in Orlando the incoming National Commander Oliverez also appointed me to Deputy National Finance Officer with the request to complete the audits of the Order.

Due to health problems NFO Rivera, I resigned as NFO, and I was elected in December of 2024 to the position of NFO.

If elected as NFO for 2025-2026 what I would like to do is work with training a member of the Order that would want to take over the position of NFO in the future. By training I'm referring to learning the internal duties of the NFO, becoming

familiar with the accounting system and what is going to be required will make the duties of the NFO easier.

If a member of the Order who has some accounting background or is an accountant knows QuickBooks and excel and would like to step into the position as NFO of the Order in the future, contact me by email or phone to discuss possibly becoming a Deputy Finance Officer of the Order, thus learning before being elected as a NFO. Someone stepping into the NFO position without knowledge of the internal working of the Order's accounting will struggle. My email is nationalfinanceofficer@purpleheart.org and my cell is 661-805-7599. Footnote I'm in California.

With my background in accounting, understanding and usage of QuickBooks, knowing the operations of the Order and having completed one audit for the Order, I'm seeking your vote to elect me as your National Finance Officer of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.

Thanks for your consideration and vote.

Jim Anderson

Women Veteran News and Issues

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dear Sister Veterans,

It's hard to believe that it's only been a little over two months since I came back into the role of Executive Director of the Center. I have so much to share with you!

But first let me wish each of our sister Veterans, whether you are mothers, grandmothers, aunties, or cherished mentors, a Very Happy Mother's Day!

What we've been doing

In March we were thrilled to partner with the Social Security Administration (SSA) for a webinar featuring SSA employee and sister Veteran, Trisha Mentzer. More than 1,000 women Veterans registered for this insightful session, where Trisha guided us on

starting a social security account online and provided an overview of SSA disability benefits and services. Our goal is to have her back to do more of these informative webinars. Stay tuned!

We conducted outreach at Women Veterans Rock! 2025 Public Policy Day on Capitol Hill. Approximately 50-60 participants attended, to include women Veterans, representatives from Veterans Service Organizations, from several sororities, and local ROTC students. Many participants were very eager to learn about services VA has available for women Veterans. Those who were familiar with CWV's work were very pleased to see that we are still working on behalf of women Veterans.

We hosted the VA Women Veteran Community Support Forum in Washington, D.C. where more than 1,000 women Veterans signed up to join in person and virtually. Secretary Collins opened the forum with [inspiring remarks](#), and shared VA's six priorities. 1) VA is putting Veterans at the center of everything the department does, focusing relentlessly on customer service and convenience. 2) VA is laser-focused on delivering timely access to care and benefits for every eligible Veteran, family member, caregiver, and survivor. 3) VA is providing Veterans with the health care choices they have earned while maintaining and improving the department's direct health care capabilities. 4) VA is challenging the status quo in order to find new and better ways of helping VA beneficiaries. 5) VA is celebrating the vast majority of employees who do a great job every day and holding

employees accountable when they fall short of the mission. 6) VA is working to do a better job reaching Veterans at risk of homelessness or suicide – especially those who have had no contact with VA.

As I stated in my remarks that day, *"The presence of the Secretary and leadership across VA amplifies our voices and highlights the importance of our issues at one of the highest levels."*

[Be sure to go back and watch his remarks.](#)



Our attendees enjoyed discussions with subject matter experts covering a range of topics including Women's Health, the Deborah Sampson Act, an overview of the Center for Minority Veterans, Memorial Affairs benefits and services, Suicide Prevention, and Filing Disability Claims. Those who attended in person had a great opportunity to network over coffee and lunch and we were so excited to have so many women take their "[I Am Not Invisible](#)" photos and a group photo with the Secretary.

We're looking forward to hosting another forum later this year, and we hope to see all of you there! So, keep an eye out.

We announced our 2025 Department of

Veterans Affairs, Center for Women Veterans Trailblazers, "*Women Veterans Forging a Path*." We had 28 this year, plus 2 who we honored Posthumously. You can see who they are on our [Facebook](#), please make sure you reach out and congratulate them on this outstanding achievement and acknowledge their hard work and dedication of service to others.

I also had the pleasure of attending the Pink and White Empowerment Luncheon hosted by the New York City Department of Veterans' Services in April. What an incredible event! It was a true honor to connect with so many amazing women Veterans. I look forward to getting out into the community more and supporting your events.

Also, in April I attended the Women's Congressional Policy Institute Annual Congressional Gala Reception and my Acting Deputy, Ana Claudio and I met with the Honorable Kay Cole James at the Working Today for a Brighter Tomorrow "Using Best Practices to Support our Veterans through proven Public Private Sector partnerships" where we discussed some great opportunities for collaborations.

Ana and I also had the distinct honor of participating in the celebration of the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in honor of the "Six Triple Eight" of World War II—the remarkable 6888th Central Postal Battalion at the U.S. Capitol.

In May we are already off and running. I've met with several key leaders to discuss future collaborations about which I am so

excited. I met with the National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinators (NASWVC) President, Hollie Scoma to work on some really impactful future collaborations. I've also met with the new Chief Officer, VHA, Office of Women's Health Dr. Sundonia Wonnum and the VA's Million Veteran Program. I can't wait to put all of our great discussions into action to better serve our sister Veterans.

Our Outreach Program Manager, Ms. Michelle Terry is providing outreach at the Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development (OTED) Augusta Veterans Expo in Augusta, Georgia now until May 15, 2025, if you are there, be sure to stop by the Center's outreach table and get some great information and please tag us while you are there.

What's Next?

When I was the Executive Director the last time I learned a lot, but this time I have learned enough to be dangerous, but in a good way. I am not afraid to ask for help when it comes to serving our sister Veterans. The [Center for Women Veterans](#) has set an ambitious goal: to enroll 1 million women Veterans who aren't yet using VA benefits and services and bring them home to VA – for whatever that looks like for them. All of us are unique and have unique needs, maybe you do not need healthcare, you might want to go back to school, or you need help with your Memorial Benefits. Listen the best gift you can give your loved ones is peace of mind when that time comes and if you don't know

it, in 2022, for the 8th consecutive time, National Cemetery Administration (NCA) achieved the highest ranking (97%) of any participating organization public or private cemeteries and services! **This is measured every three years** I can attest that nobody honors our Veterans and their families better than NCA.

Listen I know 1 million sister Veterans may sound like a big number, but I believe in the power of our sisterhood to make it happen. Together, we can reach every single one of them.

You know we can't do this alone; we need every one of you to help us find them. Here's how you can help:

- Reach out to 10 women Veterans you know or find them and tell them about us.
- Share the exciting news about our upcoming events.
- Invite them to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [X](#) @VAWomenVet.
- Encourage them to TRUST VA and CHOOSE VA.

We are thrilled to announce our *Wednesday Webinar 4-Part Series* in July - Navigating VA Benefits and Services for Women Veterans.

Each session is designed to break down the essential information on accessing your VA benefits, from application to next steps. Whether you're a Veteran, Active-Duty member, National Guard, Reserve, or family

member, this series has information for you.

Mark Your Calendars for each week in the month of July, subject matter experts will join us to share must-know insights and answer your questions. You won't want to miss this!

Here's what you can expect:

- Detailed breakdown of your earned VA benefits and services.
- Step-by-step guidance on how to apply.
- Expert advice tailored to meet the needs of every sister Veteran.
- Overview of PACT Act
- Q&A sessions to address your specific concerns. Some questions will be answered live.

Together, let's ensure every sister knows about the VA resources that are available to her so that she can begin to TRUST VA and CHOOSE VA. I need you to help spread the word. Let's use the strength of the women Veteran community and make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. We look forward to "seeing" you there!

Closing

I am honored to be here again at the VA to support you, my sister Veterans! We are here for you, so tell us what you need from us, what is important to you and other women Veterans so that we can address and

meet the needs of all of our sister Veterans.
The VA Center for Women Veterans is your partner, your advocate, and your sanctuary.

Look out for my newsletter every month.
Until next time, **be your best!**

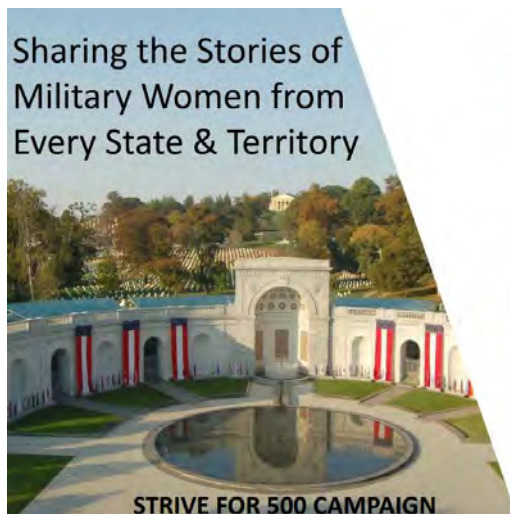
All the best,

Jacquie

Jacquelyn Hayes-Byrd
Executive Director
Center for Women Veterans

Strive for 500 Campaign

I received this presentation too late for the May-Jun issue. Jun 12th - Women Veterans Recognition Day. You can view and download the entire presentation at:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16G2gOC7af9cwCDAVkvf5H07ldS7NIFND/view?usp=sharing>

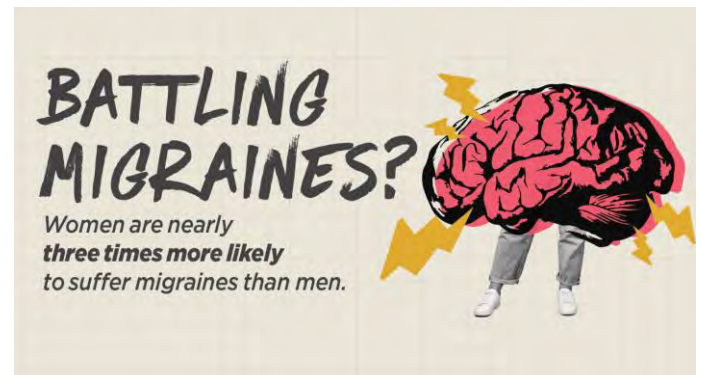


The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)3, responsible for the Operation and Maintenance of the Memorial.



Are you a woman Veteran battling migraine?

Know your migraine triggers and get support. May 12, 2025, Office of Women's Health



[Migraines](#) are not just regular headaches—they can disrupt your entire day. Everyday triggers such as stress, light, noise, smells, disrupted routines and lifestyle habits can make them worse. So can prior military experiences and hormone changes. It's crucial to recognize the symptoms, know your triggers and get the support you need.

Understanding Migraines

[Migraines](#) are intense, throbbing head pains that can hit any time, lasting from hours to

days. Women tend to experience migraines more frequently and intensely than men, with symptoms including:

- Sharp, intense head pain.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Sensitivity to light, sound, and smells.
- Fogginess.
- Visual changes.

Red Flags: Some symptoms are a warning sign of something more serious. If you experience any of the following, head to the ER right away:

- A headache that starts suddenly and escalates within 1-2 minutes.
- Weakness, numbness, or trouble speaking.
- A level of pain you've never felt before.

Know Your Triggers

Migraines are especially common in women of childbearing age. Hormonal changes—such as periods, menopause, birth control, or pregnancy—can trigger attacks, along with everyday factors like light, noise, smells, weather, disrupted routines and lifestyle habits. Add your prior military experience, and you've got a perfect storm for more frequent migraines.

[Tracking your migraines](#) (including when they happen, how long they last and symptoms) will help you and your VA health

care team create a solid treatment plan. Don't forget to note your family history and any medications you are taking.

Get Support from VA

Don't let another migraine throw off your day. If migraines are impacting your life, reach out to VA for support. Together, you and your provider can create a treatment plan to manage your pain and reduce future attacks.

VA offers a full range of services to treat disabling and [chronic pain](#), including medications, injections, acupuncture, and other non-drug therapies like occupational and physical therapy, biofeedback, massage, mindfulness and cognitive behavioral therapy. Our [Whole Health](#) approach also addresses stress, sleep, nutrition, and exercise to manage triggers that contribute to your migraines.

Visit [VA Women Veterans Health Care](#) to learn more or call the [Women Veterans Call Center](#) (1-855-VA-WOMEN) to speak to a real person who can help you enroll, schedule an appointment and connect you to care you can trust.

<https://news.va.gov/139933/are-you-a-woman-veteran-battling-migraines/>

How VA is advancing health care for women Veterans

We are here for you

June 12, 2025, Office of Women's Health

On June 12, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed into law the [Women's Armed Services Integration Act](#), which gave women the right to serve as regular, permanent members of the Armed Forces. Today, there are more than [2 million living women Veterans](#) across the country—the fastest-growing group of Veterans.

Dedicated to serving you

VA is doing a lot to meet the needs of [women Veterans](#)—improving access, expanding services and investing in specialized care.

At every VA medical center, you'll find designated women's health providers trained to understand and care for your specific health needs. These providers deliver whole-person care that recognizes your experiences—both in uniform and beyond.

Services include:

- [Birth control](#) options.
- [Breast health](#), including breast cancer screening.
- [Breastfeeding and lactation support](#).
- [Maternity care](#) coordination.
- [Fertility and family building](#) services.
- [Menopause](#) management and hormone therapy.
- [Gynecologic surgery and cancer screenings](#).

- [Military sexual trauma](#) support services.
- [Mental health care](#) tailored to women Veterans' experiences.
- [Prosthetics designed specifically for women Veterans](#).

For a full overview of women's health services, visit this [overview of health services](#) page.

Want help navigating your options?

Call or text the [Women Veterans Call Center](#) at 1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636). It's free, confidential, and staffed by women—many of whom are Veterans themselves. Whether you're calling for yourself or someone you care about, they'll connect you with the right support, including your local [Women Veterans Program Manager](#).

Whether you're in a city or a rural community, VA is expanding access through digital tools and [telehealth](#), community care options and the [Transition Assistance Program](#) that helps you understand your benefits before you leave active duty.

Your benefits go beyond health care. Explore what's available to you from [education](#) and [housing assistance](#) to [burials and memorials](#).

We see you. We hear you. And we're here for you.

<https://news.va.gov/140621/how-va-is-advancing-health-care-women-veterans/>

What to Expect from Your Maternity Care Coordinator

Pregnant women Veterans: Every VA facility has a Maternity Care Coordinator ready to support you, provide health screenings, and ensure you have access to needed education, resources, and supplies throughout your pregnancy and the year afterward. Maternity Care Coordinators understand the unique needs of women Veterans, and having one at your side means you've got an advocate to ensure you, and your baby receive the best care.



What is a Maternity Care Coordinator?

For pregnant Veterans choosing to use VA Maternity Care benefits, a Maternity Care Coordinator is a member of your VA health care team who specializes in helping you navigate your maternity care. Maternity Care Coordinators are uniquely trained to support you. They have a deep understanding of both Veteran needs and maternal care, ensuring you receive trusted, specialized health support.

The Support You Need

Your Maternity Care Coordinator will contact you every trimester of pregnancy, after delivery, and quarterly in the year after delivery. During these eight calls, your Maternity Care Coordinator will make sure you get the care you need by helping you:

- Navigate health care services both inside and outside of VA
- Access care for your other social, physical, and mental health needs
- Connect to community resources
- Learn more about maternity and newborn care and provide educational materials
- Obtain supplies like nursing bras, breast pumps, maternity belts, and more
- Answer questions about benefits and billing
- Coordinate follow up care after delivery

Regular calls with your Maternity Care Coordinator ensure essential health screenings are completed and follow-up for medical conditions (such as gestational diabetes and high blood pressure) are coordinated. Your Maternity Care Coordinator will also discuss risk factors, birth spacing, family planning options, and baby safety, provide educational resources, and refer you for additional care as needed.

How to Get Started

Whether it's your first pregnancy or you're adding to your family, your Maternity Care Coordinator is in your corner, ready to provide guidance, resources, and compassionate care. You don't have to navigate the system alone—VA is here for you and your growing family.

Contact your VA health care provider or your local [Women Veterans Program Manager](#) to connect with your Maternity Care Coordinator. We are here to ensure you have the support and resources you need. Learn more by visiting the [VA Women's Health Maternity Care page](#).

WWII and Korean War Veteran turns 106

June 4, 2025

Army Veteran Tommy Gwynn feels even better today than he did six years ago when he turned 100.



"Always smile and have a good heart," the 106-year-old, 12-time Purple Heart recipient said when asked his secret to longevity.

Since 2019, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System and the Tullahoma community throw a birthday bash for the "greatest Ranger that ever was," a moniker Gwynn gave himself as a nod to his military achievements. This year was no different with dozens of community members celebrating the decorated Veteran, including Arnold Air Force Base leaders and the Mayor of Tullahoma proclaiming June 2, 2025, as Tommy Gwynn Day.

Gwynn has been a patient at TVHS for several years and transitioned into home-based primary care around 2019. Led by Dr. Ralf Habermann, the home-based primary care teams travel to the homes of geriatric patients across middle Tennessee, southern Kentucky, and northern Georgia to provide

essential health care services. The teams consist of multiple health care experts ranging from nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, physical therapists, dietitians, pharmacists, and psychologists, as well as a chaplaincy care, should the patient request it.



“It’s a great honor taking care of Mr. Gwynn. He’s a true American hero,” said Dr. Habermann, who has cared for Gwynn over the past four years. “He’s an incredible man, and without home-based primary care and the [Tullahoma] community, he couldn’t have stayed home.”

Gwynn was born in June 1919 and joined the Army in 1940; he became an Army Ranger in April 1943. Serving in World War II, he fought in numerous historic battles, ranging from D-Day, Battle of the Bulge, Battle of Normandy, and he witnessed the momentous Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day) on May 8, 1945, marking the end of WWII.

Five years later, Gwynn returned to the frontlines, fighting in the Korean War, where he fought in the Battle of Inchon. He was

twice a prisoner of war, escaping captivity both times, and was injured 20 times on the battlefield.

Gwynn has outlived his family, so the home-based primary care team and the Tullahoma community serve as his caretakers. Neighbors and church friends stop by routinely to assist him with laundry, cleaning, and cooking.

“He’s still here, and it’s amazing. It’s an inspiration for our team to provide care for him,” said Dr. Habermann. “The goal of home-based primary care team is to keep patients out of nursing homes if we can. VA is the only place in the country that has this.”

