



# Military Order of the Purple Heart

*“Combat-Wounded”*

## Chartered by Congress

The leadership of the Military Order of the Purple Heart USA, Inc (MOPH) would like to offer the following update to our employees, members and veteran clients with whom we are assisting in their claims in light of ongoing legal action.

First, the majority of MOPH employees were administratively furloughed recently due to lack of funds as a result of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Services Foundation unilaterally breaching the FY2018/2019 mutually agreed and signed contract to fund MOPH operations, and particularly, the national service program. As many may not realize, the Foundation was created as a 501(c)3 nonprofit in 1957 with the sole purpose of fundraising for MOPH and fund all of our operations including the much-needed money for supporting VA services our veterans and families deserve and earned that is part of our national charter.

We are engaged in an ongoing legal fight with the Foundation over the trademarks for the ‘Purple Heart’. The Services Foundation holds trademarks on that term for fundraising purposes. As the Foundation continued to fail to provide needed funds the Order sought to begin fundraising on our own behalf and we were sued for trademark infringement. We have countersued and the litigation is currently waiting for resolution in D.C. Circuit Court. In the meantime we are unable to raise enough money to fund our operations as the Foundation is only providing a mere \$25,000 a month in funds which is clearly not nearly enough to run a national service organization.

In light of this situation, MOPH has implemented measures to minimize the current disruption caused by the funding shortfall while continuing to advocate for all veterans and their families. Given these extreme measures, there will be a small contingency to continue emergency operations. **Service Officers have the choice to revoke their MOPH Power of Attorney (POA) and transfer their POA to another Veteran Service Organization.**

Any veterans who have questions during our administrative furlough, please contact the below MOPH representatives. Be advised that due to staffing shortages and high call volume, immediate callback is unlikely. However, MOPH intends to reply to all as able.

All management questions should contact the National Adjutant, Ernesto Hernandez, [ernestohernandeziii@purpleheart.org](mailto:ernestohernandeziii@purpleheart.org) (703) 642-5360 ext. 109

For national service program questions contact the National Service Director, Arthur Coleman III [arthurcolemaniii@purpleheart.org](mailto:arthurcolemaniii@purpleheart.org) (703) 642-5360 ext. 103 and Deputy Director Pat Byers (253) 583-1079 [patbyers@purpleheart.org](mailto:patbyers@purpleheart.org)

State Contacts and Status:

Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, Hawaii, and Guam (Asia Countries); North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas

Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Kentucky (European Countries): Arthur Coleman III  
[arthurcolemaniii@purpleheart.org](mailto:arthurcolemaniii@purpleheart.org) (703) 642-5360 ext. 103

Maine, New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee,  
North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Puerto Rico (Latin  
America, Africa, Countries); Arthur Coleman III [arthurcolemaniii@purpleheart.org](mailto:arthurcolemaniii@purpleheart.org) (703) 642-  
5360 ext. 103

Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D.C. Board of Appeals; Jamar Creech (202) 632-5247 / (202)  
632-5598 [jamarcreech@purpleheart.org](mailto:jamarcreech@purpleheart.org)

The following states are fully staffed and will continue normal operations: Washington, Alaska,  
Montana, Oregon, Wisconsin, Missouri; Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Nevada

**The Purple Heart**  
[www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org)