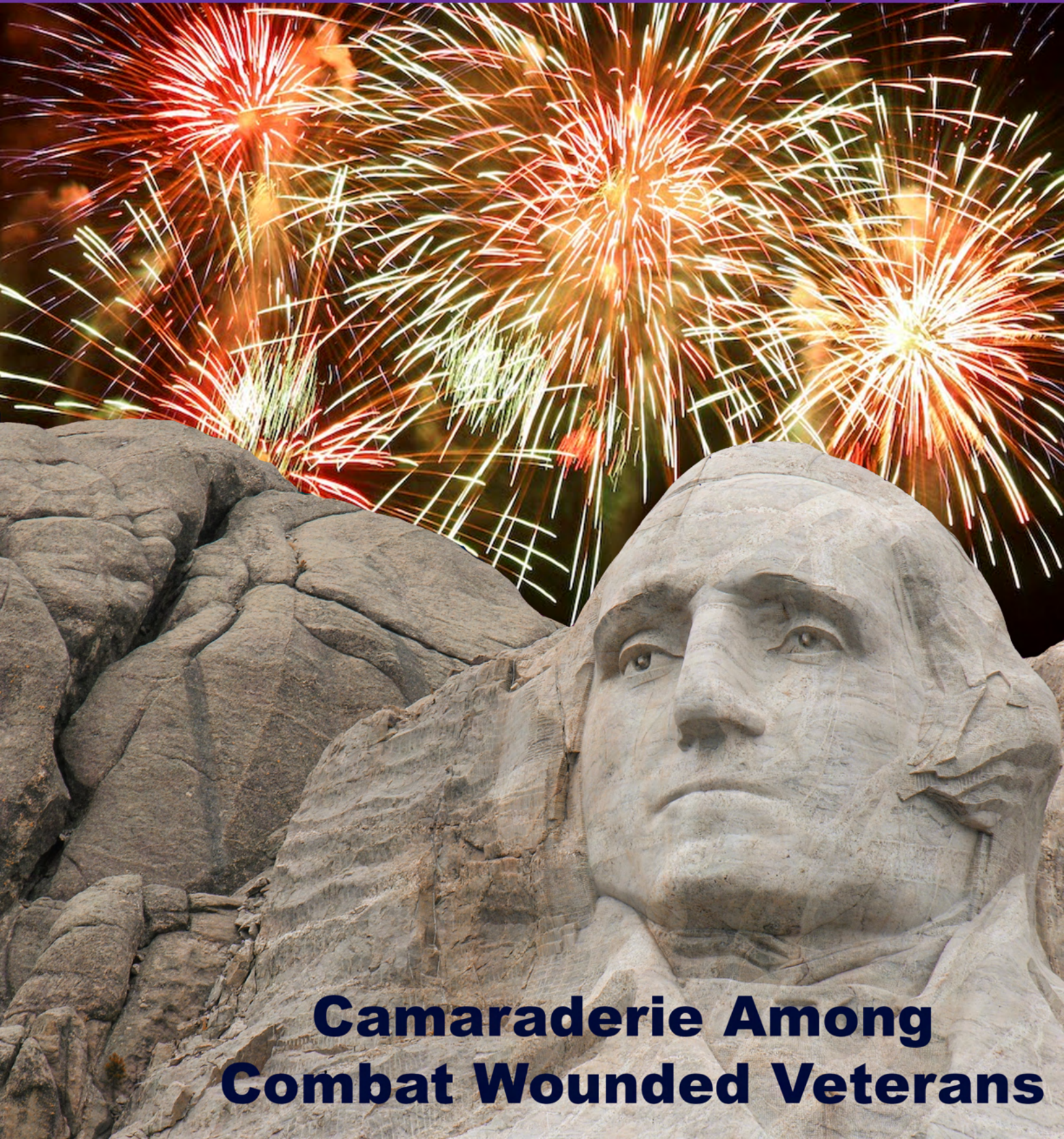




The
Purple Heart

Magazine

January/February 2024



**Camaraderie Among
Combat Wounded Veterans**

Features

15 Visiting Pearl Harbor: As many received the Purple Heart on this day, we are reminded of what it represent to many as a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and service, and especially on Pearl Harbor Day, it serves as a poignant reminder of the individuals and families who endured hardship and gave their all during a time when our great nation had unimaginable challenges that we are faced with.

22 The Saga of the Four Chaplains: As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains' arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

41 Toast to Valor – Purple Heart Bourbon: Forged from the same determination, resilience, and grit he showed in the fields of Vietnam and on the gridiron of the National Football League, Purple Heart recipient Rocky Bleier has turned his attention to making bourbon and making sure his fellow veterans receive the proceeds of his latest venture.

45 Why these four Presidents? Gutzon Borglum selected these four presidents because from his perspective, they represented the most important events in the history of the United States. Would

another artist at that time, or perhaps a modern artist choose differently? As you read more about Borglum's choices, think about what you might have done if the decision was up to you.

59 TAMPA – Purple Heart Project: This sinking would be the greatest single casualty incurred by any naval unit as a result of enemy action during the four- plus years of World War I. Tampa's crew totaled 130 men, including 111 Coast Guardsmen, four US Navy personnel, and 15 British Navy sailors and dockworkers.

68 February is Black History Month: For those interested in the study of identity and ideology, an exploration of ASALH's Black History themes is itself instructive. Over the years, the themes reflect changes in how people of African descent in the United States have viewed themselves, the influence of social movements on racial ideologies, and the aspirations of the black community.

Table of Contents

Commander’s Message.....	5	0442-AZ-6 Tucson Veterans Parade	35
Senior Vice Commander’s Message	6	Purple Heart for World War I Veteran	35
Region III Commander’s Message	7	RaphaRub Happy 2024 Special!	36
National Adjutant’s Corner.....	7	0442-AZ-6 at Hoppy Vine	37
Chaplain’s Messages	11	0442-AZ-6 at Pima Community	37
DIFFICULT TIMES AHEAD	11	0460-AR-5 Recruiting	38
“PRAYER AWAKENING”	12	0460-AR-5 Fayetteville National	38
AM I TOO BUSY TO PRAY?	12	0460-AR-5 Viola Drive	39
Intercessory Prayer, Petitions, and Thanksgiving	13	Tulane University Purple Heart Proclamation Day.....	40
Publications Committee Message	13	Toast to Valor – Purple Heart Bourbon.....	41
Visiting Pearl Harbor 2023	15	Why These Four Presidents?.....	45
Thoughts on Pearl Harbor Day 2023	17	George Washington,	45
0483-HI-6 at the 82nd Ceremony.....	18	Thomas Jefferson	45
Happy Healthy & Loving 2024	19	Theodore Roosevelt	46
Public Health Service	20	Abraham Lincoln	46
Martin Luther King Holiday	21	Fun Facts About George Washington	47
The Saga of the Four Chaplains	22	10 things you may not know about Abraham Lincoln	51
MOPH FUND Donation Programs	24	Purple Heart Fire Truck	54
CARS PROGRAM.....	24	Cane Loyalty.....	56
American Dream Ambassador.....	25	TAMPA - Purple Heart Project	59
For Freedom Prints	25	2560-AZ-6 Wreaths Across America	65
CA News and Events.....	26	February is Black History Month	68
The Purple Heart Store.....	29	Veterans: All Hands-On Deck!	71
National Convention	30	Department of Idaho News & Events	73
Legislative Agenda	31	Idaho Receives \$40K Grant.....	73
Purple Heart Mission 2023.....	32	BSU Scholarship Support.....	75
New AUSA Logo	33	Visiting the VA Center in Boise	75
0442-AZ-6 Tucson Veterans Parade	33	Veterans Chamber of Commerce Check	77
0442-AZ-6 at Innovation Academy	34	Spirit of Freedom Award	78

Women Veterans Memorial	79	VeTalent	102
Chapter and Unit 1974-OH-2 In Action	80	Bonneville Power – DOE.....	103
AZ Veterans Medical Leadership Council..	81	Commander’s Visit to Guam	104
0817-SC-4 Veterans Day Parade	82	Scholarships for Military Children	106
0817-SC-4 Christmas Parade	82	Purple Heart Trail	107
0817-SC-4 Donates to Veterans.....	82	Software Developer Training.....	109
Morehead City Veterans Day Parade	83	Patriot Books and Films.....	110
MOPH Receives Appreciation Plaque	84	The Man with the Big Hat	110
Hero’s Medals Come Home.....	85	Face of the Enemy.....	111
Sun Bowl Parade	86	Steel Soldier – Guadalcanal Odyssey..	112
El Paso Rhinos Recruiting Patriots	87	Wholesale Hotel Rates	114
Pima Medical Institute	88	MOPH Application for Membership	115
El Paso Veterans Day Parade	88	MOPHA Application for Membership	116
El Paso Northeast Parade	89	TAPS.....	117
0617-OK-5 Awards Ceremony	90		
AR WWII Veteran Accounted For	91		
Charter for American Indian Veterans.....	92		
Burlington, IA Purple Heart City	94		
Social Media Posts	95		
Department of WA.....	99		
City of Auburn's 58th Annual Veterans Day Parade.....	99		
Pacific Northwest this coalition	99		
Naval Station Everett Santa and Mrs. Clause	99		
PH Day at AZ State Veterans Home	100		
Veteran Resources	101		
Avalon Action Alliance.....	101		
Signa Healthcare	102		
VA Newsletter	102		
Veteran Jobs.....	102		

Commander's Message

Carder Ferguson

National Commander

nationalcommander@purpleheart.org



Happy New Year!

I hope your holidays were pleasant and you spent time with your family. As we know there are several active-duty soldiers and veterans that do not have this luxury. Please keep them in your prayers.

As we are moving forward the Headquarters team has accomplished many things. I know the National Adjutant has listed several things in the adjutant corner. We had a leadership meeting on December 11, 2023, and discussed several things that we are working on. As for Finance, we will have the 990 completed for the past three years. In this process, the information needed for the audits will be compiled and we will get ready for the auditor. We are working to have this completed soon. We are working on the warrant system for the headquarters and adding this to QuickBooks.

I hope all have received the list of updated addresses for your chapter and departments which we got from ALL using

the USPO National Change of Address system. Please make sure you update your membership roster and add the correct address. We need to keep our membership roster updated and this will help in keeping communications to all our patriots.

Please get a chance to visit the MOPH FUND website: <https://mophfund.org/cars>

We need to get the word out that you can donate a car you use the website, and you can click on (**find out more information**) and this redirects you to CARS or you can call the following number (855-500-7433). All money raised in this will help the Order programs and assist the order with necessary funds that are needed.

Our Webmaster Kevin Bucek has been updating and working on our website. This is a must for us to keep our site up and running. Due to the changes and the need to store more information, we will need to increase memory on our site, and this will keep the website from shutting down/crashing. We will have to pay more for increasing memory, but this is a must for us to operate.

In the Pictures, I am wearing shirts that the Auxiliary is doing for a fundraiser for the



National Convention. They will have more information on this. When I wore this in Hawaii all patriots loved the shirts. Please help out the Auxiliary so they can have a convention.

In the next few months, we will start planning for the chapter's election and planning for Department conventions and start ordering Leadership awards. We will be keeping ourselves busy, please remember to be prepared and plan.

We have a new Legislative Officer, PNC James McCormick. He has great plans for the Order, but he has requested some help in each region at first then down to each department. We will be looking for information that we feel is needed for the order that we need to bring to the attention of our congressmen/ senators that will help the Order and Veterans. Please send this information through your Department Commanders. Thank you for your support in this.

Yours in Patriotism

Carder Ferguson

Senior Vice Commander's Message

Robert Olivarez

National Senior Vice Commander



Patriots, it is that time of year where we all take some time to celebrate the holiday and enjoy several events will fellow patriots and time to spend with our families. I am sure we will

have several chapters spreading holiday cheer and joy and helping those in need. Please remember to reach out to all your patriots and make sure they know they are loved and cared for. Reaching out to our Patriots and other veterans this time of year makes a whole difference in the mental health of the veteran during the holiday season. So please reach out and say hi or offer them an invite to your family get together.

As we round out the 2023 year we here and the MOPH HQ have made great strides in keeping the Order moving forward over the last 3 ½ Month we have been making progress in all part of our beloved Order I would like to make mention of our website our webmaster has been hard at work maintaining and making it more user friendly for our patriots. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or our National Adjutant Chuck Adkins and we will be able to assist you with any problem you may have.

I would also like to mention that our Marketing Manager has been doing a great job of getting our name out there and we have had significant uptick in social media traffic and I can say our followers count is

growing and we are helping veterans in more ways than one so please share our social media sites and kudos to our Marketing manager also keep an eye out for great things to come.

We are also making great progress with our Bylaws committee and have already made the 1st round of submissions if anyone would like to sit in on our meeting, please send me an email and I will make sure you're included all input is welcome and it would be a great opportunity for you as well.

As we come into the 2024 year let make sure we are on top and ahead of the game I would like to see our Departments and Chapter start to put in their order for the upcoming ROTC events and this would be a great opportunity for our Dept and Chapters to start gearing up for their upcoming chapter and department elections please make sure once you have your dates set that you forward them to your Region Commanders. I look forward to working with you all and any new leadership that comes in the 2024 year. As always if you have any questions or are needing any help feel free to reach out to me.

Robert Olivarez Jr.

Region III Commander's Message

Larry Rupp
Region III Commander

Greetings to all from Region III. The holidays have passed, and we are all now working toward our yearly conventions and the election of officers. There is always work

to be done to help our fellow Veterans and active-duty military personnel.

Region III is one of the smaller regions, Department and Chapter wise, but the projects they have taken on are outstanding. The Department Commanders strive to encourage the Chapters to challenge themselves, which they have done with outstanding results.

I am looking forward to seeing my brothers and sisters in Florida at the annual convention.

Larry Rupp

National Adjutant's Corner

Charles W. "Chuck" Adkins, Jr.
National Adjutant



Greetings Patriots,

By the time this edition of the Purple Heart Magazine is published, the Christmas Season is behind us, and I hope all of you

were warm, safe, and happy during the holidays. In addition, my first two visits to the MOPH Headquarters (HQ) were productive and I want to thank the HQ Staff (Jesseca Voorhies, Membership/Office Manager, and Caira Grey-Johnson, Communications Specialist) for their support when I work from either home or at the National HQ. I also thank National Finance Officer, Ernie Rivera for his 11-14

October 2023 visit and National Commander Carder Ferguson; National Junior Vice Commander, Tracey Brown-Greene; Deputy National Finance Officer, Jim Anderson; National Judge Advocate Walter Kroptavich; Madame Auxiliary President Barbara Ray; and Department of Colorado Senior Vice Commander, Roy Ray for their 07-12 November 2023 visit to the National Headquarters (HQ) ensuring that the business of the Order is being carried out in an effective manner.

A special BIG THANK YOU goes to NSVC Tracey Brown-Greene for her most outstanding job in cleaning up and organizing the downstairs areas of the National Headquarters. Criticism from a recent Patriot's visit to the Headquarters on the chaotic appearance of Building B was well warranted, but thanks to NJVC Brown-Greene and her superb organizational skills and the assistance from the Rays, there is a 1000% improvement. *BLDG B is now something the MOPH can be proud of to have folks visit!*

During the past four months, a lot has been accomplished by the Leadership Team. Some of the accomplishments are:

(Re)Hired) Ms. Caira Grey-Johnson as the Communications Specialist. It is great to welcome her back on the MOPH Team.

Accomplished a lot in getting the Bylaws updated by inserting the Amendments approved during the 2022 and 2023 National Conventions. There were some formatting and numbering issues carried over from previous updates that could not be overcome on the HQ computers, so DNFO

Jim Anderson and I had to work on finishing the Bylaws from home. The good news is, the updated Bylaws were sent out by Constant Contact and are posted on the MOPH website. Many Thanks Jim!

Insurance Audit completed resulting in a refund from one insurance company.

Changed Insurance companies and obtained new policies resulting in a reduction in premiums on required coverages (i.e., Workers Compensation, Property Theft and Loss)