Veterans interested in home-based primary care should speak with their health care team to determine if home-based care is best for them. TVHS is also seeking community members to participate in VA’s medical foster home program. For more information, visit [the Geriatrics and Extended Care](https://news.va.gov/140482/wwii-and-korean-war-veteran-turns-106/) website online.

<https://news.va.gov/140482/wwii-and-korean-war-veteran-turns-106/>

WWII Veteran suits up for hockey at 98

Shooting for 100

June 6, 2025, Katie Eggers, Public Affairs Specialist, Milwaukee VA Medical Center



Navy Veteran Gene Wagner learned to skate on a frozen creek next to his childhood home in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, when he was three or four years old.

“I came from a [hockey](#) family with my brothers,” Wagner said. “We played hockey. We played baseball. We played everything. That was during the Great Depression in the ‘30s.”

Wagner’s older brothers left to fight when the United States entered World War II, giving him the chance to play in the Wisconsin State Hockey League when he was only 15 years old.

Wagner was drafted upon graduating high school in 1945. After his discharge in 1946, he moved to Milwaukee and worked as a barber, owning two shops in the city for many years.

In 1967, he moved with his wife to Cedarburg, Wisconsin, where he taught three daughters and a son how to skate.

Return to the ice

In 1995, the Ozaukee Ice Center was built in Mequon, Wisconsin, minutes away from his house. Five years later, Wagner returned to the game of his youth when he founded the

Bald Eagles, a hockey club for people 55 and over. He was 72 at the time.

Today, at 98, Wagner still suits up and plays on Tuesdays and Fridays. His teammates include Deb Donovan, who has been with the club since its early days.

“During the pandemic, I had two mini strokes, and I was afraid to get on the ice,” Wagner said. “She actually helped me for quite a long time to get back on the ice. I give her a lot of credit for that.”

‘Every day is a gift’

Since his discharge in 1946, Wagner has received his medical care at [Milwaukee VA](#).

“I’ve been there hundreds of times over the years,” he said. “If I have a headache, a toothache, I go right to VA.”

Wagner plans to stay in the rink for years to come.

“At my age, every day is a gift,” Wagner said. “But I’m shooting for 100.”

<https://news.va.gov/140501/wwii-veteran-suits-up-for-hockey-at-98/>

Vietnam 50th Remembrance Day

Patriot Chuck Byers, Chapter 2560-AZ-6, shares his speech during a ceremony honoring Vietnam 50th Remembrance Day.



IMG_3733.mov

How to stay safe and healthy during extreme heat

Tips for surviving a heat wave

June 27, 2025; VHA Public Health & VHA Office of Emergency Management



Extreme heat season is in full swing.

Temperatures high enough to be dangerous to health are occurring across the country. Extreme heat, defined as temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit for at least two days, can lead to serious medical issues, medical emergencies and even death.

Fortunately, there are steps you can take to prevent health problems and stay safe during extreme heat.

Follow these safety tips for extreme heat

Try to stay indoors during the hottest part of the day (usually 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

If you must be outside, dress in light, loose-fitting clothes that cover arms/legs and frequently apply SPF 30+ sunscreen. Stay in the shade as much as possible.

On hot days, avoid outdoor exercise. Do any needed outdoor activities during the coolest parts of the day or evening when possible.

Drink extra water and avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol.

If you feel too hot and cannot get to a cooler area, cool off with wet cloths.

Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles. Check on vulnerable family, friends, and neighbors during times of extreme heat.

Fans will not cool you enough at indoor temperatures above 90*! You must seek a cooled or air-conditioned location. If your home is too hot, find a cool location: Go to the library, a shopping mall, a friend's home or a [designated cooling center](#).

Be prepared for [power outages](#) during extreme heat. If you rely on medical equipment or refrigerated medications, talk to your medical provider about a power outage plan.

Recognize early signs and symptoms of heat-related illness

Heat cramps: Muscle pains or spasms are the first sign that heat is affecting the body.

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke: Heavy sweating, paleness, fatigue,

lightheadedness, headache, nausea, vomiting, or fainting are more severe forms of heat-related illness.

If signs of heat-related illness occur:

- Stop any exercise
- Move to a cooler location
- Drink water or a sports drink

Stay prepared and informed

Look for local emergency alerts at [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) and sign up to receive alerts on the [FEMA](https://www.fema.gov) or [Weather Channel](https://www.weatherchannel.com) apps.

Understand the difference between [Heat Outlooks, Heat Watches, and Heat Warnings/Advisories](#).

Identify nearby cooling shelters, particularly for those without access to reliable air conditioning, or other cooled spaces. Cooling areas are found [online](#) or by calling 2-1-1 (state helpline) or 3-1-1 (city helpline) or on your local health department website.

Go to heat.gov for the latest heat information and printable materials. Additional resources are available from CDC on [heat health](#) and [heat stress on the job](#) and from HHS on [tools and resources](#).

Remember, always follow your local guidance related to any weather emergency.

Prepare for future heat waves

Update personal [Heat Action Plans](#), particularly if you or your loved ones are [at higher risk of extreme heat effects](#) due to

age, pre-existing conditions, [certain medications](#) or reliance on medical devices.

Ensure you are registered for local emergency alerts.

Make friends and family aware of available heat preparedness actions, including preparing their home for extreme weather with the support of [home energy assistance programs](#).

Share information on heat preparedness or recognizing heat-related illness early. Information is available to people at greater risk of severe weather impacts, such as [those experiencing homelessness](#) or taking [certain medications for mental health conditions](#).

If you are a health care provider, educate yourself and your colleagues on early signs of heat-related illness and what to do. Use available [toolkits](#) to screen patients for heat-related risk factors and help them create a [Heat Action Plan](#).

VA heat resources

[VA Homeless Veterans Support](#): Helps Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness connect with housing and services. Contact your local Homeless Programs Coordinator, or the [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](#) at 1-877-4AID VET (877-424-3838)..

[VA Housing Support](#): Offers Veterans home loans to buy, refinance, build, improve or keep their home, and other housing assistance services and benefits.

[VA Disaster Assistance](#), [Disaster Logistics Assets](#) and Mobile Medical Units: Assistance with temporary housing, emergency prescriptions and replacement of damaged medical equipment, with various mobile assets deployed to affected areas to ensure continuity of care, including temperature-controlled medical/pharmacy units.

[Mobile Vet Centers](#): Vehicles with space for free, confidential counseling and crisis support with no appointments needed.

[Veterans Crisis Line](#): Available 24/7 at 988 (press 1) or text 838255. You do not have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

[VA Health Connect](#): Enrollees can access health care 24/7 from wherever you are.

Together we can prepare for and stay safe during severe summer heat this year and every year.

<https://news.va.gov/140948/how-to-stay-safe-healthy-during-extreme-heat/>

Caregiver News

Are you a caregiver for a Veteran?

Here are some helpful tips

May 8, 2025, Joseph Burks
Director of Communications, VA Caregiver Support Pro

As a [caregiver](#) for a Veteran, you know firsthand the challenges and sacrifices that come with managing health and well-being. Your daily responsibilities are often physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding. The journey isn't always easy and there are moments when it can feel overwhelming. But know this: You are not alone. VA is your partner in care.

The key to better health outcomes for Veterans is to ensure that both you and the Veteran you care for are part of the care team. Together, you bring valuable insights that can make all the difference in improving the quality of life for everyone involved.

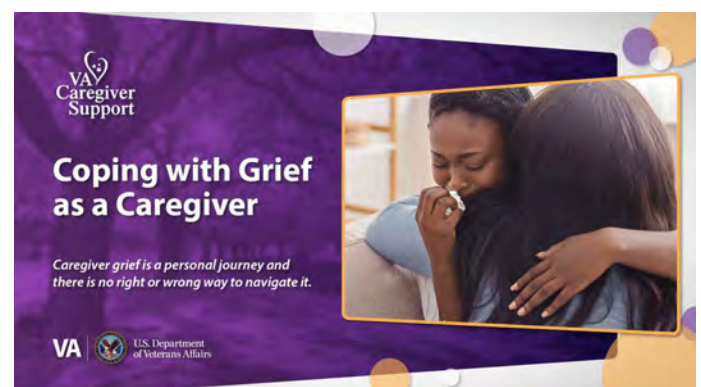
Read the whole article:

<https://news.va.gov/139935/are-you-a-caregiver-for-a-veteran/>

Grieving ahead of time

VA supports caregivers with help and resources

May 23, 2025, Joseph Burks, Director of Communications, VA Caregiver Support Program



Caring for a Veteran can be a rewarding but

emotional journey. As a caregiver, you may experience grief even before a loved one passes away. This type of grief is called anticipatory grief and can bring on a wide range of emotions.

It's normal to feel sadness, frustration, or even anger. The first step to healing is recognizing these feelings and finding ways to cope.

"Being a caregiver is a selfless and challenging role, and it's important to be patient with yourself," said VA Caregiver Support Program (CSP) Executive Director Dr. Colleen Richardson. "Grief is a personal journey, but VA is here to support you every step of the way."

Ways to cope with grief

Take care of yourself: Make time for activities that bring you joy, help you relax and give you rest. [Caregiver Health and Wellbeing Coaching](#) empowers caregivers by helping them focus on their own health and wellbeing.

Lean on friends and family: Reach out to loved ones for emotional support and practical help. VA also encourages caregivers to take breaks and rest when needed through our [respite care offerings](#).

Find support: Connect with other caregivers who understand what you're going through. Programs like [Caregiver Peer Support Mentoring](#) and [Building Better Caregivers](#) can help.

Talk to a CSP staff member: CSP offers self-care courses for caregivers on topics like

grief, resilience, and self-care. There's also a 6-week group called Thriving Through Change and Loss that helps caregivers cope with grief and find tools to move forward.

Express your feelings: Journaling or art journaling can help you process emotions. Ask about [CSP's Art Journaling](#) initiative to learn more.

VA services and supports

Help the Veteran in your care create or update their advance care plan by visiting VA's [Advance Care Planning & Making Decisions page](#). This page includes helpful websites, forms, and handouts. VA also provides [services to support](#) families of deceased Veterans or service members.

About the Caregiver Support Program (CSP)

CSP supports caregivers of Veterans through education, resources, and services to help you and the Veteran you care for thrive. [Find your local caregiver support team](#).

<https://news.va.gov/140199/grieving-ahead-of-time/>

Why caregivers for Veterans should know CPR

It could save a Veteran's life

June 13, 2025, Caregiver Support Program

More than 300,000 Veterans suffer a cardiac arrest each year—most often at home—and on average only 20% survive. However,

immediate [CPR](#) (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) can double or triple the Veteran's chances of survival.

If you're a Veteran's caregiver, that's why it's important for you to know CPR and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

CPR works by manually pumping the heart to keep blood and oxygen moving to vital organs until medical help arrives. It's a simple technique that almost anyone can learn.

Likewise, an AED, when used quickly, can restart a heart that has stopped beating.



Now is the best time to learn hands-only CPR. You never know when a Veteran in your life will need you the most.



Do you know how an AED can save a Veteran's life? Watch this video and learn how this critical life-saving device can guide

you through what to do during a medical emergency.

Hands-on training to save a life

VA offers hands-on, immersive sessions where you can learn and practice using CPR and an AED. Training is available at almost every medical VA medical center nationwide and it takes less than one day to complete.

Diana Loveland, a nurse and caregiver, had just received the training when her father-in-law went into cardiac arrest. She found him in his room not breathing and without a pulse. Her training kicked in immediately. She turned him over and started CPR while her mother-in-law called 911. She did compressions for nearly 15 minutes before paramedics arrived.

"I kept thinking, 'hard and fast, hard and fast!'" said Loveland. Nine months later, her father-in-law has made a full recovery, and he is exercising regularly and feeling better than ever.

To enroll in CPR and AED training, call the [Caregiver Support Line](#) toll-free at 1-855-260-3274 or visit the [CSP Teams/Caregiver Support Team Locator](#).

Emergencies are stressful, but training can give you a clear plan of action and reduce panic and uncertainty. You'll not only be more capable, but you'll also feel more capable.

<https://news.va.gov/140624/why-caregivers-for-veterans-should-know-cpr/>

MOPH FUND (“Fund”), Inc.



New Badge of Military Merit Society

Honoring Legacy, Inspiring Service: The New Badge of Military Merit Society

MOPH Fund | www.mophfund.org

The MOPH Fund is proud to introduce a groundbreaking new initiative—the **Badge of Military Merit Society (BMMS)**—an honorary recognition program that revives the spirit and historical roots of the original Badge of Military Merit, the precursor to today’s Purple Heart.

This exciting new program has been carefully crafted to deepen engagement with our mission, honor our nation’s heroes in new and meaningful ways, and build a legacy of giving that sustains our efforts for generations to come. The Badge of Military Merit Society pays tribute to donors and partners whose generosity reflects a commitment to the same values of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism that define our combat-wounded veterans.

The Badge of Military Merit Society honors donors who support the mission of the MOPH Fund through meaningful contributions. Donors have the option to

receive a Society pin as a symbol of appreciation and may also choose to be recognized in *The Purple Heart Magazine* by name and/or donation amount. All recognition is entirely optional—supporters decide how they wish to be acknowledged for their generosity and commitment to our cause.

We are excited to officially unveil several important updates that mark a new chapter for the MOPH Fund. During the convention, we will share significant changes and a refreshed branding strategy—all aimed at expanding our reach and boosting our fundraising impact.

As we look toward the future, our vision is clear: grow partnerships, enhance donor engagement, and ensure the long-term sustainability of programs that directly serve Purple Heart recipients and their families. With your continued support, the MOPH Fund will remain a vital force in promoting recovery, dignity, and honor for our nation’s combat-wounded veterans.

👉 **Don’t forget to check out and follow our social media pages for updates, stories, and ways to get involved:**

facebook.com/MOPHFund and
Instagram.com/MOPHFundofficial

Join us at the 2025 National Convention to be part of this exciting transformation—and help us write the next chapter of impact, service, and legacy.

[Become a Supporting Member Today!](#)



Frances Figueroa-Lowe

Chair, MOPH FUND Board of Directors

Society Supporting Members

Larry Leighton, Craig Wertheim, Carder Ferguson, Frances Johnson, Joseph Samoske, Rich Sloane, Cinda Junger, Thomas Hiebert, Fred Honerkamp, Michael Lakat, Ernie Rivera, and five members who wish to remain anonymous.

New Partners

Wreaths Across America (WAA)

If your Chapter or Department does not already have a relationship with Wreaths Across America, please consider donating to or purchasing wreaths from WAA through our webpage:

www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MOPHFUND

Vet Mentor AI



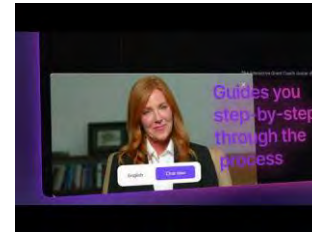
Purple Heart recipients can access the full Vet Mentor AI platform completely free using the coupon code HERO1.

Learn more by watching the video below.



Grant Genie AI

Need help writing and submitting grant proposals to fund your chapter or department programs? We at the Fund have found this to be a great addition to our fundraising strategy. Maybe you will too! When you sign up, be sure to let them know you are part of the MOPH.



<https://www.grantgenieai.com/>



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**Humbled to be the Only CBD Brand chosen
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*by Veterans Healthcare USA, Military Order
of the Purple Heart, AMVETS, and others*

Thankful,

Journee and Ron

NCS Vehicle Donations



US Wings



American Dream Programs



Wanted Past PH Magazines

Patriot Guadalupe Vasquez, Chapter 0793-AZ-6, is looking for a copy of the Jan-Feb 2009 issue of The Purple Heart Magazine to give to his children. We were not able to find a copy at the headquarters and are asking anyone who may have a copy to contact Larry Leighton at lleight@ gmail.com or 623-776-5443.

Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

**This spring season, protect your Personally
Identifiable Information (PII)**

May 15, 2025, Kim Adams and Janette Groom, Lead Program Analysts, VBA Benefits Delivery Protection & Remediation

During spring, many Veterans and

beneficiaries are busy cleaning house. Spring is also a good time to clean more than your home by reducing paper and disposing of outdated electronic devices. While navigating what to keep and what to dispose of, it's an ideal time to review the steps needed to protect your personally identifiable information (PII) and reduce the possibility of experiencing identity theft. This includes knowing how to protect your PII in the online environment, starting with validating who has access to your VA records, and properly disposing of paper and digital documents or no longer utilized electronic devices.

VA encourages Veterans and their beneficiaries to use spring cleaning as an opportunity to review and practice [online safety habits](#). Taking simple, yet effective, measures may contribute to a more secure online environment for everyone.

- Update your technology often. [Update](#) your computer operating systems, internet browsers and mobile devices with the latest software upgrades and security patches. Be sure to also use antivirus and antispyware software to remove malicious programs from your computer.
- Enable Multi-Factor Authentication. Use [two-factor authentication](#), also known as Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), whenever possible. This authentication adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second form of identification and password.

- Secure devices and documents: Restrict unauthorized access by using strong passwords across multiple accounts.
- Maximize [privacy settings](#) on all active social media accounts to prevent unauthorized access and to protect information from unknown users.
- Avoid sharing personal information. Refrain from entering personal information—such as social security numbers, VA login credentials, or financial details—on unfamiliar or unsecured websites.
- Report suspicious activity. If you suspect you have experienced fraud, you can find resources to file a report to the appropriate agency by visiting <https://vsafe.gov> or by calling 833-38V-SAFE.

Just as it is important to ensure your computer systems are up to date, it is important for you to review and validate who has access to your VA records and to know what information may be viewed by others, such as a VA appointed Power of Attorney (POA).

<https://news.va.gov/140057/this-spring-season-protect-your-personally-identifiable-information-pii/>

The duty to tackle false valor

OPINION, By ELLEN GUSTAFSON SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES • May 7, 2025



A photo illustration warning service members to avoid online scams that target them. (Manuel Garcia/Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland)

There is broad consensus in American society that stolen valor, the act of falsely claiming military awards or service, is unacceptable. When public figures are found to have even slight discrepancies in their military records, the backlash is swift, bipartisan, and fierce. But a far more damaging and widespread trend has emerged in recent years: the mass impersonation of military figures and institutions online, often by foreign actors or scammers. This new form of deception, what we call False Valor, is the exploitation of the military community's reputation for unethical purposes. This includes financial scams, disinformation campaigns and influence operations.

