



# The Purple Heart

May / June 2023



Civil War National Cemetery New Albany, IN  
“ All Gave Some, Some Gave All. ”





# CHRISTOPHER VEDVICK

NATIONAL COMMANDER

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As the National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, I am excited to share the great things happening within our organization. We are a community of Veterans who have been wounded in combat while serving our country, and our mission is to provide support, advocacy, and assistance to our fellow Veterans throughout the nation. I'm proud to report that we are successfully executing our mission.

One of our top priorities this year has been ensuring that our organization operates with the utmost transparency and accountability. I am pleased to announce that we are close to completing three unresolved audits. Finishing these audits is crucial in ensuring that the organization's finances and operations are in order, and their ultimate completion speaks volumes about the MOPH's commitment to improving our processes and better serving our members. These have not been easy but are essential to meeting the requirement of being a Congressionally Chartered Veterans Service Organization.

Another exciting development is the leasing agreement we are finalizing for Building C, which will provide much-needed revenue from a space that has been vacant for years. This is a significant step forward for our organization, and it will allow us to continue to grow and expand our services to better support our Veterans along their long road toward recovery.

Our Youth Services program is also in full swing, and we are thrilled to be able to provide recognition to leaders within our youth, whether it be within the ROTC / JROTC programs, organizations like the Young Marines and Civil Air Patrol, or The Boy Scouts of America. We are working directly with the BSA further growing that side of our Youth Services program. Please remember that this is a National Program within the Order that was unanimously voted on and adopted by the 55th National Convention in 1987. Departments and Chapters are not permitted to run independent or competing programs.

Additionally, our Computer Programming Course is going well, and we are pleased to be able to offer this valuable training to our members. Yet another program demonstrates the MOPH's commitment to helping

Veterans transition back to civilian life. This course provides Veterans with the skills they need to succeed in the fast-paced world of technology, and it is an excellent example of how MOPH is helping Veterans achieve their goals.

I recently had the privilege of representing the Military Order of the Purple Heart by testifying before the Joint Congressional Committee on Veterans Affairs. It was the first time in several years that we were allowed to give our testimony in person. I spoke about the need for

Congress to pass the Major Richard Star Act, which will help to ensure that our Combat Wounded Veterans receive all of the retirement money they earned. On behalf of the MOPH I thanked them for their help with the National Defense Authorization Act of 2023 Section 584, which requires DoD to better track the awarding of the Purple Heart Medal and maintain a website of recipients. I also addressed the issue of Military Sexual Trauma and stressed that it needs to be better addressed within the military, and how there is an

absolute need for Veterans Service Organizations to work closer together to fill the gaps in how we support our Veterans.

Finally, we have implemented the Department of Excellence program to increase esprit de corps within our organization. This program recognizes departments that demonstrate outstanding performance in membership growth, community service, and national program support and implementation. We believe this new program will help foster a sense of pride and unity within our organization and allow us to better serve our Veterans at the grassroots level.

In conclusion, I am honored to be a part of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and I am inspired by the dedication and commitment of our members. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that our organization operates with openness and responsibility, and we will continue to provide support and assistance to our fellow Veterans and their families.. 💜

*Christopher Vedvick*





# CARDER FERGUSON

NATIONAL SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

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Patriots, time seems to gain on us quickly, and we have now started that time of year when the Chapters and then Departments have their elections. Chapters or Departments are moving forward with the current officers, or they are having new officers step up. Hopefully, every officer gets a brief description of their job duties and responsibilities. As we know, they are outlined in the Bylaws, and we are updating the procedure manual. You can find a PDF version on the MOPH website at [purpleheart.org](http://purpleheart.org), under the service tab at the top, click on MOPH Forms, then either click on Chapter Officers Duties, Department Officers Duties, or National Officer Duties. This will briefly outline the duties and responsibilities of an officer when elected or appointed.

As you all know, one of my hats is the Bylaws committee chair. We have had several meetings since our last National Convention in South Dakota. The Committee has gone over several resolutions that have been brought up this year. The bylaws team will be ready for this year's Baton Rouge, Louisiana convention. Also, the bylaws team has been working on updating the procedures manual and has poured many hours into getting this updated.

In the last issue of Purple Heart magazine, I talked about how we had several changes from 1932 and our mission statement. I also mention how we support our mission statement through our programs. I know that every Department in the Order has a goal or focus that has been set, and they succeed in a program that fits their needs. Many have strong legislative reforms that they want to see in place. Some will be very strong on College education for Veterans, or maybe Suicide Awareness could be a Homeless Veterans program, or strong in Youth Programs and promoting Americanism.

We must ensure we all work together and understand the Program as we progress with the Orders' goals. We need to ensure that we are keeping in line with

what the Program offers and that the guideline set by our Order is accomplished. A uniform front is what we have to do and make sure we all are on the same page.

Please remember Admonition when we came into the Order and Obligation.

## ADMONITION & OBLIGATION OF CANDIDATES

*"Now, as you take the obligation of active membership, you promise to work for the best interest of the Order, and to strive to maintain its high ideals of patriotism and of mutual helpfulness; you will endeavor always to be worthy of the Purple Heart which stems from our first Commander in Chief. With a clear understanding of these conditions, are you ready to take the obligation and try to ever faithfully observe its spirit and its meanings?"*

*You will raise your right hand, give your name when you say 'I,' and repeat after me: I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly promise and declare -- that I will comply -- with all the laws, rules, and regulations -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. --*

*I will never commit or permit -- any injustice or wrong -- to any Patriot of this Order -- or his family -- if it is in my power to prevent it.*

*I will endeavor, at all times -- to aid any member -- of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. -- his widow and orphans -- as much as is in my power to do so. -- I also promise to uphold and defend -- the Constitution of the United States of America -- and the Flag of our Country. -- All this I do solemnly promise -- upon the honor of a true Patriot -- and a loyal citizen of our great Republic."*

We as a Team will do great if we follow this! ♥

Again thank you for all you do!!

*Carder Ferguson*



## CARLTON L. CANNON CHAPLAIN

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### “PREPARATION – BEFORE THE BATTLE”

“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses;  
but WE will remember the name of the LORD our GOD”

**Psalms Chapter 20** speaks to us today! I remember reading when the army of Alfonso VI of Castile arrived at the Tagus in AD 1085; the soldiers hesitated to cross the river in the prospect of battle with the Moors. Adelme, the abbot of Chaise-Dieu, then entered the water on his donkey singing **Psalms 20:7**. The army soon followed, and the Moors were defeated. The invocation of that verse in a godly cause was and still is appropriate before combat. I believe Almighty GOD has given HIS people **Chapter 20** to be sung and prayed, especially in times such as these, when our souls are being challenged! **Here are four pointers for prayer:**

- 1) Pray before engaging the enemy (vv. 1 – 5).
- 2) Rejoice in GOD’s future blessings because of HIS ANOINTED KING (v. 6).
- 3) Trust in the strong name of the LORD (vv. 7 – 8).
- 4) Never stop praying for the LORD’S SALVATION (v. 9).

Many Christians today have seemingly forgotten their calling and are not living up to **GOD’S STANDARDS!** Perhaps you are one of them where it seems your get-up-and-go has gotten up and gone!? Your sense of purpose somehow has eluded you, and you have little or **NO JOY!** Rather than your life encapsulating the brilliance of the noonday sun, it has become more like a flicker of a candle! Can you remember when you go to bed at night that you will wake up the next day on the next leg of an epic adventure far more significant than anything you could ever imagine for yourself? We must not forget we are on an epic adventure called

the “**KINGDOM OF GOD**” and the journey comes when we pursue HIS kingdom agenda! If you settle for anything less than that, you will miss GOD’s reason for redeeming us and positioning us here on earth...

Shamefully, many people will spend their entire lives trying to climb the ladder of success, only to discover once they reach the top that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall. And the top of the ladder isn’t all it was made to be! A sense of emptiness and purposelessness arises, causing a lackadaisical approach to their own sense of substance, significance, dignity, greatness, and reason for being!

Yet, GOD is a GOD of purpose! Throughout Scripture, HE does what HE does because HE has a reason for doing it. HE is KING over an intentional kingdom, and as followers of HIS and subjects in HIS kingdom, you and I are also people of purpose! We have not been placed on this earth to meander through the remainder of our lifetime. As a child of the KING, GOD has invested HIS image in us and placed us on display. In these last days,

WE SHOULD REFLECT GOD AND HIS KINGDOM  
THROUGH OUR PERSONALIZED PURPOSE WHILE  
BRINGING HIM GLORY!

WE SHOULD REFLECT GOD AND HIS KINGDOM  
THROUGH OUR PERSONALIZED PURPOSE WHILE  
BRINGING HIM GLORY! 💜

Yours In Patriotism;

*Dr. Carlton L. Cannon, Sr*

**DEADLINE** for article submissions

**JUNE 15, 2023**

Deadlines are the 15<sup>th</sup> of even numbered months.