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) Group Exemption Audit completed. This included all Departments, Chapters, and the entire Auxiliary. This will ensure that the MOPH/MOPHA National Headquarters, and active Departments, Chapters/Units will maintain their tax-exempt status. However, 990Ns must still be filed with the IRS.

~~~Special Note regarding the FEINs: This year MOPH had a Department file a request for an extension to file income taxes using the MOPH HQ FEIN. It has also been noted that there are Departments and Chapters filing their IRS 990Ns using the MOPH HQ FEIN. This must stop immediately! Please check and ensure the FEIN you are filing belongs to your Chapter/Department and not the MOPH HQ. Should you need assistance in verifying your Chapter/Department FEIN, please call the National Adjutant.

Formally closed Revenue/Income Tax, Employment Tax, and Unemployment Compensation and Insurance Tax Accounts



in several cities, counties, and states that were still billing the MOPH even though we have not had employees there since 30JUNE2020.

Renewed the MOPH Business Licenses in the State of Virginia (where we are based) and Washington DC (where we are chartered).

Inventoried on hand National Leadership Awards and placed an order to ensure sufficient quantities are available to meet projected needs by Departments/Chapters for the "Spring 2024 Awards Presentation Season".

Processed and shipped several the current National Leadership Awards that were already on order. Per the USPS Tracking system, all were received at the address to which shipped.

Fixed the US Flag and the MOPH National Flag poles and had the MOPH National Flag cleaned and pressed.

Repaired the flappers in both toilets and replaced over 50 light bulbs at the Headquarters and changed out the two HVAC filters. Still need to replace one toilet handle, fix the shower knob, and patch two small holes in a downstairs wall (will be done during my next visit). Worked in the Bookkeeper's office and sorted and organized the finance files. We made a lot of progress but still have a long way to go.

Was able to get the check scanner installed to make depositing checks received at the HQ BLDG easier without even having to leave the office.

Shut down our old server and changed out the computer at Communications Specialist area and upgraded the Communications' and Adjutant's computers from Windows 7 to Windows 10.

NJA Kroptavich reviewed some contracts up for renewal and provided some sound legal advice on those and also on some other pending issues. Along with Patriots Dennis Wallot (Chair, National Finance Committee) and Ed Abbey (Adjutant, Region IV), he also reviewed a proposal from the Association of the United States Army that will provide some benefits at no cost to the MOPH or its members and regardless of Military Branch in which they served.

Printed and mailed the new Charters for new, recently reactivated, or renamed Chapters.

Reformatted the National Leadership Awards. Jesseca printed 1500 leadership certificates. MOPHA President Barbara Ray and DSVC-CO Roy Ray helped stuff them in the folders for future orders and consolidated all products for awards downstairs in the shipping room.

Had the Commonwealth Copy Machine salesman (Al Waters) stop by, and we had a very intense discussion about the new Commonwealth proposal and our Copier needs. Closed out two copiers so that MOPH is no longer charged for service, supplies or copies.

Visited US Congressman Steve Womack's Office (R-ARK), where National Commander Ferguson and National Adjutant Adkins met with Congressman Womack and his staff to

discuss issues that are important to the Order, which if implemented, will improve benefits received by all Veterans and thereby improving their lives.

Participated in the US Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery. Have since learned the MOPH is scheduled to sponsor the event in the year 2029.

NEC Ballot to confirm the National Commander's appointment of Past National Commander James McCormick as the National Legislative Director. Welcome back to active service James! Look forward to you leading the way on legislative issues important to the MOPH and the Veterans community as a whole. Let's get started with the MOPH Legislative Resolution on changes to the Survivor's Benefits Program (SBP) passed during the 2019 National Convention.

With the turn of the New Year, Chapters and Departments must now focus on the tasks ahead in order to prepare for the 2024 National Convention in Orlando Florida. First comes the election of new Chapter and Department Officers for the 2024-2025 year. Be sure to check the Bylaws for the changes made concerning Chapter Delegates to the Department and National Elections. The changes made during the 2021 National Convention has made this requirement less burdensome. (see Bylaws Article VIII).

In addition, there are several required Annual Reports, but the BIG FOUR (Election, Finance with Property Report attached, IRS 990N, and Life Member Verification Report)

can make or break a Chapter/Department. For example, should a Chapter/Department fail to submit an Election Report, it immediately goes on Inactive Status and therefore is not authorized to operate, expend funds, unable to receive Life Member Rebates, and is subject to closure. Failure to submit a Life Member Verification Report (LMVR) will also result in not receiving the Rebates. Filing the IRS 990N is to ensure the MOPH HQ, Departments, and Chapters are following federal tax laws and maintain our tax-exempt status.

The Finance with Property Report is to ensure we are properly accounting for our monetary and material resources. However, the Leadership team is exploring the idea that the Chapter Finance and Property Reports need to go no further than the Department level. The Department will then send a report to the National Headquarters that both the Department and Chapter Finance with Property Reports have been completed (more to follow on this). Then only the Department and Chapter 990s are required to be submitted online to the HQ for IRS reporting purposes. *Again, be sure to use the correct FEIN!*

As for the Welfare, Americanism, and VAVSO; these reports are the most often ignored but they should not be. They provide information to our National Headquarters and in turn Congress relating to matters of Rehabilitation, Welfare, and Service-related Legislative Activities.

All Reports should be turned in in an accurate and timely manner. Be sure to follow the Bylaws, use the on-line Key Filing

Dates, and check the online Reports Tracker to assist you in submitting the BIG FOUR by the required suspense dates and to ensure that MOPH HQ gives credit for submission.

Speaking of the National Convention, The Leadership Team is working with the Department of Florida on the planning and executing on what will be an awesome event. Dates are 15-17 July 2024 in Orlando Florida. More details to follow—keep an eye on the MOPH website where key National Convention information will soon be posted. *Please plan to attend!*

Finally, I continue my pledge that the MOPH Headquarters Team will be responsive to your requests for information and work in an open environment while protecting the rights and privacy of all concerned. As always, please treat the HQ Staff in the same respectful manner in which I expect them to treat you.

Yours In Patriotism!

## Chaplain's Messages

Carlton Cannon  
National Chaplain

### DIFFICULT TIMES AHEAD



My Beloved Combat Wounded Veterans,  
According to Apostle Paul's profound prediction in **2Timothy 3: 1-5**, he warned us **DO NOT BE NAIVE!** There are difficult times ahead! As the

**END** approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed; money-hungry; self-promoting; stuck-up; profane; contemptuous of parents; crude; coarse; dog-eat-dog; unbending; slanderers; impulsively wild; savage; cynical; treacherous; ruthless; bloated windbags; addicted to lust; and **ALLERGIC TO GOD!** They will make a show of religion, **BUT** behind the scenes they are animals. **STAY CLEAR OF THESE PEOPLE!**

Social media and the daily news both verify we are living in such challenging and confusing times. Many people have foolishly reacted when experiencing fear and confusion. They follow their pleasures, and many have thrown aside their values! **WE MUST HOLD ON TO THE THINGS THAT HAVE ETERNAL VALUE!** Because there are several competing voices telling us things that are not important, we must learn to embrace **GOD'S KINGDOM AUTHORITY-TRUTH**; even when it seems outdated and not in alignment with today's culture! **Picking and choosing your truths does not work in real life! ONLY the VALUES based on GOD'S KINGDOM AUTHORITY-TRUTH** will lead to hope, peace, happiness, and contentment!

In this season of chaos, fear, and moral decay, we must become rooted and grounded in the truth of **GOD'S WORD... My fellow Patriots and Comrades**, we must repent and make a prayerful commitment to read, study our **BIBLE**; and get to know **HIM** in a personal way! If you want to find meaning and purpose, **we need to hold on to HIS TRUTH and live by the value system HE created.** Let the **HOLY SCRIPTURES** be

our guide and our moral compass. My prayers are with you. Please call on me if I may be of service to you! Together, we will “GIT’er Done” for HIS SAKE! **GOD BLESS YOU and the MILITARY ORDER PURPLE HEART!**

### “PRAYER AWAKENING”

(January - February - March)

We have dedicated the first 90 days of 2024 to a time of consecrated prayer. PRAYER for: each other, our families, our homes, our military veterans and allies, our nation, and the Military Order Purple Heart.

Please join the National Chaplain in a time of prayer each day at 12-noon, wherever you are. I believe prayer changes things, and when two or three of us prayerfully join together, “WE WILL GIT’er Done for HIS Sake!”

I am available at your convenience. Email: [cancarl03@comcast.net](mailto:cancarl03@comcast.net); cell 302.448.0852. Thanks for all you do!

### AM I TOO BUSY TO PRAY?

(Ephesians 6:10-20)

Prayer too often plays second fiddle to the myriad of other tasks in our lives. The **busyness of our lives** crowds out the **business of our prayers!** Considering there are many kinds of prayer, we tend to treat public prayer as the standard; but this is a great mistake because it tends to promote a formalistic attitude to prayer itself. **Here are some kinds of prayer:**

**Public** prayer. Acts 20:36: “And when he [Paul] had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.” (See also the prayers of Solomon in 1 Kings 8:22-53, and Ezra in Ezra 9: 5-15.)

**Private** prayer in a group setting. Acts 16:13: “And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made.”

**Secret** prayer. Matthew 6:6: “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

**Mental** prayer. 1 Samuel 1:13: “Now Hanna spoke in her heart, only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. ”Nehemiah 2:4: “Then the King said to me, ‘What do you request?’ So, I prayed to the God of Heaven and I said to the King....”

**Occasional** prayers. 1 Chronicles 5:20: “And the Hagarites were delivered into their hand and all who were with them, for they cried out to God in the battle. He heard their prayer for they put their trust in Him.”

**NEVER FORGET that WE CONSTANTLY STAND IN THE NEED OF PRAYER;** and that prayer is never needed so that God can be informed about what’s happening, or so that He can change His eternal mind. **He declares the end from the beginning** (Isa. 46:10); but **prayer does change things!** Prayer is needed to change us, and since God deals with us in our changeableness, prayer is one means by which He tracks our ups and downs and ministers to us in all our circumstances. God ordains the means as

much as the ends, so He integrates His unchanging will with His changing providence. Hence **“you do not have because you do not ask”** (James 4:2). **PRAY AND HE WILL ANSWER! Prayer is integral to a living faith and essential to communion with God in all situations! Therefore, speak to Him in all kinds of prayers!** Prayers for each other, our families, our homes, all military veterans and allies, our nation, and the Military Order Purple Heart.

Together we will **“GIT’ER DONE for HIS SAKE!”**

### **Intercessory Prayer, Petitions, and Thanksgiving**

*Editor’s note: Although specifically addressed to those Patriots in “chaplain positions,” the thoughts can be applied to all of us.*

Dear fellow Chaplains Military Order Purple Heart,

First of all, then I urge that petitions (specific requests), prayers, intercessions (prayers for others) and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all people, for kings and all who are in [positions of] high authority, so that we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity (1Timothy 2:1-2).

Beginning January 2024, I ask all ‘MOPH Chaplains’ to join with me in a time of Intercessory Prayer/Petitions/Thanksgiving. Our purpose should not be selfish! We must show concern for the needs of all people

everywhere. One of our responsibilities is to supplicate (feel their needs) and pray to Almighty GOD on their behalf.

I do have a plan of attack (POA) to share with you and await your response. Please contact me before December 24 at your convenience: 302.448.0852 (c); CANCARL03@COMCAST.NET.

Together we will **“GIT’er DONE”!**

Yours in Patriotism,

### **Publications Committee Message**

Larry Leighton  
**NPC Chair**



If you know a Brother or Sister who is not receiving this magazine, it is probably because they have an invalid email address in their profile. Please help improve

circulation during your “Buddy Checks” by asking if they are getting The Purple Heart Magazine and if they are not, help them update their personal profiles. Approximately one-third of the members do not even have an email address listed and many that are listed are not valid.

At this time, it is simply not economically feasible to publish a magazine or even a newsletter in hard copy. However, later this month, we are going to explore member support for a monthly magazine

subscription. The National Commander will send the survey to the Order leadership (NEC) and ask them to ensure it gets pushed out to all members. No promises, only an assurance we are exploring options.

The Purpleheart Magazine is YOUR magazine. We try to provide relevant and informative information. If you have suggestions for improvement or things to be included, or if you want to write an article of interest to you, please contact [publications@purpleheart.org](mailto:publications@purpleheart.org). Everything in good taste and that is not offensive, inflammatory, information pertaining to a current MOPH grievance(s); discredit(s) to the Order; any mistruth, libelous or malicious comments about other patriot(s) will be published.

Send your comments, suggestions, articles, pictures, and stories to [publications@purpleheart.org](mailto:publications@purpleheart.org).

## The Purple Heart Magazine

ISSN: 0279-0653

The Purple Heart Magazine is the official publication of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA, Inc.

Published and managed by the National Publications Committee

([Publications@purpleheart.org](mailto:Publications@purpleheart.org)):

|                      |                                                      |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| National Commander:  | Carder Ferguson                                      |
| Chair (4-yr term):   | Larry Leighton                                       |
| Member ( 3-yr term): | Matt Bridges                                         |
| Member (2-yr term):  | Alan Gibson                                          |
| Member (1-yr term):  | <b>Vacant</b> (to be filled by NEC Special Election) |
| Volunteer:           | Richard Daseke                                       |

The Purple Heart Magazine is in digital format only at this time. Issues are published (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, and Nov). We will strive to publish all articles and pictures received before the deadline (15<sup>th</sup> of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec).

The committee reserves the right to correct grammatical and spelling errors, but the context will not be changed. Should any article or picture be of questionable content, the author or submitter will be contacted before deciding whether or not to publish.

Personal member stories and pictures as well as those documenting Chapter and Unit activities are encouraged. Please identify the “Five W’s” (who, what, where, when, and why) so the reader may have the best experience possible when reading the magazine.



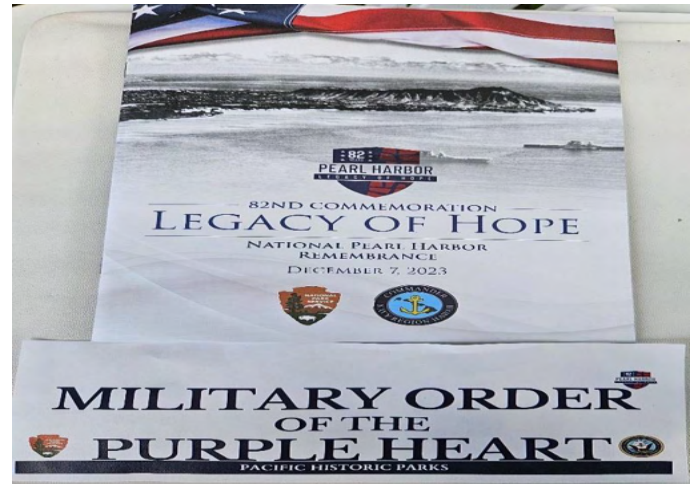
## Visiting Pearl Harbor 2023

Carder Ferguson  
National Commander



From Left to right Front row is Department Commander of Hawaii Joel Brilliant, Fran Holtgrevn (Aux Senior Vice) National Commander Carder Ferguson, Backrow left to right Charles Anderson (RGN 6 Commander), Chapter 483 Takumi Abe, Barrett Taylor, and Charlie Reau.

As we attended Pearl Harbor, we observe the traditions of December 7<sup>th</sup>, which commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese in 1941. This attack marked the United States' entry into World War II. The significance of Pearl Harbor Day extends beyond the specific events of that day, as it symbolizes a time of national unity



Program of the 82nd commemoration and the MOPH reserved seating for the event.

and remembrance for the sacrifices made by those who served during World War II.

As many received the Purple Heart on this day, we are reminded of what it represent to many as a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and service, and especially on Pearl Harbor Day, it serves as a poignant reminder of the individuals and families who endured hardship and gave their all during a time when our great nation had unimaginable challenges that we are faced with. As we come together on this occasion, we are here to pay tribute to our fallen comrades and their families and to ensure that the lessons of history are not forgotten.

We had in attendance some survivors ranging in age from 103,102,101 to 98.



*The National Commander showing his respect to Rosie the Riveters and for their service to our country. Awesome group of ladies.*

Several National Commanders of different VSO were here to pay their respects too such as VFW, American Legion. After paying our respects at Pearl Harbor later in the Day there was a parade where the Department of Hawaii and chapter 483 help with the event. We had so many Supporters. Awesome turnout!!



*The Purple Heart Float in Waikiki.*



*The Trolley with MOPH/MOPHA Members riding Left Side.*



*Right Side of Trolley*

I had one of the Best Tour Guides in Hawaii with me and took me to several different spots to see some beautiful scenery.



*Tommy Tanaka and Carder Ferguson at NU UANU PAI Lookout.*





*The view he showed me.*



*A view from the top of the Punch Bowl looking into Honolulu.*



*Final view of the Day from the Hale Koa Hotel.*

It was my Honor to be here and thankful to represent the Order.

Carder Ferguson

MOPH National Commander

## Thoughts on Pearl Harbor Day 2023

Fran Holtgreven

**National Sr Vice President**



December 7, 2023, I am awake early excited to attend the 82<sup>nd</sup> National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony, A Legacy of Hope. As excited as I am, I am also

wondering, what was on the minds of all the men, women, and children on the Island that December 7, 1941, morning. What plans and hopes were they thinking of for the coming day, month, or year? For approximately 2400 people, we will never know their hopes and dreams. Survivors of Pearl Harbor still remember that Sunday morning, was it a practice drill, maneuvers, or an invasion of the Hawaiian Islands? As the planes approached, red circles of the Rising Sun on their wingtips were seen, in disbelief, everyone sprang into action and began to open fire.

The wreckage of the USS Arizona remains as a monument to the events of World War Two and to the legacy of those who sacrificed their lives to preserve our most cherished values. As I walked closer to the “Remembrance Circle” a chill came over me and I looked up to the sky and wondered how the chills came over everyone on that Sunday morning that were looking up to the sky, wondering what was happening and to the sailors still in their bunks after hearing the sounds of gunfire and bombs.

The National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration Ceremony started at 7:50 AM Hawaiian time. After a Moment of Silence, a Missing Man Flyover Formation, Presentation of Colors, National Anthem / Hawai'i Pono'i, a Pass-in-Review by the USS Decatur (DDG-73) slowly moved in front of the attendees and the USS Arizona. My eyes became a little misted knowing I was in attendance at such a special occasion and how honored to be a participant. They keynote speaker, U.S. Marine Captain Ray Daniel Hower is the son and grandson of U.S. Marine Corps pilots. His Great Uncle Lou Conter was aboard the USS Arizona during the Pearl Harbor attack and is now its only living survivor and flew PBY Catalinas throughout the Pacific during World War Two. Captain Hower wears the pilot wings his Great Uncle wore. Wreath presentations, Benediction, Rifle Salute, and Echo Taps & Postlude ended the Remembrance Day Commemoration Ceremony.

