

Veterans Day 2016

By John Bircher, MOPH Public Relations

The Military Order of the Purple Heart proudly paid tribute to all Veterans, as National Commander Hershel Gober, Sr. Vice Commander Jason Johns, LAMOPH National President Terri Shattuck, and Sr. Vice President Gloria Sanchez attended a number of events in the Washington, DC area to commemorate Veterans Day 2016.



MOPH Delegation at Iwo Jima Memorial



Breakfast at WH with Oldest Living Veteran

On Thursday, November 10th, the group attended a Parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial in honor of the 241st birthday of the US Marine Corps. In the afternoon, Commander Gober and Sr. Vice Commander Johns visited the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and met with two wounded service members SSGT Christian Trujillo and his wife Juliet, and SP Ernst Mirtyl and his wife Karen. Both are currently undergoing treatment and rehabilitation at the center.



Commander Gober & Sr Vice Johns visit patients at National Military Medical Center

On Veterans Day, November 11th, Commander Gober and Patriot Zachariah Fike were invited to a breakfast for the VSO's and others at the White House and afterwards, Commander Gober joined the rest of the MOPH delegation at the Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater, where President Obama delivered the annual Veterans Day message to the nation. Following the

address, Commander Gober and President Shattuck were joined by Women Veteran’s Advocacy Director Wendy Buckingham and National Sergeant-at-Arms Ken Swords to lay a Purple Heart wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Intro of Commander Gober at the Amphitheater



Wreath Laying at Tomb of Unknown Soldier

Also during the day, Sr. Vice Commander Johns, National Adjutant Leonard, and National Service Director Frank Van Hoy, assisted by Legislative Director Aleks Morosky and Sergeant-at-Arms Ken Swords, presented wreaths at the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Memorials. In the afternoon, all were invited to attend the 18th annual Veterans Day Reception at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, located at the Gateway to Arlington National Cemetery. Terri Shattuck, Gloria Sanchez, and Wendy Buckingham laid a Purple Heart wreath at the memorial.



Women in Military Service Memorial



Frank Van Hoy, WWII Veteran Col James Riffe, Jason Johns, and USMC Honor Escort

The week prior, several MOPH patriots participated in the 19th annual American Veterans Center Symposium. The event was kicked off by the MOPH Service Foundation sponsored “Wounded Warrior Experience” which features veterans who served on the front lines in Afghanistan and Iraq, discussing their experiences in action as well as the transition upon returning home. This year’s panel included Department of Florida Commander Lee Brown.



Wounded Warrior Experience



PHR Return to family of PFC Lensen

In three separate ceremonies, Purple Hearts Reunited founder Zachariah Fike was joined by other Purple Heart recipients and families for the return of recovered Purple Heart medals belonging to PFC Alfred James Lensen, a WWI recipient, PFC Franklin E. Simpson, a WWII recipient, and LCDR Wallace Graham Murphy, a WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War recipient, all of which had previously been presented posthumously.