While stolen valor typically involves a single individual seeking personal gain, false valor operates at scale, weaponizing trust in America's military to sow division and cause

real harm. We the Veterans and Military Families has identified thousands of fake social media accounts impersonating U.S. generals or fabricated military organizations. Many are hosted on Meta platforms and operated from outside the United States. These fraudulent profiles exploit military imagery, uniforms, and titles to manipulate emotions, extract money, or disseminate divisive content.

In one alarming case, a high-profile retired general had at least 42 fake accounts impersonating them even after a decade-long effort to have them removed. In one particularly egregious case of fraud, an 80-year-old woman fell victim to an \$80,000 scam to one account claiming to be the general. There are good, patriotic Americans who admire retired generals and admirals who have led our military, and taking advantage of that faith for personal, political, or other nefarious gain is an affront to our civilian-military relationship.

These impersonations are not merely a nuisance. They are a direct threat to our civil-military relationship and national security. U.S. general officers, whether retired or active, carry immense trust and influence, not only among service members and their families, but also among the broader public. That credibility can be exploited by bad actors for financial fraud, cyberattacks, or to shape public opinion for nefarious purposes.

This is not a theoretical concern. Our research further suggests there may be more than 10,000 fake military-related

accounts across platforms, many with large followings and substantial engagement. These pages often originate in regions like Eastern Europe, China, Iran, and Vietnam. Some are scams. Others are likely components of foreign information operations.

The good news is that there are steps every American — especially those in the military and veteran community — can take to fight back.

- First, think critically about what you see on social media. Ask: Is this account legitimate? Where is it based? If an account claiming to represent a U.S. military figure is based overseas, that's a red flag.
- Second, understand that scammers and foreign adversaries target your emotions. Fraudsters often exploit hope, offering a fake financial windfall, or panic, such as an alert that your bank account is compromised. If you receive such a message, don't respond online. Go directly to your bank and talk to a real person. Disinformation campaigns, meanwhile, play on fear, outrage, and patriotism. If a military-themed post enrages you or provokes strong emotions, pause and verify the source before sharing or reacting.
- Third, be cautious about clicking links. If you're unsure about a link in a post or message, cut and paste it into a new browser window instead of clicking it directly. This simple step can help prevent hackers from spreading viruses

to your computer.

- Fourth, keep your software up to date. Regular — even daily — updates patch security vulnerabilities that bad actors can exploit.
- Finally, report suspicious accounts. Social media companies have tools to flag impersonators and fraudulent content. It only takes a moment, but collective action can make a real impact. At a time when America faces deep polarization, our enemies seek to exploit cracks in our unity — and they're using military imagery and identities to do it.

True valor today means being vigilant, informed, and proactive in defending our community's integrity online. United, we can expose and dismantle these digital threats. Divided online, we can fall prey to all types of false valor and into the hands of bad actors cowering in the dark corners of the internet who are watching America fight battles with itself.

Ellen Gustafson is co-founder and executive director of We the Veterans and Military Families and a U.S. Navy spouse. FEATURED ON INSTAGRAM

Read more at:

<https://www.stripes.com/opinion/2025-05-07/opinion-duty-to-tackle-false-stolen-valor-17715819.html>

Source - Stars and Stripes

Personal Stories

Statue creation in progress to honor a Flagstaff hero

JESSELLE ORTEGON, Sun Staff Reporter, Jun 23, 2025



Neil Logan sits with the clay statue he created of his childhood friend Billy Weldon outside Marshall Elementary School, where Weldon has volunteered as the crossing guard for the past 18 years. Logan is raising funds to cast the statue in bronze as a tribute for the decades of service Weldon has given to the Flagstaff community. Jake Bacon, Arizona Daily Sun

Local Arizona artist Neil Logan has commissioned himself to create a life-size sculpture of Vietnam War veteran and longtime crossing guard at Marshall Elementary School William “Billy” Weldon.

With permission from Marshall Principal Janelle Reasor, the statue is set to be placed inside Marshall’s new school, which is currently under construction.

The statue will be cast with bronze, displaying a depiction of Weldon’s bust.

Logan and Weldon have known each other since childhood and lived next door to each

other, making them inseparable to this day. With Logan’s love for fine art and for Weldon, the artist said it made the most sense for him to volunteer for this project.

“I think the world of the guy, he’s my buddy,” Logan said. “He’s always doing neat stuff for all the veterans, and I would like to see somebody get credit for all the good things they do while they’re still around to acknowledge it.”

For all the work that goes into completing this intricate project, Logan is aiming to fundraise an additional \$5,500 to cover the cost of supplies and labor. He is sure, however, that all those who know and love Weldon will show their support for the sculpture once they know it is being created.

Once all the funding is garnered, the statue can be completed and revealed to Weldon in honor of his dedication to the veterans of Arizona and his 18 years at Marshall as a crossing guard.

According to Weldon’s daughter, Amy Wagner, her dad “wears many crowns disguised as baseball caps.”

Weldon served in the U.S. Army with two tours in Vietnam.

He is known for his time as a state and regional Purple Heart commander, being recognized in the National Hall of Honor Member and as an AZ Veterans Hall of Fame recipient.

“He spends every single day volunteering, advocating for and helping veterans and those in need,” Wagner said. “He rarely

misses a veteran funeral service, offering honors to those who have passed, and he continues to help countless veterans navigate the VA.”

The VA, or Veterans Affairs, is a federal agency dedicated to providing service members with support in areas such as healthcare, housing assistance or education. Weldon provides his services as a Veterans of Foreign Wars service officer, assisting other veterans with resolving issues with their benefits with the VA.

In addition to his work supporting service members, Weldon started the Dave Crick Purple Heart Chapter for his best friend Dale Crick in remembrance of his service in Vietnam. Wagner said her father has inspired the entire Flagstaff community to participate in the city’s very own [Purple Heart truck](#), which pays homage to all of Flagstaff’s own fallen soldiers.

“He’s inspired the entire state to become Purple Heart communities, including Marshall and other schools,” Wagner said.

On May 13, 2016, Marshall officially distinguished itself as a Purple Heart Community. A Purple Heart flag is raised daily in front of the school along with the Arizona and United State of America flags. Marshall was the first elementary school in Flagstaff to become a Purple Heart Community.

“For some people, Billy Weldon is the only Purple Heart veteran they may know,” Reasor said. “So, it’s being able to teach our kids what it means to be a Purple Heart

recipient, and his dedication to giving back to this community. He’s such an example of character and what we want our kids to become.”

When Weldon isn’t leading the next initiative for veterans, he’s ushering the children of Marshall as their loyal crossing guard of 18 years -- a role Billy holds with pride.

Reasor said she will never forget the first time she met Weldon. She recalled how kind and welcoming he was to her, making them an instant family. The principal said she is grateful to get to work alongside someone who is a light for many in the community.

“He’s such a special man who spends his entire life giving back to his community, to families, to veterans,” Reasor said. “He doesn’t receive, except for just that connection. He is so fulfilled and empowered by the love that is given to him because of how much he gives.”

For years, the loyal crossing guard has been the first smiling face students and parents see when they walk up to Marshall. Weldon has been at the school long enough to see students walk across the street and eventually, down the aisle of their wedding.

One of Reasor’s favorite memories from this year was Weldon approaching her to show the personalized graduation party invitations he received from a few graduating seniors visiting from Flagstaff High School to reminisce on their time there and with Weldon.

“He got so teary-eyed because it’s been 18 years and he gets to see these kids,” Reasor said. “He stays in touch with the families, and [the students] come back as seniors and remember their crossing guard. That is such a testament to the impact he has just being him.”

Marshall was able to get Weldon nominated and awarded National Crossing Guard of the Year in 2020. Part of this accomplishment came because of Weldon's deep connection with his students and understanding of the importance of safety.

Weldon doesn’t just assure everyone is greeted with a smile to start their day but that they make it to school safe and sound.

To be a part of honoring Weldon, donation inquiries can be answered by reaching this number: (928)286-7446.

The Promise

by Jack Murphy



This is 1st. Lt. William Rueckert's story By Gold Star Son, William Rueckert Sargent,

Chapter 1041-CO-5 Associate Member



Dorothea 'Dee', Little Bill, and William

In early 2020, I posted an article about the crash and subsequent death of William G. Rueckert of the 93rd BG, 409 BS at RAF Hardwick in Norfolk. Since posting this article, I have been contacted by his son, 'Little Bill', who has very kindly sent me a collection of photographs, letters, documents, and a considerable amount of information around both his father's life and his tragic accident. I wholeheartedly thank Bill for this - in some cases - very personal information, which has helped to build a bigger and more detailed image of the life of William Rueckert. This has been added to the page and is included here with Bill's permission.

The journey of how 'Little Bill' found out the details of his father's death was a long and somewhat difficult one, as many of the official records were destroyed in the St. Louis fire. It was made more difficult by the fact that at home, 1st. Lt. William Rueckert was never talked about by Bill's mother and step father (2nd Lt. Leroy H. Sargent), and as

Bill was only two and a half years old at the time of his father's death, he knew little of him. It's only since Bill's mother sadly passed away in 1994 that Bill has been able to make proper enquiries, kick started by the discovery of a copy of the "*Ladies Home Journal*" in the attic of her house. All Bill knew before this, was that his father was a pilot and that he died in a crash in England.



Ladies Home Journal (Jan. 1945) The magazine that started Bill's journey to find out about his father.

Since then, Bill has written an article for the "STAR", a journal for "AWON" (American War Orphans Network) and he has been given an article published in the 'Weekender', a supplement published by the Eastern Daily Press*¹ newspaper in Norwich, UK, written in December 2014; the title of which was "*No Greater Love*", an article about Bill's mother and father.

His journey also allowed him to make friends with David Neale, an officer of the "Friends of the 2nd ", an organisation he joined not long after. Since then, he has travelled to England on many occasions, including attending the 2nd Air Division American

Library Dedication in Norwich, in November 2001; visiting Madingley Cemetery and the former [Hardwick airfield](#) (owned and run by David Woodrow) where Bill's father lost his life. He has also donated a replica of William's Purple Heart to the local church at Topcroft, who honour both him and all those who served at Hardwick, every year.

This is 1st. Lt. William Rueckert's story.

William Gamble Rueckert (S/N: 0-420521) was born June 9th, 1920, in the Lutheran Hospital, Moline, Illinois. His father, Reuben Franklin Rueckert (26) was a chief electrician whilst his mother, Fay Wilforim Gamble (24) was a Housewife.

At school, William was a model student, developing a studious and conscientious approach to his studies. He worked hard at all he did, continuously achieving high grades; a work ethic he would carry and continue throughout his short life.

At 18 years of age William joined the Cavalry Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at the University of Illinois, becoming a member of the '*Scabbard & Blade*', an Honorary Military Society that promotes and develops the "Five Gold Stars": Honour, Leadership, Professionalism, Officership, and Unity. Here William studied law and used his passion for reading, particularly the classics like Shakespeare and Proust, to continue to achieve those high grades for which he was known. His reputation for hard work and dedication was his bedfellow.



William 'Square John' Horse jumping,

Whilst in the Cavalry, William got the nickname 'Square John', he took to fencing and riding, whilst enjoying 'Breaded Veal chop' and listening to Ernie Pyle, an American journalist who would become one of the most famous war correspondents of World War II. One of the rules as a Cavalry Cadet was that you had to carry a 'handkerchief', this was used to fulfil the joyful operation of cleaning your horse's rear, a very unpleasant but 'necessary' duty.

On graduating, William would be presented with a sabre from his class, fulfilling both roles of president of the Cavalry Officers' Club and as a Cadet Major. The sabre would remain in the family home for many years after.

It was at University, on April 29th, 1939, that William met on a blind date, his wife to be, Dorothea Griffiths, the woman he later referred to as 'Dee'. Even before meeting up, the two were destined to face problems, a faulty car doing its utmost to prevent William from getting to his destination on

time. But as a lover of dancing, William charmed Dee with his dance floor moves, and they turned out to be the perfect match, Dee forgiving William's lateness and agreeing to see him a second time.

The two became inseparable, and within a year they were married, on June 10th, 1940, when William was just one day over 20 years old. The ceremony took place at Clinton, Iowa, but it would be here that the second of their problems would arise. Angry at the marriage, William's mother objected, stating that he was too young to be legally married. Successfully, and much to the anger of William and Dee, she had the marriage annulled. However, the two were not going to accept that, they simply ran away to repeat the wedding and reinstate their marriage vows in a new ceremony - love had conquered them all.



William and Dee's second Marriage Certificate

After leaving the Cavalry and returning to his studies, he graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce and Law on June

9th, 1941. William and Dee then moved to 64 Sommers Lane, Staten Island, on the southern edge of New York, Dee's home town. William managed to secure himself a job with the Bethlehem Steel Co. a company that would become a major supplier of armour plate and ordnance to the U.S. armed forces. Here William worked in the accounts department, whilst all the time continuing to work for his law license with the New York State Bar.

With the war in Europe escalating, William, being a reserve at this time, was called up under President Roosevelt's Defence plan, in August 1941, and he was sent to the Maintenance Officer Company, 35th Armoured Regiment, Fourth Armoured Division Pine Camp, Watertown, New York. He served as a 1st Lt. Artillery Officer in Company 'A', 1st Battalion. It was here that the dedication and hard work that he had shown throughout his education would shine through yet again, quickly standing out from other cadets. William also stood out on the ranges, soon winning himself a medal for artillery and rifle shooting.

There are more details to read when you download the complete story but here are a few more to whet your appetite!

First and last Mission.

William's first and only mission was on May 1st, 1944, one week after his arrival at the base. It was to be an

early morning flight, take off at 05:00. Mission 332 was for more than 500 heavy bombers of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bomb Divisions, to attack V- Weapons' sites in northern France. These "Crossbow" operations were designed to destroy launching areas for the Nazi Terror weapons the V-1s that were targeting London and the South East. On that day William and Jimmy decided to volunteer to fill the vacant co-pilot and navigator spots in the crew of pilot Second Lieutenant Albert Schreiner (s/n: 0-805532) on B-24 'Joy Ride' #42- 7621, leaving his other regular crewmen behind at Hardwick including Harold. William's work ethics playing one last card as he wanted to get familiar with combat missions before taking his own crew out.

2nd Lt. Schreiner, a veteran pilot from Gloucester County, New Jersey had been along a similar path to William's, the 'green' newcomer. A Cavalry man he had enlisted in 1941, joining the National Guard before transferring across to the Air Corps.

On the night before the mission, William visited the local church at Topcroft, here he said his prayers in preparation for the following day's flight. The church having strong links with the base, continues to honour the crew today.

The next morning, May Day 1944, two missions were planned, the first

to the V Weapons site at Bonnieres, the second to a Brussels railway yard. About half the aircraft managed to get airborne for the first sortie, then it was the turn of 'Joy Ride'.

Download the complete story [here](#):

Download the research report [here](#).

Ken Teunissen



Ken Teunissen was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1969 and later enlisting and serving for nearly a decade, including time in Vietnam and Berlin, Germany. In

February 1970, Teunissen was providing cover fire when he suffered a shrapnel wound to his leg.

Along with the Purple Heart, SSG Teunissen was awarded numerous medals and commendations during his service, including the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and more.

U.S. Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Ken Teunissen represented his fellow Purple Heart heroes as South Dakota's honoree during the 2023 Purple Heart Patriot Project Mission.



Ed Abbey



Eddie Abbey enlisted in the U.S. Army and served his nation for more than 25 years, first from May 1970 through August 1986, then again from January 1994 through

February 2006.

During the latter half of his service career, Abbey was deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and III. On February 21, 2005, Abbey was wounded by shrapnel from an IED on Main Supply Route (MSR) Tampa just outside Samarra, Iraq. At the time, he was in command of a tactical movement team escorting a team of engineers to assess damage done by a previous IED on the MSR, when Abbey team was ambushed.



Along with his Purple Heart, he was awarded numerous medals and commendations during his service, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal and more.

Abbey continues to help his fellow veterans as a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled Veterans of America, American Legion and Association of the United States Army.

In 2021, Abbey was North Carolina's honoree during the Purple Heart Patriot Project Mission.

Region I News

Chapter 0353-VA-1

Gordon Sumner

On 14 June, the Chapter 353, MOPH, was invited by Mount Vernon to participate in their celebration of the Army's 250th Birthday. Our Chapter 353 and Mount Vernon have had a strong relationship of support for many years. Mount Vernon hosts the Chapter and all of MOPH each year to celebrate National Purple Heart Day with a weekend of events closest to 7 August,

National Purple Heart Day.



Our Chapter 353 set up an information table where we provided information about MOPH as well as short talks about the history of the Purple Heart Medal. The event was supported by Chapter 353 Commander, Angelo Wider (right), standing with Past Chapter Commander, Gordon Sumner. We were also supported by Senior Vice Commander, Vivian Cochran, and Patriot Ken Kessler.



Thanks to the leadership at Mount Vernon for the invitation to participate with this great organization. And also "Thanks" to Jason Rusk, our POC at Mount Vernon for his assistance and

support to the Chapter.



We hope to see everyone at Mount Vernon to celebrate National Purple Heart Day, 8 and 9 August. For more information, please check the past edition of the Purple Heart Magazine, or contact PCC Gordon Sumner at gordon.sumner53@gmail.com.

Chapter 0607-VA-1

Pete Fairchild

MOPH leadership award, Cox High School, Virginia Beach, VA



Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Michael Couch, US Navy, MOPH Chapter 607 (Newport News, VA) presents the MOPH Jr. ROTC leadership award to Cadet/LTJG Corren O'Bryant at Cox High School, Virginia Beach,

Virginia on May 22. HMCS (E-8) Couch earned the Purple Heart in Afghanistan in February 2011.