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Chapters and Departments are fertile ground for future leadership. ‘No one lives forever.’

How many of us concentrate our efforts equally on internal as well as external development activities? Plans are always focused on the next project we may host or the next event we might sponsor.

Few are ‘natural’ leaders. Fewer still are those willing to volunteer time, energy, and effort. Our Chapters and Departments may cease to be organizations worthy of the interest of eligible members to grow in fellowship. Focus inward too.

My first introduction to MOPH (at my 1st Chapter Meeting), I was (s)elected Ch. Senior Vice. Not the best method of ensuring that the ‘newbie’ will return for the next meeting. It’s my firm belief that each member’s prior military service is an excellent foundation upon which to develop a fine Patriot of the Order.

Notwithstanding, we need to spend the effort teaching and mentoring our members to bring their unique skills and enthusiasm to a fraternity dedicated to supporting each member and serving

others in the community at large. None of us are getting any younger.

I advocate you find, develop, & nurture fellow Patriots to document your actions and activities in words and pictures. Inform each other with emails and newsletters. Show what you do in the Chapter and the Community.

Please share your pictures and words thru our National Publication. Develop future leaders.

As always, the Magazine Editor opens...

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...the best email address when sending items. Please observe “TPHM” deadlines highlighted in each magazine edition (Note: Deadlines are the 15th day of every ‘Even’ Month).

National’ Office’ candidates “TPHM” is the forum for your ‘BIOS’ for inclusion in the magazine’s JUL/AUG digital edition.

As ever, let us serve... ♥

## Christopher Smrt

Chairman National Publications Committee

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We need your material to produce an engaging and informative magazine.

If you are not comfortable writing a story or article,

I will help you. [ThePHmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:ThePHmagazine@gmail.com) I will help you.

# A Yankee Doctor

by Susan Jensen M. D.

He was one of the first patients I ever saw during my first week on the job at the veterans medical center in a small North Carolina town. We just moved there from New York City in June 2003. My Brooklyn accent was still strong and my patient's own southern accent made it hard for me to understand him.

The 58 year old veteran had been through some rough times. Clearly, his low back pain was only part of his problem. He now lived alone in a trailer with no television and told me he could use some inexpensive home entertainment.

*"Have you thought about visiting a pawn shop?"* I suggested. *"The man's dull demeanor turned sharp, and his face flushed. Well, I'd be too embarrassed,"* he said. *"But I could tell he liked the idea."*

Encouraging him, I noted, *I've been to many pawnshops in my life. I was a bit embarrassed to be seen going into one for the first time, but then I got over it. There's nothing to be ashamed about that."*

A bit of gleam shot him into his melancholic eyes. *"You're a respectable looking lady. If you can do it, I guess I could too. But I imagine where you went in New York City no one knew you."*

*"That's true,"* I replied. *"However, I wouldn't be embarrassed to enter a pawnshop here in Salisbury."*

*"Of course,"* he said. *"but that's because you don't know anybody here yet, so there's no one to catch you doing it."*

I contemplated that thought. *"Well, I do know some people here now, and I wouldn't mind any of them seeing me into a pawnshop."*

*"It sure would perk me up."* The fella said warming to the idea. *"Do you think VA would pay for it."* I doubt that, and he said he doubted it to; he just had to ask.

*"I can afford to buy new things, but I still like going to secondhand stores."* I told him. *"There's no reason to be embarrassed about being careful with your money."*

*"Oh, Lawd,"* said the patient, *"I couldn't see me buying of them things used."*

*"Why wouldn't you want to buy a used TV?"* I ask.

*"TV? You mean to play adult videos?"* he answered in an uncertain way.

Then it dawned on me — this patient heard my Brooklyn accent "pawn" as "porn." I explained the misunderstanding

Three seconds later the front desk person burst into the exam room to see what the loud screaming was about; she was shocked to see both of us, doubled over in laughter, tears streaming down our our faces. Standing up and wiping his eyes, the patient said, *"This is the best damn visit VA I've ever had."* ♥

Susan Jensen M.D. grew up in NYC and graduated from Queens College, C.U.N.Y and Upstate Medical Center, S.U.N.Y. She did her residency in Rehabilitation Medicine at the VA Wadsworth UCLA Medical Center. It has been her honor to serve our nation's veterans.

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# From Medic to M.D.



I am Chris Dillman, a fourth-year medical student at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Louisville, Kentucky. I am due to graduate in May with my MD degree and will pursue anesthesiology as my specialty choice.

As a former medic in the US Army I knew that my military service would not end my healthcare career. I was determined to pursue my dream of becoming a physician, but I also knew I would face unique challenges when it came to pursuing my education. Thankfully, the Post-9/11 GI Bill helped make my dream a reality.

Near the end of my enlistment, I began my biology/pre-med undergraduate studies, but

I was initially concerned about having to work full-time while taking a full course load. The financial burden of pursuing a medical degree can be overwhelming, and without the support of the GI Bill, I may not have been able to pursue my passion for medicine. The benefits and financial support of the Post 9/11 GI Bill allowed me to focus on my studies and pursue my dream without worrying about the cost of tuition and other expenses.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill not only covered my tuition expenses but also provided a monthly housing allowance and funds for textbooks and

other necessary materials. This support enabled me to focus on my studies and gave me peace of mind knowing that I did not have to worry about financial stressors.

After completing my undergrad, I was accepted into medical school, but the cost of attendance over four years can quickly run up to \$200k-

\$300k. Thankfully, I had some remaining eligibility on my benefits, and the GI Bill enabled me to pay for a significant portion of my graduate degree, including my medical school tuition.

Overall, the Post-9/11 GI Bill was instrumental in my ability to pursue my career goals. I am proud to have served my country, and I am grateful for the

opportunity to pursue a career in medicine, largely thanks to the support of the GI Bill. Without this program, many service members and veterans would struggle to achieve their academic and professional aspirations. I am honored to have been able to take advantage of its benefits.

The Post-911 GI Bill meant so much to me, I asked Nick McIntosh, PHM Editor, to thank Senator Jim Webb for having the foresight to tailor the Post-911 GI in a way that allowed me to realize my dream of being an MD. ♥

*Chris Dillman, MD*



# Recognized & Neglected Heroes

Op Ed By Ron Siebels PNC

The term “hero” is often abused in today’s over-dramatic world. It’s common to see the word “hero” inappropriately disseminated in ways that dilute it to the equivalency of a verbal participation trophy. Audience admiration and embellished words of praise about common occurrences do not create heroes; real heroes are made from an array of human endeavors, each involving the selfless actions of individuals who perform extraordinary acts at significant personal risk that benefits others.

Heroes are not created within the movie industry or various athletic events. Self-service is not and never will be an actual act of heroism. The media also tarnishes its credibility when it dispenses false hero accolades like Halloween candy.

Americans are fortunate to reside in a free nation where patriotic citizens understand the significance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Caring Americans also remember and honor military veterans on various other days for myriad reasons. Examples range from memorable days of specific service incidents, such as the particular days of being wounded in action (Alive days) or the last breath of team members changing from alive into a combat statistic.

Other special days and courageous actions exist that time and circumstance have overlooked. No individual is to blame, and no person should feel bad for not being aware of those overlooked days.

Allow me to explain.

Various media sources sometimes act honorably by informing us of specific military members and first responder decorations presented to certain individuals for their courageous actions. But sometimes, the media also attached the term heroes to actions that rarely exceed normal life activities. Each such justified award presentation is proper, and the presentation occurred because there was some form of justifiable witness to the original action or event.”

Unfortunately, time has its own method of concealing the truth of numerous unreported and undocumented genuinely heroic actions. As a result of that time-created concealment, significant heroism has often and unfairly faded without any well-deserved recognition. This concealment includes the efforts of many courageous but unheralded members of other

occupations, such as law enforcement, fire protection, and various first responders. Their heroic actions were never intended to benefit themselves; those actions were for the specific purpose of helping others they serve.

Other deserving but unrecognized heroes have existed during all past and current wars. Among them are the mothers and fathers, who, in their hearts, opposed the political decisions that mandated their children away from them for a year or more, and in some cases forever. But if anyone asks me who I believe is the worthiest but overlooked heroes on earth, it would be the nurses who served in Vietnam.

I am 100% convinced that the number of names on the Vietnam Memorial Wall would more than double if it weren’t for the skill and quiet, caring dedication of those angels of mercy. The silent agony on their faces often revealed more internal pain than the pain felt from repeated stitches by those cared for. There is no cure for the pain that modern medicine cannot cure.

A high percentage of those who served in horrific military combat action could vividly tell you about specific heroic actions that were never appropriately recognized at the level those actions deserved. That’s because the only witness may have been of lower rank and was ignored by the higher authority when they reported the names and details of what occurred. Fortunately, some honest superiors who were present were also quick to recognize and then initiate action to reward actual courage under fire.