The USS Arizona was not the only vessel to be remembered on this day, the USS Utah and USS Oklahoma had their own ceremonies. Let us remember all who perished or were wounded and also the few survivors who are still living and experienced the site and loss of their friends.

“Legacy of Hope” keynote speaker, U.S. Marine Captain Ray Daniel Hower says “It’s important for future generations to understand, that the Legacy of Hope was born out of the Greatest Generation, and almost all of us are descendants of that generation and thus inherited the legacy.

We all bear a responsibility to honor it, respect it, and build upon it.”

Our generation needs to make sure the generations to follow us know the sacrifice all Veterans have made to make this country great. Thank you for giving me the honor of attending this amazing and humbling ceremony.

## 0483-HI-6 at the 82nd Ceremony

Abe Takumi  
Member Chapter 0483-HI-6



Takumi Abe ,Lee Ann Abe, and Madison Abe (Abe Family)



(L to R) Patriots Joel Brilliant, Takumi Abe, Barrett Taylor, Carder Ferguson

## Happy Healthy & Loving 2024

Josephine Keller  
**National Suicide Awareness & Prevention Officer**  
[ChiefJoKeller@gmail.com](mailto:ChiefJoKeller@gmail.com) (951) 544-9270

Happy Healthy & Loving 2024 to you and yours! The holiday season can be such a joy with family, friends, great food, and gifts. Now that the festivities are over our homes may seem quiet and maybe somewhat empty. The sparkle of the colorful lights and beautiful decorations that adorned many homes are now stored. All is quiet and back in order. We are now left waiting for the next event or holiday to enjoy another visit. So, what do we do un[redacted] then?

Let's make some positive plans or changes:

- Taking care of your health both physical & mental
- Checking on three or more buddies a week
- Make lunch or dinner plans regularly at your favorite place

- Treat your spouse, partner, caretaker, or a friend to a movie
- Take regular walks out in the open air

If you are feeling overwhelmed or in need of additional help or just need to talk, you can:

- Call 988 and if you're the veteran press 1
- Call your clergy or pastoral team
- If already in counseling call your Counselor
- Reach out to your local VA  
<https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>
- Reach out to your nearest Vet Center <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>
- Go to the nearest Emergency Room/Department

Always remember; you are not alone. We can all do our part in saving lives. Don't forget that Suicide prevention is a 24/7 & 365 year-round project.

Know your resources to continue the fight against suicide. Always do your buddy checks. Practice self-care and know when to seek help too.

Scan the QR code below to access a list of useful resources for you or someone you know.

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



“No matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.” — Maya Angelou

## Public Health Service



The **United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (US PHSCC)**, also

referred to as the **Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service**, is the uniformed service branch of the United States Public Health Service (PHS) and one of the eight uniformed services of the United States alongside the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Space Force and the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. The commissioned corps' primary mission is the protection, promotion, and advancement of health and safety of the general public.

Along with the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps, the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is one of two uniformed services that consist only of commissioned officers and has no enlisted or warrant officer ranks, although warrant officers have been authorized for use within the service. Officers of the commissioned corps are classified as noncombatants, unless directed to serve as part of the military by the president or detailed to a service branch of the military. Members of the commissioned corps wear uniforms modeled after the United States Navy and

the United States Coast Guard, with special PHS Commissioned Corps insignia, and hold naval ranks equivalent to officers of the Navy and Coast Guard, along with corresponding in-service medical titles. Commissioned corps officers typically receive their commissions through the commissioned corps' direct commissioning program.

As with its parent division, the Public Health Service, the commissioned corps is under the direction of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The commissioned corps is led by the surgeon general, who holds the rank of vice admiral (O-9). The surgeon general reports directly to the Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health. The assistant secretary for health may be appointed to the rank of admiral (O-10) if they are also a serving uniformed officer of the commissioned corps.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Public\\_Health\\_Service\\_Commissioned\\_Corps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Public_Health_Service_Commissioned_Corps)



## Martin Luther King Holiday



The annual King Holiday Observance is a time that we celebrate, commemorate and honor the life, legacy and impact of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Global citizens will have unique opportunities to learn and unite in celebration of Dr. King’s groundbreaking work and Mrs. Coretta Scott King’s powerful continuation and formal institutionalization of that work through a variety of engaging events hosted by The King Center leading up to The King Holiday on January 15th, 2024.

As we witness nations around the world continue to struggle under the weight of violence, hate and poverty, today’s social, political, and economic landscape reveals the urgent necessity of Dr. King’s philosophy and methodology of Nonviolence (Nonviolence365™). The King Center leads the charge to provide education and training in Nonviolence365; while serving as the vital living memorial of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our strategic theme for 2024 is ‘Shifting the Cultural Climate through the Study and

Practice of Kingian Nonviolence.’ This theme defines the 2024 King Holiday Observance events and programming while serving as a compass for all the work we will do this upcoming calendar year and beyond. The pioneering work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. demonstrated that Kingian Nonviolence (Nonviolence365™) is the sustainable solution to injustice and violence in our world, ultimately leading to the creation of the Beloved Community, where injustice ceases and love prevails.

The King Center welcomes and invites you to join this movement for a new future as we strive to cultivate a Beloved Community Mindset, and ultimately transform unjust systems.

<https://thekingcenter.org/king-holiday-2024/>



## The Saga of the Four Chaplains

It was the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, and the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers. Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba, and Comanche escorted SG-19.

Hans J. Danielsen, the ship's captain, was concerned and cautious. Earlier the Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. Danielsen knew he was in dangerous waters even before he got the alarming information. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea lanes, and several ships had already been blasted and sunk.

The Dorchester was now only 150 miles from its destination, but the captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard the German submarine U-223 spotted the Dorchester. U-223 approached the convoy on the surface, and after identifying targeting the ship, he

gave orders to fire the torpedo and a fan of three were fired. The one that hit was decisive--and deadly--striking the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line.



Danielsen, alerted that the Dorchester was taking water rapidly and sinking, gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters.

Tragically, the hit had knocked out pov and radio contact with the three escort ships. The CGC Comanche, however, saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and then rescued 97 survivors. The CGC Escanaba circled the Dorchester, rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC Tampa, continued on escorting the remaining two ships. Aboard the Dorchester, panic and chaos had set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded. Others, stunned by the explosion, were groping in the darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then by the knowledge that death awaited.

Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, over-crowding them to the point of

capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get in them. Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.



Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety. "Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," says Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

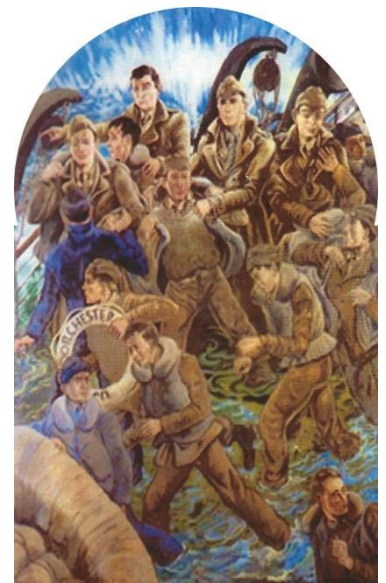
Another sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to reenter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves.

"Never mind," Goode responded. "I have two pairs." The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized that Rabbi Goode was not conveniently carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the rabbi had decided not to leave the Dorchester.

By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight.

When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains

removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act.



Ladd's response is understandable. The altruistic action of the four chaplains constitutes one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person can make. When giving

their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did the Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains' arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.



Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

"Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes."

That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage, and selflessness.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously on December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervelle, Commanding General of the Army Sea Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA.

A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism be performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

## MOPH FUND Donation Programs

### CARS PROGRAM



In late October, the Fund partnered with Charitable Adult Rides and Services (CARS), a nonprofit social enterprise owned by a nonprofit **supporting only nonprofits through vehicle donations.**

*MOPH Fund will receive 70% of the net proceeds of each vehicle, this is the amount left over after subtracting the essential costs of picking up and selling the vehicle from the gross sales price. There aren't any sign-up fees, management fees, or annual fees.*



• **Vehicle Donation Web**



Page: <https://careasy.org/nonprofit/moph-fund-inc>

• **Vehicle Donation Toll-Free Number: 855-500-7433 | 855-500-RIDE**

Read more about CARS and the vehicle donation program at our Vehicle Donation page (above) or by going directly to the CARS site. Watch for more details soon and plan on spreading the word through your personal, professional, and Chapter/Unit communications channels.



<https://careasy.org/home>

**American Dream Ambassador**

READY TO REMODEL OR RENOVATE?

THINKING ABOUT A FUTURE PROJECT?

LOOKING FOR DEEP DISCOUNTS ON MATERIAL AND LABOR?

ASK US ABOUT THE **AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

20-60% OFF – **MANY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VENDORS**  
 CONTRACTOR TRADES AT **LABOR ONLY** RATES  
 \$100 **ONE-TIME** REGISTRATION  
**75% TAX EXEMPT DONATION**  
 SUPPORT COMBAT-WOUNDED VETERAN PROGRAMS

Contact [treasurer@mophfund.org](mailto:treasurer@mophfund.org) or call 844-667-4386

**For Freedom Prints**

**THE MOPH FUND EXCLUSIVE FUNDRAISER**

Joelee Meucci's "FOR FREEDOM"  
 Framed 30"X24" canvas print  
**\$189.00 each**  
**\$35.00 from each print sold will be donated to the MOPH FUND!**  
 Free shipping within the US; Black or brown frame.

The MOPH FUND will pass \$20.00 through to the MOPH Chapter or Unit designated during the sale (based on promo code) and \$15 will be retained by the MOPH Fund. If a Chapter or Unit is not designated, \$35.00 will go to the MOPH FUND.

Scan the code to order.

<https://joeleeart.com/product/for-freedom-2/>

# CA News and Events

Josephine Keller  
Commander, Department of California



*In attendance at American Legion Commanders dinner at Post 299 for National Commander Seehafer also pictured district Commander Stonestreet (member MOPH Chapter 2929) we shared our thoughts and goals for the*

*Education & Prevention of Suicide.*



*I was honored to share experiences with Veteran students at San Bernardino Valley College while also supporting their pantry 12/2023.*



*Commander Wetzel delivers check on behalf of Chapter 2929 to Lisa Roybal, Woman's Health Care coordinator. Money is used to assist new parents that receive treatment at the VA Loma Linda CA. \$500 donated by Chapter and \$700 came from our generous Sr Vice Danny Perez.*





*Jim Anderson MOPH Chapter 604, Dept FO/National deputy FO and Department Commander Jo Keller actively participated & networking with other VSO's at the California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC).*



*Visiting Santa Barbara CA for Suicide Awareness & revived support from MOPH Chapter & Unit 750 by Michael Cook and Sally Irving 11/2023*



*The Golden State Tour for Suicide Prevention was supported by members of MOPH Chapters 492 & 2929 11/2023.*



*The Department of California Commander is invited to ride in the Purple Heart car escorting AMVETS ONE to the Veterans Cemetery in the city of IGO California on Veterans Day 11/11/2023.*



*MOPH San Gabriel Chapter 392 NOVEMBER FUNDRAISER at Bass Pro Shop, Victoria Gardens CA 11/11/2023*



# The Purple Heart Store

Proudly Serving  
Purple Heart Recipients  
For the past 20 Years

## The REAL Purple Heart Store Personalized Just For You, LLC

Veteran Owned & Operated

1006 Edward Dr Youngsville, Louisiana 70592

Web Site: [www.purpleheartstore.com](http://www.purpleheartstore.com)

E-Mail : [manager@purpleheartstore.com](mailto:manager@purpleheartstore.com)

**TOLL FREE # 1-888-987-4838**

Now carrying over 750 Purple Heart Items

All On-Line - [www.purpleheartstore.com](http://www.purpleheartstore.com)



## Made in the USA—Polos and T-Shirts



Made USA Full Dye Printed T-Shirts and Polo Shirts. Polo Shirts can be Personalized Just For You at no extra charge



US Veteran Hooded Sweat Jacket  
Super Soft and comfortable, includes Your Branch of Service Purple Heart Design



Purple Heart 3' x 5' Flag

Honoring America's

\$79.95

Combat Wounded Veterans



20oz Full Print Tumblers  
over 20 designs to choose



14Kp Purple Heart  
Necklace 1.25" with  
Brass Dogtag Chain



Pop up Banners

Great for fundraising  
events or for Honor  
events, easy to setup  
and easy to carry

**THEY GET ATTENTION**



3" 3D Car Badges

Can be mounted on any  
clean flat surface. Front  
Door, Mail Box etc.

**Additional Purple Heart  
Items**

**ALL MADE IN THE  
U.S.A.**

**Name Badges ~ \$14.50**

**Address Return Labels  
~ \$16.95**

**MOPH Challenge Coin  
\$8.95**



Visit us at ~ [purpleheartstore.com](http://purpleheartstore.com)

## National Convention

Craig Wertheim

Commander, Department of Florida

**Military Order of the Purple Heart & Auxiliary**  
**91st Annual National Convention**

**The Year of the Family**

**July 15-18, 2024**  
**Rosen Plaza Hotel 9700 International Blvd. Orlando, Florida**

Hotel reservations can be made using the link below. Prices will be honored for up to one week before and one week after the convention. Room price is \$139 per night plus tax.

[91st MOPH National Convention Registration Link](#)



## Legislative Agenda

PNC James McCormick  
National Legislative Director

The course of action that I propose the MOPH take regarding legislative initiatives should be robust, beneficial to all veterans and put us in the lead regarding some of these efforts. We have historically taken the position of supporting other VSO efforts and becoming more of a cosigner regarding legislative efforts. This is something we can still maintain as a show of good faith.

However at this point in life it is time for the MOPH to step into the lead on some efforts that we know will be of great benefit to the veteran community and also put our name on the lips of elected officials and donors who will see our value as being courageous champions for our fellow veterans.

In 2020-2021 the MOPH with Gold Star families and the Marine Corps league in cooperation with the National Flag Foundation scored a major victory that we took lead on and that was the addition of a national DOD database for Purple Heart recipients and held the nation's first Light to Unite effort that drew in thousands of business owners who donated time, money and advertising for the MOPH.

In my significant time navigating the world of legislative efforts and knowing, that it can at times be a cutthroat operation I feel the best course of action is attack these three efforts with a full-frontal assault and pull in support before the end of the fiscal year. In addition, we need to build up a legislative force in each department and region so we

can collectively work on federal and state initiatives that will position us to be effective and victorious. Losing is not going to help anyone, kicking the ball offside will not help either, we need a serious effort from serious team players to get this job done and that is why I am asking that each department provide one legislative person who will be willing to have a monthly zoom meeting and participate in the efforts of the MOPH legislative efforts. I suggest we set a meeting date and time of 20:00 on the last Thursday of each month starting January 25.

Three efforts we should start pushing immediately.

1. Honorably discharged veterans over the age of 85 years old should receive access to VA health care and a pension for their honorable service to America. Sadly, even our few WW2 veterans have to qualify for services; they need to have a verified disability rating and cannot make over a certain amount of money to get access to healthcare. This is a disgrace, if any organization should be leading the charge on this it should be the MOPH! Our bill should lay out that the only qualifier be an Honorable Discharge and be 85 and 1 day old to start to immediately receive VA healthcare access. This would be regardless of disability rating or income status and start to receive a pension of \$100 a month in addition to any other retirement, VA Compensation and call it Honor Pay for those who honorably serve and have lived to the age of 85, in our

world that is an amazing accomplishment and we need to do better for our aging veterans regardless of their disability rating, combat service etc. Honorable Service should be honored.

2. Military Honors Act: Add all combat awards and decorations to the current protected status of the Medal of Honor, additionally add that the use of any award, image or award that falls under this protection for any purpose by non-recipients of same awards shall be requested through the Office of Heraldry. Adding that no congressional veterans service organization should be denied rights to use these same military awards images and names for the purpose of advertising, recruiting or fundraising efforts. Furthermore, any private, non-congressionally chartered organization shall not be permitted to trademark, wordmark or hinder the use of authorized and protected status military awards and decorations by legitimate veterans and recognized organizations. The department of defense shall be authorized and required to investigate and take appropriate actions to remedy any such actions that violate this law to include charging and seeking financial restitution for violations of this law. Any organization who has current trademarks and or wordmarks of military awards or related to the same shall immediately have them

revoked and a complete list of protected awards and names shall be provided to the US Patent and Trademark office to prevent further degradation and demeaning of our hallowed and protected awards.

3. Add to the current Purple Heart database a mechanism for veterans and families of veterans to submit verified proof of the awarding of the Purple Heart medal and add a link to the Military Order of the Purple Heart website that the DOD shall share with visitors seeking additional information on the Purple Heart award.

### Purple Heart Mission 2023



The 2023 Purple Heart Patriot Project Mission might be behind us, but that doesn't mean you can't see the thrilling events our honorees enjoyed while they were in New York.

The 2023 Mission recap video is [now live](#) on the Honor Mission's YouTube page. Along with stunning footage of our Purple Heart heroes during their visits to the Vietnam Veterans and 9/11 memorials in New York