Region II News

Chapter 1974-OH-2

Dennis Hanneman, Commander

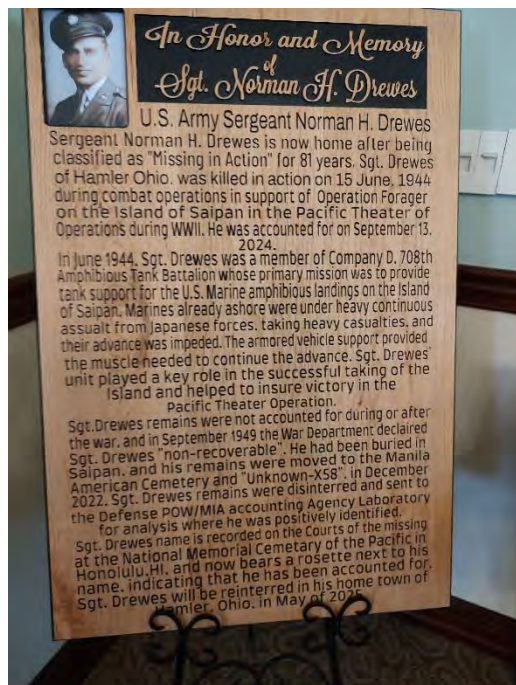
SGT Norman Henry Drewes returns home



Norman Henry Drewes, age 24, of Hamler, Ohio was killed in action on June 15, 1944, in the World War II Battle of Saipan, during Operation Forager, pushing the Japanese forces out of the Northern Mariana Islands. Sergeant Drewes was a member of the U.S. Army's 708th Amphibious Tank Battalion. His Company D "LTV" force was provided to the 25th Marines, Fourth U.S. Marine Corp Division, as part of their beach landing assignment.

The amphibious tank Sgt. Drewes commanded was hit by heavy enemy fire when his company's progress was stalled beyond the beach, having encountered impassable terrain, resulting in his death. Once recovered, his remains were not identifiable and were subsequently interred

in the Fourth Marine cemetery, Saipan, and marked as Unknown X-58.



In 1950, his remains were disinterred, examined, and reburied in the Ft. William McKinley Cemetery in Manila, Philippines. In 2022, his remains were again disinterred and sent to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) laboratory in Honolulu, Hawaii for DNA analysis, comparison to several family-donated DNA samples, and subsequent positive identification; thereby, Sgt. Drewes was officially accounted for on September 13, 2024.

Sgt. Drewes' name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific inside Punchbowl Crater in Honolulu, along with those who are still missing from World War II. A rosette is being placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Norman was born on July 26, 1919, to

William and Katherine (Kestner) Drewes. He was the last member of his family to be born in their log cabin before moving to the new farmhouse. In fact, he was born the very day the foundation was poured. Norm was a member of Hope Lutheran Church where he was baptized on August 17, 1919, and confirmed on April 23, 1933. He had many friends, had a wonderful smile, charismatic personality, and enjoyed interacting with others. Norm continued working on the family farm until answering our nation's call to arms, enlisting in the Army on April 11, 1942.



Ron Clark, Dennis Hanneman (Commander) Mike Morris, Ken Hanneman, Commander of Post#63, American Legion.

Memorial Day Services

Ohio Chapter #1974 Military Order of Purple Heart in the Memorial Day Services and Parade at Findlay, Ohio.



Pictured are Mike Morris, Will Shultz, Dennis Hanneman, Ed Sterling, Ron Clark, Jim Prater, and Don Jones



Pictured (Auxiliary) Darlene Hanneman, and Joann Jones

Chapter 0252-IL-2

Shared on Facebook

A little history



Department of West Virginia

David Duffer, Commander



Commander Duffer with Cadet Christopher Robbins and Cadet Bridget Moyer.



Department of Wisconsin

Eric Holmes, Department ROTC Officer



Cadet Jacob Herwig and Cadet Margaretha Hoffman.

Fox Valley Senior ROTC Battalion Apr 24th

The battalion consists of cadets from UW Oshkosh, Marian University and Ripon College. The recipients are Jacob Herwig, Margaretha Hoffman and Coleman McDonagh. The presenter is Eric Holmes, ROTC/JROTC Officer Department of Wisconsin MOPH.



Cadet Margaretha Mendez and Cadet Coleman McDonagh.

In addition to this ceremony, Eric Holmes made personal presentations on behalf of MOPH at: Kenosha Military Academy, Greenfield HS Ais Force JROTC and St John's Northwestern Academies. UW LaCrosse, UW

Madison, Marquette University and UW Stevens Point were also provided award packages.

Kenosha Military Academy, Indian Trail High School, Kenosha WI

Col Henderson,

It is with great pleasure I am sending this email to you and your corps of cadets. I want to congratulate your cadets and staff for an outstanding program on Friday. The precision and demonstration of their military skills show their desire to bring together a difficult drill with precision. Once again, CONGRATULATIONS for a job well done!

Region III News

Larry Rupp, Commander

The Departments and Chapters that make up Region III have been busy as always. I thank them for their support and membership raising efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to address the entire Order. The entire membership must take responsibility for the success or failures of the Order. Our elected leaders have done many things to advance our Order in the realm of Fraternal Military Organizations. Like most organizations of this type, it is a lot of work being done by the same few members. If our Order is going to continue to grow and contribute to the veteran community, it is going to take the hands-on work of all the members, not just

the same few who are always willing to give of themselves. There are members holding positions at Chapter, Department and National levels all at the same time, it should not have to be this way. Remember our Order's mission statement "Combat wounded Veterans helping Veterans and their families." Being a leader can be and often is a lonely position. The higher up the leadership ladder you go the lonelier it can get. However, the leader has the satisfaction of knowing that they have accepted the challenges of their position and did their best to fulfil the obligations of their office. To those who are quick to criticize, I say you step up and put your name in the hat to do the job.

Like any other organization, the Military Order of the Purple Heart needs funds to operate. For this reason, the Supreme Body at Convention a few years ago approved the formation of the MOPH Fund. The Fund is responsible for raising funds to support the Order's programs. The MOPH Fund board consists entirely of volunteer members of the Order. The Fund is a work in progress; it has been a learning as you go experience for most of the board members. In addition to trying to secure grants and finding major contributors, the Fund has formed what is called the Badge of Military Merit Society (BMMS) to honor the original spirit of the Purple Heart, first created by George Washington in 1782. This new initiative connects patriotism to action by supporting combat-wounded veterans and preserving their enduring legacy. Every donation through BMMS helps tell the story of sacrifice, service, and survival. The purpose

behind the badge is to support and honor individual recipients and fund programs supporting combat-wounded veterans. Please become a sustaining member today.

Larry Rupp

Region IV News

Chapter 0402-SC-4

Hey Wash

Carolina Pines Regional Hospital – Purple Heart Proclamation

On May 28, 2025, Carolina Pines Regional Hospital in Hartsville, SC became the first hospital to receive a Purple Heart Proclamation in South Carolina.



Pictured are members of American Legion Post #53, Carolina Pines Regional Hospital leadership and staff members, Patriots of Chapter 0402-SC-4 (Charles Cook, Jermal Washington & Champ, Jerry Free)

Richland School District #2 JROTC

On 7 May 2025 Members of Chapter #402 (Columbia, SC) presented JROTC awards to Richland School District #2 students who are joining the US military.



Pictured are Members of Chapter #402: Forrest Stegelin, Harold Palmer, Jerry Free, Nick Redding, Henry Geathers, Frank Kmetz

Retiree Appreciation

On 3 May 2025 Members of Chapter #402 (Columbia, SC) participated in the Ft Jackson, SC retiree application event.



Pictured are Members of Chapter #402: Patriots Charles Cook, John Testruth, Carl Lopez, Frank Kmetz, Jermal Washington & Champ.

Chapter 0465-GA-4

Lou Zayas

Pine Lake, GA – A Purple Heart City

May 27th Pine Lake, GA became a Purple Heart City.



Front Row: Mayor Brandy Hall, Commander Lou Zayas, SV Don Bullard. Back Row: Jeff Goldberg, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Bordeaux, Tom Ramsey, Thomas Torrent.



The Army's 250th Birthday Recognized!



Two photos above show Chapter 465 Commander Lou Zayas and Senior Vice Commander Vice Don Bullard assisting Lawrenceville VFW in the flag ceremony.

Lawrenceville, GA Flag Day, June 14, 2025.



Chapter 0636-NC-4

Ed Abbey

Heidi Trask HS JROTC

2025 Heidi Trask HS JROTC MOPH Leadership Award recipient C/LTC Toby Rodriguez (C) receiving the award from Patriot Ed Abbey (L). Joining them are the C/LTC's mother and CPT George L King (R), the Senior Military Instructor.



Cadet Rodriguez serves as the Battalion Commander. He has been accepted for enrollment into the Senior ROTC Program at Pembroke University. He has already joined the Army National Guard and plans on becoming an officer in the US Army upon his college graduation.

Chapter 0717-FL-4

Edward Sileo, Commander

Our new officers for 2025-2026.



L to R: Commander Edward Sileo, Senior Vice Commander Charles Restivo, Adjutant Patti Ashford, Finance Officer Gerald Quickel, Chaplain Richard Hart.

Plantation FL becomes Purple Heart City



Commander Edward Sileo of Chapter 717, West Palm Beach, FL naming the city of Plantation Florida a Purple Heart City on 25 June 2025.



Chapter 2216-AL-IV

Dwain D. Hartwick, Adjutant

Purple Heart Chapter donates \$6,100 to assist displaced veterans



Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter presents a check to the VA Home. Pictured are (l to r) Commander Robert R. Green, Director Samantha Wise, Jasmin Bethke (Wise's administrative assistant), and Senior Vice Commander Skip Bearman. Photo by Travis Parker.

By Travis Parker

A heartfelt show of support unfolded as members of Chapter 2216-AL-IV presented a donation of \$6,100 to Samantha Wise, the State Director at the CSM Bennie G. Adkins

State Veterans Home. This generous contribution is aimed at helping veterans who are displaced after a fire caused significant damage to their facility.

During the donation ceremony, Wise expressed her sincere thanks and provided crucial updates about the displaced veterans. "First off, I just want to say thank you," Wise began warmly. "It's a privilege to address your organization. Your service to our country means the world."

She went on to share the uncertain future facing the CSM Bennie G. Adkins Veterans Home. "As of now, we don't have an official timeline for when we can return," she explained. "There are many steps and meetings involved before we determine the next steps. We're awaiting a crucial meeting that we hope will clarify our direction."

While the cause of the fire remains under wraps, the incident left about 20,000 square feet of the building with fire, water, and smoke damage. Thankfully, all veterans were evacuated safely, and no injuries occurred.

"Enterprise Health and Rehab has been a tremendous blessing," Wise said. "They had enough beds available for many of our veterans. On the night of the fire, nine were temporarily housed at Medical Center Enterprise due to capacity limits, but eventually, we managed to get everyone under one roof."

She noted conditions aren't perfect—many veterans now share rooms instead of having private spaces—but the community has

worked diligently to ensure quality care while minimizing disruption. “We’re focused on keeping them near their families and together. Splitting them up across the state was never something we wanted.”

That \$6,100 donation was made possible by coordinated efforts across multiple chapters and national leadership. The initial \$5,000 came from National Commander Robert Olivarez and National Finance Officer Jim Anderson. This was coordinated through Alabama Department Commander Andrew Del Gaudio and transferred to Chapter 2216-AL-IV’s account on April 22.

Just a few days later, on April 25, another \$1,000 arrived from Chapter 717 in West Palm Beach, Florida. Chapter 717 Commander Edward Sileo spearheaded that effort, with help from Region IV Commander Craig Wertheim, who’s also with Chapter 717.

On April 23, Commander Green met with Wise to discuss how best to utilize the funds, ensuring they directly benefit the displaced veterans. “This donation represents more than just money,” Commander Green emphasized. “It’s about showing these men and women that we’re still with them, just as they stood by us. It’s a promise—we’ve got their backs.”

The funds are set to go to the Veterans Activity Fund, often called the Benevolence Fund, which helps cover social outings, meals, and recreational activities for residents. “Especially right now, as our veterans adjust to temporary accommodations, those outings and quality-

of-life activities are crucial,” Wise pointed out. “This generosity truly makes a difference.”

The fire at the Bennie G. Adkins VA Home was a significant loss, not just for the veterans who lived there but for the entire community that takes pride in the facility. The swift and organized response from veterans’ organizations, churches, and civic groups speaks volumes about the deep commitment to supporting veterans in Enterprise.

Wise described the aftermath: “When the fire struck, the veterans had nothing but the clothes on their backs. The community’s support has poured from toiletries to new clothing—it’s been truly heartwarming.”

The Bennie G. Adkins Home staff continue to care for 78 veterans now residing at Enterprise Health and Rehab. “Some of our residents transferred to other state homes because of family proximity or because they were already on waiting lists,” Wise explained, “but most are still here, close to their roots.” Looking ahead, Wise stated, “The ADVA will publicly announce plans and timelines once they’re finalized. In the meantime, we focus on caring for our veterans and supporting each other.”

Commander Green echoed that during the check presentation, emphasizing unity and unwavering support for those who’ve served. “When you join the military, you forge a bond. It’s not solely about serving; it’s about brotherhood. That bond remains long after the uniform comes off. We’re here for our brothers and sisters—always.”

Thanks to the combined efforts of local, state, and national leadership, as well as grassroots initiatives, the future looks increasingly brighter for the CSM Bennie G. Adkins Veterans Home and its heroes.

Region V News

MOPHA Alamo Unit 1836

Anita Hunt-Trevino, President

MOPHA Alamo Unit 1836, San Antonio, TX assisted Chapter 1836 at their annual Fiesta Clay Target Shoot held May 1st at the San Antonio Gun Club. Auxiliary members provided desserts for all attendees and decorated the venue in a Fiesta theme. Participating teams, Patriots, and Auxiliary members enjoyed a complimentary lunch, refreshments, door prizes, silent auction, raffle, mariachi music by a local high school group, and a visit from Fiesta 2025 Military Ambassadors representing all the services. Proceeds from the event are used to help veterans in need.

MOPHA Unit 1836 members: (L-R) Trish Rosie, Rosa Rodriguez, Julia Ramirez, Anita Hunt-Trevino, Herlinda Sifuentes, Linda Soto, Diane Dillon



Somerset High School "Real Azul" Mariachi Group



San Antonio Fiesta 2025 Military Ambassadors



Department of Arkansas

Chuck Adkins, Commander

ADVA MEM Day CMY 2025



(L to R): Patriot Chuck Adkins, CDR MOPH DEPT of Arkansas, Sarah Huckabee-Sanders, Governor of Arkansas, and Chapter 0431-AR-5 Patriots Paul Garrett and Ted Clymer participated in the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs Memorial Day Ceremony held at Camp Robinson, Arkansas on 26 May 2025.



Past National Commander Carder Ferguson, being interviewed by Lora Castleman, KFSM (Channel 5) News on 21 May 2025 at the Fort Smith [Arkansas] National Cemetery. Carder explained the purpose and importance of placing the US Flag at the Veterans headstones for Memorial Day. They should not be forgotten.

Region VI News

Chapter 0049-CA-6 and Auxiliary



Chapter 49 and Auxiliary participated in the Annual Flag Day celebration, with VFW Post 460 at Hill Top Park in San Diego Ca. On Sunday June 8, 2025. This is the only event held annually in San Diego county to celebrate Flag Day.



Present Commander Robert Hernandez, Patriot David Stewart, SGT.-AT- ARMS George Waller. Also Master Ceremonies T.J. Zane Auxiliary Members President Cheryl Perez, Laura Merrill unit secretary, Barbara Waller Chaplain.

Chapter 0210-CA

Zeferino "John" Madrigal, Commander

Chapter 210 was recently revived and restarted by a group of young PH recipients in the area. They are doing an amazing job

and in less than a year have acquired a building space to conduct meetings.

As they dive in and learn the ropes see attached pictures of their first JROTC/ROTC Awards presentation.

Buena Park High School Air Force JROTC



L to R: Cadet, Zeferino "John" Madrigal



L to R: Zeferino "John" Madrigal, Adjutant Bladimir Rodriguez, Cadet.

Chapter 0442-AZ-6

Cody Phipps, Commander

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN SERVANT LEADER AWARDS

Congratulations to **Patriot Roger Gilbert, Patriot Jim Zimmerman, & Patriot John Grand**, who were honored as **Congressional Veteran Servant Leaders for Congressional District 6** on April 24th. **Congressman Ciscomani** presented them with a congressional Veteran Servant Leader certificate, a challenge coin, and a Veteran Servant Leader Medal.

Congressman Ciscomani & Patriot Gilbert



Congressman Ciscomani & Patriot Grand



Chapter Patriot of the Year

Patriot **Cody Phipps** was honored at tonight's Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 Military Order of the Purple Heart meeting as the chapter's patriot of the year. Thank you, Cody, for the work you are doing for the veteran community. Cody has been a reliable and consistent advocate for veterans in financial need for rents, utility bills, auto repairs and other assistance. We appreciate the many hours of Cody has devoted to the chapter in support of the chapter's Purple Heart activities. Cody was also nominated for the Department of Arizona Patriot of the Year. Adjutant John Moore on the left presents the award to Patriot Phipps on the right. Congratulations.

Adjutant Moore & Patriot Phipps



JROTC AWARD CIENEGA HIGH SCHOOL

Patriot **John Grand** presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership Medal and Certificate along with a \$200 stipend to **Cadet Joshua Baumann** at the Cienega High School, Vail, AZ awards ceremony on April 16th. Congratulations to Cadet Baumann.



JROTC AWARD BUENA HIGH SCHOOL

Patriot **Dave Bertagnoli** presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership Medal and Certificate along with a \$200 stipend to **Cadet Peyton Shepard** at the Buena High School, Sierra Vista, AZ awards ceremony on April 24th. Congratulations to Cadet Shepard. Also, Dave happens to be an alumnus of Buena High School.



JROTC AWARD SAHUARITA HIGH SCHOOL

Patriot **Dave Bertagnoli** presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership Medal and Certificate along with a \$200 stipend to **Cadet Calvin Benedix** at the Sahuarita High

School, Sahuarita, AZ awards ceremony on April 16th. Congratulations to Cadet Benedix.



presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership Medal and Certificate along with a \$200 stipend to **Cadet Nicholas Mejia** at the Rio Rico High School, Rio Rico, AZ, awards ceremony on April 25th. Congratulations to Cadet Mejia.