However, it is both unfair and unfortunate that a small segment of self-loving leaders was jealous of the extraordinary level of courage displayed by the actions of their subordinates. As a result, a select few brass cowards refused to acknowledge that a subordinate was far more critical to a successful event where combat chaos dealt its worst moments of existence.

Other heroic actions were never reported because the only witness or witnesses were shortly thereafter killed in continuing action. And this is also true for those combat participants exposed to direct action involving duties other than infantry units. Helicopter pilots and crew members were always a prime target for the enemy, especially during the slower landing or departure from a landing zone under heavy attack.



# Neglected Heroes

Truck drivers transporting ammunition and artillery ordnance were highly identifiable and lucrative targets to the enemy. And those drivers were further handicapped by not having weapons immediately ready when hell rained its fury. Ambushes and buried explosive weapons were a constant threat and did not discriminate on which driver got hurt or when. All types of combat exposure had one distinct characteristic; all blood was red. Ethnicity, gender, and job assignment were not factors, and the blood was the constant reminder of a bad day. And everyone serving had loved ones and acquaintances back home that loved and wanted them to come home standing up and smiling, not the alternative.

The aging American population remembers Vietnam; it was that inferno of hell on earth that the Democrats sent us to and where the Republicans campaigned to keep us there. I served two one-year tours of duty in Vietnam, both tours as a platoon sergeant. During those two tours of duty, I served both inside and outside the protected perimeter. When I left the perimeter, I had one primary goal; I was always solidly committed to bringing my platoon back, standing up, and not lying silent. I will openly admit that I did some things in Vietnam that I am not proud of. Still, I will never apologize for anything I did in Vietnam that I believed could potentially deny my platoon members the view of another sunrise.

I opine that many more notable military honor awards would have been presented in every armed conflict if the higher-ranking authority had properly and fairly recognized and documented every authentic heroic action. No one can deny that a significant number of honest and dedicated leaders in combat acted courageously and without regard for their own safety to protect their subordinates. They deserve every level of recognition possible.

But the most significant number of true heroes were among the lower enlisted ranks. Lower enlisted heroes were on the front lines, enduring the worst and making the instant hard decisions that kept themselves and their associate team members alive. Unfortunately, they could not advocate for their own heroic actions. Sergeants and officers did have the capability of advocating for each other and their subordinates. That advocacy was fair in the vast number of awards, but it

was inappropriate when it became an embellishment for themselves. And every close combat veteran knows within their heart that those facts are undeniable.

Every combat assignment creates life aspects that prevent the participants from coming all the way home. Certain sounds linger, and the final words of team members impact your heart with lasting persistence. And the occasional unfairness of it all remains with an annoying bitter taste. The injustice and horror of war always own some part of you, and nothing can loosen that continual grasp.

You learn to live alone with the unimaginable aspects of combat. Aspects that occurred because of days of being targeted for death by people you never met and having to react to it instantly in ways you learned quickly or you didn't learn them at all.

Those who weren't there can't be expected to understand fully, and it's not their fault. It's simply impossible to accurately explain the enduring memory of picking up body parts of a team member friend who just lost their life. Then placing those parts into body bags, hoping they were put in the correct bag, Finally, watching the friend being transported away forever. Yes, war is hell!! But until the stupidity of egotistical blind thought political leaders improves, war will, unfortunately, remain part of this world's DNA.

However, one way (and maybe the only remaining solution) for the caring living Patriot to right some of the wrong is to personally take Memorial Day and Veterans Day to another level. On those days, give a few extra moments of your heart and conscience to offer additional thought to the unknown and unrecognized heroes and their actions. Those unseen heroes will be silently rewarded with your caring thoughts. And the simple act of your remembrance will anoint your own heart with the self-pride and perseverance that helped create this great and free nation.

*Ron Siebels*

**Anchorage, AK**

**U. S. Army, CW4 (Ret)**

**Purple Heart recipient.**

# Living Purple Heart Patriots

Nick McIntosh

National Historian

“How many Purple Heart recipients are still alive?” was asked at the Convention in 1985. No one had an answer. So when I was appointed National Historian by Commander Gene Brown in 1989, I started researching to get this answer. My research generated information about the number of wounded per war for the next three years but nothing about how many PH recipients were still alive.

At the Colorado Springs convention, I turned down the offer by National Commander Joe Hems to be the National Historian. The reason was the convention ran from August 17 to August 22. Because of the late dates in August, my wife could not attend the convention. We had two pre-teenage children, and my wife was a high school teacher.

There was no way Nancy could make the convention with everything she had to do getting herself and the children ready for the start of school. I wouldn't go because we had used previous conventions as vacations. It wouldn't have been fair to spend only on vacation funds for myself.

It would only be right for me to take the National Historian position if I fulfilled the duties at the convention. So I turned down Commander Hems' offer.

Not being the National Historian did not lessen my interest in discovering how many Purple Heart recipients were still alive. So I kept doing research and asking questions. Because I was a National Service Officer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, I had access to the Louisville VAMC Library.

By 1994, I had accumulated a lot of data. One day after spreading lots of paper on a conference room table, I saw a relationship among data from several sources that could be used in a formula to compute

an estimate of living PH recipients. I called my results SWAG (Scientific Wild Ass Guess).

PNC Hershel Gober was the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs at that time. The Commander pulled me out of a National Service Officer training session to give the figures to Secretary Gober.

PNC Gober held out his hand and said, “Hi I am Hershel Gober; glad to meet you.” After giving him my data, he told me the VA's statistician would contact me.

As an aside, a few minutes later, I had a question for PNC Gober and said, “Mr Secretary...” Before I could say anything else, he said, “What's the matter with you son? Are you hard of hearing or just plain stupid? My name is Hershel.” We have been friends since.

The VA statistician called, and I explained my approach to solving the question. I then faxed him my findings, bottom my methodology. Three days later, he called me back and said he had reversed-engineered my information. He confirmed that my methodology was valid, but I needed to correct some information on the number of living veterans. With the corrected data on the number of living veterans for each war my data was correct.

Living Purple Heart Patriots			
War Period	Served	WIA	Living PH
WWII	16,535,000	687,856	4,932
Korea	6,807,000	122,526	14,096
Vietnam	9,200,000	303,704	186,106
Gulf War Era	7,800,000	77,791	36,740
Totals	40,342,000	1,191,877	241,874
Percent of Living WIAs. among War Time Veterans		1.7%	
Compiled from Department of Defense records Department of Veterans' Affairs estimates.			

There were 627,077 living Purple Heart recipients in 1994. The current figures as shown by my chart are **241,874**.

The Veterans Administration reports 153,303 US Military Personnel who suffered non-mortal wounds. This figure is incorrect. According to the Department of Defense, there were 153,303 military personnel wounded who required hospitalization. There were an additional 150,341 wounded people who were not medically evacuated from the field. ♥

# We Have a Failure To Plan for the Future

## By Stephen Schaltenbrand

Once again, the National Convention is coming up, and I, like so many other members of my demographic group, will not be able to attend. We are the Purple Heart recipients of the OIF/OEF generation. We may have been medically retired, retired after twenty years, or just one military enlistment obligation after commissioning. Many of us still work, raise children, and do all the other things that come with everyday life.

Using my situation as an example, I currently am the Commander of a Chapter 146 (the largest chapter in Kentucky) and work in the school system as a JROTC Instructor.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart and JROTC have similar goals; MOPH promotes “Americanism,” and the JROTC’s mission is “to motivate young people to be better Citizens.” It would seem that these two things go together like peas and carrots, and they usually work well together. It appears to be an issue when we get to national events and employer schedules.

While this is my situation, I am not the only one with these difficulties. At least three active members in my chapter that I can think of right off the top of my head are in the same situation.

I am sure you would find the same issue if you surveyed your chapter. Those who WANT to be involved but cannot travel to the convention once the school year starts.

According to National Historian Nick McIntosh, there has been a complete failure going back 30+ years to consider the family circumstances when scheduling National Conventions.

Patriot McIntosh said: *“The weeks leading up to children starting school are usually busy for Moms. If Momma won’t go to the convention, then Poppa will probably stay home. We have as an organization neglected consideration of our younger members who have school-age children. They will not attend a Convention if it conflicts with the opening of school.”*

We have failed to consider the age demographics of our membership. Our Vietnam members have a median age of 76, whereas the Post 9-11 median age is 43. Our membership, unfortunately, is declining as we lose our WW2,

Korean, and Vietnam veterans. As an organization, we need help on many fronts, from funding to membership.

There has been a complete failure going back over thirty years to consider the family circumstances when scheduling National Conventions.

The best estimate of the number of living Purple Heart recipients from the Gulf War Era is 36,740. This is not a large pool of potential officers; why do we go out of our way to exclude Patriots with school-age children?