City, Washington's Headquarters, and the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in the Hudson Valley, it also features special commentary from the Purple Heart recipients themselves and leadership from the Honor Mission.

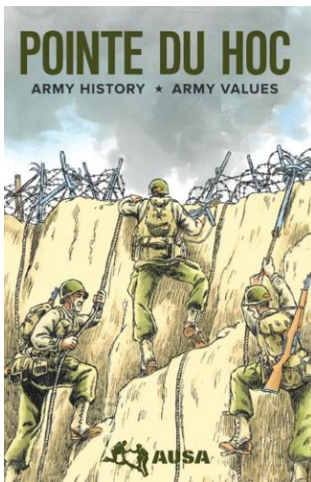
[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE 2023 PURPLE HEART PATRIOT PROJECT MISSION RECAP VIDEO.](#)

## New AUSA Logo



AUSA unveiled its new logo on

9 OCT 2023, the first day of the 2023 Annual Meeting and Exposition. The new logo was inspired by the Army Rangers who scaled the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc in Normandy, France, on D-Day. In celebration of its new logo, AUSA has released a standalone graphic novel that is separate from AUSA's Medal of Honor series, which honors those Rangers that day in June 1944.



*Pointe du Hoc: Army History, Army Values* was available in print at the Annual Meeting and can be viewed online at the following [GRAPHIC NOVEL LINK.](#)



## ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

For those that are curious, AUSA adopted its original logo in August 1954. Designed by one of AUSA's first members, it features a bald eagle, an olive branch, a shield, and a torch. Creating a new logo was all a part of AUSA's 2025 Strategic Plan. It aims to refresh the association's brand while broadening awareness of AUSA, its products and programs. It also seeks to appeal to a younger Army demographic. The 1950s logo will be retained as AUSA's seal and reserved for official documents, certificates, and awards.

## 0442-AZ-6 Tucson Veterans Parade

John R. Moore  
Chapter 0442-AZ-6 Adjutant

Fort Lowell Chapter 442 Arizona participated in the annual Tucson Veterans Day Parade. Patriot John Moore, Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, Patriot John Grand & Patriot Jim Zimmerman drove vehicles. It was a great parade with wonderful community turnout and support. Photos attached.





Parents and staff provided the veterans in attendance with a great breakfast.

## 0442-AZ-6 at Innovation Academy

John R. Moore  
Chapter 0442-AZ-6 Adjutant



For Veterans Day speakers from Fort Lowell Chapter 442 attended the Veterans Day Program at Innovation Academy Elementary in Oro Valley. Patriot John Moore and Patriot Dave Bertagnoli had a great experience.



Slideshow in cafeteria included photos of the veterans in attendance. An American history play was presented by 2nd

graders. Patriot Moore & Patriot Bertagnoli talked to a Liz Gingrich's 5th grade class. These were wonderful students, who were well behaved, and receptive.



## 0442-AZ-6 Tucson Veterans Parade

John R. Moore  
Chapter 0442-AZ-6 Adjutant

Patriot John Moore of Fort Lowell Chapter 442 presents certificates of appreciation for military service to the 12 members of Redeemed Life Bible Church who are veterans at the church's Veterans Day service.



## Purple Heart for World War I Veteran

Dan Eddinger  
National Purple Heart Trail Coordinator

[Hartford, CT] U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Veterans Affairs Committee, will present a Purple Heart medal to the family of Anthony Boutanis, a World War I U.S. Army veteran who was wounded during combat in 1918. Senator Blumenthal helped the Janeczko family to authenticate Mr. Boutanis' military medical records and secure the Purple Heart.



The Purple Heart will be accepted by Joe Janeczko, an East Windsor resident and grandson of Anthony Boutanis.

# RaphaRub Happy 2024 Special!

Ron and Journee  
Our RaphaRub Partners



 - More energy

 - More hydration

 - More minerals

 - More flavor

 - More sleep

 - More value



# Cheers to a happy and healthy 2024!

*We are so very grateful for your support of our family business.*

*Ron and Journee*

*RaphaRub CBD Relief Products - Chosen as the ONLY Brand for US Veterans*

## 0442-AZ-6 at Hoppy Vine

John R. Moore  
Chapter 0442-AZ-6 Adjutant



Fort Lowell Chapter 442 Arizona attended a Veterans Day celebration on Nov 11th at Hoppy Vine (craft beer and food) in Oro

Valley, AZ. Patriot Cody Phipps, Patriot John Grand, and Patriot John R. Moore presented the owner, Martel Martinez, a PH Certificate of Appreciation in honor of her father, Bob Maldonado, who was a 3-time recipient of the Purple Heart. Her business will be contacting the chapter on ways to support MOPH. In Oro Valley this is a veteran friendly business and the only craft beer restaurant in Oro Valley.



## 0442-AZ-6 at Pima Community

John R. Moore  
Chapter 0442-AZ-6 Adjutant

Fort Lowell Chapter 442 Commander, Mike Dyer, attended the Veterans Day and Marine Corps Birthday celebration at Pima Community College. Pima College is a Purple Heart College and partners with chapter 442 to help veteran students who are in need.



This month the chapter is helping a student with her rent on her apartment. Commander Dyer is pictured with the Pima College Veterans Outreach and Services Officers and the Marine Corps birthday cake is cut by the oldest Marine in attendance.



## 0460-AR-5 Recruiting

Chuck Adkins  
Member, Chapter 0460-AR-5



*Patriot Lonnie Young, Commander, Chapter 460 (Fayetteville, Arkansas) mans the Chapter 460 Recruiting Table during the Gun & Knife Show in Springdale, Arkansas 25 thru 27 November 2023.*

## 0460-AR-5 Fayetteville National

Lonnie Young  
Commander, Chapter 0460-AR-5

On 07 November 2023, Patriot Lonnie Young, Commander, Chapter 460 (Fayetteville, AR) presented a check for \$1,000.00 to Mr. Steve Real, President, Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation (RNCIC).

The funds will be used by the RNCIC to purchase additional land for the Fayetteville National Cemetery in order to expand the number of Veterans to be interred there past the year 2040.



## 0460-AR-5 Viola Drive

Chuck Adkins  
Member, Chapter 0460-AR-5




*Patriots Elmer Moore, Adjutant, and Joe Murray, Finance Officer, Chapter 460 (Fayetteville, AR) participated in the Chapter 460 Viola Drive at the Harps Food Store in Springdale, Arkansas. Funds raised will go to support the Office of Center for Development and Community Engagement (Voluntary Services) programs at the Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks Medical Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas.*

# Tulane University Purple Heart Proclamation Day

Ron Crowley  
Louisiana Department Commander

In attendance is Past National Auxiliary President Colleen Orfanello and Department Adjutant Harold Molbert.


1:59 📶 73% 🔋

 **Tulane Center For Brain Health**  
3h · 🌐

We are so honored and so proud of our team! The **Department of Louisiana Military Order of the Purple Heart & Auxiliary** named the Center for Brain Health a "Purple Heart Entity" in recognition of our service and dedication to our country's Veterans. Our medical director, Doc Stewart, was there to receive the award.

To the case managers, therapists, providers, navigators and staff on our team: none of this would be possible without you. The Veterans who have started their recovery and healing here are proof of the power of your work. Thank YOU.

Learn more about our team [→ tucbh.tulane.edu/about#meet-the-team](https://tucbh.tulane.edu/about#meet-the-team)





## Toast to Valor – Purple Heart Bourbon

Rebecca Leclair  
Communications Consultant for Iron Smoke  
Distillery

For Immediate Release

December 11, 2023

**ROCKY BLEIER:** Purple Heart Recipient and  
NFL Superstar Leaving Legacy

Proceeds from his Purple Heart Bourbon to  
Go to Military Order of Purple Heart

Pittsburgh, PA—Forged from the same  
determination, resilience, and grit he  
showed in the fields of Vietnam and on the  
gridiron of the National Football League,  
Purple Heart recipient Rocky Bleier has  
turned his attention to making bourbon and  
making sure his fellow veterans receive the  
proceeds of his latest venture.

Rocky has  
created  
[Bleier's  
Bourbon](#), a  
four-grain  
specialty  
bourbon that  
is 45%  
ALC/VOL (90  
proof). It is  
an exclusive  
spirit that  
came out of  
a



collaboration with Rocky's cousin Bob Bleier,  
a retired New England Patriots player, and  
the craft distillers at [Iron Smoke Distillery](#).



Bob and Rocky spent  
many hours taste-  
testing from several  
barrels to come up with  
the perfect blend for a limited release,  
premium batch from the internationally  
acclaimed New York State farm distillery  
located in Fairport, New York.



*Rocky Bleier (left) and Bob Bleier (right) at ISD  
Tasting Room*

The Bleiers tasted samples from seven  
barrels and picked their four favorites for  
this 45% ACL/VOL blend. The label created  
for the Purple Heart Bourbon bottle depicts  
the family's crest replete with two hungry  
wolves and a horn of plenty. The words,  
"Prayer-Work-Thought-Decisions" decorate  
the banner above the Bleier family name  
and the autographs of both Rocky and Bob  
flank the crest. Each man personally signed  
every bottle produced.

“Rocky and I are certified bourbon stewards. We both cherish the bourbon making process and being able to sip spirits with family and friends,” reflected Bob. “The conversation is always enhanced and with Purple Heart Bourbon, we will magnify the good we can do.”

Bob Bleier was a quarterback who played for the [New England Patriots](#) during the late 1980’s. He now has a [wealth management firm](#) in Pittsford, N.Y., just a short ten miles from the Iron Smoke tasting room. He was already aware of the fine bourbons produced by Iron Smoke, which is an internationally acclaimed New York State farm distillery located in the Finger Lakes region of Upstate New York.



*ISD Barrel Room with Founder Tommy Brunett Rocky Bleier Bob Bleier David Ferguson COO.*

“We knew people would enjoy this blend because of Iron Smoke’s impeccable reputation. Their clientele demands exceptional bourbons,” relayed Rocky Bleier. “And then, as we explained how the majority of the proceeds from each bottle would go to the Military Order of the Purple

Heart, we had even more positive feedback - much more than I expected!”

A majority of the profits for the sale of this bourbon will go to the [Military Order of the Purple Heart](#). MOPH is an organization which promotes patriotism and provides services to veterans and their families. The Bleiers support MOPH because it is dedicated to veterans who have been awarded a Purple Heart after being wounded or killed in action.

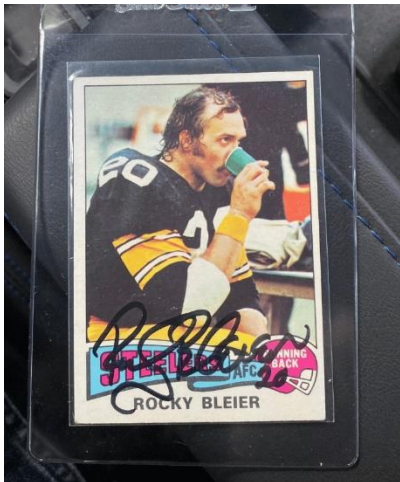
Bleier’s Bourbon was quietly released to a targeted audience at the beginning of November 2023, right before Veteran’s Day. Both Rocky and Bob Bleier personally signed every one of the 546 bottles that were available from the first batch. It is currently being marketed to a wider group and the response has really grown.

“I had the opportunity to speak at several Veteran’s Day events over the span of a couple of weeks which got the ball rolling. Then, the holiday season was a perfect time for gift-giving. Now, as more and more people realize that sales of this bourbon will help veterans secure housing and assist them in getting mental health services, they immediately start asking how they can get a bottle.”

Bleier is well known in Pittsburgh, PA., having won four Super Bowls championships while a running back for the Steelers. Yet, fellow military members point to the Bronze Star and Purple Heart Rocky was awarded after he served in South Vietnam with the 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade. It was August 20, 1969, that his brigade was ambushed in a rice paddy.

Rocky took a bullet in his left thigh. His right foot was also severely damaged when a grenade exploded nearby. Despite his injuries, Rocky was determined to go back to playing football after he recovered.

Rocky Bleier was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries he sustained while serving in Vietnam in 1969. Despite bullet wounds to his left leg and severe damage to his right foot from a grenade explosion, he overcame his disabilities and returned to play football with the [Pittsburgh Steelers](#). Rocky helped his team win four NFL championships in the 1970's and at retirement in 1980, he was the Steelers fourth all-time leading rusher.



“After I left the NFL, I devoted my time to honoring the bravery and resilience of my fellow Purple Heart brothers,” declared Rocky Bleier. “I want

to make sure their legacy is forever etched in the heart of our nation. So, with this bourbon, I raise my glass to their selfless service.”

“There’s no stopping a man with a mission. He’s 77 years old now, so it’s even more important to him to leave a legacy of philanthropy and helping his fellow veterans, said Bob Bleier. “

Rocky and Bob took classes to be certified bourbon stewards and then went to different distilleries to find one that could

make a bourbon with a distinctive flavor profile for their Purple Heart Bourbon. “We wanted every sip to reflect the indomitable spirit of those who have served our great nation. I think we have achieved that thanks to the superlative craftsmanship of Iron Smoke,” said Rocky Bleier.



*Tommy Brunett behind bar at Iron Smoke with Rocky and Bob*

“It’s been an absolute honor to partner with the Bleiers and create the Purple Heart Bourbon,” reflected Brunett. “We

hope customers will toast to the selfless contributions of our nation’s heroes and join Iron Smoke in honoring their resilience and remarkable service.”

To purchase a 750 ML bottle of [Bleier Purple Heart Bourbon Whiskey](#):

<https://ironsmokedistillery.com/purple-heart-bourbon-whiskey-four-grain-bourbon/>



### **About Iron Smoke Distillery:**

[Iron Smoke Distillery](#) produces distinct world-class bourbons and whiskeys in a 21,000-square foot facility in Fairport, N.Y. As a certified New York State Farm Distillery, Iron Smoke uses locally sourced ingredients from Finger Lakes family farms within a 50-mile radius. Their products include Iron Smoke Straight Bourbon Whiskey, Iron Smoke CASKet Strength, Iron Smoke Single Barrel Special Reserve, Rattlesnake Rosie's Apple Pie Whiskey, Pumpkin Pie Whiskey, Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie Bourbon Cream, and Maple Bacon Whiskey, plus collaborations such as Iron Smoke Rock the Barrel 1 & 2 with world renowned guitarist, [John Petrucci](#) from the band [Dream Theater](#) and the Purple Heart Bourbon Whiskey. Iron Smoke is winner of the prestigious Double Gold in the *2019 North American Bourbon & Whiskey Competition*, recipient of a 95.5 rating in the *2018 Jim Murray's Whisky Bible* and is named one of the "10 Best Bourbons Outside of Kentucky" by *Forbes Magazine*. Iron Smoke's tasting room, the "Watering Room and Sideshow" features a fully licensed bar with all New York State Wines, Beers, and Spirits as well as weekly live music, world-class entertainment, and

visitors such as [Jimmy Fallon from the Tonight Show](#) and more. Follow Iron Smoke on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

### **About The Military Order of the Purple Heart:**

The mission of the [Military Order of the Purple Heart](#) is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families. Formed in 1932 and chartered by Congress for combat wounded veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat or by an act of international terrorism.

Media Contact:

Rebecca Leclair

[rebeccajleclair@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccajleclair@gmail.com)

585-746-6340



## Why These Four Presidents?

Gutzon Borglum selected these four presidents because from his perspective, they represented the most important events in the history of the United States. Would another artist at that time, or perhaps a modern artist choose differently? As you read more about Borglum's choices, think about what you might have done if the decision was up to you.

### **George Washington,**

First President of the United States

Born 1732, died 1799. Washington led the colonists in the American Revolutionary War to win independence from Great Britain. He was the father of the new country and laid the foundation of American democracy. Because of his importance, Borglum chose Washington to be the most prominent figure on the mountain and represent the birth of the United States.

"The preservation of the sacred fire of Liberty, and the destiny of the Republican model of Government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people." George Washington

Other places to learn more about George Washington:

[George Washington Birthplace National Monument](#)  
[The White House - Presidents - George Washington](#)

### **Thomas Jefferson**

Third President of the United States

Born 1743, died 1826. Jefferson was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence, a document which inspires democracies around the world. He also purchased the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803 which doubled the size of our country, adding all or part of fifteen present-day states. Gutzon Borglum chose

Jefferson to represent the growth of the United States.

"We act not for ourselves but for the whole human race. The event of our experiment is to show whether man can be trusted with self - government." Thomas Jefferson

Other places to learn more about Thomas Jefferson:

[Thomas Jefferson Memorial National Memorial](#)  
[Jefferson National Expansion Memorial National Memorial](#)  
[The White House - Presidents - Thomas Jefferson](#)

## **Theodore Roosevelt**

26th President of the United States

Born 1858, died 1919. Roosevelt provided leadership when America experienced rapid economic growth as it entered the 20th Century. He was instrumental in negotiating the construction of the Panama Canal, linking the east and the west. He was known as the "trust buster" for his work to end large corporate monopolies and ensure the rights of the common working man. Borglum chose Roosevelt to represent the development of the United States.

"The first requisite of a good citizen in this Republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his weight - that he shall not be a mere passenger." Theodore Roosevelt

Other places to learn more about Theodore Roosevelt:

[Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site](#)  
[Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site](#)  
[Sagamore Hill National Historic Site](#)  
[Theodore Roosevelt National Park](#)  
[The White House - Presidents - Theodore Roosevelt](#)

## **Abraham Lincoln**

16th President of the United States

Born 1809, died 1865. Lincoln held the nation together during its greatest trial, the Civil War. Lincoln believed his most sacred duty was the preservation of the union. It was his firm conviction that slavery must be abolished. Gutzon Borglum chose Lincoln to represent the preservation of the United States.

"I leave you hoping that the lamp of liberty will burn in your bosoms until there shall no longer be a doubt that all men are created free and equal." Abraham Lincoln

Other places to learn more about Abraham Lincoln:

[Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park](#)  
[Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial](#)  
[Lincoln Home National Historic Site](#)  
[Lincoln Memorial National Memorial](#)  
[The White House - Presidents - Abraham Lincoln](#)

To learn more about these four presidents and all the others follow this link to the [White House](#).

<https://www.nps.gov/moru/learn/historyculture/why-these-four-presidents.htm>



## Fun Facts About George Washington



*George Washington, Charles Willson Peale, 1776. Brooklyn Museum.*

revered soldier and political leader, George Washington was the Father of our country and has always been one of the most iconic figures in American history. His eulogy, delivered by Major General Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee, immortalized the words, “to the memory of the man, first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen.” That farewell address is one of the most famous speeches in American history. Over the years, many facts and

myths have become associated with our country’s first president. Here are some [george-washington-facts](#) that may surprise you about the man that his friends and wife called “General.”

### **He Was a Stickler for Dates**

When Washington was born on February 22, 1732, the Virginia colonies used the old style Julian calendar. The colonies later adopted the current, new style Gregorian calendar that we still use today. The switch

resulted in dates being moved back 11 days. Washington preferred the original 2-22, and his birthday is still celebrated on that date.

### **He's a Scholar in Name Only**

Although several universities and other educational institutions bear his name, Washington did not attend college. He is the only major founding father without a college education. He left school at the age of 15 because his family could not afford his college education. As a result, he was self-taught in many fields. His knowledge of the countryside and map-making skills as a surveyor enabled him to serve with distinction during the French and Indian War, in which he fired the first shot.

### **His Choppers Weren't Chopped From Wood**

Believe it or not, Washington's false teeth were not made from wood. They were created using a combination of gold, ivory, carved animal bone and human teeth purchased from his African American slaves. The purchase records still exist. He used his false teeth to eat hoecakes, his favorite breakfast; simple cornmeal pancakes served with butter and honey.