JROTC AWARD TOMBSTONE HIGH SCHOOL

Patriot **Dave Bertagnoli** presented the MOPH JROTC Leadership Medal and Certificate along with a \$200 stipend to **Cadet Leila Julian** at the Tombstone High School, Tombstone, AZ awards ceremony on April 24th. Congratulations to Cadet Julian.



Memorial Day Tucson

Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at South Lawn Cemetery and dedicated a Purple Heart wreath to the fallen. **Department Commander Cody Phipps, Patriot John Grand, Patriot Jim Zimmerman, & Department Vice-Commander John Moore** represented the chapter.

JROTC AWARD RIO RICO SCHOOL

Patriot **John Grand**, Ft. Lowell Chapter 442

Patriot Moore, Patriot Phipps, Patriot Zimmerman, Patriot Grand



Presenting the Purple Heart Wreath



Memorial Day Preparation at AZ Veterans Memorial Cemetery

*It was a beautiful morning on May 23rd as **Ft Lowell Chapter 442** joined other Veterans' groups and community volunteers to **place flags for Memorial Day** on the 5,600+ veterans' graves at the **Arizona State Veterans' Memorial Cemetery** in Marana, AZ. Thank you to all the veterans and community volunteers who came out to help. **Department Vice-Commander John***

***Moore, Department Commander Cody Phipps, Patriot John Grand, Patriot Roy Woolard, Mrs. Woolard & volunteer Tony Day** represented the Chapter.*

Patriot Grand & Department Commander Phipps



Sections C & D completed



Patriot Phipps, Congressman Ciscomani who came out to help, & Patriot Moore



Volunteers placing flags



Purple Heart Park Tucson

Purple Heart Park is much cleaner, thanks to community volunteers. Thank you volunteers Jenenn Nicole, Isabel, Cassie Sloan Vildusea, Mark, Ruben, and Jason. The volunteers filled 4 bags full of trash. It was a tedious cleanup of mostly candy wrappers, bottle caps, balloons/string, and much more that you might find at a park.

Volunteers at Purple Heart Park



Bingo for Patients in Tucson VA Hospital

Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 hosted bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital on May 30th. Thank you to **Department Commander Cody Phipps, Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, Patriot Danny Lemon, and volunteers Yolanda Lemon, Cherie Stallman, Sam Phipps, and Susan-Lea Campbell Skuhr.** **Yolanda Lemon** made the beautiful quilt that was the grand prize.

Patients at the Tucson VA Hospital enjoy Bingo



Susan-Lea, grand prize winner, & Yolanda



Patriot Bertagnoli calls Bingo



*Department Commander's son Sam calls
Bingo*



Beautiful quilt made by Yolanda Lemon



Chapter 0472-AZ-6

Ignacio Reivera, Commander

Thursday, May 8, 2025, Patriots of MOPH Chapter 0472 met with Michael Ramsey, SAVAHCS Fisher House Manager 3601 South Sixth Avenue Tucson AZ, to present a donation in the amount of \$7,500.00

Patriots toured this beautiful facility which provides gratis housing for military and veteran families, while a loved one is hospitalized! We were honored by Mike and his staff!



Left to right: Genevieve; Mike Ramsey; Ruben Del Rio; Ron Del Rio; Ignacio Rivera; Jim Pomush; Monica; Stephan Bobby; Melissa. May 8, 2025, Fisher House Tucson, AZ

Chapter 0691-AZ-6

Larry Leighton, Commander

JROTC Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Prescott Campus

Al Battista



Patriot Al Battista presents to Cadet Liam Rodgers, and Congressman Ely Crane

I was near to the last presenter! These great kids, of all races, all excited about their future! When I got up to make the presentation I felt like crying seeing all those young, vibrant, and beautiful faces! It brought memories when we were youngsters, full of vim and vigor gloriously going off into the unknown!

The picture of the civilian is our Congressman Ely Crane, former Navy Seal! His presentation about things they may move into, things to avoid, and citizenship really got my old wheels turning about being in college and hearing President Kennedy say, "Ask not what your Country can do for you but what you can do for your country!" That, and my uncles all playing a part in World War II, and some Korean War, became my impetus to leave comfortable college and go into a life in the Marines!

Dysart High School US Army JROTC



NAU Air Force ROTC



Past Region 6 and PDC Billy Weldon, Cadet Kealinn Gacayan

Coconino High School Army JROTC

L/R Rex Stermer, Kee Blackrock, Aiden Simonsen, Billy Weldon.



Patriot Steve Alexander presenting Leadership Award to Cadet Captain Madilyn Cortez-Pantaleon

Chapter 0793-AZ-6

Rodger Ely, Commander

NAU ROTC

Past Region 6 and PDC Billy Weldon, Cadet Payton Bray

JRROTC Bradshaw Mountain High School



Past Region 6 and PDC Billy Weldon, Cadet Gabriel Burkhardt

Chapter 2560-AZ-6

Mike Overmeyer, Commander



CHAPTER HONORS OFFICER FACIO: Chapter 2560 presents the family of Apache Junction Police Officer Gabriel Facio a check for \$500.00. Officer Facio, was shot after responding to reports of a driver brandishing a firearm on June 2 and died 6 days later. Officer Facio, was a 3 year veteran of the police force and the 1st Apache Junction police officer killed in the line of duty. He is survived by his wife, son, and a daughter.



Department of Arizona

Calendar Fundraiser

Get yours now! They make great Christmas Gifts too.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA 2026 CALENDAR AND \$300 GIFT CARD RAFFLE

- BUY A 2026 PATRIOTIC CALENDAR FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A SCHEELS \$300 GIFT CARD (GOOD IN STORE OR ONLINE)



- ORDER YOURS NOW: www.zeffy.com/ticketing/moph-az-2026-calendar
- FINAL CALENDARS WILL BE MAILED NOVEMBER 1, 2025.
- WINNING NUMBERS ARE THE SAME AS THE ARIZONA PICK 3 NUMBERS DRAWN EACH WEDNESDAY AND MAY 16TH, JULY 4TH, AND AUG 7TH.
- WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THE DRAWING.
- ALL UNSOLD CALENDARS AND UNCLAIMED PRIZES BECOME PROPERTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART.
- PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART PROGRAMS AND DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA OPERATIONS.

The Department of Arizona Military Order of the Purple Heart is a non-profit 501.c.19 tax-exempt organization. One of its subordinate units is The Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of Arizona, a 501.c.3 non-profit tax-exempt organization.



Department of California

Jo Keller, Commander

Celebration of Life Past National Inspector David Jackson (2/04/1949-5/18/2025)



Daughter Christine Jackson by her dad's picture.

He was honored by many and given full Military Honors on 6/7/2025 in Bakersfield California.



Wife/Veteran (Associate Member) Rosa Jackson holding the presentation flag.



In attendance were Family members, Local Dignitaries, Army National Guard Members as well as a great representation from MOPH. National Finance Officer Jim Anderson and his Wife Sheri, Chapter 604 Commanders Tyrone Littlejohn, PDC Jo Keller, From Chapter/Unit 385 Ron Manjarrez and his wife Vicky. Department of California Commander Raymond Wetzel and Chapter 0493-CA-6 Commander Tim Haney.

2025 Department Convention



Mission Complete! The convention was great fun, all business was addressed, and New Leadership for 2025-2026 elected.

Thank you to all the Patriots, Associates and Auxiliary members that participated. A special thank you to:

- Our guests and families
- City of Temecula Councilman James Stewart welcoming us to the city
- USAF First Sgt (ret) Darryl Willingham for conducting the MIA/POW ceremony
- USMC First Sgt (ret) Marcus Wilson our Key Note Speaker
- USAF CMSgt Briarly Wilson Key Note Speaker
- USAF Technical Sgt (ret) Sue Lewis for the rendition of the National Anthem
- The Patriot Team for their tribute to our MOPH Patriots and taking the Lead with the pledge of allegiance
- Pin Up For Vets Ambassadors and Veterans:
 - o USAF Chantal Van Ackerman
 - o USMC Megan J. Martine
 - o USMC Ilia Banks
 - o USMC Sarah Fasig
 - o USMC Shannon Umana speaking on their mission, fundraiser calendars, VA visits, supporting deployed veterans and donations of medical equipment to VA hospitals.



I can't thank all of you enough for making this very special occasion EPIC!





The Story of Glenn Michael Coplin, CA POTY

Combat Engineer, Patriot of the Year

By Bob Schwartz, Jr.

TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA — On May 22, 2025, at the Military Order of the Purple Heart Convention held at the Embassy Suites Hilton in Temecula, Vietnam combat veteran Glenn Michael Coplin was awarded the Department and Region 6 Patriot of the Year honors—recognizing decades of sacrifice, service, and leadership.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Coplin enlisted in the U.S. Army on October 5, 1967, at just 17 years old—seeking escape from a violent home. After completing basic and explosives training at Fort Leonard Wood and Fort Campbell, he was deployed to the Korean

DMZ and later volunteered for Vietnam. Assigned to the 39th Combat Engineer Battalion, 23rd Infantry Division (Americal), Coplin served as a minesweeper and demolitions specialist, often risking his life clearing deadly traps from roads near Chu Lai and Tam Ky.

One mine blast threw him from a dump truck and nearly cost him his life. “I came to with a sergeant holding my head,” he recalls. “I couldn’t hear, I couldn’t see.” He was later awarded the Purple Heart, though at the time, he was too angry to accept it. A second mine explosion caused further injuries just before his tour ended in 1970. He returned home only to be met with jeers and insults—an all-too-common experience for Vietnam veterans. Traumatized, Coplin battled nightmares, depression, and alcoholism for years.

In 1978, desperate for a fresh start, he moved to Southern California with \$250 and a one-way bus ticket. After years of construction work, failed relationships, and DUI arrests, he checked himself into a VA program at Loma Linda. A fellow veteran named Joe stopped him from quitting on day one. That moment changed his life.

Now sober for 45 years, Coplin has dedicated his life to lifting up fellow veterans. He’s been in counseling at the Vet Center for over 30 years and has worked tirelessly to help post-9/11 veterans find sobriety, support, and purpose. In addition to his Purple Hearts, Coplin earned Army Commendation Medals and has undergone multiple surgeries from his wartime

injuries—including shoulder and knee replacements and spinal damage.

But his service didn't stop when the uniform came off. Coplin has worked in construction, government security, and even provided supervision at major Hollywood events. He holds multiple licenses and certifications, including as a general contractor, Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, and profit consultant. Through organizations like the Convention of States, American Frontline Doctors, and Freedom Brigades, he continues to serve his community and fight for American values.

A life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, DAV, VFW, VVA, and American Legion, Coplin is a voice of experience, courage, and redemption.

Department of Nevada

Ned Barker, Commander

Purple Heart History in Nevada Introduction

This report presents a historical overview of the origins of the Purple Heart Medal and its connection to the men and women from Idaho who served during World War I. It also addresses the inherent challenges in identifying those Idaho veterans who would have been eligible for the Purple Heart due to inadequate recordkeeping practices during and after the war. Additionally, it provides information about the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 53 in Idaho.

Origins of the Purple Heart Medal

The Purple Heart Medal traces its lineage to the *Badge of Military Merit*, established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, to recognize meritorious action by soldiers in the Continental Army. After falling into disuse, the decoration was revived on February 22, 1932, by General Douglas MacArthur to commemorate the bicentennial of Washington's birth. The modern Purple Heart was designated to honor U.S. military personnel wounded or killed in action against an enemy of the United States.

Although the medal was formally established in 1932, eligibility for Purple Heart recognition was not extended retroactively in a comprehensive manner for World War I veterans. As a result, many who served with distinction and sustained injuries or were killed in action during the Great War were never formally recognized with the Purple Heart.

Idaho's Contribution to World War I

The State of Idaho contributed significantly to the national war effort. More than **19,000 men and women** from Idaho served in World War I, fulfilling roles across all branches of the armed forces. Of those:

728 Idaho service members died overseas, primarily in France.

328 individuals were confirmed to have either been **killed in action or died of wounds**, meeting the criteria for posthumous Purple Heart eligibility under current standards.

Limitations in Recordkeeping and Data Integrity

The identification of Idaho World War I veterans who would have qualified for the Purple Heart is constrained by multiple systemic issues in wartime and postwar documentation:

Fragmented and Incomplete Records

Wartime documentation was maintained inconsistently at federal, state, and local levels. Many service records were incomplete, misfiled, or destroyed over time, including those lost in the 1973 National Archives fire in St. Louis.

Decentralized Draft and Enlistment Systems

Idaho's rural geography and limited administrative infrastructure led to dispersed and poorly standardized recordkeeping among local draft boards and county registrars.

Handwritten and Telegraphic Reporting

The reliance on non-digital communication—such as handwritten ledgers, casualty cards, and telegrams—led to frequent clerical errors, duplication, and loss of critical information.

Out-of-State Assignments and Misattributed Service

Many Idaho enlistees served in units from other states or regions, complicating efforts to track their service and link them definitively to Idaho.

Lack of Centralized State Archiving Postwar

Idaho did not establish a comprehensive veterans' registry or archival repository for

World War I service records during the immediate postwar period.

As a result of these limitations, precise identification of all eligible Purple Heart recipients from Idaho remains elusive. Nevertheless, the compiled list of Idaho veterans who served, were wounded, or killed in action during World War I represents the most accurate record currently available, based on extensive research from military rosters, casualty lists, Gold Star records, and family archives.

Chapter 0053-ID-6

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter 53 and Auxiliary was the first chapter established in Idaho to honor and support combat-wounded veterans. Formed in the city of Boise, Chapter 53 became an early symbol of remembrance and unity for Idahoans who had shed blood in service to the nation.

On November 18, 1936, Private First Class Albert L. Harle of Boise, along with eleven other World War I veterans, initiated the effort to form the state's inaugural MOPH chapter. Their shared vision was to provide mutual support among Purple Heart recipients and to ensure that the sacrifices of Idaho's combat-wounded veterans were honored for generations to come.

The chapter was formally chartered on January 24, 1937, during a meeting held at 2:00 PM in the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Hall in downtown Boise. Sixteen charter members signed the founding document and named the new organization

the Private Hubert Eugene Zumwalt Chapter 53, in memory of Pvt Hubert Eugene Zumwalt, a fellow Boise soldier who died of wounds sustained in the Battle of Belleau Wood on June 13, 1918.

About Pvt Hubert Eugene Zumwalt

Pvt Zumwalt served in multiple Idaho and national units, including:

- H Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Idaho Infantry
- F Company, 2nd Battalion, 116th Engineers, 41st Division
- F Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Engineers, 2nd Division, AEF

He was mortally wounded on June 12, 1918, and succumbed the next day. Pfc Albert Harle had served with Zumwalt in the same engineering regiments, though in Company A, 1st Battalion, 2nd Engineers, forming a close bond that later inspired Chapter name.

Founding Members and Officers

Charter Members of Chapter 53 included:

- Lester F. Albert- J.E. Bradburn- A.M. Bufort- Guy Dickens- Ransler C. Falick- Adam Fries- Walter J. Hall- Albert L. Harle- Joseph F. Kallas- Thomas C. Neibaur- William Mckennie- Carlos E. Moon- Chester G. Reese- Burt B. Spellman- Fred Stanley- Jeremiah Williams

First Elected Officers:

- Commander: Capt. Burt B. Spellman
 - Senior Vice Commander: Pfc Albert L. Harle
 - Junior Vice Commander: Adam Fries
 - Adjutant & Finance Officer: William Mckennie
 - Chaplain: Pvt Thomas C. Neibaur
 - Sergeant-at-Arms: J.E. Bradburn

Appointed Trustees:

- Chester G. Reese – 3-year term
 - Earl Munyon – 2-year term
 - Col. Judson Spofford – 1-year term



Find a Grave
 REGISTER SIGN IN
 SPONSORED BY: BATES BOOKS

Pvt Hubert E. Zumwalt
 1896 – 1918 • Morris Hill Cemetery

MEMORIAL PHOTOS FLOWERS

Hubert E. Zumwalt, formerly of Mettall and Warren, died in France from wounds, June 13. He was a member of Company H of the Second Idaho, but was transferred to the Second engineers. His father is employed at the Yellowpine mine; his mother lives in Boise.

BIRTH	20 Aug 1896 California, USA
DEATH	20 Jun 1918 (aged 21) Nieuw-Quary, Département de l'Alsace, Picardie, France
BURIAL	Morris Hill Cemetery Boise, Ada County, Idaho, USA Show Map
MEMORIAL ID	38913454 - View Source

Flowers 4

Respect and Honor!

Left by Mithy Rader on 12 Mar 2023 (374502)

Suggested edit: Contributor: MGR (46905687)

Hubert Zumwalt sailed aboard Tenardores along with other Idaho volunteers as members of the 126th Engineers, 41st Division. They were assigned transferred to the 2nd Engineers immediately upon arrival at St. Nazaire, France. While Hubert Zumwalt...

The chapter was initially composed of 25 charter members, including ten particularly distinguished veterans. Among them was Pvt Thomas C. Neibaur of Sugar City, Idaho's only World War I Medal of Honor recipient and the first member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to receive the award. Neibaur earned the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism in October 1918 during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

Chapter Activity and Legacy

Though formal documentation of Chapter 53's later activity is limited, historical accounts affirm its significant contributions to Idaho's veteran community throughout the early and mid-20th century. The chapter sponsored patriotic observances, supported fellow wounded veterans, and helped lay the foundation for an enduring MOPH presence in the state.

Like many chapters composed primarily of World War I veterans, Chapter 53 eventually became inactive. Contributing factors likely included the aging of its membership and the logistical challenges of sustaining operations during generational transitions.

History and Legacy of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Idaho

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) has a long and proud tradition in Idaho, dating back to the establishment of its earliest chapters in the 20th century. These chapters were formed to uphold the mission of honoring and supporting combat-wounded veterans who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds sustained in service to our nation.

Timeline of Idaho MOPH Chapters

1936 – Chapter 53 (Boise Area)

On November 18, 1936, Private First-Class Albert L. Harle and eleven other World War I veterans-charted Chapter 53 in Boise. This marked the beginning of formal MOPH activity in Idaho. Chapter 53 remained active for several decades before becoming

inactive due to declining membership and organizational challenges. Its legacy laid the foundation for continued Purple Heart engagement in Idaho.