We as an organization must adjust our practices to allow our members to participate in all aspects of our organization, or we may cease to exist as a national entity. ♥



**I humbly ask for your vote as I seek the Office as  
National Commander  
Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.**



Since August 2022, when elected and installed as the National Senior Vice Commander I have been working hard to support the Order in all that is needed to move this organization forward.

Having been elected as Region V Commander and then moving into the National Junior Vice Commander position during a mid-year, I have had the honor of gaining experience and knowledge of the Order. The Order has taught me to be humble, how to be grateful, and given me opportunities that I had not fully earned before becoming a Region Commander. You took a chance, trusted me, and allowed me to gain experience and knowledge on and about the Order. At this time, I must acknowledge and express my thanks to those who have helped me get to where I am at today, I thank you.

As we move forward, if I'm elected to the position of your National Commander, I will continue to seek input from members at all levels to gain additional knowledge on what can be realized as an organization in terms of financial stability, brand recognition, and mentor the younger Patriots who will soon be leading this outstanding Combat Wounded Veterans organization.

Remember, a team is not just people who work at the same time in the same place. A real team is an organization of very different individuals who enjoy working together to help their organization achieve its goals and purposes.

I have learned some valuable lessons as I traveled on this path and received some insight and information from other great leaders.

These three little words, **And Then Some**, are the secret to success. Leaders always do what is expected of them (**And Then Some**). They are mission-oriented and driven to succeed (**And Then Some**). They meet their obligation and responsibilities, fairly and squarely. They lead from the front, are relentless (**And Then Some**). They can be called upon and counted on in an emergency (**And Then Some**). As we know leadership deals with direction, and membership deals with participation. Leadership deals with the vision, keeping the missions in sight, effectiveness, and results. Membership concentration is on establishing the structure and systems to get those results. It focuses on efficiencies, cost-benefit analysis, logistics, methods, procedures, and policies.

As your National Commander, I pledge to support the Order, the National staff, and our Auxiliary. To focus on leadership, teamwork, and transparency. We can accomplish this by working and promoting our programs that affect us, our fellow Veterans, and the community in which we live. We have had a few struggles over the last several years, but we need to put that aside and refocus on our Mission Statement, show our vision as the Order, letting everyone know who we are and what we do for Veterans and their families.

**Thank you for your support!!**



**Larry Rupp**  
**Candidate Region III**  
**Commander**

I would like to announce my candidacy for the position of Region III Commander.

This past year has been a tremendous learning experience for me, and I know there is still more to learn. Thank you to the members of Region III and National for your support.

My goals for the period 2023 -2024, if elected are:

1. To ensure that information from National is passed to Department and Chapter level.
2. Handle all problems at Chapter, Department or Region level without getting National involved, if possible.
3. Not to have Region III become involved in personal agendas involving National or other Regions.
4. Probably most important is that I plan to work with the Departments to develop programs to increase membership in their areas.

My leadership strategy is simple. I do not believe in micromanagement. Suppose a situation arises where someone in Region III is doing something not in compliance with the Procedures and Bylaws of the Order. In that case, that matter will be resolved between the party(s) involved and me.

If a member of National or Region III feels that I am not fulfilling the responsibilities of my position as expected, I want to be advised. I am a true believer in constructive criticism, although if there is a problem, I expect a proposed solution.

Yours in Patriotism

*Larry Rupp*  
Commander Region III



**CHARLES W. ADKINS, JR**  
**(CHUCK)**  
**Candidate Commander,**  
**Region V**

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for Commander, Region V for the 2023-2024 term. My background includes both military and civilian leadership experience which has given me the knowledge and abilities to move Region V, and the Order, successfully into the future with a sense of pride and purpose.

My MOPH leadership experience includes Chapter Junior Vice Commander and Commander; Department Senior Vice Commander and Commander; Region Adjutant and Commander; Bylaws Committee Committeeman and Chairman; and National Adjutant. During a previous term as Commander Region V, I developed the "Seven Rs" for Region Commanders which led to successes experienced by not only Region V but other Regions as well. I will once again use them as the base to guide our outstanding Region V Leadership Team. In addition, I was recognized as the Region Commander of the Year for 2019-2020.

Team Work and Communication are keys to the motivation and success of any organization. In the Department of Arkansas we have found it very easy to share ideas and information and I pledge to do the same as Region V Commander.

If elected, I look forward to working with the entire leadership of the Military Order of the Purple Heart to meet and overcome challenges that may come our way.



## Sample letter to inform MOPH Patriots

Dear Govenor:

This letter is to let you and the citizens of your great state learn about an extraordinary summer camp that honors our Fallen Heroes who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice. Their children are entitled to attend a camp that allows them to bond with other children suffering from growing up without a parent or sibling. The camp covers all expenses etc.; there is no cost to the families.

Camp Home Town Heroes is a 113-acre camp facility in the Kettle Moraine in southeastern Wisconsin. This camp is for children ages (7-17) who have lost a parent or sibling who severed to protect our American freedom. The death can be from any cause – KIA (Killed in Action), accident, illness, or suicide.

This camp is unique; it is structured to give qualifying children from all 50 states a free week's experience to help them heal. The camp is filled with various activities, which include group and individual grief and mental wellness counseling. These activities are spread out throughout the day and week.

Every morning starts with everyone at the flag pole raising the Flag and saying the Pledge of Allegiance. They are given the day's activities

schedule, then all head for breakfast in the main dining room.

Each day the flag of a different Armed Services branch is raised and honored, and the children whose loved one is associated with that branch of service lead the flag ceremonies. On Monday, children of fallen Army heroes lead the raising and retiring of the flag. That honor is followed on Tuesday by the children of fallen Marines; Wednesday by fallen Navy; Thursday by fallen

Air Force, and Friday by fallen Coast Guard.

Every evening we assemble at the flag pole to retire the two flags and partake in a ceremonial folding of the American flag done by the kids of that branch of the day.

A Purple Heart flag is hanging from the ceiling in the dining hall. The flag was flown at Arlington National

Cemetery, where some of the children's parents or siblings are laid to rest. It gives them a feeling that their loved one is watching over them as they enjoy breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The motto of the Military Order of the Purple Heart National Organization is "ALL GAVE SOME, AND SOME GAVE ALL," Their family heroes gave ALL.

This camp was once a YMCA facility with a flag tradition to hang a flag for all foreign countries represented by children who attended





the camp. The child would request a flag and bring it with him/her to camp to be hung from the ceiling.

The kids wondered why we didn't have a state flag program and wanted to know if they could request a flag from their State Representative and hang it from the ceiling.

They want to call this program "FLAGS FOR HEROES," a very fitting name for the sacrifice their loved ones made for their country and state.

Currently children from over 40 states have attended this camp and the goal is to get all 50 states to participate. We need your help to get the word out so all the children of fallen heroes can get the help they need. The motto for the military is "NO MAN LEFT BEHIND" which also includes their families.

To find out more about Camp Hometown Heroes please go to the following website to learn all about our beloved Camp Hometown Heroes.

<https://www.camphometownheroes.org/>

If you wish to participate, please provide your 3'X5' State flag. We would be most appreciative of your representation in our "FLAGS FOR HEROES."

The flags can be mailed to:

Deb Paschke  
Hometown Heroes  
1000 Badger Circle  
Grafton, WI 53024

Yours in Patriotism

*Rick Cherone*

Past Commander Department of Wisconsin,  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

**(262) 786-9663**

## Region II Commander Re-Election Notice...



### Greetings:

It is with a deep sense of servitude and responsibility to our Region II Departments and Patriots, that I put forth my name for reconsider as your Commander for Region II.

It has been a great experience and a labor of love to the Patriots of Region II, as I have served as your Region II Commander for a few years now and I wish to continue that rapport and communication with you.

Any questions or concerns, just call or text me.

I will make every effort to quickly reply and try to answer your concerns.

I appreciate in advance your support and vote.

For the Order.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Terry D. Anderson*

Region II Commander

Military Order of the Purple Heart

# Memorial Day

## JOHN'S CREEK VETERANS ASSOCIATION VIETNAM MEMORIAL DAY SPEECH

By Doug Middleton

I arrived in Vietnam for the first time as a Second Lieutenant on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1966. I left behind my pregnant bride of 11 months. Getting off the airplane at Tan Son Nhut Air Base was a new experience. When they opened the door of the plane you could immediately feel the oppressive heat and humidity. As we deplaned down the ramp stairs, I also smelled a smell I will never forget. The Vietnam vets in the audience know what I mean. It was the smell created by that special duty lower-ranking soldiers pulled that required a barrel, some diesel fuel, and another human organic substance. It involved burning and that is all I will say about it.

After processing in I was put on an Army bus. It had chain link fence material over the windows. I surmised this was to protect us from someone throwing a hand grenade through the windows. Wow, did I feel safe! The bus took us to DiAn where the First Infantry Division Headquarters was located. Soon after arrival I and a couple of senior NCOs were ushered into a conference room where a few minutes later the Division CG entered. For the next half hour, MG Deputy briefed us on the tactical situation of the Division.