*GERRY BROOME/AP PHOTO*

Washington ruined his teeth using them to crack walnut shells. The dentures he had were made out of lots of things, but not

wood. Instead, they came largely from human teeth, pulled from the mouths of the poor and his enslaved workers. They also came from ivory, cow teeth and lead. He had a little spring inside the dentures that helped them open and close.

The fake teeth caused him great discomfort, and were one of the reasons he rarely smiled. He had to have his morning hoe cakes and syrup (chosen for their softness) cut into tiny pieces to make them easier to eat.

### **He Was an Elitist, Rule Follower**

Although he supported the sentiment that gave rise to the Boston Tea Party, Washington condemned the act. In 1774, Washington wrote that the cause of Boston was the same as that of America, but he also strongly voiced his disapproval of the event. Like many elites, Washington held that private property rights were paramount, so he viewed the action of the rebels as an act of vandalism rather than a patriotic statement. Washington believed that those involved should compensate the British East India Company for the damages they caused.

### **He Defied Death**





*PHOTO12/UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP/GETTY IMAGES;  
GEORGE WASHINGTON ON HIS DEATHBED.*

Washington led troops in numerous military engagements, but despite commanding several well-known victories Washington lost more battles than he won during the Revolutionary War. In the French and Indian War, Washington had two horses shot out from under him and received four bullet holes in his coat as well as one in his hat. This perceived immunity to bullets led one Indian chief to remark that some higher power must be guiding his life. During the Nation's Bicentennial, Washington was posthumously promoted to General of the Armies of the United States, the highest rank in the U.S. military. A 2012 poll conducted in Great Britain ranked Washington, not Napoleon, as the British Empire's greatest military adversary. Although he made some battlefield blunders, Washington provided the leadership that was required to hold the **Continental Army** together for the eight years it took to achieve victory.

A tall and robust man, Washington survived multiple life-threatening situations. At various points, Washington had diphtheria, tuberculosis, smallpox, malaria, dysentery, Quinsy, carbuncle, and pneumonia. He survived near drowning in an ice-clogged river. He survived the burning and massacre of [Fort Mifflin](#). He survived two horses being shot out from under him and four bullets passing close enough to pierce his clothing—all in one battle.

Ironically, it was a cold that did him in. Technically, it was epiglottitis, an infection of the back of the throat that would be

curable with antibiotics today. While he lay dying, his doctors effectively tortured him—burning him to remove the sickness and draining him of a full 40 percent of his blood. Washington was fearful of being buried alive, as he was convinced others in history had been. He directed that his body not be buried for three days after his death, just in case.

### **He Was a Volunteer**

The only president to unanimously receive all electoral votes, Washington never actually ran for president; he was drafted by popular demand. This feat was accomplished for both his terms. He refused to accept a salary as president and even spent some of his own money to pay the salaries of cabinet ministers and other members of the executive branch. Although instrumental in developing the plans for the District of Columbia and the **White House**, Washington never lived in the city or the Presidential Mansion. His inaugurations took place in New York and Philadelphia, the capital cities at that time.

### **His Ideas Became Presidential Traditions**

Washington added the phrase "So help me God" to the end of the Presidential Oath of Office during his inauguration and it has been delivered in that manner ever since. It was his idea to call the chief executive "Mr. President." He is also the inspiration for the two-term limit for the presidency and it was he who issued the first Thanksgiving Proclamation designating November 26 as a national holiday.

## He Was an Entrepreneur

While serving a president, he personally led, as Commander-in-Chief, the troops that suppressed a tax revolt in 1791 that came to be known as the **Whiskey Rebellion**.

Washington was actually one of the new nation's most successful liquor distributors. He constructed a state-of-the-art distillery at his Mount Vernon home. It produced rye whiskey as well as apple and peach brandy. At one point, the distillery was producing 11,000 gallons of whiskey per year. The form of whiskey produced was similar to today's moonshine, which led to the myth that Washington was a moonshiner. The restored distillery is open for public tours.

## He's the Face of the Nation in More Ways Than One

Only Washington and Abraham Lincoln are featured on both a U.S. coin and bill currently in circulation. While a likeness of Lincoln adorns the penny and five-dollar bill, Washington is honored with the quarter and the \$1 bill. Washington was also featured on the country's first postage stamps. He has appeared on more issues than all the other presidents combined have.

## Did He or Didn't He Cut Down That Cherry Tree?

One of the myths associated with Washington, that he chopped down the cherry tree, traces back to a biography written shortly after his death. The book's author, Parson Weems, told several tall tales. True or not, the story of the cherry tree has led to the tradition of celebrating Washington's birth with cherry pie instead of cake.

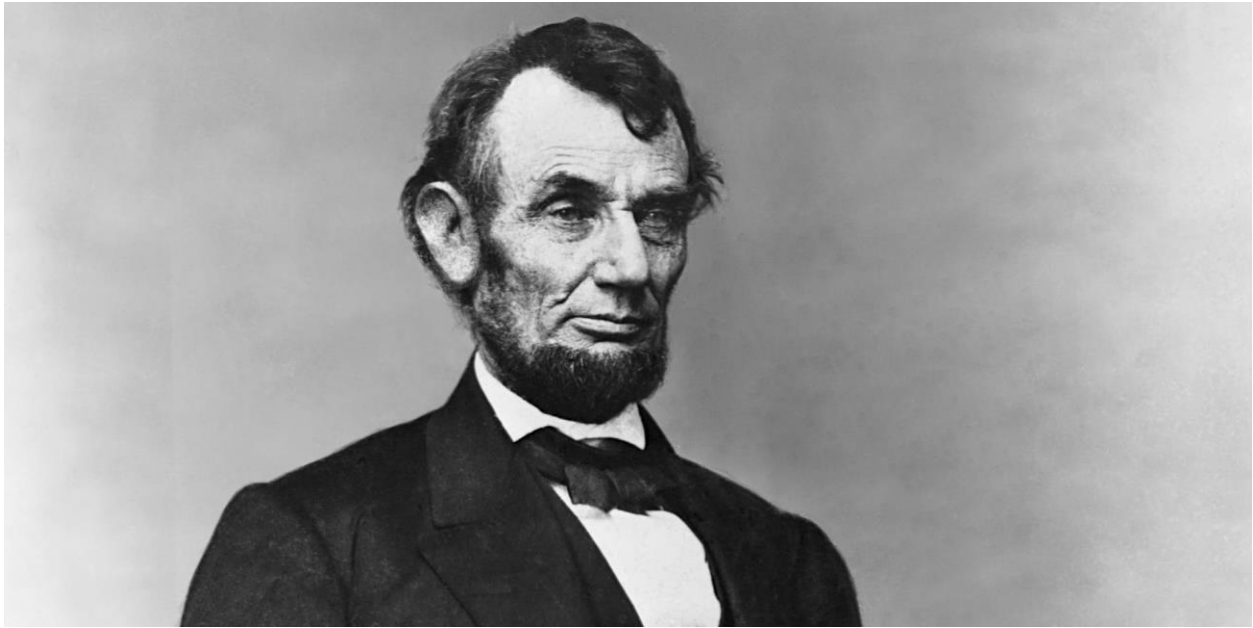
<https://www.bostonteapartyship.com/george-washington-facts>



<https://www.history.com/news/george-washington-little-known-facts>



## 10 things you may not know about Abraham Lincoln



Thousands of books have been written about Abraham Lincoln, but there are still a few things you might not know. (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs)

There's a lot about the 16th president that doesn't make it into textbooks.

By [Christina Barron](#)

There's no danger of people forgetting Abraham Lincoln. Some 15,000 books have been written about him. And that's not including U.S. history textbooks, which can't ignore his leadership during the Civil War.

So you may know a lot about the 16th president. But there are many things about Lincoln that don't make it into textbooks. To mark Lincoln's birthday (February 12), KidsPost asked Michelle Krowl, a Civil War and Reconstruction specialist at the Library of Congress, to share 10 things you may not know about one of the nation's most written-about presidents.

### **1. Lincoln spoke with a high-pitched voice.**

You might think that such a tall, imposing man as Lincoln had a deep voice. But he didn't. Krowl describes his voice as "high-pitched and reedy" in a Library of Congress [blog post](#). People who heard Lincoln speak said his voice was at times "unpleasant." Krowl said that "for most listeners, however, the power of Lincoln's words soon outweighed any discordant note in his delivery."

### **2. He grew a beard after an 11-year-old girl suggested it.**

Grace Bedell of Westfield, New York, wrote to Lincoln in October 1860 to suggest that the presidential candidate grow whiskers because "your face is so thin." "All the ladies like whiskers," she argued. She said the new look would earn him votes. Lincoln started growing a beard not long after. "It isn't known if Grace's letter was what prompted him to do so," Krowl said. "But Lincoln did reply to her letter, so she could have influenced his decision." You can see copies of Grace's letter ([wapo.st/gracebedell](http://wapo.st/gracebedell)) and Lincoln's response ([wapo.st/lincolnbeard](http://wapo.st/lincolnbeard)) on the library's website.

### **3. He wasn't a terrific speller.**

The champion speaker and powerful writer had a weakness in spelling. The word "inaugural" was a problem. Krowl said in her blog post that Lincoln wrote - "inaugural" in a note to his secretary, John Hay, on his handwritten copy of his second inaugural address. "It's sort of amusing

and endearing that despite being the president and giving inaugural addresses, he routinely misspelled 'inaugural,' " Krowl said.

### **4. He once received a city as a Christmas present.**

Union General William T. Sherman's 285-mile "March to the Sea" in 1864 ended with the capture of Savannah, Georgia. "Sherman alerted President Lincoln of the capture with a telegram presenting Lincoln with Savannah as a Christmas present," Krowl said.



General William T. Sherman gave a city to Lincoln as a present. (AP)

### **5. He commuted to work in the summer.**

The Lincolns left the White House during the summer and lived in a cottage at the Soldiers' Home. "Although the Soldiers' Home is just three miles away and very much in the city now, in Lincoln's day, it was out in the country," Krowl said.

Lincoln commuted to and from work on horseback, sometimes riding alone. (Wife Mary Todd Lincoln wasn't happy about that.) You can virtually commute with Lincoln at [lincolncommute.org](http://lincolncommute.org) or visit [President Lincoln's Cottage](#) and make your own journey to the White House.

### **6. He often stored papers in his stovepipe hat.**

Images of Lincoln often show him wearing a tall black hat. The hat was more than a fashion statement. Lincoln's law partner William H. Herndon described another function: "This hat of Lincoln's — a silk plug — was an extraordinary receptacle. It was his desk and his memorandum-book. . . . Whenever in his reading or researches he wished to preserve an idea, he jotted it down on an envelope or stray piece of paper and placed it inside the lining. Afterwards when the memorandum was needed there was only one place to look for it." One such hat of Lincoln's is on display at the [National Museum of American History](#).

### **7. He received a patent for an invention.**

Lincoln liked to tinker, figuring out how things worked. He invented a device that would lift boats over shallow waters in rivers. In 1849, while serving in Congress, he received a patent for the device. (You can find a picture of it on the website of the [National Museum of American History](#).) Lincoln remains the only president to have received a patent.

### **8. He was not the main speaker at Gettysburg.**

Lincoln was invited to the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. But the star was to be Edward Everett. "Everett was one of the best known and most regarded orators of the day, and he was the star attraction at the Gettysburg cemetery dedication," Krowl said. "Abraham Lincoln was invited . . . to make 'a few appropriate remarks.'" Everett spoke for about two hours, and Lincoln about two minutes. "Now, of course, Abraham Lincoln's [Gettysburg Address](#) is famous, and far fewer people remember Edward Everett and his oration," she said.

A campaign button shows Edward Everett, a vice presidential candidate in 1860. Everett was the main speaker at Gettysburg, but Lincoln's words became famous. (DC Preservation League).

### **9. As a youth, he made his own math notebook.**

Growing up on farms in [Kentucky](#) and [Indiana](#), Lincoln had little time for school. He often borrowed books and studied on his own. "In the 1820s Lincoln assembled his own notebook to work on mathematical problems, known at the time as a sum book or cypher book," Krowl said. You can see a page of the sum book at [wapo.st/mathbook](http://wapo.st/mathbook).

Willie Lincoln, center, and his younger brother, Tad, pose with their mother's nephew, Lockwood Todd. Abraham Lincoln

wasn't a strict parent to the boys.  
(Mathew Brady/Library of Congress)

10. He was an easygoing father.

Sons Willie and Tad Lincoln lived in the White House and were known for being rowdy. Krowl said that Herndon, Lincoln's law partner, wasn't thrilled with their father's reaction. "His children did much as they pleased. Many of their antics he approved, and he restrained them in nothing. . . . He was the most indulgent parent I have ever known," Herndon wrote. Julia Taft Bayne, whose brothers played with Tad and Willie, wrote in "Tad Lincoln's Father" that the president enjoyed the little distractions from the war. When the boys barged into his office to ask for a pardon for a doll accused of spying, Lincoln played along: "'And I only wish, Hay,' he said to his secretary, with a sort of sigh, 'they were all that easy.'"

<https://www.history.com/news/10-things-you-may-not-know-about-abraham-lincoln>



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/10-things-you-may-not-know-about-abraham-lincoln/2018/02/09/87511a54-0768-11e8-b48c-b07fea957bd5\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/10-things-you-may-not-know-about-abraham-lincoln/2018/02/09/87511a54-0768-11e8-b48c-b07fea957bd5_story.html)



## Purple Heart Fire Truck

Tom Ashmore

**Member, Chapter 1965-VA-1**



When the Purple Heart Fire Truck debuted back in 2014, it was a way to show appreciation to veterans. Now, its creator, Vietnam vet and Purple Heart recipient Herb Delbridge, is looking for other veterans to keep his vision alive, reports richmond.com.

A debilitating stroke last year left Delbridge unable to operate the fire truck, which looked like the end of his mission. However, the report notes that volunteers from the Marine Corps League and the Henrico County (VA) Fire Department have put the apparatus back in "service."

The fire truck is a 1983 Ford diesel on which Delbridge spent tens of thousands of dollars restoring. Hand-painted designs of his time in Vietnam adorn the fire truck, as is George Washington, the creator of the Purple Heart.

<https://www.fireapparatusmagazine.com/fire-apparatus/purple-heart-fire-truck-determined-to-continue-service/#gref>





**Herbert S. Delbridge, Jr., age 82** of Rockville, Virginia passed away at his home on Thursday, December 14, 2023. Herb is survived by his wife of 58 years, Linda B. Delbridge. He is also survived by his sons, Curtis K. Delbridge of Rockville, Virginia, and John Andrew “Andy” Delbridge (Debra) of Beaverdam, Virginia; his grandchildren, Sterling K. Delbridge (Casey) of Rockville, and Andrew B. Delbridge of Beaverdam; his great-grandchildren include Kent Delbridge, Colten Anderson, MacKenzie Delbridge and Savannah Delbridge. Mr. Delbridge is survived by his sisters Elaine D. Lynch of Lawrenceville, Virginia and Marion D. Warren of Santa Fe, Tennessee, one brother Jerry W. Delbridge of Emporia, Virginia.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Dossie G. Gordon and his father Herbert S. Delbridge, Sr.; sisters Barbara D. Webb and Nancy D. Singleton.

Mr. Delbridge served his country for two years in the United States Army and eight years in the United States Marine Corps. During his service, he earned many

medals for his actions in “The Bay of Pigs” threat and in "Operation Buffalo", one of the fiercest and costly battles in Vietnam. He achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant in the Marine Corps. While in Vietnam, he was wounded three times and received the Purple Heart Medal and is recognized in the Purple Heart Hall of Honor. He was a dedicated member of the James M. Slay Detachment #329 of the Marine Corps League and the Military Order of the Purple Heart – Chapter 1965. He was also a member of the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans. Mr. Delbridge was the founder and creator of the Purple Heart Firetruck, a rolling war memorial with airbrushed painted scenes depicting the realities of the Vietnam war. Since 2014 Mr. Delbridge has traveled throughout the State of Virginia attending parades, patriotic events, and community festivals to bring honor and recognition to all Veterans, and especially to remember the 58,317 who paid the ultimate price in Vietnam.



Volunteers from area Veteran Service Organizations, like Tom Ashmore of Chapter 1965-VA-1 shown in the picture above, keep the Purple Heart Fire Truck rolling.

Walter Cornett has taken over operations for Operation Purple Heart Truck.

## Cane Loyalty

Tom Ashmore  
**Member, Chapter 1965-VA-1**



Tom Ashmore, a Vietnam Combat Marine Veteran, is pictured at the National Purple Heart

Museum in N.Y. Tom is a life member of

the Military Order of the Purple Heart and a member of the Richmond Purple Heart Chapter 1965.

Tom and his wife Betty have been teaching Veterans that the Cane is way more than a crutch, calling their operation Cane Loyalty. These teachings are based on a martial Art known as Cane-Fu developed by Grand Master Shuey in the Lake Tahoe area.

Many people believe that the Cane is only for people with mobility issues – but it is quite the opposite! The cane can be used to get stronger to live longer, enhance one’s balance, increase your flexibility, and of course aid in your defense. Strength, balance, and flexibility all play a very important role in building a good solid foundation. For most people, the idea of defense brings to mind attackers, however, we must also defend against slips, trips, and falls. Having your cane, practicing balance, and stretching will greatly reduce injuries if you should ever slip, trip, or fall. Your cane may prevent the fall from happening.

Of course, the cane can also be used against a physical attack. The best defense is to simply not be there. Practice Situational Awareness and always try to avoid a fight. Being aware of one’s surroundings better prepares you and gives you time to react. Proper Situational Awareness could possibly steer you away from trouble.

Combining the foundation of strength, flexibility, and balance along with your knowledge from cane training, you will



always have the advantage of reach, and surprise!

Training Veterans is a passion of ours and we do it at no cost to the Veteran. We work with all ages and abilities. We have developed special training to accommodate our wheelchair Veterans and Veterans with various prosthetics.

Tom was recently honored as one of five Veterans here in Virginia to have a large mural painted of him and on permanent display at the Richmond Veterans Hospital in Richmond Virginia. This tribute, plus receiving a Quilt of Honor was received because of the large number of Veterans that Cane Loyalty has trained.

Many groups of Veterans have been trained.

We have had the honor to train Veterans representing all branches of the military and lucky enough to have had several World II Veterans attend as well as Korean Veterans, Vietnam Veterans and Veterans from the various Sand Boxes attend. Each Veteran that attends this training receives

an American made oak training cane. This is made possible through the generosity of Athletes and Veterans United.



*Last year Tom was presented The Teacher's Citizenship Education Award by Commander Dick Wise Commander of Chapter 1965 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Richmond Virginia.*

In 2023 the new year was started off training Veterans at the Williamsburg Virginia VFW.



Through the years Cane Loyalty has trained hundreds of Veterans that the Cane is more than a crutch.



Tom makes no money at this and does it to give back to all Veterans. For more information, you can view their website ([www.caneloyalty.com](http://www.caneloyalty.com)) or find them on Facebook at Cane Loyalty.

## TAMPA - Purple Heart Project

CWO3 Charles W. Meyer USCG Retired,  
U.S. Coast Guard Squadron One - Vietnam 1969-70

**Member Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association**

I would like to call your attention to this article that just came out in the *Sea History* magazine a few days ago. I researched and wrote this article "**NEVER TOO LATE**" and submitted it to SEA HISTORY several months ago. The article & story was accepted and just appeared in the Winter Issue #185. I have spent over 3 years on this project and finally the Family will be able to receive the posthumous PH award, represented by Charles Green's Grand Niece, Army LTC Meg Neidert (Retired)

<https://seahistory.org/in-the-pages-of-sea-history-185/>



I also put together a short video "REMEMBER THE TAMPA." <https://youtu.be/rVCUvjqPG5Y>



The family is scheduled to receive the PH this coming May, at Arlington by the CG Memorial - possibly on Memorial Day. I am planning to attend if my schedule works out and the date is confirmed.

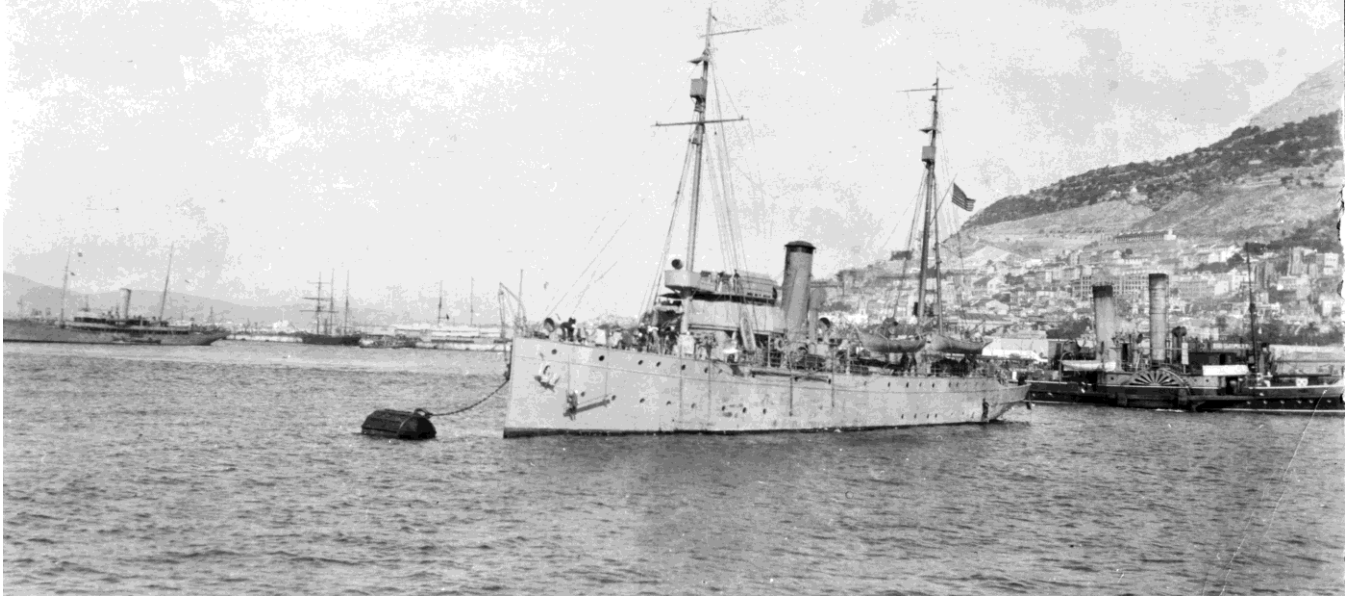
# Never Too Late: A Case of Mistaken Identity and the Purple Heart Project

by Charles W. Meyer

On 26 September 1918, USS *Tampa* was nine days into its 19th convoy escort, running low on coal. Her captain, Charles Satterlee, requested permission to detach from the convoy but was denied because of the risk of sailing alone in broad daylight in submarine-infested waters. He made a second request at 4 pm, as the coal bunkers were now dangerously low. This time, the request was granted. At 4:15 pm

*Tampa* detached and proceeded full steam ahead towards the Bristol Channel to make port at Milford Haven, Wales. With her lights extinguished as a security measure, *Tampa*, sailing alone at dusk with her silhouette visible against the night sky, was sighted by a German submarine, UB-91. At 8:15 pm, UB-91 fired off a torpedo, which blasted a hole in *Tampa's* hull amidships.

*U.S.S. Tampa  
Impounded in Bristol Channel*