Post-World War II – 2000s

As more veterans returned home from war, additional chapters were formed across the state to support new generations of Purple Heart recipients:

- Chapter 629 – Snake River (Idaho Falls)
- Chapter 679 – Magic Valley (Twin Falls)
- Chapter 829 – Snake River Plain (Chubbuck)

These chapters actively served their regions by participating in ceremonies, offering peer support, and promoting patriotic values. However, in later years, all three became inactive due to membership attrition and regional consolidation.

Early 2000s – Present

Recognizing the need to sustain services statewide despite fewer active chapters, Idaho veterans consolidated their efforts into two strong, statewide chapters:

- Chapter 509 – Chief Joseph Chapter (Southwestern Idaho)
- Chapter 511 – Panhandle Chapter (Northern Idaho)

These chapters have continued the mission of MOPH in Idaho, adapting to changing veteran needs while honoring the traditions established by their predecessors.

Current Activities of Active Chapters

The two remaining active chapters, 509 and

511, continue to serve Idaho's Purple Heart recipients with distinction. Their work includes:

- Legislative advocacy for veteran benefits and recognition
- Hosting and supporting patriotic ceremonies and educational events
- Offering direct aid to wounded veterans and their families
- Collaborating with other veteran service organizations across the state

Carrying Legacy Forward

Though several Idaho MOPH chapters have become inactive, their contributions to the state's veteran community are not forgotten. The work of Chapters 509 and 511 honors their legacy by continuing to uphold the principles of courage, sacrifice, and service.

Conclusion

While the Purple Heart Medal was not available during World War I, it remains a symbol of valor, sacrifice, and national gratitude. This report seeks to honor those Idaho men and women who would have been eligible under modern criteria and to acknowledge the gaps in historical recordkeeping that have obscured full recognition of their service.

The Idaho Department of the Military Order



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (all ages)

MONUMENTAL CHALLENGE 2025: TO CLEAN VETERAN HEADSTONES

Morris Hill Cemetery – Field of Honor 1

317 N. Latah St., Boise, ID



Field of Honor 1

The marble headstones are about 1 ½ feet tall and set on concrete bases. Buckets, brushes, hoses, soap and water will be provided. However, gloves, garden kneeling pads, or small stools may be helpful. Also work clothes and closed toe shoes are recommended.

Parking is allowed in the cemetery

Questions: please ask Nancy or Jerry

Daughters of the American Revolution, Pioneer Chapter: Nancy Daigle nwdaigle42@gmail.com
Boise City Parks and Recreation, Volunteer Coordinator: Jerry Pugh jpugh@cityofboise.org

Fri May 2nd – 9:30 – 11:30 am – Idaho Fine Arts Academy (IFAA)

of the Purple Heart remains committed to preserving and sharing this legacy, ensuring that the contributions of Idaho's World War I veterans are never forgotten.

Note: For further information or to contribute to the preservation of Idaho's military history, please contact the Idaho

Department of the Military Order of the Purple Heart or visit their official Facebook Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/mophidaho>

Pioneer Chapter, NSDAR

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) was founded in 1890 to promote Historic Preservation, Education, and Patriotism across the United States. Since the Society's founding, more than one million women have found purpose and passion in DAR membership.

In the serene stretches of Morris Hill Cemetery in Boise, Idaho lie the military sections, a hallowed ground where many veterans had rested unacknowledged until recently. Pioneer Chapter, NSDAR, took on a reverent mission to ensure that those who served in conflicts as early as the Civil War to World War II are forever remembered. Family, friends, and community have the opportunity to remember each soldier laid to rest and honor their service to our country.

To learn more about the Pioneer Chapter's mission and activities, please visit:

<https://pioneerchapterdar.org/>

Use the link to download a list of Veteran graves at the CIMS - Morris Hill Cemetery.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16G2gOC7af9cwCDVkvf5H07ldS7NIFND/view?usp=sharing>

VA News

Larry Leighton

Chair, National Publications Committee

If you are in crisis and need immediate help, please call the crisis line 988 and Veterans (PRESS 1) or visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>.

Please remember the only secure way to ask personal questions is at <https://ask.va.gov/>. Explore VA benefits at choose.va.gov

The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products and services on the part of VA. Veterans should verify the information with the organization offering.

Never too late to sign up for VA benefits

'I Never Expected We Would Have Such Good Care'

June 26, 2025, Michael Hamill, Public Affairs Specialist, Coatesville VA Medical Center

During a visit to her private doctor in 2010, Jo-Ann Belanger was stunned to find out how much a new prescription would cost each month, even with private health insurance.

Then her doctor pointed out that both she and her husband were Air Force Veterans. "You should be able to get some help from VA," he said. The doctor's suggestion changed the Belangers' lives.

Using the benefits they earned

Like other Veterans, the Belangers assumed they weren't entitled to [VA health benefits](#) because they only served a few years at a stateside location.

For 45 years after they left military service, they relied on their private health insurance policies. Then they signed up for the VA benefits they had earned and deserved. At first, the Belangers only took advantage of VA pharmacy services. "Our pharmacist is wonderful," said Jo-Ann. "When I call, she always gets back to me. My questions are always answered. They are always there for me. Nothing is too much for them." But the longer the Belangers used VA, the more benefits they realized they could access, including annual physical and acupuncture.

'I love it here'

Now in their 80s, they regularly see a private sector doctor when Medicare and insurance cover it, and then come to [Coatesville VA](#) for everything else: podiatry, optometry, audiology and physical therapy.

"I love it here. Everybody is great," said Jo-Ann. "I get care that I never thought I could get. The people suggest things that I didn't even know I could do or have."

VA also provides medical equipment and other supplies. "I get one free pair of shoes from podiatry every year. And the hearing aids. And eyeglasses." After recent surgery, VA "gave us blood pressure cuffs, the

commode, the shower and the walker"—all of which would have cost money under private insurance.

"It is such good care," she added. "I never expected that we would have such good care."

Learn [how to apply for VA health care](#).

<https://news.va.gov/140796/never-too-late-to-sign-up-for-va-benefits/>

Checks Versus Direct Deposit

VA urges holdouts still receiving veteran's benefits by paper check to move to electronic banking



The Department of Veterans Affairs is making a final push to move veterans who receive benefits by paper check to get the money directly deposited to an account after President Donald Trump ordered a shift to electronic banking for federal agencies by Sept. 30. But more than 120,000 veterans and their family members continue to collect VA checks monthly by mail for disability, survivor support and other compensation.

These veterans and their beneficiaries opted not to use direct deposit, or they do not have a bank account, the VA said. The Trump administration set a target date of Sept. 30 — the last day of fiscal 2025 — for federal agencies to phase out check disbursements

and receipts “to the extent possible under law,” according to an executive order signed by Trump.

Transactions by paper check are more costly for the federal government to process and raise the risk of lost payments, theft, and delays, according to the executive order. Paper checks issued by the Treasury Department are 16 times more likely to be reported lost or stolen, returned undeliverable or altered than an electronic funds transfer, according to the executive order. But even with the president’s executive order, the VA cannot force a veteran or a veteran’s family member to choose direct deposit over a paper check, the VA said. “If a veteran does not want to get banked or if they simply like receiving a check, they can continue to do so despite the risks,” said Macaulay Porter, the VA’s deputy assistant secretary of public affairs.

Porter said the VA has had success in helping veterans establish bank accounts to make it more convenient to receive their benefits. More than 500,000 veterans have used the program to open bank accounts since 2019. The VA has partnered with 130 financial institutions that have pledged to provide veterans and their families with free and low-cost banking services to open accounts. Financial counseling is also a free service for veterans. VA figures do not suggest a higher proportion of veterans than the general population do not use the nation’s financial system, Porter said.

But some Veterans refuse to share their personal bank account information with the VA to allow for electronic funds transfers. They would rather cash their checks and

stash their money in a safe at home. Some want to hide the information from relatives or the IRS, and some just don’t trust Uncle Sam at all.

What is the Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP), and how can it help?

This program connects veterans with a network of banks and credit unions committed to helping veterans open an account. These institutions are often more understanding of unique financial histories. They may offer low-cost or no-cost banking options, making it easier for veterans to receive their benefits via direct deposit and gain access to broader financial services.

Are there any challenges veterans might face when making the switch?

Some veterans face challenges switching from paper checks to Direct Deposit. One common issue is not having an existing bank account, which can be addressed through the [Veterans Benefits Banking Program \(VBBP\)](#). The VA also provides phone support and in-person assistance at regional offices to help you make the switch.

What information do I need to prepare before switching to direct deposit?

Your bank account number, your bank’s routing number, and the specific type of account you wish to use (either checking or savings). You can typically locate these numbers on a voided check or by contacting your bank or credit union.

Can I update my direct deposit information over the phone?

Call the VA benefits hotline on 1-800-827-

1000 (TTY: 711). A specific line is available at 918-781-7550 for those managing international direct deposit.

Be sure you have your personal identification details, your VA file number, and your bank's routing and account numbers readily available. It's also a good practice to ask for confirmation of the change and an estimated timeframe.

Is it possible to change direct deposit details in person?

Yes, for those who prefer face-to-face assistance, you can visit your nearest VA regional office to update your direct deposit information. You can use the VA's online tool to locate the closest office. At the office, you will likely need to complete a specific form, typically the "Direct Deposit Sign-Up Form" (VA Form SF-1199a), which requires your personal information, account details, benefit type, and VA claim number.

Bring a valid photo ID, bank account number, and routing number. Once submitted, request a copy of the form for your records and inquire about the expected processing time.

Do I need to update information for each type of VA benefit if I receive multiple payments?

Yes, if you receive various VA benefits, such as disability compensation and educational assistance, you might need to update the direct deposit information for each benefit category separately within your online profile.

What is the standard method for receiving VA benefits electronically?

The standard and most recommended method for receiving VA benefits electronically is through direct deposit into a personal bank account. This involves electronically transferring funds directly into a checking or savings account held at a bank or credit union.

What is the alternative for veterans who do not have a traditional bank account?

Veterans who do not have an existing bank account or prefer not to open one can use the Direct Express Debit MasterCard, a prepaid debit card into which VA benefits are paid.

This card may be used for purchases wherever Mastercard is accepted. However, it's worth noting that it may have some limitations compared to a full-service bank account, such as potential fees for certain transactions or fewer deposit options.

Recognizing the need to help Veterans and their family's access financial products and services, VA partnered with the Association of Military Banks of America to create the Veterans Benefits Banking Program in 2019. Through VBBP, Veterans have access to [43 participating financial institutions](#) to provide low to no-cost checking and savings accounts.

VBBP also provides Veterans a [free session](#) with either an Accredited Financial Counselor® through the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education® or a credit counselor through the National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

Participating banks and credit unions can be found at VeteransBenefitsBanking.org.

Additional financial resources for Veterans

include [VetCents](#), a financial education program specifically designed for Veterans and their families that covers topics like budgeting, and [Veteran Saves](#), an initiative that helps Veterans build financial resilience.

National Life Insurance Awareness Day

Protect those who matter most with VA Life Insurance

May 2, 2025, Office of Communication,
Veterans Benefits Administration

May 2, 2025, is National Life Insurance Awareness Day, and now is the perfect time to think about your life insurance needs. Life insurance is an important financial benefit that provides peace of mind to you and your loved ones. VA offers several life insurance options to meet the needs of our Nation's service members and Veterans, such as Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, Veterans' Group Life Insurance and VA's newest offering—Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife).

Why is life insurance important?

Life insurance provides funds to help cover expenses upon your death. With the right policy and coverage amount, you can cover funeral and other end-of-life expenses, provide income replacement for loved ones, or pay off outstanding debts.

What life insurance programs does VA offer?

VA offers life insurance programs to Veterans, service members and military families.

For service members and military families

Active duty, National Guard and Reserve service members are automatically eligible to be covered under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance ([SGLI](#)), which now offers up to \$500,000 in low-cost term life insurance coverage. [TSGLI](#) is traumatic injury protection coverage also included with SGLI up to \$100,000.

Spouses and dependent children of service members covered by SGLI can also receive coverage under Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance ([FSGLI](#)). Spouses can have coverage up to \$100,000 with a premium paid, and dependent children are covered for \$10,000 at no cost to a service member who has SGLI coverage.

For Veterans

Veterans can choose to convert their SGLI term life insurance coverage after separation from service to Veterans' Group Life Insurance ([VGLI](#)), which offers term life coverage equal to the amount held under SGLI. Veterans must apply for VGLI within one year and 120 days from their date of separation. If they apply within 240 days following separation, they do not have to answer any health questions.

Veterans may also choose whole life insurance coverage through VA's newest life insurance program—Veterans Affairs Life Insurance ([VALife](#))—which offers guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance to Veterans age 80 and under with any level of service-connected disability (0-100%) and no time limit to apply.

VALife offers up to \$40,000 in coverage, has no health questions for enrollment, is fully automated online with instant decisions, has competitive premiums that will never increase for the life of the policy and offers cash value that builds over the life of the policy after the first two years of enrollment.

Some Veterans with service-connected disabilities may also qualify for up to \$200,000 in coverage through Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance ([VMLI](#)), which offers mortgage protection insurance for those who received a Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant to adapt a home to fit their unique service connected disability needs.

Learn more

You can learn more about these programs by visiting [VA's life insurance webpage](#), or go to va.gov/life-insurance.

<https://news.va.gov/139797/national-life-insurance-awareness-day-va-life/>

Life insurance premiums discounted for service members, spouses, and Veterans

June 18, 2025
Insurance Service, Veterans Benefits Administration

Starting July 1, 2025, service members, their spouses and Veterans covered under VA life insurance programs will see lower monthly

premiums, reinforcing VA's commitment to making life insurance more affordable.

Discounts for active duty, Guard and Reserve members

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)

SGLI provides low-cost group-term life insurance coverage, up to \$500,000, in increments of \$50,000, to eligible service members. The new premium rate is decreasing from \$0.06 per \$1,000 to \$0.05 per \$1,000. This means the monthly premium for the maximum \$500,000 coverage will now be \$25 plus \$1 for Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI).

- Who is eligible? All active duty, National Guard and Reserve service members are automatically enrolled in SGLI.
- Do you need to take action? No. Premiums are deducted from service members' pay, and the new discount will automatically apply.

Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI)

FSGLI insures dependent children at no cost and offers optional spousal coverage for the spouses up to \$100,000, not to exceed the amount of the service member's SGLI coverage.

- Premium rate discounts will vary by age, ranging from 11% to 22%, with an average discount of approximately 13%.
- No action is required—new rates take effect automatically.
- Service members can review their SGLI and FSGLI elections through the

SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES) on milConnect.

Discounted premium for Veterans

Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)

VGLI allows Veterans to continue their life insurance coverage after separating from military service, ensuring long-term financial protection. Starting July 1, 2025, monthly premiums for VGLI will be reduced for all ages.

- What's changing? The VA Secretary has approved a discount on VGLI premiums, ranging from 2% to 17%, with an average reduction of 11%.
- Who's eligible? All Veterans insured under VGLI.
- How will you be notified? The Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (OSGLI) will notify insured Veterans through direct mail, email, online accounts, and premium bills.
- Do you need to take action? No action is required. However, depending on your payment method, you may need to adjust your payment amount.
- What's changing? Premiums for all ages will be discounted.

How does this help? Lower premiums allow Veterans to retain coverage longer and provide financial security for their families.

Why life insurance matters

Life insurance provides essential financial protection covering:

- Funeral costs.
- Mortgage payments.
- Education expenses.
- Lost income.

As life circumstances change, it's important to review your coverage regularly and ensure your beneficiary information is up to date.

For more details on the new premium rates

Active duty, National Guard, Reserve members and covered spouses can visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/INSURANCE/spring2025discount.asp>.

By ensuring both service members and Veterans receive lower-cost life insurance, VA is reinforcing its commitment to long-term financial security for those who serve and their families.

More information can be found online at www.va.gov/life-insurance/.

<https://news.va.gov/140767/life-insurance-premiums-discounted-for-service-members-spouses-and-veterans/>

Veterans helping Veterans: Secure sign-in changes

Need help? VA staff are available. May 17, 2025, VA Office of Connected Care

Secure sign-in changes are here. VA is making these changes to meet modern security standards for protecting your personal data and help preventing scammers from stealing your benefits.

You can no longer use your My HealtheVet user ID and password to sign in to VA.gov, VA apps or any other online VA services. After Sept. 30, 2025, you also won't be able to use your DS Logon username and

password for VA online services.

Moving forward, you will have two sign-in options: [a Login.gov](#) account or [ID.me](#) account.

VA staff across the country are here to support you through the transition. When Army Veteran Rick Meyer needed to learn how to sign in to access his health records online, he visited the Lincoln VA Outpatient Clinic in Lincoln, Nebraska. Meyer, like many Veterans, wanted to make sure he got a head start on this important change. A VA staff member was ready to help.

Veterans helping Veterans

When Meyer arrived at the clinic in Lincoln, he was concerned he wouldn't be able to access VA online services because of the [secure sign-in changes](#). Meyer uses the My HealtheVet health portal to schedule appointments and refill prescriptions. He met with Connected Health Technician Michael Nickel, an Air Force Veteran who has been using My HealtheVet since 2012.

Meyer said that Nickel guided him step by step through the new sign-in process and made sure he could sign in on his own. Meyer was touched by Nickel's professionalism. The technician was patient and kind to the older Veteran, and willing to stay after hours to assist.

"He made my day," Meyer said. "He was so pleasant and so nice. The clinic is so helpful. The wait isn't usually very long. You have an expert to get you taken care of. On a scale from 1 to 100, they get a 100."

Meyer was not the only Veteran confused by the secure sign-in changes: "Mr. Meyer is our typical Veteran here in the Midwest," he said. It's crucial that Veterans have someone to answer their questions. He understands the everyday challenges they face. "They're a family to me. More so than blood sometimes, because of the experiences you share."

How to get help

Find out more information about [how to create a Login.gov or ID.me account](#).

<https://news.va.gov/140004/veterans-helping-veterans-secure-signin-changes/>

Essential resources for Veteran families with special needs

April 29, 2025

Victoria Do and Beth Hornberger
Veterans Experience Office

Caring for someone with special needs—whether a child, sibling or other loved ones can be both incredibly rewarding and deeply challenging. Fortunately, there are many resources available that provide support, education, and connection. From early intervention programs to adult services, understanding what's out there can make all the difference.