Quite an impression on a young Second Lieutenant, here I was being briefed by a two-star general. I spent the night in DiAn and the next day I was issued an M14 rifle and a couple of magazines of 7.62 ammo. I was then taken to the airfield and put on a tiny bubble front helicopter piloted by a Warrant Officer. I scrunched myself into the second seat, put my duffle bag between my feet with my M14 propped up next to me and we took off for the Michelin Rubber Plantation. As we flew to I didn't know where, the Warrant Office pointed out all the highlights of the terrain. At one anonymous place, he pointed out a large spot in the jungle devoid of almost any trees and told me that yesterday there was a large engagement there and that the devastation was largely caused by artillery and air strikes. What a comforting feeling I had seeing that burned-out decimated area knowing people had died there only yesterday.



Doug Middleton 2<sup>nd</sup> LT  
Michelin Plantation

When we landed at the Michelin Plantation, I disembarked the chopper and found someone who could tell me where Alpha Company, 2-28 Infantry was located. I found my way to their spot in the perimeter and introduced myself to the Company Commander, CPT Hutcheson. Hutch as he liked to be called, had been a senior instructor at the Ranger school, and believe me, I learned he really knew his stuff. He told me and his platoon leaders that I wouldn't be used in the traditional manner of the Artillery Forward Observer always being just a few feet away from the Commander. He wanted me, my radio telephone operator, and my Recon Sergeant to be about 30 feet away from him. His rationale for this was that if he was taken out, the Forward Observer had the best radio communications to both the Company, the Battalion, and the Artillery and I had the second-best battlefield intelligence after the commander. This is how we went into battle. I and my team would be about 10 meters away from his command team and periodically we would come together to compare map data to make sure we both knew where we were and the disposition of the platoons.

In a few days, I would be put to the test. We went on a search and destroy mission. As we beat our way through the jungle, staying off any paths that existed, it finally happened to me. A burst of rifle fire followed by machine gun fire, and I heard the soon-to-be familiar SNAP-POP of bullets flying by and the thump as they impacted the tree by my side. Never in my life have I so desperately sought to dig myself into the earth. I was terrified! Someone was trying to kill me! Then, the training kicked in, and the knowledge that others were depending on me as I was depending on them. After a quick check with Hutch, I began to call for artillery support to take care of the bad guys. One does not forget their first firefight and if someone tells you they were not afraid they are either huge liars or mentally incompetent.

This was just the first of many search-and-destroy missions we went on. On one, the soldier just in front of me got shot in the rifle. Bullet went through the receiver group and knocked the rifle right out of his grasp. He was unhurt but really shaken up. Another soldier got hit and I saw for the first time the famous sucking chest

# Memorial Day

wound. Doc got him bandaged up, airtight seal on the wound, and got him medevac'd by Dust Off.

On another mission, we had been humping through the jungle all day and finally established a defensive perimeter. My job as the FO was to preplan artillery fires around the perimeter and shoot each one of them in so that in an emergency, we could call for artillery in an exact spot and then move it from there to where it was needed.

In the jungle, you never saw where the artillery rounds landed, you had to do it by ear. Interesting fact here, most artillerymen are deaf or hard of hearing. Anyway, I was adjusting the rounds ever closer to our position. Hutch, the CO, was blowing up his air mattress next to me when the last rounds landed. There was a loud WHAP as the rounds exploded and then I could hear a shuss sound after a couple of phew, phew, phews from Hutch putting air into the valve. I small piece of shrapnel from my round had punctured the air mattress. Without much fanfare, Hutch looked at me and said, *"Middleton, I think that might be close enough. Give me your air mattress!"* I slept on the hard ground that night.

After four months of beating the bush with the grunts, I was brought back to my artillery battery where I became the fire direction officer. I was the guy that took the call for fire from an FO and plotted it and determined the range, direction, and elevation for the gun crews. We were a towed 105 mm battery, and we had 6 guns.

We supported a lot of operations of the infantry, moving constantly to stay in range of where the battle might occur. It was on February 14, 1967, Valentine's Day, that the world changed for me. We were part of Operation Junction City, a large Division wide operation to defeat a large, suspected contingent of VC and NVA. Our mission was to move the battery from its current position to a new position about 10 kilometers away, prepare the battery for action and fire an artillery barrage (we called it a prep, for preparing the battlefield) at exactly 0700 hours. As the Fire Direction Officer, I always lead the battery in the road march. As my vehicle entered the open field where we would position the battery, we made a large

horseshoe-like turn to end up about 40 meters behind where the guns would be layed. We stopped, I jumped out of the truck and grabbed the firing chart from the bed of the truck along with the base it would sit on. Just as I placed the chart on the base, the first gun truck that was pulling into position hit a land mine with the left front dual tires. I saw an orange ball of flame and the feeling of being picked up and thrown. The next thing I realized was lots of people yelling, "the Lieutenants been hit, the Lieutenants been hit!". Realizing that I was the Lieutenant they were yelling about, and not really knowing what had happened, I decided I should take inventory of my body parts. Left hand, left arm, check! right hand, right arm, Check, left foot, left leg, Check, right foot, right leg Check.

Doc came running over to me to find me confused, but other than some small shrapnel wounds to my hand and shin, I was pretty much intact. Coming around, I was patched up and returned to duty as we had a prep to fire. Well, as we prepared to lay the battery and get everything ready, another mine was detonated, then another, and both the battery XO and the Battery

Commander were wounded seriously enough to require a Dust Off. I was now the only officer left in the battery.

At exactly 0700 hours our rounds landed exactly as required and after we had fired for about 15 continuous minutes, we ceased firing and prepared for whatever fire missions might come our way. I was at the XO post behind the guns and the number 3 howitzer section chief called me on the field phone to come down to his howitzer. I hurried up to the guns and he was standing near the side of the gun and was pale and shaken.

He pointed down to the tire of the howitzer and there, about 5 inches from the tire, the firing had shaken and uncovered another pie plate land mine. If they had pulled that howitzer in just a few inches to the right, the whole gun crew would have been killed.

We had the mine detector crews scouring the area for mines. The detector would buzz and they would put a piece of toilet paper under a rock to have someone behind probe to see what was there. The battery area was littered with small pieces of toilet paper as the probe teams started a laborious process of checking each one out. About 20 minutes later, we received a resupply of



Doug Middleton in the bush



# Memorial Day

ammo being brought in by Chinook helicopters. Each chopper had a large bag of ammo suspended from the hook and as they each hovered to drop the ammo load, a large cloud of dust was created which sucked up every piece of toilet paper in the battery area. Everyone froze in place and after the Chinooks left, we started the detection and probe process all over again from the start.

That day, 13 land mines went off in the battery area. Only myself, the battery XO and the battery commander were wounded, but the Division Artillery Commander flew in and was wounded when a tank ran over a mine near where he was standing observing our area. The XO and BC were returned to the battery later that day with their wounds stitched up and bandaged.

A week later, my friend, Jack Flowers, the battery XO was laid on a cot on his stomach while Doc removed the stitches from his buttocks. We all asked Jack how he would respond to his kids asking, *"where did you get wounded in the war, Daddy?"*

A highlight of my tour happened in November of 1966. We were returning to base camp at Lia Khe in a convoy. We had just stopped near some rice paddies for a short break to stretch our legs and take care of natures urges. I was standing by my truck when one of the radios started blaring out my radio call sign with the call sign of the Assistant Division Commander as the caller. Second Lieutenants don't want to be called by the Asst CG. I nervously answered the radio call and was politely told I was a new daddy. Mother and daughter were doing fine and Congratulations. One of my proudest moments.

Not long after the mine incident, I had another bad day, not quite that bad, but one of those memories that are hard to forget. We were supporting a mechanized infantry Battalion and we had layed our guns inside the perimeter provided by a company of M113 Armored personnel carriers.

We had been provided intel that told us there was a large unit of NVA in the area and we should expect to get hit pretty hard. The commander of the mech infantry

company decided the best use of the 50 caliber machine guns each APC had would be better used if ground mounted on tripods to provide grazing instead of plunging fire. What a good decision that turned out to be.

I was still the Fire Direction officer, and we would dig a trench in the ground about 5 feet deep and then put a GP Small tent over the trench. We would put the firing chart and the recorder's table in the trench. We wired a jeep headlight to a battery to provide light and the tent provided the blackout so we couldn't be seen. Late that night the intel proved correct. We were hit by mortars and rockets and a human wave assault. A 120mm rocket hit our FDC tent and as it went through the canvas it made a horrific sound. I heard the recorders helmet hit the field table he was writing on, and I thought he was dead. No, he just ducked with so much force that his helmet hit the table with a loud thud.