*The Coast Guard cutter Tampa, in service during WWI to the US Navy (thus USS Tampa), moored in Europe, c. 1917–1918.*



*UB-91 firing a torpedo at USS Tampa in Bristol Channel, Wales. Painting by John D. Wisinski, US Coast Guard Collection*

This was followed by a second explosion. The 190-foot Coast Guard escort vessel sank with all hands in fewer than three minutes, just off Bristol Channel— seven weeks before the war ended.

This sinking would be the greatest single casualty incurred by any naval unit as a result of enemy action during the four- plus years of World War I. *Tampa's* crew totaled 130 men, including 111 Coast Guardsmen, four US Navy personnel, and 15 British Navy sailors and dockworkers.

### **The *Tampa* Purple Heart Project**

The Purple Heart originated from an honor George Washington bestowed on a handful of Army soldiers during the Revolutionary War. It was originally called the Badge of Military Merit and was made of a purplish cloth in the shape of a heart with the word “merit” sewn across the center. At the time of *Tampa's* loss, the Purple Heart was not in use in any military service. General Douglas MacArthur, in his role as US Army Chief of Staff, had the medal restored as an Army decoration on 22 February 1932. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt extended eligibility to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Finally, on 12 November 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 10409, allowing for the Purple Heart to be awarded retroactively for actions after 5 April 1917.

New eligibility criteria required recipients to have been wounded or to have died as a result of direct enemy action. This automatically made the crew of *Tampa*

eligible for the Purple Heart, but her case was overlooked until 1999, when James Bunch, a retired Coast Guardsman, proposed to then COMDT James Loy that the Purple Heart be awarded posthumously to her crew. Eighty-two years after she sank, on 11 November 1999, *Tampa's* crew was recognized as Purple Heart recipients in a ceremony at the Coast Guard Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Three descendants of *Tampa* crewmembers received Purple Hearts on behalf of their ancestors. Today, more than 105 years after *Tampa* was lost and 24 years after the first Purple Heart was awarded to one of her crew, the Coast Guard has awarded 62 Purple Hearts to lost crewmembers from USS *Tampa*. Efforts are ongoing to identify families who have yet to receive their relatives' Purple Heart medals.

### **A Case of Mistaken Identity**

This is the story of one such crewman, (WT2) Charles E. Green, who is listed in Coast Guard records as “Frank C. Garrett,” and his family's struggle to prove that Frank C. Garrett was, in fact, Charles E. Green and they should receive the Purple Heart on his behalf. Charles Green was born on 13 February 1899 in East Bernstadt, Kentucky, to Jasper and Margaret (Cloyd) Green; his sister Stella was born in July of 1900. Their mother and a younger sister both died in June of 1903 of a fever, when Charles was about four years old. His father remarried around 1904 to Ida Belle Rice. With that union, Ida brought her four-year-old son Lawrence into the family. At some point, the Greens moved to Marion, Illinois, where Charles's father worked as a teamster for the

mines. According to family lore, around 1916 Charles bought some items from the company store on his father's account without permission. His father's violent reaction caused Charles to run away from home. News of the altercation did not sit well with the townspeople, and they forced Jasper to leave town. The family moved to Shannon County, Missouri, where Jasper took up farming.

There is no record of where Charles went after running away, but given the timetable, it appears that he made his way to Florida, where on 9 January 1917—a month before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday—he enlisted in the US Coast Guard under the alias “Frank Charles Garrett,” using a false birth date of 5 January 1896, claiming to be 21 years old. He was assigned to USS *Tampa* as ordinary seaman. According to his service record, which his family only recently received, he appeared to have been a quick learner and good worker. He advanced rapidly from a “coal heaver” (on the job only seven days) to “fireman” (four days) advancing to “Water Tender A” (roughly equivalent to an E-4 Petty Officer today) for three months. He was promoted to Water Tender – 2nd class, a rating he held for ten months and thirteen days.

New Coast Guard recruit Charles Green, who enlisted under the alias “Frank Garrett” in January 1917, was assigned to USS *Tampa*. He and his shipmates perished when the *Tampa* was torpedoed by a German U-boat on 26 September 1918.



COURTESY MEG NEIDERT, GREAT-NIECE OF

This photo of Charles Green taken on 25 January 1918 in Plymouth, England, is a perfect example of how young and full of pride these men were. The photo was taken just before his 19th birthday; his youth comes through clearly, but his true strength is revealed in his steady gaze. The tragedy of Charles Green's story at this point in time lay both behind him and ahead. He had become so estranged from his immediate family—in particular, his father—that he felt the need to distance himself from them to the point of changing his name. Eight months after this photo was taken, *Tampa* was torpedoed and sank, taking 130 souls to their watery graves in under three minutes. Seven weeks later, the war was over.

### **Never Too Late**

In the decade immediately following the loss of the *Tampa*, families, friends, and former colleagues of the men who perished erected various memorials throughout towns, cities, and states associated with the lost crew. Of these, several have plaques listing the names all the Coast

Guard crew, plus the four US Navy personnel and the British sailors and dockworkers who were also on board.

One of the most prominent memorials is the US Coast Guard Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, which was dedicated on 23 May 1928. Architect George Howe and sculptor Gaston Lachaise captured the spirit of the Coast Guard's legendary steadfastness in the monument's rock foundation and pyramid design. Above the Coast Guard motto, *Semper Paratus* ("Always Ready"), a bronze seagull appears poised to take flight. The gull symbolizes the Coast Guard's tireless vigil over the nation's maritime territory. The names of the vessels *Seneca* and *Tampa* and their crewmen, as well as all Coast Guard personnel who lost their lives during World War I, are inscribed on the sides of the monument.

You will not find Charles Green's name on this monument or in any other Coast Guard record. His alias, Frank Garrett, can be found on the right side of the lower left panel—six names down from the top. This mere glitch in the historical record may seem insignificant, but even after 105 years the record can be corrected. Charles Green's relatives set out to prove, beyond a doubt, Frank Garrett's true identity, and they have succeeded. Charles Green's Purple Heart will be awarded to his family on Memorial Day, 2024. Green will be the 63<sup>rd</sup> *Tampa* crewmember so recognized. The Purple Heart Project's work is ongoing to identify and recognize the remaining crewmembers eligible for this honor, men who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

*CWO3 Charles W. Meyer (USCG, Ret.) would like to acknowledge the efforts of Nora Chidlow, Archivist, USCG Historians Office, and assistance from Charles E. Green's great niece, LTC Meg Neibert (US Army Ret.), and grandniece, Tami (Vest) Glock.*



*The US Coast Guard and the US Navy in Wartime.*

*The United States Coast Guard was established within the Department of the Treasury on 28 January 1915. Under 14 US Code § 101, the USCG comes under control of the US Navy during times of war or when the president or Congress directs during periods of peace. From World War I to the present, US Coast Guard personnel have supported the Navy in its operations during times of war and armed conflict. —US National Archives and Records*



*The US Coast Guard Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, located across the Potomac from Washington, DC. Architect George Howe and sculptor Gaston Lachaise designed the memorial to capture the “spirit of the Coast Guard’s legendary steadfastness in the monument’s rock foundation and pyramid de- sign.” The bronze gull taking flight represents the Coast Guard motto, Semper Paratus, (“Always Ready”). The names of all Coast Guard personnel lost during World War I are inscribed on the sides of the monument, including the crews of the cutters Tampa and Seneca—except one. Charles Green’s name does not appear there but rather his alias, Frank C. Garrett.*

## Homes for Heroes Recipient

Chuck Adkins

**Member, Chapter 0460-AR-5**



*The Building Homes for Heroes sign in front of Patriot Aaron Mankin’s new mortgage free home.*

On 13 December 2023, Patriot Aaron P. Mankin, Chapter 460 (Fayetteville, AR) was presented the keys to his mortgage free home in Rogers, Arkansas from the Building Homes for Heroes organization, Horton Homes, Advanced Auto Parts, Lowes, and the Bobby Bones Show.



*Patriot Aaron Mankin surrounded by members of the Rogers Police Department and representatives from Building Homes for Heroes is presented the “Key” to his family’s new home in Rogers, Arkansas.*



Patriot Mankin enlisted in the US Marine Corps in 2003 as a Combat Correspondent and deployed to Iraq in 2005 to tell the Marine Corps story in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On 11 May 2005, near the Syrian-Iraq border, Aaron was severely wounded when an improvised explosive device exploded underneath his amphibious assault vehicle (AAV) that killed four of his fellow Marines and wounded 11 others. The heat from the explosion was so hot, that when he tried to breath, he inhaled debris and fire into his lungs. In addition, while Aaron was able to exit the AAV, he was still on fire, but even stop, drop, and roll could not dampen the flames. Patriot Mankin was saved by the quick action of other Marines who came to his rescue and he walked away with burns on his torso, ears, mouth, nose, neck, arms; a few lost fingers; and damage to his lungs. Two days later, Aaron was at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX to begin his long and arduous recovery.

In 2007, Aaron was the first US Service member selected for Operation Mend at the University of California, Los Angeles where some of the Nation's best plastic surgeons volunteered their time and skills to repair and heal some of the Military's most baldly injured Troops. Aaron has undergone over 70 surgeries to date.

To repay Aaron for his service while in uniform and for his post-service support to his fellow Combat Wounded Veterans, The Bobby Bones Show, on 05 June 2023, notified Patriot Mankin he was selected for a house that will be built and adapted to his specific needs through the Building Homes for Heroes organization.



*Patriots Chuck Adkins, National Adjutant, and Aaron Mankin, both members of Chapter 460, share a moment inside Patriot Mankin's new home in Rogers, Arkansas.*

These days, Patriot Mankin is a powerful motivational speaker who spends his time inspiring other injured Veterans. He has been featured on major network television and in several national magazines. In 2011, Patriot Mankin received the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America's Veteran Leadership Award. When not traveling across the United States, Aaron spends his time in Rogers, Arkansas where he resides with his family.

## **2560-AZ-6 Wreaths Across America**

### **Nancy Fassbender**

On Saturday, December 16, 2023, Wreaths Across America Remembrance Day was celebrated throughout our nation. There were 4212 locations and over 3 million wreaths were placed on the interred veterans' graves.

Wreaths Across America in Maine, start 52 days before this date and make our live

wreaths. They put together over 90,000 wreaths a day!



Then volunteer over the road truckers volunteer their time and cabs to haul the wreaths across the nation. We had over 900 truckers volunteering this year.

This year, Mountain View Cemetery located at 7900 E. Main Street had 2,028 Veterans who are interred there. We were able to successfully honor every Veteran there.

For 2024, Wreaths Across America has found a sponsor to match all wreaths sponsored for one month. The date is from December 16, 2023, through January 16, 2024. Please consider purchasing early during this period for us to make our Goal again.

Please either go to [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/az0190p](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/az0190p) or send your check to %Nancy Fassbender 4657 S Desert Dawn Dr. Gold Canyon, AZ 85118.

Our large sponsors were Crescent Crown Distributing, Guild Mortgage Company, America First Credit Union, VFW Post 9399 and Auxiliary, Pima Indian Community, Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 2560, Hensley Beverage Co, and Mountain View Funeral Home. Starbucks and Bashas provided coffee and donuts.

Our team this year, consisted of Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 2560, VFW Post 7968 & Auxiliary, VFW Post 9399 & Auxiliary, Daughters of the American

Revolution, POW East Valley Chapter, and the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation.



I want to thank all the volunteers (there were about 600) who not only sponsored a wreath but came out to Mountain View Cemetery to honor our interred Veterans by placing

a wreath on their grave.

The Mesa Fire and Medical pipe and drum troop escorted the AJ High School JROTC with the Colors. They also played Amazing Grace at the end of our ceremony. What a beautiful sound the pipes make!

A special thank you to Rev. Phil Erickson of VFW Post 7968 who blessed this event and the talented singer, Debra Kent, who did an exceptional job of singing the National Anthem.

Rick Kreiberg, Veteran, and founder of the Veterans Affinity was our keynote speaker.

We had two AJ High School band students, Ailise Murphy and Rodrigo Moreno perform TAPS by echoing each other.



*Chapter 2560 Commander Mike Overmeyer (right) and Jr Vice Commander Chuck Byers with their "assistants".*

This year's ceremony was dedicated to our youth. It is our mission not only to Remember and Honor all our Veterans but to Teach our youth what the cost of freedom is.

We paid tribute to all the Veterans by presenting a wreath to each branch of service by our Active and retired Veterans who had a student so that they could teach our Youth why we do this.

After we honored our interred Veterans by placing a wreath on their grave, Texas Roadhouse in Gilbert thanked all the volunteers by giving out BBQ sandwiches.



## February is Black History Month



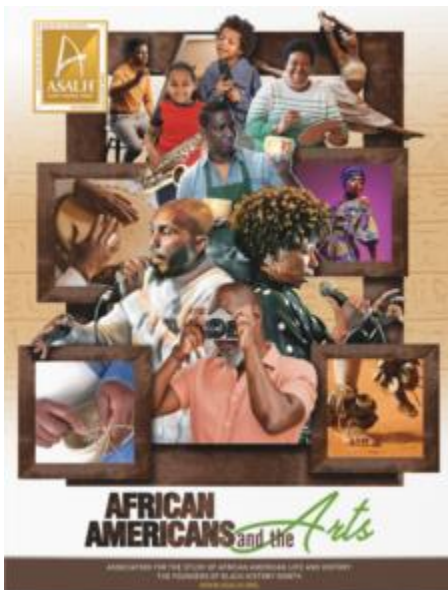
When Carter G. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public. The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public's attention important developments that merit emphasis.

For those interested in the study of identity and ideology, an exploration of ASALH's Black History themes is itself instructive. Over the years, the themes reflect changes in how people of African descent in the United States have viewed themselves, the influence of social movements on racial ideologies, and the aspirations of the black community.

The changes notwithstanding, the list reveals an overarching continuity in ASALH—our dedication to exploring historical issues of importance to people of African descent and race relations in America.

### [The Origins of Black History Month](#)

#### 2024 Theme— African Americans and the Arts



African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression, the African American influence has been paramount. African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world. In 2024, we examine the varied history and life of African American arts and artisans.

For centuries Western intellectuals denied or minimized the contributions of people of African descent to the arts as well as history, even as their artistry in many genres was mimicked and/or stolen. However, we can still see the unbroken chain of Black art production from antiquity to the present, from Egypt across Africa, from Europe to the New World. Prior to the American Revolution, enslaved Africans of the Lowcountry began their more than a 300-year tradition of making sweetgrass baskets, revealing their visual artistry via craft.

The suffering of those in bondage gave birth to the spirituals, the nation's first contribution to music. Blues musicians such as Robert Johnson, McKinley 'Muddy Waters' Morganfield and Riley "BB" B. King created and nurtured a style of music that became the bedrock for gospel, soul, and other still popular (and evolving) forms of music. Black contributions to literature include works by poets like Phillis Wheatley, essays, autobiographies, and novels by writers such as David Walker and Maria Stewart. Black aesthetics have also been manifested through sculptors like Edmonia Lewis and painters like Henry O. Tanner.

In the 1920s and 30s, the rise of the Black Renaissance and New Negro Movement brought the Black Arts to an international stage. Members of the armed forces, such as James Reese Europe, and artists such as Langston Hughes, Josephine Baker and Lois Mailou Jones brought Black culture and Black American aesthetics internationally, and Black culture began its ascent to becoming a dominant cultural movement to the world. In addition to the Harlem

Renaissance, today we recognize that cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, and New Orleans also were home to many Black artists.

The 1960s continued this thread through the cultural evolution known as the Black Arts Movement, where artists covered issues such as pride in one's heritage and established art galleries and museum exhibitions to show their own work, as well as publications such as Black Art. This period brought us artists such as Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, Amiri Baraka, Nikki Giovanni, and Sonia Sanchez. The movement would not have been as impactful without the influences from the broader Black world, especially the Negritude movement and the writings of Frantz Fanon.

In 1973, in the Bronx, New York Black musicians (i.e., DJ Kool Herc and Coke La Rock) started a new genre of music called hip-hop, which comprises five foundational elements (DJing, MCing, Graffiti, Break Dancing and Beat Boxing). Hip-hop performers also used technological equipment such as turntables, synthesizers, drum machines, and samplers to make their songs. Since then hip-hop has continued to be a pivotal force in political, social, and cultural spaces and was a medium where issues such as racial violence in the inner city, sexism, economic disinvestment and others took the forefront.

The term Afrofuturism was used approximately 30 years ago in an effort to define cultural and artistic productions (music, literature, visual arts, etc.) that imagine a future for Black people without

oppressive systems and examines how Black history and knowledge intersects with technology and science. Afrofuturist elements can be found in the music of Sun Ra, Rashan Roland Kirk, Janelle Monáe and Jimi Hendrix. Other examples include sci-fi writer Octavia Butler's novels, Marvel film Black Panther, and artists such as British-Liberian painter Lina Iris Viktor, Kenyan-born sculptor Wangechi Mutu, and Caribbean writers and artists such as Nalo Hopkinson, and Grace Jones.

In celebrating the entire history of African Americans and the arts, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) puts into the national spotlight the richness of the past and present with an eye towards what the rest of the twenty-first century will bring. ASALH dedicates its 98th Annual Black History Theme to African Americans and the arts.

**Read more and see Past Themes:**

<https://asalh.org/>



## Veterans: All Hands-On Deck!

Tom Lasser

Member, Chapter 0210-CA-6

Veterans: All hands-on deck to remedy

dire military recruiting situation

Only 9% of those 16 to 21 years old willing to serve

By Tom Jurkowsky - - Wednesday,  
November 15, 2023

OPINION:

Fifty years ago, then-Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird announced the U.S. military would, in the future, fill its ranks exclusively with volunteers rather than with draftees. The all-volunteer force was created, and conscription had come to an end.

The all-volunteer military has worked for our country. There have been some rough periods through both peace and war, but for the most part, it has proved resilient — up until now.

To say the all-volunteer force has hit a rough spot would be an understatement. A better characterization would be that recruiting for the military services has become a dire situation. Despite significant bonuses, eased enlistment requirements and the creation of programs to help potential recruits qualify academically and physically before even entering boot camp, the only military services that met recruiting goals this past year are the Marine Corps and the [Space Force](#). In fact, the services have struggled for the past couple of years to meet recruiting goals.