Read the whole article:

<https://news.va.gov/139737/essential-resources-special-needs/>

Saving lives by preventing overdoses

VA Nurses lead naloxone education initiative

May 27, 2025, Jorge “Abe” Gray Vega, RN and Michael Buchanan, Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, VA North Texas Health Care System

When VA nurse Tomeka Allison lost a family member to an [overdose](#), she knew she had to act. Today, she’s leading a pioneering effort at [Dallas VA Medical Center](#) that’s already touched the lives of more than 175 Veterans and their families.

The stakes couldn’t be higher. Veterans are twice as likely to die from accidental overdose compared with the general U.S. population, and recent studies show that up to 60% of Veterans from Middle East conflicts deal with chronic pain, rising to 75% among women Veterans.

The staff at Dallas VA responded by creating a comprehensive education and identification plan focusing on naloxone, also known as Narcan, a life-saving medication that reverses the effects of opioids.

“There was a lot of missed information and educational gaps,” Allison said. “I want Veterans and their families to be well informed because this knowledge can save lives. We teach the Veterans, their families, and caretakers about the medication. We answer any questions they have and demonstrate how to use the nasal mist properly.”

During a recent teaching event, Army Veteran Robert Sander watched as nurse Ashley Gentle carefully reviewed his medications. “These nurses take their time to talk and listen,” Sander said. “Look at her, she’s examining all these pill bottles. I’m so glad to see people like her that care about us Veterans.”

A mist that saves lives



Robert Sander, a U.S. Army Veteran, gets his blood pressure checked by Ashley Gentle, RN, during a recent teaching event. “These nurses take their time to talk and listen,” Sander says.

The initiative has already proved its worth. “I know of Veteran families who have successfully used the mist to save their loved one’s life,” Allison said proudly. “This medication can save lives, including our Veterans’ family members.”

Gentle emphasized their holistic approach: “Many of our Veterans take multiple medications, including opioids. We care for the whole Veteran and see them and their families as partners in achieving high-quality care.”

“Every life saved is a victory,” Allison added. “But our real success comes from preventing

overdoses before they happen, through education and awareness.”

For more information about VA’s overdose prevention programs or to learn about Naloxone, contact your primary care team at your their local VA or visit VA’s website on [Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution](#).

<https://news.va.gov/140309/saving-lives-by-preventing-overdoses/>

Do you receive CHAMPVA benefits and have other health insurance?

Read this. What you need to know

May 7, 2025, Stephanie Slater
VHA Office of Integrated Veteran Care

If you are a [Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA \(CHAMPVA\)](#) beneficiary—meaning you’re the spouse, widow(er) or child of an eligible Veteran—and you also have other health insurance, you might wonder: How do they work together?

Here’s what you need to know to get the most from your coverage.

Read the whole article:

<https://news.va.gov/139919/receive-champva-benefits-other-health-insurance/>

Find your outdoor adventure

The National Veterans Outdoors Resource HUB has thousands of outdoor experiences for Veterans

June 3, 2025, Theresa Walters, CEO, US Vet Connect Inc.

The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products and services on the part of VA. Veterans should verify the information with the organization offering.

You answered the call to serve—now it’s time to answer the call of the wild.

Built by a Veteran, for Veterans, the [National Veterans Outdoors Resource HUB](#) is your all-access pass to thousands of free or highly subsidized, unforgettable, outdoor experiences. Whether you’re an avid angler, a passionate hunter, a nature enthusiast or just looking to unwind, the HUB puts the outdoors at your fingertips.

Explore with ease

The HUB’s interactive [platform](#) makes it simple to find your next adventure by state, activity, or personal interest. Wondering about equine therapy? Dreaming of deep-sea fishing? Wanting to try sailing? The HUB puts it all within reach. Just browse, click, connect, and go.

Think outdoor adventure just means fishing or hiking? Think again. The National Veterans Outdoors Resource HUB opens doors you might never have imagined. Ever wanted to try powered paragliding? How about hog hunting, beekeeping or learning the art of homesteading?

Adventures await

Here are some unforgettable experiences

you can find through the HUB:

- Deep sea fishing.
- Adaptive scuba diving for all abilities.
- Equine therapy on peaceful ranches.
- Guided mountain hikes and forest retreats.
- Pirate ship excursions for the young at heart.
- Kayaking, canoeing and lakeside camping.
- Creative arts workshops and outdoor photography.
- Veteran-led hunting trips and archery events.

Whether you crave the thrill of the wild or the quiet camaraderie of a morning by the lake, there's a nonprofit ready to welcome you. Imagine joining a dog-mushing team in Minnesota. Set sail with a pirate ship crew. Learn the art of blade smithing alongside fellow Veterans. With hundreds of nonprofits nationwide, the adventures are as diverse as the Veterans they serve.

Service dogs and support

Need a loyal companion for your next chapter? The HUB connects you to trusted organizations offering service dogs for Veterans at no cost. These four-legged partners are ready to join you on your journeys—on the trail, by the lake or wherever your path leads.

Your next mission starts now

The National Veterans Outdoors Resource HUB is more than a directory. It's the gateway to the great outdoors. You've stood watch over our country's freedom—now

stand in awe of its beauty.

[FIND YOUR ADVENTURE](#)

This is your invitation to experience America the Beautiful firsthand. The great outdoors is calling—let the land you served become your new frontier. Discover the thrill of the outdoors at www.usvetconnect.com.

Reunions

26th Marines Association

'Rejoining Those Who Served'

Dates: Thursday, September 25 - Sunday, September 28, 2025 -- Come earlier, stay later! You can reserve several days before or after at the same rate.

Location: Doubletree by Hilton -- Boston Logan Airport – Chelsea, 201 Everett Avenue, Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150-1816

Reservations: (888) 446-6677 or call the hotel direct @ (617) 884-2900; Request reservation for the 26th Marine Association Block

Reunions open to all 26th Marines -- including MEU's for details see www.26thMarines.org or E-Mail <mailto:e9m0291@Yahoo.com>.

Download membership and registration form:

http://www.26thmarines.org/MbrShip_Form.pdf

Career Opportunities

Launch into a high-flying career in drone technology

May 14, 2025, Chris Lewis, Founder, Vets to Drones

By transforming military experience into cutting-edge drone expertise, [Vets to Drones](#) is looking to equip Veterans with the tools to thrive in a dynamic and emerging tech sector.

The drone industry is experiencing unprecedented growth, with the Federal Aviation Administration forecasting over 850,000 commercial drones in operation by 2028. From precision agriculture and infrastructure inspection to public safety and cinematography, drones are revolutionizing industries and creating a pressing need for skilled professionals.

Veterans, with their proven discipline, adaptability, and leadership, are ideally suited to meet this demand. Vets to Drones harnesses these strengths, offering a clear pathway to rewarding careers across the American drone industry.

The program provides Veterans with comprehensive, tailored support designed to ensure success, including:

FAA Part 107 certification training: Expert-led courses prepare Veterans for the commercial drone-pilot license, a cornerstone credential for professional unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)

operations.

Practical drone experience: Hands-on training with first-person view (FPV) drones, enterprise systems and industry-standard platforms that build real-world proficiency.

Career transition support: Resume workshops, interview coaching and connections to Veteran-friendly employers who streamline the journey to employment.

Community engagement: Workshops, career fairs and “fly days” create a vibrant network, fostering camaraderie and collaboration among Veterans and industry professionals.

Vets to Drones welcomes Veterans at all stages of their journey—whether recently transitioned or retired, from aviation or ground roles. With programs spanning beginner to advanced levels, participants can pursue opportunities in diverse fields like logistics, emergency response, defense contracting or aerial surveying. This flexibility ensures every Veteran can carve out a meaningful role in the drone economy.

Founded by Veterans for Veterans, the program’s robust network connects participants with hiring partners eager to leverage Veterans’ unique skills and perspectives. By fostering confidence, purpose and a sense of belonging, Vets to Drones helps Veterans navigate the civilian workforce with the same resilience they brought to their service.

“Vets to Drones is about more than flying drones—it’s about empowering Veterans to lift themselves to new heights,” said David

Crabtree, Navy Veteran, UAS industry advocate and Vets to Drones director of operations. “Drones aren’t just tools, they’re the future of innovation, safety, and exploration. As technology accelerates, so does our ability to empower communities, train the next generation and redefine what’s possible. I’m honored to lead operations at Vets to Drones, ensuring Veterans have the skills to soar in this dynamic industry.”

Veterans ready to embark on their next mission can visit [Vet to Drones](#) to explore training opportunities, upcoming events, and career resources. Employers and industry partners are encouraged to collaborate in advancing Veteran-led innovation.

The drone revolution is taking flight, and Veterans are at the helm.

[GET STARTED](#)

Free career mentoring and guidance from America’s top companies

May 20, 2025, Leslie Coffey, American Corporate Partners

[ACP](#) is a national nonprofit organization that bridges the gap between the military and civilian sectors, connecting experienced professionals with Veterans and active-duty spouses seeking successful civilian careers. Through tailored one-on-one mentorship, strategic networking opportunities and robust online resources, ACP combats underemployment and empowers individuals to achieve their full career

potential. Last year, the average starting salary was \$90,000.



Veterans understand the power of guidance and shared experience. From boot camp buddies to seasoned NCOs, mentorship has likely played a crucial role in navigating your military career. However, the need for a guiding hand doesn’t end when you transition to civilian life; it becomes even more vital as you navigate new professional landscapes. Whether you’re just starting your post-service career, hitting your stride, or looking to make a significant change, mentorship offers invaluable support and insights.

Read the rest of the article:

<https://news.va.gov/140221/free-career-mentoring-guidance-top-companies/>

Free franchise matchmaking for Veterans

June 25, 2025, Chris Hale, CEO of Vetrepreneur Franchise Coaching

The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products and services on the part of VA. Veterans should verify the information with the organization offering.

Type “franchise” into an internet search and

you will get a ton of information, often in the wrong order and from sources you don't know if you can trust. Even a list of "best" franchises might not suite your unique skills.

Enter franchise matchmaking from Vetpreneur

The right match, like a well-fitting suit or a dress, is a custom fit process. It's a combination of science and experience based on six factors:

- Your why.
- Your fears.
- Skills and interests.
- Lifestyle.
- Financial.
- Geographical.

Finding your [Vetpreneur Franchise Type](#) is the first step.

After some initial matches are found, Veterans need a process to validate the match. This due diligence process includes conversations with the franchisor, a review of the franchise disclosure document, talking with existing franchise owners, considering a legal review of the franchise agreement, and determining the optimal way to finance the business.

The [Vetpreneur Franchise Coaching service](#) uses a 10-step, 10-week process that enables them to make an informed decision on whether franchising is right for them and finding the best franchise match. These coaches are all Veterans or Veteran spouses with tremendous business and franchise

experience.

There is limited capacity. Veterans may [apply now](#) for the free Vetpreneur Franchise Coaching service.

<https://news.va.gov/140840/free-franchise-matchmaking-for-veterans/>



Veterans Experience Office

Editor's note: This post contains links to jobs that are active at the time of publishing. Most job listings close 7-30 days after publishing. The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products and services on the part of VA. Veterans should verify the information with the organization offering.

Each week, we receive job announcements from employers and employment websites—including [RallyPoint](#), [RecruitMilitary](#), [VetJobs](#) and [HireMilitary](#)—looking to hire Veterans. Each week, we'll continue to post relevant and timely listings as we receive them, and for the locations listed.

By recognizing the skills, discipline,

leadership and problem-solving abilities that Veterans possess, employers can benefit greatly from hiring them. Veterans bring a diverse perspective, adaptability, and a strong work ethic to the workplace, enriching the company culture and fostering innovation.

Check out the latest job listings:

[Hiring Veterans: Jobs of the week for May 5, 2025](#)

[Hiring Veterans: Jobs of the week for May 12, 2025](#)

[Hiring Veterans: Jobs of the week for May 19, 2025](#)

[Hiring Veterans: Jobs of the week for May 26, 2025](#)

[Hiring Veterans: Jobs of the week for June 2, 2025](#)

[Hiring Veterans: Jobs of the week for June 9, 2025](#)

[Hiring Veterans: Jobs of the week for June 16, 2025](#)

[Hiring Veterans: Jobs of the week for June 23, 2025](#)

Legislation (Take Action)

Gold Star Father's Day

Since 2017, November 9th has been recognized as Gold Star Father's Day in

Georgia by State Proclamation.

<https://sites.google.com/kallencommunications.com/georgiagoldstarfathers/home>

Georgia's Gold Star Fathers have set a new standard for the nation to emulate. Which is why Congressman Hank Johnson (GA-04) and Congressman Rob Woodall (GA-07) have introduced State Rep. Rhonda Burnough's (GA House D-77) legislation honoring Georgia's Gold Star Fathers on November 9 ([GA House Resolution 655](#)) in the U.S. House of Representatives so that they may be recognize nationally. The bipartisan [House Resolution 706](#) would designate November 9 as "Gold Star Father's Day" nationally.

National recognition will also provide Gold Star Fathers who have lost a loved one in the line of duty with the same considerations that currently exist for Gold Star Mothers and families nationally.

Recognizing Gold Star Fathers nationally will provide one day where fathers across the United States may gather to share stories of their loved one's sacrifice and bravery in defense of democracy and our collective freedoms. It will also serve as a day for all Americans to respectfully acknowledge their sacrifice.

Please take a few moments to lend your support to Gold Star Fathers across the country by [calling your Congressperson and ask them to vote in favor](#) of [House Resolution 706](#), which would designate November 9 as "Gold Star Father's Day" nationally. Letters and emails are acceptable, but a telephone call is the most

effective way to let your representative know that this issue is important to you.

Thank You.

[Click Here](#) to Help "Georgia" Gold Star Father Day become "Nationally" recognized.

Say NO to Putting Veterans in Debt

Veterans should never go into debt to access their earned benefits! The VFW has repeatedly expressed concerns about charging veterans for initial claims assistance based on their future benefits, and thus, we strongly oppose H.R. 3132, CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025, as written. This would potentially put veterans into debt even before utilizing their benefits. The VFW is grateful that the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs staff sought our input on the legislation and included some safeguards in it, but the fee structure is a poison pill that should ultimately kill this bill.

Maybe the committee advanced this bill to finally get the aggressive Claim Shark lobbyists out of their offices, but we urge our legislators in the House not to consider passing such a blatant cash grab for illegal companies who know they're breaking the law and lining their pockets with taxpayer dollars intended for disabled veterans. The VFW opposes this legislation and will continue to fight any effort to put veterans into debt to access their earned disability benefits.

TAKE ACTION

Take action TODAY and tell Congress to VOTE NO when H.R. 3132, CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025, is brought to the House floor for a vote. Veterans should never go into debt to access their earned benefits.

Vote YES to Keep Veterans in their Homes

On May 1, the Department of Veterans Affairs ended the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase (VASP) program, which offered veterans a "last-resort" option for the Department to purchase delinquent home loans. The program lasted only one year and was intended as an emergency stopgap to stave off veteran foreclosures after the COVID-19 moratorium lapsed.

Secretary Collins ended the program over mounting problems with administering VASP and the legal ambiguity of the program. Many in the veteran community understood the Secretary's rationale but were clear that Congress should quickly work to present a responsible statutory solution to help veterans keep their homes. Thankfully, House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Chairman, and VFW member, Rep. Van Orden was closely watching the situation and in March introduced a reasonable policy solution: H.R. 1815, VA Home Loan Program Reform Act. This offers a partial claim option through which VA would pay the delinquency on a veteran's loan and work with lenders to structure appropriate repayments to prevent veterans from defaulting and losing their homes.

On May 19, the House passed Rep. Van Orden's bill without objection. We call on the Senate to pass the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act and keep veterans in their homes.

TAKE ACTION

Take action TODAY and tell your Senators to VOTE YES on H.R. 1815, VA Home Loan Program Reform Act to prevent veterans from losing their homes.

CHOICE for Veterans Act

DAV strongly opposes H.R. 3132, the CHOICE for Veterans Act (Certified Help Options in Claims Expertise for Veterans Act). This bill would allow attorneys and agents to charge ill and injured veterans fees of up to \$12,500 or the amount equal to five times the monthly benefits increase, whichever is less, and if the claim results are favorable.

Currently, veterans can choose accredited veterans service organizations, agents and attorneys who provide free claims assistance. These experts ensure veterans receive knowledgeable representation without sacrificing any of their earned benefits.

H.R. 3132 weakens accreditation requirements, letting individuals assist veterans before meeting full qualification standards. This change risks unqualified representatives making costly mistakes and causing delays in securing benefits.

Although the bill includes some consumer protection measures, it lacks meaningful

enforcement against deceptive practices or conflicts of interest and fails to stop unethical referrals to private medical professionals with financial ties to attorneys or agents.

Based on DAV resolution No. 324, we strongly oppose this legislation. Please contact your Representative and urge them to vote "No" on H.R. 3132 – and put the needs of ill and injured veterans and their families over the profits of predatory claims companies.

[Take Action!](#)

Hire Veterans Act

Many service-disabled veterans face challenges when transitioning to civilian life, particularly in securing stable and meaningful employment. Despite possessing valuable skills and experiences gained through military service, these individuals often encounter barriers such as personal qualification requirements and a lack of opportunities that align with their expertise.

H.R. 1242, the Hire Veterans Act, would address these challenges by creating a 5-year pilot program which would dedicate a pathway for service-disabled veterans to access employment within federal land management agencies. It would recognize the unique strengths, and skill sets service-disabled veterans bring to the workforce that align with the needs of the National

Park, Wildlife and Fish agencies.

We support H.R. 1242, the Hire Veterans Act in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 238, which supports identifying, reducing, and removing barriers to a service-disabled veteran's employment.

Please contact your representative and urge them to cosponsor and support this important legislation. Thank you for your support and advocacy for service-disabled veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

[Take Action!](#)

Streamlining Aviation for Eligible (SAFE) Veterans

H.R. 913, the Streamlining Aviation for Eligible (SAFE) Veterans Act of 2025, aims to expand vocational rehabilitation options for veterans with service-connected disabilities by allowing them to pursue non-degree flight training courses. The bill would open new career paths in the aviation industry for eligible veterans, recognizing the importance of vocational and technical training in providing valuable skills outside traditional degree programs.

Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program requires flight training programs to be tied to traditional four-year college degrees to receive funding; however, most major airlines no longer require college degrees to enter the cockpit.

The SAFE Veterans Act would remove the current degree program requirement specifically for flight training programs, helping to reduce barriers for more eligible veterans to enter aviation careers.

We support the SAFE Veterans Act in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 238, which calls for adoption of programs and legislation to reduce barriers to veterans' gainful employment.

We call on DAV members and supporters to contact their representatives and urge them to cosponsor and support H.R. 913, the SAFE Veterans Act. As always, we appreciate your support for DAV's legislative priorities and thank you for participating in DAV's Commander's Action Network (DAV CAN).

[Take Action!](#)

Service-Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act

H.R. 865, the Service-Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act, aims to provide increased support for service-disabled veteran entrepreneurs by mandating specialized training for federal contract managers who have not met established contract goals for these veteran-owned small businesses. This training program seeks to enhance the award of federal contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, thereby guaranteeing more equitable access to the

contracting market.

Service-disabled veterans have sacrificed for our country, and H.R. 865 would help ensure they receive equal, competitive opportunities to succeed in the federal contracting market.

We support H.R. 865 in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 100, which calls for increasing the number of contract awards to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

Please contact your representative today and urge them to cosponsor and vote in favor of this important legislation. Thank you for participating in DAV's Commander's Action Network (DAV CAN).

[**Take Action!**](#)

Membership Fees

When recruiting, If possible, please have the potential applicant complete the **online application** and pay the \$200.00 fee. Remember fees can be paid in four equal payments of \$50 within one year.

There are still many versions of the old \$50.00 Fee Membership Applications out there and too many instances old applications are being submitted with only \$50. The individuals, believing they are already members are confused and upset when we tell them they are only temporary members until they pay the remaining \$150.

Again, use the online application and avoid all the misunderstandings and processing delays.

Thanks, and have a great day!

MOPH Application for Membership



Application for Life Membership Military Order of the Purple Heart

Purple Heart Recipient 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

Evidence of the award of the Purple Heart must be submitted with the application. Certificate alone does not constitute proof of award. If discharged, discharge document such as a DD-214 must be provided reflecting character of service as honorable or general.

For active duty, provide PCS orders, Purple Heart Orders and Purple Heart Certificate.

There is no posthumous membership.

All applications are subject to verification with the National Personnel Records Center and/or Service.

Associate Member For a parent, spouse, sibling, lineal or adopted descendant (child, grandchild or great-grandchild) of either a living or deceased Purple Heart recipient, evidence of the award of the Purple Heart and the relationship must be submitted with the application.

If the Purple Heart recipient is living, the recipient must be a member in good standing of the MOPH and he/she must sign to acknowledge the relationship and consent for membership.

Dues Schedule

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Life Membership	\$200.00
Associate Life Membership	\$200.00

If the installment plan is selected, \$50 must be submitted with the application. The amount of each installment and the frequency of the installments is at your discretion as long as the remaining \$150 is paid within one year of the application being approved. If you want to use this option, initial here

Fees submitted with Application for Membership are NON-REFUNDABLE.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Member# _____ Chapter# _____

Applicant Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (H) _____ (Work/Cell) _____ FAX _____ Email _____

Recruited by (Print Name) _____

Next of Kin (Print Name) _____ Relationship _____

Check one ☐ Life Member ☐ Associate Life Member

Credit Card ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express CVV # (required) _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____
(required even if not paying by credit card. Typing my name above will constitute as my signature)

All applicants must complete the appropriate section below and send with payment to: MOPH National Headquarters
5413-B Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151 www.purpleheart.org membership@purpleheart.org 703-642-5380

Purple Heart Recipient MOPH Bylaws require that a copy of the document that supports the award of the Purple Heart medal must accompany each application. A copy of documentation submitted will be retained on file for future reference. Evidence of the award of the Purple Heart must be submitted with the application. Certificate alone does not constitute proof of award. If discharged, discharge document such as a DD-214 must be provided reflecting character of service as honorable or general. For active duty, provide PCS orders, Purple Heart Orders and Purple Heart Certificate. There is no posthumous membership. All applications are subject to verification with the National Personnel Records Center and/or Service.

☐ DD-214 ☐ DD-215 (Must be supported by DD-214) ☐ Orders plus PH Certificate ☐ WD AGO 53-55

Service ☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Air Force ☐ Marines ☐ Coast Guard

War Wounded ☐ WW2 ☐ Korea ☐ Vietnam ☐ OEF ☐ OIF ☐ OMD ☐ Other _____

Date entered service _____ ☐ Active Duty (Provide PCS orders) Date Departed Service/Discharged _____

Date wounded _____ Location of Engagement _____

Commissioning source: _____ Have you been convicted of a Felony? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Associate Member Documentation of relationship and proof of Purple Heart award required.

Name of Purple Heart Recipient _____

Member's Signature _____ Chapter# _____

Acknowledge the relationship and consent for associate membership (if applicable)

Purple Heart documentation ☐ DD-214 ☐ DD-215 ☐ Orders plus PH Certificate ☐ WD AGO 53-55

Relationship of Applicant to PH Recipient ☐ Parent ☐ Spouse ☐ Sibling ☐ Child ☐ Grandchild ☐ Great-Grandchild

Relationship documents ☐ Birth Certificate ☐ Adoption Papers ☐ Marriage Certificate ☐ Casualty Report

The National Adjutant will make the final determination on eligibility. Altered documents constitute automatic denial of membership. Payment for dues is not deductible as a charitable contribution according to the Internal Revenue Code. Dues include subscription to the Purple Heart Magazine.

All information and requirements are subject to change without notice. (Effective 9/1/2021, previous editions are obsolete.)

MOPHA Application for Membership

INTERNAL USE ONLY:
Date Rec'd _____

Member Type _____ Member # _____

LIFE MEMBER APPLICATION (revised July 2020) Based On Relationship to Purple Heart Recipient

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Email _____ Unit Requested _____

I am the _____ of _____
Relation to Recipient Name of Purple Heart Recipient

☐ He/she is a member of MOPH Chapter _____ Life Member Number _____

☐ He/she is not a member of MOPH. Attached is the DD214 for certification of Purple Heart award.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsor: _____ Sponsor Unit # _____
Auxiliary member name & ID number signing you up

Membership eligibility must be certified by Chapter or Department MOPH Officer or DD214.

I certify that the MOPH Member & ID Number is known to me & the Applicant is eligible for membership in MOPHA.

Certified by _____ MOPH Officer Position _____ Chapter# _____

INTERNAL USE ONLY:
Date Rec'd _____

Member Type _____ Member # _____

ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION (revised July 2020) Based On Relationship to Auxiliary Member

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Email _____ Unit Requested _____

I am the _____ of _____
Relation to Auxiliary Member Name of Auxiliary Member Life Member Number

Who is the _____ of _____
Auxiliary member Relation to Recipient Name of Purple Heart Recipient

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsor: _____ Sponsor Unit # _____
Auxiliary Member & ID number signing you up

Membership eligibility must be certified by Chapter or Department MOPH Officer or DD214.

I certify that the MOPHA Member & ID Number is known to me & the Applicant is eligible for membership in MOPHA.

Certified by _____ MOPH Officer Position _____ Chapter# _____

Complete appropriate application and send with payment to:

Cheryl Perez . PO Box 120085 . Chula Vista, CA . 91912 / Email: Members.MOPHA@gmail.com

Dues submitted with Application for Membership are NON-REFUNDABLE

Dues Schedule: Life Membership—\$50.00

Associate Life Membership—\$50.00

Evidence of Purple Heart recipient's award and relationship to applicant must be verified.

AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP Eligibility is based on relationship to Purple Heart Recipient and is granted to a parent, grandparent, spouse, widow, widower, sibling, child, or grandchild of persons who have been awarded the Purple Heart by the Armed Services of the United States, and to those who served in the Armed Forces and have received the Purple Heart decoration in their own name. Life Membership is subject to conditions set forth in Article I of the MOPHA Bylaws.

ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP is available based on relationship to Auxiliary member and is granted to a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, or spouse of a member in the Auxiliary. Associate Membership is subject to conditions set forth in Article XVIII of the MOPHA Bylaws.



Application for Life Membership
Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary



TAPS

From the National Chaplain, Attention Chaplains: All death notices should be sent to the National Commander; National Junior Vice; and National Adjutant for verification. Afterwards, I will complete a letter of condolence (LOC) to the family!

The information on the following pages is taken directly from the Deceased Member Roster downloaded from the National website. For this issue, deceased members who were **REPORTED** between **Apr 25, 2025, and Jun 25, 2025**, regardless of the actual date of death. The listing has been sorted by last name, first name, date posted, and date of death.

Currently, the Deceased Roster does not include Member's Service, but a request has been submitted to the webmaster to have that field added in the future.



Chapter	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Date Death Posted	Date Of Death
0264-NY-1	David C	AUDETTE		2025-06-24	None
DML-AZ-6	Farrell M	BAILEY		2025-06-09	2011-12-18
1670-SC-4	Ronald L	BAIN		2025-05-05	2013-08-04
0793-AZ-6	Benjamin	BARELA		2025-06-09	2008-08-11
0845-SC-4	William	BEDSAUL	David	2025-06-24	2024-11-20
0730-NV-6	Eugene	BERNEY	C	2025-05-23	2025-02-11
1670-SC-4	Stewart M	BESTWICK		2025-05-05	2023-10-30
0472-AZ-6	Jack Williamson	BOMAR		2025-06-09	2009-05-21
0636-NC-4	William	BORER	F	2025-04-29	None
DML-AZ-6	Arnold	BRATVOLD	R	2025-06-09	2019-08-24
0657-NC-4	Elwood	BURNETTE		2025-05-28	2024-07-10
2560-AZ-6	Rupert	CABALLERO		2025-06-10	2024-12-16
0793-AZ-6	Leon L	CARLSON		2025-06-09	2022-10-27
1670-SC-4	Thomas T	CARR		2025-05-05	2017-09-28
0004-PA-1	Salvatore	CASTRO		2025-04-29	None
2560-AZ-6	Larry J	CHESLEY		2025-06-11	2021-05-02
2560-AZ-6	John B	CHRISTIANSEN		2025-06-09	2021-05-16
0787-GU-6	Thomas H	COFFEY		2025-05-15	None
0492-GA-4	Wiley C	CONNER		2025-06-17	2024-07-04
0472-AZ-6	William C	COWPERTHWAIT		2025-06-10	2022-07-16
2560-AZ-6	Carl	COX		2025-06-09	2008-01-16
0147-OR-3	David L	CULBERTSON		2025-05-02	2025-04-30
2015-MT-3	Hugh C	CUMMING		2025-05-25	None
1979-IA-2	Edison James	DAVIS		2025-05-19	None
1670-SC-4	Ernest	DEWEESE	Ewing	2025-05-05	2021-02-17
0793-AZ-6	Louis	DIAZ		2025-06-10	2001-10-31
0472-AZ-6	Lawrence	DIETZ		2025-06-09	2021-06-11
0472-AZ-6	Louie W	DONOHU		2025-06-09	1998-07-11
0793-AZ-6	Lee E	DORTSCH		2025-06-09	2018-02-16
1670-SC-4	Robert F	DUTTON		2025-05-05	2020-12-02
0472-AZ-6	Thomas F	EYNON		2025-06-11	2020-10-06
DML-AZ-6	James H	FEDISON		2025-06-11	2015-04-30
0472-AZ-6	John	FLEET	R	2025-06-09	2023-08-07
0472-AZ-6	Alfred	FORDE		2025-06-10	2021-12-20
0845-SC-4	Bernie Lee	FRALEY		2025-06-21	2007-03-08
1670-SC-4	Edwin L	GARDNER		2025-05-05	2009-04-02
2015-MT-3	James	GARMON	Max	2025-05-25	None
0472-AZ-6	Daniel	GEORGEVICH		2025-06-09	2012-06-05
0524-FL-4	John D	GIORDANO		2025-04-29	2025-04-28
0472-AZ-6	Allen L.	GOLAT		2025-06-09	2012-12-31

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Date Death Posted	Date Of Death
1513-TX-5	Michael	GUESS	Lee	2025-04-25	2019-07-21
0793-AZ-6	Arnold	GUTIERREZ	B	2025-06-09	2013-12-21
0472-AZ-6	Malcolm C.	HAWKINS		2025-06-11	1999-03-23
0442-AZ-6	Robert J	HINES		2025-06-11	2016-04-19
0472-AZ-6	Duane D	HOFFMAN		2025-06-09	2011-03-06
0472-AZ-6	Edward E	HOLSCHUH		2025-06-09	2001-02-15
0472-AZ-6	Larry E	HOTALING		2025-06-09	1999-03-12
0472-AZ-6	Howard M	HUNT		2025-06-09	2022-02-07
0472-AZ-6	David E.	HURST		2025-06-09	1995-02-03
0159-IL-2	John Joseph	JEWETT		2025-05-16	2024-11-22
1670-SC-4	Jackie L	JOHNSON		2025-05-05	2023-10-19
1670-SC-4	Thomas L	JOHNSON		2025-05-05	2019-05-16
0366-NJ-1	Edward F	KOWAL		2025-05-15	None
0056-MN-2	Warren B	KREGNESS		2025-05-22	2025-04-27
0056-MN-2	Warren B	KREGNESS		2025-05-22	2025-04-27
0472-AZ-6	Robert L	KRESBAUGH		2025-06-09	2016-11-27
0366-NJ-1	John H	KRONCKE		2025-05-16	None
0472-AZ-6	Zane V	LAMASCUS		2025-06-10	2021-11-15
0823-FL-4	Otto	LEDEE	Gustave	2025-05-28	None
0472-AZ-6	Manuel N	LERMA		2025-06-09	2011-06-15
0845-SC-4	Ron C	LESLEY		2025-06-25	2019-11-04
DML-ID-3	David O	LINDSAY		2025-06-16	None
1670-SC-4	Samuel R	MARION		2025-05-05	2009-09-16
0472-AZ-6	William H	MARKLEY		2025-06-10	2022-02-04
0472-AZ-6	Leonard J.	MAROTTA		2025-06-10	1994-07-07
0845-SC-4	Michael E	MCMAKIN		2025-06-25	2021-04-11
1670-SC-4	William	MILCAREK	Francis	2025-05-05	2021-07-04
0472-AZ-6	Leo P	MOLTANE		2025-06-09	2018-01-17
0691-AZ-6	Johnny A	MOORE		2025-06-11	2024-12-30
1670-SC-4	R Allen	MORRIS		2025-05-05	2018-04-25
0472-AZ-6	Samuel	MORRIS	L	2025-06-09	2022-04-04
2216-AL-4	Wayne	MURRAY	H	2025-06-03	2017-06-19
0472-AZ-6	Dale R	NEARHOOD		2025-06-09	2014-01-29
0823-FL-4	MALINA	NEMESH		2025-05-28	None
0472-AZ-6	Richard J	NOLAN		2025-06-09	2002-04-28
0472-AZ-6	Robert J	NYE		2025-06-09	2000-12-01
0793-AZ-6	Clark	O'HAGAN		2025-06-09	2012-08-20
0531-GA-4	Richard J	OLSEN		2025-04-25	2025-04-23
1670-SC-4	Harry E	PALMER		2025-05-05	2003-03-17
2015-MT-3	Roland C	PAYNE		2025-05-25	None

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Date Death Posted	Date Of Death
DML-FL-4	L. H.	PEARSE (COL)		2025-06-11	2004-02-03
1670-SC-4	William T	PIERCE		2025-05-05	2018-06-13
0472-AZ-6	Charles	PILLMAN		2025-06-09	2004-05-08
1670-SC-4	James E	PINCKNEY		2025-05-05	2010-06-09
0001-CT-1	Raymond W	PREAVY		2025-06-17	None
0472-AZ-6	John Edward	QUINN		2025-06-10	2014-01-14
0472-AZ-6	Kenneth E	RABERN		2025-06-09	2011-06-04
0793-AZ-6	James N	REED		2025-06-09	2017-09-16
0472-AZ-6	Michael	RIZZO	A	2025-06-09	2018-10-20
1670-SC-4	Severin Henry	RODESCHIN		2025-05-05	2001-10-26
0845-SC-4	Jean	RODGERS	A	2025-06-24	2023-12-11
0472-AZ-6	Pete	RUIZ		2025-06-10	2014-07-02
0004-PA-1	JOHN	RUMSEY		2025-04-29	None
DML-FL-4	Florento G.	SACCOMANNO		2025-06-11	2013-09-11
DML-FL-4	John H.	SAMSEL		2025-06-11	1997-02-09
0793-AZ-6	Alfonso	SANTILLAN	P	2025-06-10	2015-07-08
0472-AZ-6	James R	SCHNEIDER		2025-06-10	2007-04-11
0472-AZ-6	James S	SEWARD		2025-06-09	2014-12-20
0793-AZ-6	George G	SHOEMAKER		2025-06-11	2022-12-18
0472-AZ-6	Woodrow W.	SMITH		2025-06-09	1992-06-24
0472-AZ-6	John C	SPEAR		2025-06-10	2020-06-22
1513-TX-5	Marvin E	SPROUSE		2025-04-25	2023-02-01
1670-SC-4	Lawrence	STURDIVANT	E	2025-05-05	2025-01-05
1670-SC-4	William E	STUTTS		2025-05-05	2018-03-11
0657-NC-4	Donald M	SUMMERLIN		2025-05-28	2025-01-14
0146-KY-2	Thomas Brad	TUCKER		2025-05-16	None
0472-AZ-6	James M	UNLAND		2025-06-09	2010-03-19
0793-AZ-6	Tom G	URIAS		2025-06-09	2020-12-11
2560-AZ-6	Richard	VOS	D	2025-06-09	2021-02-05
0472-AZ-6	Vasilius C.	VOVAKES		2025-06-09	2013-10-13
1670-SC-4	James W	WALSH		2025-05-05	2024-11-10
0472-AZ-6	Robert T	WARREN		2025-06-09	2018-02-20
0472-AZ-6	William K	WATKINS		2025-06-09	2022-06-20
0793-AZ-6	Ernest	WEBB	N	2025-06-09	2022-07-06
0793-AZ-6	Richard D	WOOLLEY		2025-06-10	2014-08-21