We were in complete blackness now and the guns were firing level at the oncoming waves. The perimeter held and eventually, the NVA withdrew. The following morning, at daylight, I pulled the tent out of the trench and it had a 4-inch hole on one side and no side on the other. The rocket went

through our tent, hit the ground about 10 meters away from us, ricocheted into the air, and exploded outside the perimeter harming no one. Later that day, I walked the perimeter with the company commander, and enemy dead bodies were everywhere outside the perimeter. A sight I hope to never see again.

Finally, my turn came to return home. I was choppered to Tan Son Nhut where I spent about two days in absolute boredom. Nothing is worse than waiting for admin folks to finally manifest you on a flight. We were all in our khakis when we boarded the Freedom Bird as our chartered plane was called. When the wheels left the ground of the runway there was a spontaneous cheer as we were really headed home.

We ultimately landed at Travis Air Force Base in California. After processing we were all told we should change into our civies before going to the San Francisco



I was at the XO post behind the guns

# Memorial Day

most did as they were told. The ones who didn't change and stayed in uniform were harassed at the airport. My wife met me at Travis and we spent a night at a local hotel and then drove down to Long Beach where my folks lived and there I met for the first time my almost 8-month-old daughter Julie.

After a brief leave, I was assigned to Ft Sill, OK, and the Field Artillery Board. My first project was to test and take to Vietnam a thing called the airmobile firing platform. This was a large aluminum platform, large enough to mount a 105mm howitzer, with four large legs each capable of being adjusted for height. The plan was to helicopter lift these devices into a rice paddy down in the Delta area of Vietnam, put a howitzer on each one, and be able to move them all over the area.

We completed the test, and I was back off to Vietnam 4 months after I had left there. We arrived in Saigon, spent a couple of days assembling the platforms, and arranged for them to be airlifted down south to the Delta. After two more weeks of showing the artillerymen of the 9<sup>th</sup> Division how to use them, I and the team returned home again.

My second tour to Vietnam happened in 1970. I was assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as an Artillery Intelligence Officer and I worked in the Division tactical operations center or TOC. I was assigned the overnight shift and would sift through various intelligence reports to find targets for artillery or B52 bomber strikes. We called these ArcLights. Each morning, just before my shift would end, I and other briefing officers took our turns briefing the Division CG on what was happening throughout our area of operations. I would brief on artillery engagements and any ArcLight strikes that happened in the last 24 hours.

After a lot of politicking, I was finally selected to command an artillery battery, Charlie battery, 5<sup>th</sup> of the 16<sup>th</sup> Artillery. It was a 155mm self-propelled howitzer unit and it was located on Hwy 13 between An Khe and Pleiku very near the Mangyan pass. The Mangyan pass

was site of a brutal massacre of the French during the Indo-China war.

What a difference in the use of artillery between my first tour in 1966 and this one in 1970. In 1966 we fired artillery all the time, in 1970 you had to get clearance to fire on any target at about 3 different political levels. Any one of these could veto the target. We didn't fire much at all.

It was in November of 1970 that we again got mortared at the firebase. A young soldier whom the First Sergeant had picked to be my guidon bearer because he also was tall and skinny, was just returning from a run back to the base camp at An Khe. Just as he exited the vehicle, a mortar round landed nearby and he was killed instantly. Curters Burnett was 19 years old and had been in country only 4 months. He is the only soldier I ever lost in command. We can find his name on West 6, line 75 on the Wall.



Doug Middleton Commander Charlie Battery

After the first of the year in 1971, we were informed that our unit would be inactivated, and we moved the battery to an admin area where we had to prepare all our equipment for return to the States. Somehow, my supply Sergeant was able to either find all our equipment, trade something we had for something we were missing, or just BS his way through the admin nightmare.

Once again, I found myself being flown to Than SanNhut airbase and waiting patiently and impatiently to fly home. I left the ground of Vietnam for the last time in May.

That is my Vietnam story. I expect that in many ways it was similar to most of our Vietnam vets. Days and hours of sheer boredom interspersed with moments of sheer terror.

Thank you for listening to my tale and to all my Vietnam brothers and sisters I say:

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND  
SACRIFICE, AND WELCOME HOME!**

*Doug Middleton*



National Convention & Healing the heART Conference

**“Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!”**  
(Let the good times roll)

## CONVENTION LOCATION & LODGING

The Crowne Plaza Executive Center is located in the heart of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The hotel is 10 miles from Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport (BTR) and 65 miles from New Orleans' International Airport (MSY). The hotel is pet-friendly and offers complimentary Wi-Fi, gym, pool, onsite restaurant and lounge, free parking, ADA accessible amenities, and close proximity to restaurants, shopping, and other conveniences. An airport shuttle (\$) is available to & from the BTR Airport. Contact the hotel in advance to schedule service. Standard rooms are available at the group rate of \$99.00 is available until July 14, 2023. Reservations can be made by phone at 225-925-2244 or website ([www.crownebaton.com](http://www.crownebaton.com)). For information about dining, stores, and other attractions, visit [www.MOPHLA.org/around-town-map](http://www.MOPHLA.org/around-town-map) [www.crownebaton.com](http://www.crownebaton.com).

1. Go to [www.CrowneBaton.com](http://www.CrowneBaton.com). In the upper right-hand corner, select the dates anytime from (arrival) 8/11 through (departure) 8/19 2023 and click “Book now”.
2. In the right-hand section of the dark grey strip-bar, click “Change Selection”
3. Select the number of rooms and number of people.
4. Choose “GROUP RATE” under rate preference,
5. Enter our promo code of **MPH** in the field.
6. Then click “search”. The \$99 nightly rate will apply after these steps are taken.

## Information about Sunday Funday! optional trip to New Orleans August 13, 2023

This optional excursion provides the best “The Big Easy” has to offer. Busses will depart from the Crowne Plaza on Sunday morning and will make the 1.5 hour trip to New Orleans. Busses will depart New Orleans and arrive back to Baton Rouge at approximately 6pm. This day-long Hop-On Hop-Off tour bus excursion includes all of New Orleans' most important highlights and landmarks. The guide on the Hop-On Hop-Off bus will provide commentary as you ride through the city. Visit the attractions or enjoy a few loops on the bus. Round-trip loops are approximately 90 minutes. Busses arrive at each scheduled tour-stop every 30 minutes. Stops include include major attractions including the National WWII Museum, Jackson Square, the French Market, and many of the best restaurants and bars in the city. “Come hungry, leave happy” during the excursion. Restaurants will be participating in Coolinary Month during August. Discounted food and cocktails and a list of locations will be announced in June. Registration for the tour will be opened in June. The fee for this excursion is \$50 for adults, \$25 for children 3-12; under 3 years of age are free. For more information, or to reserve your space early, visit [www.MOPHLA.org/sundayfunday](http://www.MOPHLA.org/sundayfunday) .

## Information about the US KIDD.

On Wednesday afternoon, a generous sponsor has allowed us to tour the USS KIDD free of charge. This will be a great way to see the museum and tour the ship herself. Learn about the “KIDD” at [www.usskidd.com](http://www.usskidd.com)





National Convention & Healing the heART Conference

**"Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!"**  
(Let the good times roll)

## SOUVENIR COINS, PINS, and MORE

Convention Pins are sold at \$10. Convention Coins are sold at \$15. Order a Coin or Pin before May 31st and receive 1 free raffle ticket for a Hand Painted Purple Heart Coin Holder. (One for each order). Order the set for \$25 before May 31st and receive 3 free raffle tickets. See more at [www.MOPHLA.org/souveniritems](http://www.MOPHLA.org/souveniritems).

To print out an order form, please click [here](#)

2023 National Convention Coin & Pin Set



Specifications:

Challenge Coin Holders are 2"  
and Pin is 1.25" x 1.5".

Pin has a clutch-style backing



The Purple Heart themed coin holder was hand-painted  
by Purple Heart families.

## ADVERTISING BOOKLET OPPORTUNITY

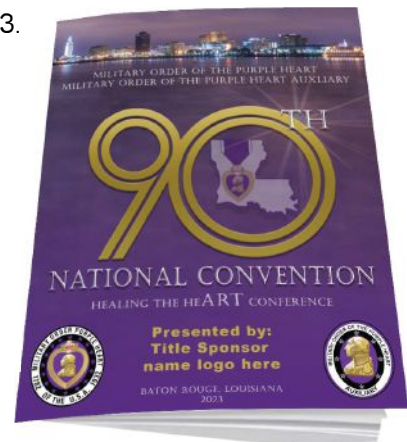
Advertising in the 2023 Convention booklet will be available until July 1, 2023.

A hard copy of the booklet will be distributed to each attendee and vendor.