Part of the challenge in meeting our recruiting goals is interest in and eligibility for military service among young people. In addition to 77% of young Americans being ineligible to serve without a waiver for being overweight or having a history of drug use or mental or physical health issues, the propensity to serve has also dropped precipitously. Only 9% of those who are 16 to 21 years old are willing to serve.

In short, the nation is struggling to recruit and retain the [force](#) we need to defend our country and support our allies when called upon.

To turn this around, the services have raised the enlistment age, implemented new advertising campaigns, increased the use of social media and, in the Army's case, created a new structure for its recruiting command.

There is another tool in the toolkit that can help the services meet the recruiting challenge, and that tool should be called upon immediately: the veterans who have served this country in uniform.

Those of us who have served have wonderful experiences and stories to tell how our military service has shaped our lives. Each of us who has served or is serving can tout the professional and leadership skills we've developed, the friendships we've built, the travel opportunities we've enjoyed, the educational opportunities we've been provided, and the health benefits the military provides for its members and their families.

Reversing the recruiting situation is clearly a challenge. But who better to tell the military's story than those who have served and have benefited from all that the military has provided them? Quite simply, the military offers a rewarding experience — and it does not have to be a decades-long commitment. A four-year enlistment will suffice. Let the experience speak for itself. The opportunities are unmatched.

The services provide some extraordinary training opportunities. Be it repairing aircraft or shipboard power plants or being an air traffic controller or information technology professional, there is an opportunity to receive some expensive training and experiences that can be parlayed into a civilian career later.

There is a good chance that once these young people develop a camaraderie with their new peers, experience the mentorship and leadership they are provided and see their professional skills develop, some may choose to remain in the service.

I enlisted in the Navy when we had conscription. I did not see myself remaining for a career, not to mention wanting to earn an officer's commission. But it didn't take long for me to be the recipient of some great leaders — both officers and enlisted personnel — who cared about my personal growth, training, and overall well-being. They motivated me to seek a commission and to replicate the kind of leadership and skills I saw in them.

Those who have worn the uniform have the opportunity to tell the positive side of military service in order to keep the [all-](#)

[volunteer force](#) strong and successful. Those of us who experienced a conscripted military — especially those of us who had leadership responsibilities — know the problems and challenges that period brought. Those problems are the last thing this country and our military need.

We need only look at how Russian conscripts have performed in Ukraine to be reminded of what happens with a conscription military.

To prevent that from happening, veterans need to find ways to reach out to our young people — be influencers — and be advocates for the benefits of military service. In order to recruit and retain the [high-quality force](#) needed to protect our nation, we must recognize that military service is a continuum, including those who serve today, those who have served in the past and those who will serve in the future.

The Military Officers Association of America, a nonprofit advocacy organization, sees its leadership and support for the [all-volunteer force](#) as one of its most sacred obligations. Its motto, "Never Stop Serving," is a mindset found across its membership. Protecting the [all-volunteer force](#) is part of the organization's strategic plan.

Accordingly, those of us who have served have an opportunity to have a role in attracting the next generation of military members. We must strive to tell the positive side of military service so that future generations will continue the 50-year legacy of success the [all-volunteer force](#) has enjoyed.



• Retired Rear Adm. Tom Jurkowsky served on active duty for 31 years, entering the Navy as an enlisted sailor. He serves on the board of the Military Officers Association of America, an advocacy organization that supports those who serve and those who have served, along with their families. He is the author of "The Secret Sauce for Organizational Success: Communications and Leadership on the Same Page."



[https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/nov/15/veterans-all-hands-on-deck-to-remedy-dire-military/?utm\\_campaign=dfn-ebb&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=sailthru](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/nov/15/veterans-all-hands-on-deck-to-remedy-dire-military/?utm_campaign=dfn-ebb&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sailthru)

## Department of Idaho News & Events

Ned Barker  
Idaho Department Commander

### Idaho Receives \$40K Grant

Idaho's Combat Wounded Veterans (the Fundraising Arm of Idaho's MOPH) received a 3 Year \$40,000 Grant to support Idaho Veterans.



*Chapter 509 Members (R to L), Standing: Sawyer Hayward L; V. Borbonus; Ian Freeman Ian W, Finance Officer; Indrieri Nicholas; Nickel George Adjutant; Jackson Walter W, PDC; Seated: Frank Ellsbury, Sr, Vice Commander; Spiekerman Ronald Roy; Paul Sherman.*





*Before presentation Frank, Ronald, and Paul*



*Hayward Sawyer the Facilitator*



*Chapter CMDR Joe Bogart*

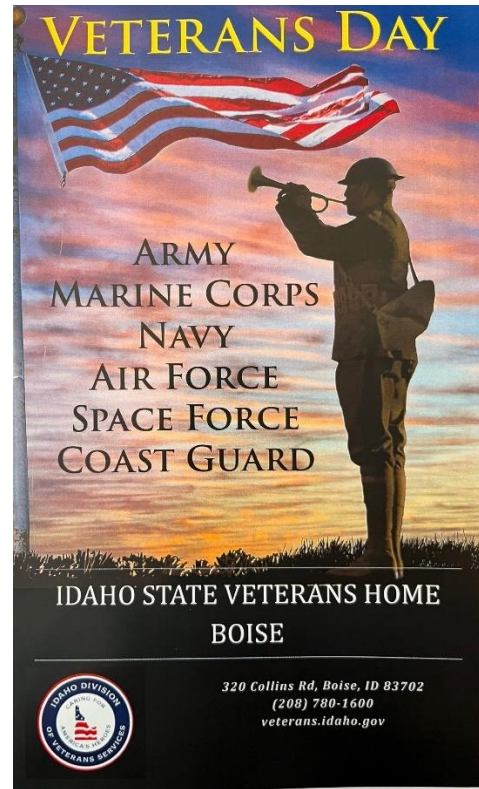
## BSU Scholarship Support

Military Order of the Purple Heart - Idaho Dept. & Chapters 509 presenting a check to BSU for their Scholarship.



Right to Left Jorge Hernandez last year's recipient, Patriot **Paul Sherman** Finance Officer **Ian Freeman**, John J. Hawbaker, the interim director of the BSU Veteran Services Center, Sr. Vice Commander Frank Ellsbury, Past Commander Walter Jackson!

## Visiting the VA Center in Boise



This year, we remember the 70th Anniversary of the Forgotten War The Korean War  
November 4th, 2023, 🕒 Time: 10AM  
📍 Where: Downtown Boise

Let's come together to pay our respects to our veterans and active service members.

On a special note, we'd like to introduce an outstanding young Idahoan, Reagan Yamachi, who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to our veterans and our nation and she will be riding in our entry.

Reagan, a proud product of Soda Springs, Idaho, has an impressive track record of leadership and achievement!

Join us in applauding Reagan's dedication and achievements as we look forward to honoring our veterans and active service members at the Idaho Veterans Parade.

Thanks to the Borbonus Family Foundation for Their Sponsorship of her travels and expenses!



*Vice Commander Frank Ellsbury, Miss Idaho Regan Yamauchi, Past Dept Commander Walter Jackson, Unknown Center Volunteer and Patriot Hayward Sawyer*



*Past Dept Commander Walter Jackson, Miss Idaho, and Sr. Vice Commander Frank Ellsbury*



*Miss Idaho with a Veteran at the Center*



*Patriot Hayward Sawyer Miss Idaho and her Mother at the Parade*

## Veterans Chamber of Commerce Check



*Sr. Vice Commander Frank Ellsbury, Miss Idaho Regan Yamauchi in the Helicopter*



*Right to Left: Yori Dela Rosa Co-Founder & Vice President, Patriot Hayward Sawyer, Dept. & Chap. 509 Adjutant Goerge Nickel, Mindi Anderson Founder & Executive Director*

Receiving a check from the Purple Heart Luncheon in August from Idaho's Veterans Chamber of Commerce on Saturday 11 Nov 2023.



*Right to Left Sr. Vice Commander Frank Ellsbury, Michele Rowe, Ian Freeman, Finance Officer, and Patriot Paul Sherman.*

Military Order of the Purple Heart - Idaho Dept. & Chapters 509 & 511 presenting a check to the Idaho State Veterans Home Boise for the XMAS Fund! Michele Rowe, administrative assistant-however she's truly Jo Ann Daron's right hand in all things volunteer.



Miss Idaho [Reagan Yamauchi](#) is with the Idaho's Military Order of the Purple Heart - Idaho Dept. & Chapter Walt Jackson(not in the Picture) at the [Idaho Military History Museum](#). She was greeted by IDNG Commander and Rick Johnson Chairman of the Museum Board.



## Spirit of Freedom Award

Quoted from Senator Mike Crapo's website. "Since 2002, I have had the honor of recognizing the remarkable service of Idahoans with the Spirit of Freedom: Idaho Veterans Service Award. This award is presented in two categories: veterans and volunteers who assist veterans. Biographies of the inspiring Idahoans who have received the Spirit of Freedom Award in recent years can be accessed via the links below. The award recipients are representative of the many Idahoans who give so much of themselves in service to our nation and continue to give immensely helping fellow veterans and others in Idaho communities."



Frank Ellsbury Sr. Vice Commander PH Parking presenting a PH Parking sign to Yvonne Mendoza at the Cut and Color in Caldwell Idaho



**Frank Ellsbury, Caldwell:** "When there is a need, Frank is always the first to volunteer and last to leave," wrote Ned Barker of the Idaho Military Order of the Purple Heart, the nominating organization for Frank

Ellsbury. Ellsbury served as a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps and carried out two tours in Vietnam. During his service, he received a Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, among other awards and recognitions. Following his service, Ellsbury worked for the Centennial Job Corps, taught pain management at the Boise U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VA), and spent 50 years as a Veterans Court mentor coordinator.

Ellsbury volunteers with Chapter 509 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and with the Caldwell Veterans Garden. Ellsbury and his wife, Judy, have two daughters.



Department Chief of Staff Len Crosby received the 2023 Awards for the [Military Order of the Purple Heart - Idaho Dept. & Chapters 509 & 511](#)



<https://www.crapo.senate.gov/about/spirit-of-freedom>



## Women Veterans Memorial

Ned Barker

Idaho Department Commander



[Military Order of the Purple Heart - Idaho Dept. & Chapters 509 & 511](#) Sr Vice Commander Frank Ellsbury (right) presenting a \$1,000 check to Danny Pugmire.

The money is specifically earmarked for a statue memorializing Carrie French at The Idaho Women Veterans Memorial, located at the Idaho Veterans Garden. French was the first Idaho woman to give her life in combat. This Caldwell resident was known for caring deeply and giving her all. On June 5, 2005, Carrie was killed by a roadside bomb outside of Kirkuk, Iraq while volunteering for a supply mission convoy.

You can learn more and support the memorial here:

<https://www.idahoveteransgarden.com/idaho-women-veterans>



The Unit giving the Chapter a check to help with the Student Scholarship fund. The group gives out Monies to the local Purple Heart Veterans family students that are starting college. Pictured: Larry Sudlow and Joanne Jones.

## Chapter and Unit 1974-OH-2 In Action

Darlene Hanneman  
Commander of Unit #1974



Pictured: Dennis Hanneman, Commander, Mike Morris, Will Shultz, Jim Marckel, and Don Jones.

Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart from Ft. Findlay Chapter #1974. participating in the Veteran's Parade and service downtown Findlay.





## AZ Veterans Medical Leadership Council

Larry Leighton  
Adjutant, Department of Arizona

November 7<sup>th</sup>, The Veterans Medical Leadership Council (VMLC) sponsored the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Heroes Patriotic Luncheon at the Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix. The Department sponsored the event with a \$2,500 donation.



*Left to Right: Rodger Ely, Ron Capek, Cindy Capek, Kay Leighton, Larry Leighton, Keith Gray.*

This year's keynote speaker was Col. Kim "KC" Campbell, (US Air Force – Retired). Col. Campbell served in the Air Force over 24 years as a fighter pilot and senior military leader. She has flown 1,800 hours in the A-10 Warthog, including more than 100 combat missions



protecting troops on the ground in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2003, Kim was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism after successfully recovering her battle-damaged airplane after an intense close air support mission in Baghdad.

The VMLC was honored to have Martin Harvier, President of the Salt River Pima Indian Community, as this year's Honorary Luncheon Chairman. Additionally, the highly respected Brigadier General Tom Browning Community Heroes Award will be presented to MD Helicopters for their continued dedication to U.S. service members and their families.

A complete list and presentation of this year's honorees can be found on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4I9oVgauOsvNWDMSjjAc9UEpi79KSdMF>.



*Some unnamed Arizona Gold Star Mothers attended the luncheon.*

## 0817-SC-4 Veterans Day Parade

Don Kellum

Chapter 0817-SC-4 Public Affairs



Chapter 817 of Sumter, SC participated in the Sumter County Veterans Day Parade on November 10, 2023. The parade included High School Bands and ROTC Units, Floats from numerous Sumter County Organizations, and many other participants. Pictured above aboard the Purple Heart Chapter Float in the front row left to right are Patriot Johnny Williams, Chapter Adjutant Leroy Thompson, and Patriots Ron Harvin, Jesse Burgess, and Glenn Braden. In the rear row left to right are Chapter Commander Harry Thompson, Patriots Don Kellum and Jamie Carl O'Neal, and Chapter Treasurer and State of SC Adjutant Brittany Lawson.

## 0817-SC-4 Christmas Parade

Don Kellum

Chapter 0817-SC-4 Public Affairs

On December 3, Chapter 817 participated in the Sumter, SC Christmas Parade aboard the

Chapter Float. The Float was built by former Chapter Commander Jamie Carl O'Neal and deployed to the Parade Marshalling Area. Upon its arrival chapter members prepared it with signs and Christmas decorations and boarded it to enter the Parade as one of about 100 different parade participants. Participants included Bands, High School ROTC Detachments, and about 100 floats and demonstrations.



In the rear row of the photograph are Chapter Commander Harry Thompson, Patriot John Carter. Patriot Johnny Williams, and Chapter Adjutant Leroy Thompson. In the front row are Patriots Don Kellum, Ronald Harvin, Glenn Braden, Brittany Lawson, and Miss Cali Lawson.

## 0817-SC-4 Donates to Veterans

Don Kellum

Chapter 0817-SC-4 Public Affairs

Purple Heart Chapter 817 of Sumter, SC recently met with the Shaw Air Force Base Diamond Council and donated \$2,000 in Walmart Gift Cards. The Diamond Council, which consists of First Sergeants from

throughout the base, will further distribute the cards to needy airmen and soldiers.



*In the front row left to right are Command Chief, 20 th Fighter Wing Chief Master Sergeant Christ Griste and Purple Heart Chapter members Patriot Brittany Lawson, Chapter Adjutant Leroy Thompson, Patriot Ron Harvin, and Chapter Commander Harry Thompson. Members of the Diamond Council are in the rows behind the Purple Heart chapter members.*

## **Morehead City Veterans Day Parade**

Frances Figueroa  
**Region IV Commander**

The Patriots of Chapter 639 and Auxiliary members participated in the Morehead city, NC Veterans day parade.

Getting ready for the start of the Morehead City Parade.



*Patriots of Chapter 639 getting ready for the Morehead City Parade. (left to right Chip Gagnon, Jim Nelson, Dave Seaton, Dan McMahon Who was the Grand Marshall, Pat Daly, and John Johnson.*



*Front row Chip Gagnon, Jim Nelson, Dave Seaton , Pat Daly ,Lenny Lazzara ,Driver Jimmy Tootle Back Row , Norn Kidd John Johnson Aux. Members Linda Gagnon Pat McMahon , And Peggy Fisher.*

## MOPH Receives Appreciation Plaque

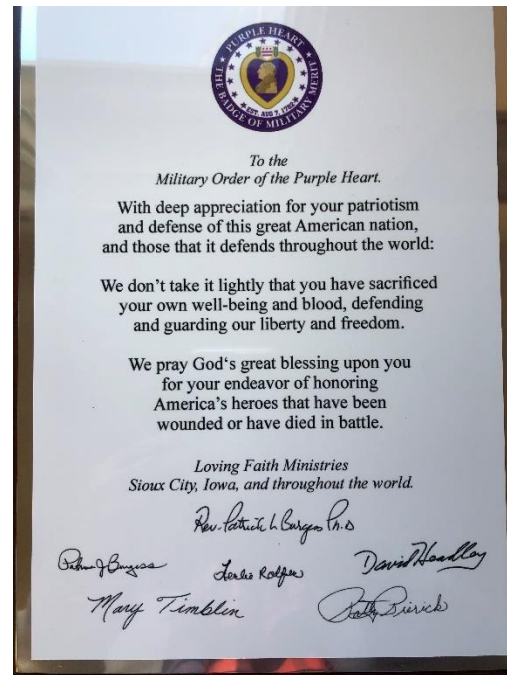
Jessica Voorhies  
Membership Director



Patriot Norm Kidd and auxiliary members Pat McMahon  
Linda Gagnon AND, Peggy Fisher.



Patriots Lenny Lazzara Pat Daly and Dave Seaton give  
Flags to the Boy Scouts to distribute to parade watchers  
during the Parade.



Loving Faith Ministries, Inc.

Rev. P.L. Burgess, Ph.D., Founder/Chancellor  
Mrs. Patricia J. Burgess, Coordinator

201 So. Walker  
Sioux City, IA 50206  
Office: 712-235-1914  
Fax: 712-235-3593  
E-mail: LFFM@juno.com

**MOPH**  
5413-B-Blacklick Road  
Springfield, Virginia, 22151-3960

11/21/23,

Dear MOPH,

*I am a member of the military order of the Purple Heart here in Sioux City, Iowa, under Jack Hanson. The Sioux City Chapter meets in my church.*

*Members of my church, and members of my board are impressed with the endeavors of the MOPH locally, and nationally. They come and give offerings at the viola sales, and they know that their pastor is committed to this organization.*

*Members of my board came to me a while back and asked if they could present a plaque to the MOPH. I hope that you will receive it from a church in Sioux City, that has great respect for those who have laid down their lives, and I've been wounded for the service of this country.*

*May God richly bless you.*

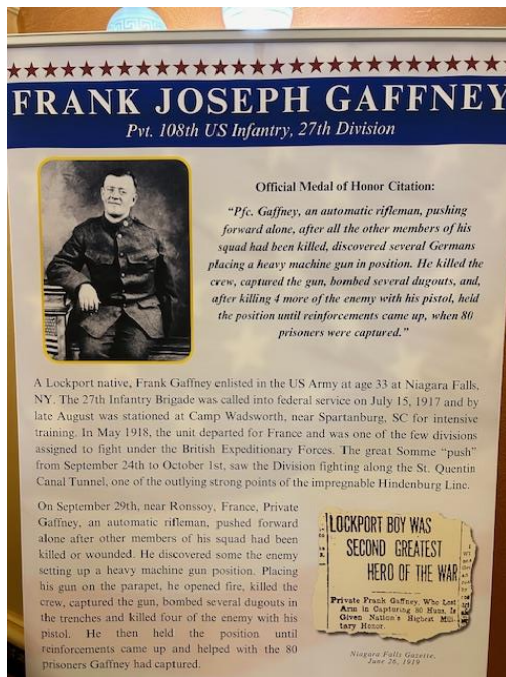
*Rev. Patrick L. Burgess*  
Rev., Patrick L. Burgess

"For the Love of Christ, Constraineth Us."  
2 Corinthians 5:14

## Hero's Medals Come Home

Ronald Krul  
Adjutant, Chapter 0264-NY-1

On November 10, 2023, the day before Veterans Day, the family of Frank Joseph Gaffney ceremoniously returned to Niagara County to donate the decorations of a World War I veteran who was known as the second bravest man in the U.S. Army.



Niagara County officials honored WWI hero Private First-Class Frank Gaffney by creating a permanent display for his medals in the Niagara County Courthouse rotunda. Outside the courthouse, a Purple Heart Park was dedicated to Gaffney and all Purple Heart recipients on Purple Heart Day in August of 2023.



Sr. Vice Cmdr. R. Ward, MOPH NY Chapter 187 stands beside recently dedicated monument at the Purple Heart Park adjacent to the Niagara County Courthouse.

Gaffney, a Niagara County native enlisted in the Army when he was 33-years-old. Assigned to the 27th Infantry Brigade which was called into service in 1917, Gaffney and the 27th in 1918 were deployed to France to breach the Hindenburg Line.

On September 29, 1918, near Ronssoy, France, Private Gaffney, an automatic rifleman, pushed forward alone after other members of his squad had been killed or wounded. He discovered the enemy setting up a heavy machine gun position. Placing his gun on the parapet, he opened fire, killed the crew, captured the gun, eliminated several enemy who were dug in the trenches and killed four of the enemy with his pistol. He then held the position until reinforcements came up and helped with the 80 prisoners he had captured. His mission was successful, allowing the Allies to move in and helped lead to the end of the war.

Gaffney's story is nothing short of remarkable. He is credited for having a significant role in the battle of St. Quentin Canal Tunnel. Gaffney was wounded in combat, resulting in the amputation of his left arm.



His military honors include: The Congressional Medal of Honor, The Purple Heart, the Victory Medal, The Medaille Militaire and the Croix de Guerre of France, the Distinguished Conduct Medal of England, the Cruz de Guerra of Portugal, Montenegro Medal of Honor and the Italian Cross of Military Valor. Gaffney's family kept his medals and other artifacts from the war, but they say it's time to share them with the public in a permanent display.

"We've had these records and we've protected them and kept them safe. We felt it was time that they really need to be seen and not just be kept away and preserved. That was our intent," Theresa Foran, Gaffney's family member, said.

During the dedication ceremony, John Strasburg, an author who wrote a book "He Charged Alone", solely about Gaffney's service, emphasized the importance of keeping Gaffney's story in the forefront.



### Explanation of Decorations

### Sun Bowl Parade

Roberto Garza  
**Junior Vice Commander- 0393-TX-5**

On November 23, 2023, El Paso, TX held their annual Sun Bowl Parade. This year for the first time in the 87-year history of the parade the MOPH Lone Star Chapter 393 from El Paso, TX with support from many volunteers entered a float in the parade.



*(L to R) Chapter Commander Alfredo Gutierrez and wife. Chapter SGT-at-Arms Jose Garcia, Gold Star Wife Lillian Crouch, Past Chapter Commander John Holguin and grandson, Chapter Junior Vice Commander Roberto Garza with wife and daughter, member George Elsaesser.*

The float was named, "**Sacrifice Deserves to be Honored, Honoring Purple Heart Recipients & Gold Star Families**". The float was built to honor the sacrifices of both the Purple Heart Recipient and the Gold Star Family. The float was well received by the nearly 200,000 people in attendance at the parade and was honored with the Queen's Award. Only nine awards are given of the nearly 100 entries. On the float were members of the Chapter, family members and two Gold Star Wives.

## **El Paso Rhinos Recruiting Patriots**

Roberto Garza  