A digital copy of the booklet will also be available on our website and social media outlets. Advertising for top-tier sponsorship pages will be on a first-come, first claimed basis. All pages will be in color. Advertising Form and artwork can be submitted via [info@mopha.org](mailto:info@mopha.org). Advertising sizes and rates follow: "In Memory of" Single Line Sponsorship \$10, Single Line Sponsorship (with hyperlink) \$40, 1/8th Page (Business Card) Sponsorship \$60, 1/4 Page Sponsorship \$100, 1/2 Page Sponsorship \$200, Full Page Sponsorship \$400.

Payment can be processed digitally or via check. For questions, contact Colleen at [info@MOPHLA.org](mailto:info@MOPHLA.org). We have graphic artists that are happy to donate their services to you before May 20th.

For a digital or printable copy of the Advertising Booklet, [CLICK HERE](#) or visit [www.MOPHLA.org/conventionads](http://www.MOPHLA.org/conventionads)



## 2023 MOPH & MOPHA National Convention Coin & Pin Order Sheet

ITEM	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Challenge Coin	\$15		\$
Commemorative Pin	\$10		\$
Coin & Pin Set	\$25		\$
Mailing Fee (up to 3 items)	\$4		\$
TOTAL			\$

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I have attached check # \_\_\_\_\_ In the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick-up my item(s) at Convention. \_\_\_\_\_ or Mail \_\_\_\_\_ my items & raffle tickets\* to me at the following address: Same as above? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send payment made payable to **Louisiana Combat Wounded Veterans**

**Commander Ron Crowley**

**203 Belle Grove Blvd**

**Lafayette, LA 70503**

**LaCMDR.MOPH@gmail.com**

\*Each Coin or Pin will receive one free raffle ticket for a hand painted Purple Heart Themed-Coin Holder, if ordered before May 31, 2023.

Each set (Coin & Pin) will receive 3 free raffle tickets. Winner does not need to be present when name is called on 8/17/23. We will ship coin holder at our expense.

Friends & Family can order souvenir items and receive raffle tickets.

2023 National Convention Coin & Pin Set





National Convention & Healing the heART Conference

*"Pass a good time at the Louisiana Experience!"*

## Vendor Booth Opportunity

Vendors seeking to purchase vendor booths and/or tables may fill out this form and return it to the Department of Louisiana before July 1, 2023. Vendor booths and/or tables are available on a first-come, first served basis.

Name of Organization or Business: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION:** Crowne Plaza Executive Center  
 4728 Constitution Avenue  
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808  
 (225) 925-2244

Hotel discounted rate is \$99.  
 Please visit [www.MOPHLA.org/convention-lodging](http://www.MOPHLA.org/convention-lodging)  
 to access promo code.

Set up dates: Sunday 8/13/23 9am-5pm or Monday 8/14/23 7am-8am  
 Breakdown Date: Friday 8/18/23 1pm.

Vendors are welcomed to submit literature or product samples for  
 insertion into attendee tote bags. Please have 400 items sent to hotel  
 on or before 8/11/23 if you wish to take advantage of this.

Business or Table Items Description:

ITEM	COST	# of DAYS	TOTAL
Tabletop Exhibit (Table, chairs, linen included)	\$60		\$
Additional Table	\$10		\$
Electricity	\$15		\$
Privacy Pipe & Drape	\$20		\$
Louisiana Experience Gala (8/17/23)	\$60	(# of tickets)	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$

Payment and table request should be sent  
 either digitally or via mail to:

**Louisiana Combat Wounded Veterans**  
**C/O Commander Ron Crowley**  
**203 Belle Grove Blvd**  
**Lafayette, LA 70503**

**LaCMDR.MOPH@Gmail.com**  
 Questions? Contact Colleen at 504-296-5022

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Bill Me: \_\_\_\_\_



## Patriots in Their Community...



**The Department of Idaho Military Order of the Purple Heart Chief of Staff Len Crosby and Commander of the Panhandle Chapter 511 presentation of the Purple Heart City Sign to the Mayor and City Council of Moscow, Idaho.**

**Commemorating Vietnam month, Chaplain Cannon was recently honored to fellowship with Danny and Jackie Garcia. He is a Marine and his wife Jackie is a retired Air Force LtCol. He is an Ordained minister and they both love the Lord. He has walked more than 52,000,000 steps around the world proclaiming**



**God's love. Please enjoy his book "Marines Don't Cry" from Amazon!**



**A ceremony took place at the Veterans Center off of Flower Mound Road in Lawton. Representatives from the Lawton Food Bank, Ft. Sill USO, DAV Chapter 56, Airport Military Welcome Center, the Reboot Program, and the ODVA Veterans Home were in attendance to receive the presented checks.**



**The Lawton chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart donated \$1,000 checks to six different charities. To ensure they had the funds to donate to the organizations they sent out around 700 different letters to various businesses and organizations.**

**The Department of Idaho recently added a new Chapter in the northern part of the state in March 2023.**

**The new Chapter is named the Panhandle Chapter 511.**

**The Department also established a new 501(c)3 organization for all its "Combat Wounded" Veterans.**







**Ian Freeman (Left)** Idaho's Department and Chapter 509 Finance Officer at COSTCO buying \$1,000 of Pantry Items to deliver to the Volunteer Coordinator at the Boise VA Hospital.

**Ian Freeman (Right)** Idaho's Department and Chapter 509 Finance Officer shown delivering the \$1,000 of Pantry Items to Ms. Tammy Lansing the Volunteer Coordinator of the local Boise VA Hospital.



**Atlanta Chapter 465** had the honor of presenting 'Ruptured Duck' pins to two Combat Vets from WW2. In the first photo (Below) is WW2 VET Julio Figueroa. Julio is 99 years young. He fought at Normandy

and Omaha Beach, & He still drives car. The next photo is WW2 Vet 97 year old Melvin Rojko. He was in combat during the Battle of the Bulge. Both these men earned Purple Hearts and



other awards! It was our honor to present them with these pins and salute them.

God bless these men of the "Greatest Generation"!

We presented these awards as Honor Flight Bay Area Ambassadors.

A special thanks to MOPH Patriot Ron Reneau, Vietnam Vet and Kristine Hintzman whose father served in Korea!



**Bay Area Honor Flight Leader, Dee Scott, presents Patriot Jake Larson with a WW2 Ruptured Duck Pin.** Jake is an D-Day, Omaha Beach VET and the last one still alive from his Army unit. Jake turned 100 this last December. He plans to attend the 79th Omaha Beach Anniversary in June 2023.



**MOPH Rogue Valley Chapter 147 2023 Officers following Induction Ceremony**  
(Rt to Lt) Keith Wittnebel, Commander, Dept of Oregon; Rick Sciapiti, Commander; Tony Hixson, Junior Vice Commander; Larry Rupp, Adjutant & Finance Officer; Al Punches, Sergeant-At-Arms; Farley Howell, Trustee



**MOPH Chapter 147 Patriot of the Year Rick Sciapiti (rt) with Chapter Commander, David Bartolome**





The Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 717, Martin County Group was well represented at the 2023 Purple Heart Cane Project Cane Presentation Ceremony where several Chapter 717 Members received their hand carved canes.

The Purple Heart Canes are presented once a year at no charge with the utmost gratitude towards Purple Heart Recipients. Contact Lloyd Landsby for additional information at [lloyd@purpleheartcaneproject.org](mailto:lloyd@purpleheartcaneproject.org) Photo by Patriot Roger DeGraff, Chapter 717, Florida



As Honor Flight Bay Area Ambassadors both Ron and I spent the last 3 days delivering Meritorious Service pins to several WW2 Veterans who served. We traveled to Auburn, GA to honor Verlin "Bud" Koons. Bud is a 98 year old WW2 Vet. With him was his son, Ed Koons and his two great granddaughters. Bud currently lives in an Assisted Living home in Auburn. The staff at the home filmed the ceremony as we saluted Bud and thanked him for his Service. Photo submitted by Patriot Lou Zayas, Chapter 465, Atlanta, Georgia.



The Family of PNC Pat Little have shared some photo's of the "Going Home Service" officiated by the MOPH National Chaplain, Patriot Carlton Cannon. Photos by family friend Jay Townsend.



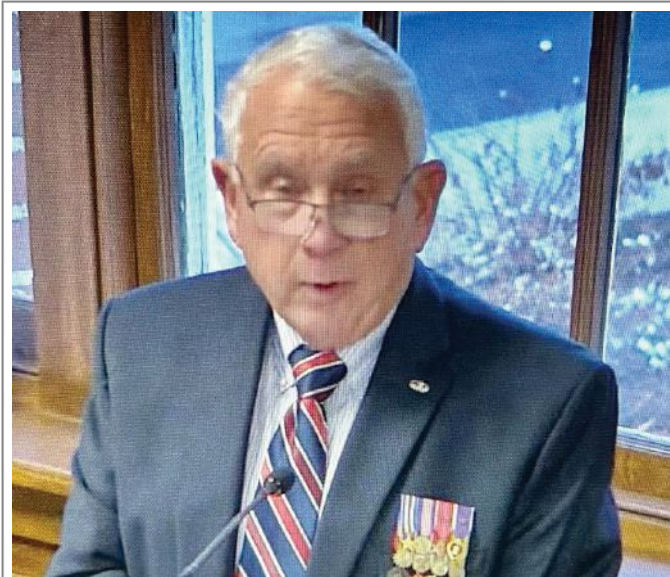




Above, Chief Joseph Chapter 509, Idaho MOPH assembled for Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day! (Right to Left) Head down Sr. Vice CMDR Patriot Bill Hamilton, Patriot Ron Sparkman, Chapter Sgt.-At-Arms Patriot Frank Ellsbury.

The Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day was a huge success on Wednesday, March 29, 2023—even though “mother nature” forced a change of plans to an all-indoor event. Hot dogs, chips, and drinks were enjoyed by all, and period music was played. Estimated attendance was 450! Mark your calendars for the same day and venue next year.

Below, Dept. Of Idaho Chief of Staff Len Crosby explaining the meaning of the PH.



## Purple Heart Regulation

### CAPS

#### Official Vendor's Supply List

Cap prices include the cap patch and the lettering "Military Order of the Purple Heart" and "U.S.A." On the left side, and Chapter number on the front right, if requested.

#### NATIONAL CAP

Men's and Ladies' Style

All white with purple piping & letters: \$24.75 each

#### DEPARTMENT CAP

Men's and Ladies' Style

Purple with white top, gold piping & white letters: \$24.75 each

#### CHAPTER CAP

Men's and Ladies' Style

All purple with white piping & letters: \$24.75

#### PURPLE HEART BERET \$20.00

(Lettering not available)

#### Life Member Annotation

Includes direct embroidery

"Life Member" around flap curve on front right side: \$6.00

Associate Member

Annotation: \$9.50

(in addition to cap price).

Additional letters:

\$0.60 each

Remove/replace letters:

\$1.50 per letter

Plastic zippered cap bag:

\$4.00 each

Winter baseball caps:

\$15.00 each

Dress Tie: \$15.00 each\*

Purple tie – 100% polyester with

white-bordered MOPH patch (specify standard tie or clip-on)

\*ONE SIZE FITS ALL

Allow approximately four (4)

weeks for delivery.

For shipping & handling,

add \$8.00 per order

With your order, include the

following when ordering:

(Please print clearly)

Your Name

Your Address

Your Chap. # Cap Size

Your Tel No(s)

VISA/MC No. & Expiration Date

Compute the Total Amt. of your Order and email, phone or mail check or Money Order to:

### KEYSTONE UNIFORM CAP

2251 Fraley Street

Philadelphia, PA 19137

PHONE: (215) 821-3434

Fax: (215) 821-3438

[caps@keystoneuniformcap.com](mailto:caps@keystoneuniformcap.com)

[www.keystoneuniformcap.com/MOPH](http://www.keystoneuniformcap.com/MOPH)





Chapter 431 Patriots Paul Garrett, (second from left), and Chuck Adkins, Commander, Region V (far right) participate in the 'Arkansas Legislative Day' at the Arkansas State Capitol Building on 03 April 2023. Also pictured are Mr. John Smallwood, Marine Corps League (red jacket), and Dwight Witcher, the Chair of the Arkansas Military Veterans Hall of Fame, (3d from left). The day's purpose was for Veterans Service Organizations to meet with members of the State Legislature and discuss those issues important to Arkansas Veterans.

Lou Zayas, Junior Vice Commander Department of Georgia; and Commander MOPH Chapter 465, Atlanta presented Don Berglund - 98 yrs old, Navy on a Destroyer in Attu, Alaska; and Alan Eagle - 96 yrs old, Navy Electronics Tech. [who later became an executive with SRI, in the photo to the right.

Below Right photo is the same day presentation of the WW2 Ruptured Duck Pin top John Glathe - 97 yrs old, Merchant Marine purser. After the war John finished school and became physician, serving in the Korean War.

Commander Zayas believes that this project is so rewarding, and the VETs love it, too. One was so excited he was teased about wearing his pin on his pjs when he went to bed!





## More of Patriots in Their Community...



Jack McManus, president, and Tom Burke, vice president of the National Vietnam Veterans of America with Gary Witt (Center) and their Director of Communications Mokie Pratt Porter all stopped in Lynchburg, VA on March 31st, to visit with the Troops at Monument Terrace.

Their visit marked 1113 weeks in a row (over 21 years) that Veteran's have met there.

<https://www.facebook.com/100064883494459/posts/pfbid0kf4RwqJZxRJgrxcDET97cMXSpWi4vXzkcaGs6WSJBnLU1AG8diweFVVsmYHQ8GmPI/?mibextid=afzhIR>

The visitors that day also got a tour of the National Center for Healthy Veteran (known as Valor Farm) in Altavista, VA.

Former POW (L) Patriot David Harker with MOPH National Seargent-at-Arms Gary Witt (R).

The American Legion Commander of Post 16, Linda Evans (Below L) & (R) former POW David Harker. -Photographer Credit goes to Mokie Porter, VVA .



## 2023 JROTC Leadership Award Presentation



University of Kentucky ROTC Military Ball, Purple Heart Leadership Medal and Certificate presentation by Heartland Chapter 767 Commander Alonza Aaron.



Army SGM Christopher Williams, (new PH member) and Irvin Lyons Jr.

Cadet Caltlyn Calarco received her award. The Guest Speaker at the Army MG Jeff Broadwater. Sabre Arch (Below).





# Honoring Purple Heart Recipients Last Ride

New York State, Chapter #187 Russell Ward has added another way to honor Purple Heart Recipients. On the Funeral Hearst or in the case of cremation, the final vehicle ride can display an 8" by 8" weatherproof, full-color image of a Purple Heart Medal (Image attached) To be displayed on both sides of the vehicle. This practice will honor the recipient's last ride to their final resting place.

The signs can be scotch taped on the back to show outward thru a window or taped on the front to adhere to any surface. The poster has a personalized space in the bottom border to mention, IN MEMORY, with the recipient's name for loved ones to display at their home or save as a keepsake.

Realizing the Military Order of the Purple Heart represents 1.7% of all surviving Purple Heart Recipients, an estimated 241,874 surviving Purple Heart Recipients nationwide. Chapters could order some of these honor signs for personal chapter use or several signs to be given to funeral homes to be offered to loved ones of deceased Purple Heart Recipients to be used on the recipient's last ride. (A donation could be asked from the funeral home)



For ordering,

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY and STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT of signs requested \_\_\_\_\_

PRICE \$10.00 per sign, Includes S&H-no tax, Checks only, made out to; MOPH #187  
6-8 weeks delivery, a portion of net proceeds will be given to national headquarters.

**DEADLINE for article submissions**  
**May/ Magazine JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>**



## Application for Life Membership

### Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary



**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.

Evidence of Purple Heart recipient's award and relationship to applicant must be verified.

**Dues Schedule:** Life Membership—\$50.00 Associate Life Membership—\$50.00

***Dues submitted with Application for Membership are NON-REFUNDABLE***

#### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary member name & ID number signing you up \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
**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 \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Auxiliary Member \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Who is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Purple Heart Recipient \_\_\_\_\_  
 Auxiliary member Relation to Recipient \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary Member & ID number signing you up \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Member Type \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

***Complete appropriate application and send with payment to:***  
 Cheryl Perez . PO Box 120085 . Chula Vista, CA . 91912 / Email: Members.MOPHA@gmail.com



# THE PURPLE HEART MAGAZINE

## MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

### Advertisements Rates

### Online Combo Rates

Location in Magazine	Full	Half	Third
	7 1/2" x 10"	7 1/2" x 5"	7 1/2" x 3 1/2"
INSIDE PAGES	\$275	\$140	\$90
PAGE 3	\$425	\$215	\$145
Discount Multiple Issues: Four 20% ~ Three 15% ~ Two 10%			

The website hosting The Purple Heart Magazine is open to the public and is not restricted to our Combat Wounded Patriots. A .pdf copy is downloadable.

All of the links to websites and E-mail addresses are **live** links. An example of a live link is the E-mail address of the Editor shown below.

The Purple Heart Magazine is a **full-color** digital edition.

The six editions per year of The Purple Heart Magazine begin with the January/February issue.

Ads submission dates are the **15th** day of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Chairman of the National Publications Committee with any questions.

Christopher Smrt

(502) 639-9655 [npcmoph@hotmail.com](mailto:npcmoph@hotmail.com)

Click—> [npcmoph@hotmail.com](mailto:npcmoph@hotmail.com)





## 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

Fees may be paid in four equal payments of \$50. The first \$50 must be submitted with this application and the remaining \$150 within one year when using this option. 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) \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_

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 888.668.1656

**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 (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 ☐ OND ☐ 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# & Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter# \_\_\_\_\_

I 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.)