**Junior Vice Commander- 0393-TX-5**

On November 11th, 2023 the El Paso Rhinos hosted the Military Order of the Purple Heart Lone Star Chapter 393 to allow the chapter to conduct a recruiting event at the

evening's game. The El Paso Rhinos Hockey team has been a great community partner to the chapter and to the El Paso Veteran Community. Patriot Roberto Garza was honored as the Veteran of the Game for his efforts supporting veterans in El Paso and surrounding communities.



*Patriot Shoshana Johnson, Senior Vice Commander Lone Star Chapter 393, El Paso Rhinos Mascot, Patriot Roberto Garza Junior Vice Commander Lone Star Chapter 393.*

The announcement made during the game was read as follows: Roberto Garza currently serves as the President of the United American Veterans Organization, Junior Vice Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and Member of the El Paso Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee advocating for veterans employment, healthcare and services to ensure no Veteran goes without the services they need. Retiring from the Army after 21 years of service he and his family made El Paso their home.

## Pima Medical Institute

Roberto Garza

**Junior Vice Commander- 0393-TX-5**

On November 10, 2023 Patriot Commander Alfredo Gutierrez, Lone Star Chapter 393, El Paso, TX spoke to students at Pima Medical Institute in El Paso, TX. Patriot Gutierrez spoke to the students about the history of the Purple Heart and educated them on the sacrifices made by Purple Heart recipients. Patriot Gutierrez was invited by the school to share his personal experiences to shine a light on his efforts in the community to show that although you may face some adversity you can still be successful and support your community.



*Commander Alfredo Gutierrez speaking to students.*

## El Paso Veterans Day Parade

Roberto Garza

**Junior Vice Commander- 0393-TX-5**

On November 11th, 2023, in El Paso, TX. Lone Star Chapter 393 participated in the annual Downtown Veterans Day Parade. The parade was planned and organized by Patriot Roberto Garza Junior Vice Commander Lone Star Chapter 393. This year there were approximately 10,000 people in attendance with over 65 entries in the parade. The organization's namesake school, Purple Heart Elementary joined chapter members in walking in the parade. This is the second year in a row students from Purple Heart Elementary, the only Purple Heart elementary in the state of Texas, have supported the event. The Chapter invited five Gold Star Wives to ride on the float, this is also the second year this partnership has occurred. The Chapter strives to invite and support the Gold Star families in as many events as possible, this



*Patriot Alfredo Gutierrez, Commander Lone Star Chapter 393, El Paso, TX flanked by students from Pima Medical Institute.*



being just one example of that partnership. This year's parade was a huge success and looks to continue to grow and use this as a unifying event for the El Paso Veteran Community.



*Patriot Jose Garcia, SGT-at-Arms Lone Star Chapter 393 carrying the chapters Purple Heart in the El Paso Downtown Veterans Day Parade.*

and Volunteers that participated in the El Paso Downtown Veterans Day Parade.



*(Left to Right) Patriot Roberto Garza, Junior Vice Commander Lone Star Chapter 393, Congresswomen Veronica Escobar, Fort Bliss Commanding General, MG Jim Isenhower III, Fort Bliss Command Sergeant Major, Command Sergeant Major James L. Light.*



*Lone Star Chapter 393 members, Gold Star Wives and Veterans riding on the Lone Star Chapter 393 trailer during the El Paso Downtown Veterans Day Parade.*

## El Paso Northeast Parade

Roberto Garza  
Junior Vice Commander- 0393-TX-5



Lone Star Chapter 393 member Shoshana Johnson, students, and cheerleaders from Purple Heart Elementary, Gold Star Wives



Lone Star Chapter 393 Senior Vice Commander Shoshana Johnson as Master of Ceremonies for the El Paso Northeast Veterans Day Parade

On November 10th, 2023, El Paso held its annual Northeast Parade. This Parade had one of its largest turnouts with over 75 entries and growing each year. This year the organizer, El Paso Flags Across America, asked Lone Star Chapter 393 Senior Vice Commander, Shoshana Johnson to be the Master of Ceremonies. Patriot Johnson is a huge supporter of the El Paso and El Paso Veteran community. She was asked to be the Master of Ceremonies for this great event due to her magnificent speaking skills and ability to keep the program flowing and in order. Patriot Johnson speaks in El Paso and all over the country and is an excellent Ambassador for the Purple Heart community always reminding her audience of the sacrifices made by those before and after her. Thank you, Patriot Johnson.



## 0617-OK-5 Awards Ceremony

Don Nichols  
Member, Chapter 0617-OK-5

Commander getting his distinguished Service Award and presenting award to distinguished Regional Office Employee. (VA) Heather McKibben. Heather is Marine and over outreach at the VA Regional Office. She is an outstanding Employee. Her Dad and brother are Purple heart Recipients.





## AR WWII Veteran Accounted For

Theodore Clymer.  
**Adjutant, Chapter 0431-AR-5**

Nov 20, 2023 WASHINGTON—The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Kenyon Brindley, 23, of Little Rock, Arkansas, killed during World War II, was accounted for Sept. 21, 2023.

In early 1944, Brindley was assigned to the 703rd Bombardment Squadron, 445th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force in the European Theater. On Feb 24, Brindley, a bombardier onboard a B- 24J “Liberator”, was killed in action when his plane was hit by heavy anti-aircraft fire over Gotha, Germany. One of the surviving crewmembers reported seeing the plane on fire and in a steep dive, before eventually exploding on the ground. While two crewmembers survived, the others, including Brindley, were killed in the incident. German forces garrisoned in the area documented the crash site north of

Leimbach Bahnhof, near Bad Salzungen, Germany. After the crash, German troops recovered the remains of the ball turret gunner and buried them in a local cemetery. The other six crewmembers, including Brindley, were unaccounted for following the war.

In March 1952, the [American Graves Registration Command \(AGRC\)](#), the organization that searched for and recovered fallen American personnel in the European Theater, took custody of comingled unidentified remains recovered from Bad Salzungen Cemetery. These remains, X-9093 Griesheim Mausoleum (X-9093), X-9094 Griesheim Mausoleum (X-9094), and X-9095 Griesheim Mausoleum (X-9095), were believed to be those belonging to 2nd Lt. Brindley’s downed aircraft. At the time, identification of these remains was not possible, and they were interred in the Ardennes American Cemetery, Belgium.

In June 2021, DPAA historians and [American Battle Monuments Commission](#) personnel, exhumed X-9093, X-9094, and X-9095 from Ardennes American Cemetery and transferred them to the DPAA Laboratory for analysis and identification.

To identify Brindley’s remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological analysis. Additionally, scientists from the [Armed Forces Medical Examiner System](#) used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

Brindley’s name is recorded on the Tablets of the Missing at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Hombourg, Belgium, along with others still missing from WWII. A rosette will

be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Brindley was buried on Dec. 18, 2023, in Conway, Arkansas.

## Charter for American Indian Veterans

Ken Teunissen  
Member, Chapter 5355-DK-3

Native American veterans celebrate congressional charter for National American Indian Veterans

Until now, there has never been a congressional charter designated for Native American veterans despite many attempts.



By [Parker Brown](#)

*Published: Dec. 14, 2023, at 10:03 PM MST | Updated: 23 hours ago*

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (Dakota News Now) - The [Military Order of the Purple Heart](#)'s chapter 5355 in Sioux Falls held its regular monthly meeting Thursday at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance. This meeting was a special one with plenty to celebrate. The chapter received a generous donation of popcorn from the [BSA Sioux Council](#) and a presentation of the Military Order of the Purple Heart's regional Patriot

of the Year Award to [David Flute](#), Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations. The cherry on top was the news from earlier in the day.

Until now, there has never been a congressional charter designated for Native American veterans despite many attempts. In May, Representative Dusty Johnson and Senator Mike Rounds made another attempt to establish one with the [National American Indian Veterans Charter Bill](#). However, it was the [2024 National Defense Authorization Act](#) that finally led to the establishment of a congressional charter for the already operating National American Indian Veterans organization, or NAIV.

“This is going to give our brothers and sisters, Native American brothers and sisters the power,” said Ken Teunissen, a state Representative from District 9 and a Past Region III Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. “Not only that, but then they’ll be able to go to Congress and testify if they need, what they need, how much they need and their needs.”

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, Native Americans serve in the armed forces at a rate [five times higher](#) than the national average. While other nationalities and religious groups currently have a recognized charter, veterans said that it’s long overdue for a Native American congressional charter.

“I’m ecstatic because this is something that three or four years or five years of selling it and having Native American brothers and sisters no representation, so this is a

milestone,” described Teunissen. “I mean, this is a once in a lifetime.”

Their contributions to the military have not gone unnoticed. One of Senator Rounds’ motivations to get a congressional charter established was the work of a Korean War veteran and member of the Hunkpati Sioux Tribe, [Don Loudner](#). Loudner served with Rounds’ father and has been pushing for this representation for years.

“And after years of trying to get it done, this year it’s included in the NDAA,” said Rounds. “I’m proud of the work that Don’s done and happy to deliver for him and for Native American veterans.”

Finally seeing collective support and recognition has meant a lot to the community of Native American veterans.

“I appreciate the great work that has been done for the American Indian Veterans and would like to thank the delegation,” said Flute.

“I think it’s going to build a line of communication between the federal government and the National American Indian Veteran organization,” explained Teunissen. “That’s what it’s all about.”

The Military Order of the Purple Heart took time in their meeting to acknowledge and celebrate the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act passing in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. The Act will become official with the signature of President Biden. The bill is likely to be signed in January. Senator Rounds authored 33 provisions in the act, including the provision that established the charter.

A full conversation with Senator Rounds will be featured on Matters of the State on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. on KSFY.

<https://www.dakotanewsnow.com/2023/12/15/native-american-veterans-celebrate-congressional-charter-national-american-indian-veterans/>



Copyright 2023 KSFY. All rights reserved.

Editor’s Note: The Order passed the resolution below supporting this Charter at the 2019 Convention. PNC Rivera signed a strong statement of support which was sent to Senator Round’s office.



**MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART**  
CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
5413-B BACKLICK ROAD  
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151-3960  
Phone: (703) 642-6360  
Fax: (703) 642-2054

November 23, 2020

The Honorable Mike Rounds  
502 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rounds:  
On behalf of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), whose membership is comprised entirely of combat wounded veterans, I am pleased to offer our strong support for your Legislation to create a Congressional Charter for the National American Indian Veterans (NAIV).

The NAIV serves the interests and needs of Native Veterans in all 50 states according to the 2020 VA Statistics, there are over 140,000 Native American Veterans across the nation.

The NAIV is organized and operates solely for charitable, literary, educational, Scientific, patriotic, and civil improvement purposes. Native Americans have fought for the United States of America in every American War and have the highest rate of Military service of any ethnic group in America. It will simply enable the Native American Veterans from all tribes to speak with One voice.

MOPH thanks you for your leadership on this issue and your unwavering commitment to veterans and their families. We look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this important legislation.

Respectfully,  
  
Enrique Rivera  
National Commander  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

## Burlington, IA Purple Heart City

Paul L Pickart  
Chapter 777 Adjutant



*Chapter 777 Commander Francis McAllister shaking hands with Burlington IA Mayor John Billups.*



*Chapter 777 Commander Francis McAllister with the Burlington City Council members.*



*(Left to right) Francis R McAllister Chapter 777 Commander; Lyle Peterson Chapter 777 member; and Brad Newberry with his dog belongs to a MOPH Chapter in Peoria Illinois.*

## Social Media Posts

Beth Bucek  
Marketing Director

Greetings to all,


I'm Beth Bucek, your Marketing Director, and I'm thrilled to welcome you to this space of connection and collaboration. My mission is to be the bridge that brings the heartbeat of the Order to life. Here, I aim to foster camaraderie among our incredible members by sharing the latest happenings, experiences, opportunities, and celebrations.

In the spirit of community, I've curated some of our most popular posts from social media below. Let's continue to build a community of shared stories and collective achievements. Together, we make the Order a place of pride and unity.

Respectfully,

Beth Bucek  
Marketing Director  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

[marketingdirector@purpleheart.org](mailto:marketingdirector@purpleheart.org)



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know that the iconic McDonald's Drive Thru was inspired by the ingenuity of U.S. Army soldiers stationed at Fort Huachuca Army Base?

In the early 1970s, as McDonald's restaurants underwent remodeling, the idea of a Drive Thru was proposed by regional managers (McDonald's, 2022). The first Drive Thru was set to launch in Oklahoma City, but plans took a turn when a complete remodel was decided.

The inspiration to move forward came from soldiers at Fort Huachuca Army Base. Facing a decline in sales due to the rule that soldiers had to stay in their vehicles when in uniform, Licensee David Rich introduced a sliding window in Sierra Vista, Arizona. Thus, McDonald's first Drive Thru was born on January 24, 1975.

This innovative solution not only eased the experience for service men and women but also set the stage for Drive Thrus to become an integral part of McDonald's. From that pivotal moment, Drive Thrus have continued to be hubs of innovation, making the McDonald's experience more accessible.

Today, the Drive Thru accounts for approximately 70% of our U.S. business. We salute the initiative taken by soldiers and franchisees alike, and we're excited about the continued innovations that lie ahead.

*Beth Bucek*





# Dear Veterans



Your service is a powerful force that echoes through time, impacting not only the past but also shaping the future. The sacrifices you've made have laid the foundation for freedom and opportunities that continue to unfold for generations to come. If you're feeling lonely, remember that your experiences hold immeasurable value. Share your stories, for they carry lessons and inspiration for others. Your journey, marked by courage and dedication, has a lasting effect on the world. Thank you for your service, and know that your presence is a vital part of the ongoing story that your sacrifices have helped write.

If you would like to talk to someone:

Call-Dial 988 then press 1    Text (838255)    Chat on the website

<https://www.veteransc>



## True Wounded Warriors



You are allowed to fail.

You are allowed to struggle.

You are not allowed to go under.

Never give up!

-Terry Anderson



-Beth Busch

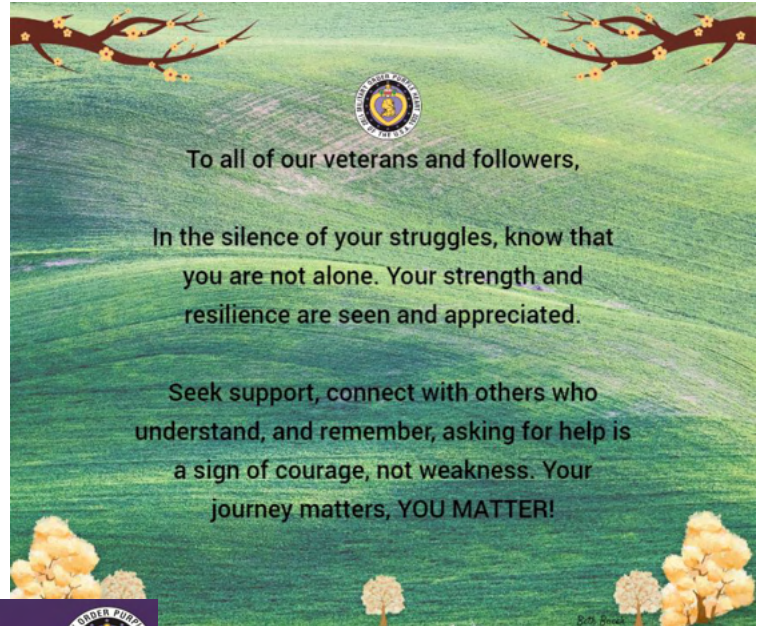
I know the road might seem tough right now, and the weight on your shoulders feels unbearable. But please, don't give up.

Remember, storms don't last forever, and the sun will shine again. Every step forward, no matter how small, is a victory. You're stronger than you think, and brighter days are ahead. Keep going; the world needs your light.



Beth Busch





## Purple Heart Chronicles

### Our Mission

Summary

The Military Order of the Purple Heart's mission is to foster camaraderie among combat-wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and provide service to veterans and their families. Comprised of combat-wounded men and women, we strive to improve the lives of our fellow veterans and their families through nationwide programs and dedicated service.





See our full mission statement on our website.  
<https://www.purpleheartorg/>

-Beth Bucek

## Honorable

To our veterans and soldiers: your commitment to duty is nothing short of honorable. Your sacrifices embody the true spirit of valor, reflecting a dedication to principles that inspire us all. Today and everyday, we salute your unwavering honor and express our deepest gratitude for your service.



*Beth Bucek*

*Hey Veterans! It's buddy check time! A simple text or call can make a world of difference. Reach out to your fellow veterans, check in, and let them know you're here. In the military, we had each other's backs – let's continue that bond. You never know what a buddy check might mean to someone. Spread the love, support, and camaraderie!*



## Purple Heart Chronicles

In 1782, General George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit to commend bravery in combat, but its use declined. In 1932, General Douglas MacArthur revived and redesigned the medal and the name "Purple Heart" was adopted to commemorate bravery and acknowledge wounded soldiers. The Military Order of the Purple Heart was then officially established on April 23, 1932. Initially named the "Order of the Purple Heart," it honors the sacrifices of combat-wounded veterans.

*-Beth Beach*



## Gratitude

*To our brave veterans: Your strength, sacrifice, and resilience inspire us all. Thank you for your service. We're forever grateful for the freedom you've secured.*



## Department of WA

Robert Olivarez  
Member, Chapter 0012-WA-3

### City of Auburn's 58th Annual Veterans Day Parade

In this picture at the are members from the Dept of WA along with patriots out of Chapter 12 Seattle Chapter 407 American Lake and Chapter 1889 Olympia.



Members Are National Senior Vice Robert Olivarez , Dept of WA Senior Vice Nick Mccallon, Chapter 12 Commander Jim Reeffe, and Patriots Nino Gray, Shawn Seeley, Rene Mendoza.

## Pacific Northwest this coalition



Dept of WA Commander Jennifer Horn along with the NSV Robert Olivarez at a joint Veterans coalition for the Pacific Northwest this coalition is a compromise of different Veteran service organizations along with other nonprofits with the same goals to help every veteran in the Pacific Northwest.

### Naval Station Everett Santa and Mrs. Clause

Chapter 0012-WA-3 Patriot Dennis Smith has been Santa for the last 12 year. As Base Santa at Naval Station Everett, and has for the last decade brought joy and smiles to the faces of all the children of service members serving on and around the Naval Stations in Northern Puget Sound.



Also in the pic is Miss Clause Patriot Smith's wife Cate.

## PH Day at AZ State Veterans Home

John R Moore  
Adjutant, Chapter 0442-AZ-6



John Grand pins a mini-Purple Heart on George Sievers. George Sievers was blinded when he retrieved an enemy grenade and threw it back at the enemy saving the men around him but it exploded and shrapnel blinded him.



Members thank the PH recipients for their service.



Purple Heart recipient Richard Ross spent two months in the jungle escaping and evading the North Vietnamese when in Vietnam.



diligence on whether the contents are accurate, relevant, reliable, and so forth.)

## Avalon Action Alliance

This is an overview of Avalon, as well as some additional information below:

[Avalon Action Alliance](#) is the post-trauma wellness nonprofit helping veterans, first responders, and their families address symptoms related to brain health and mental wellness. Avalon provides a single point of contact and one integrative assessment for the symptoms of post-traumatic stress (PTS), mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) and substance abuse to identify and guide clients to the most effective pathway towards healing.

Avalon's network of seven (7) TBI clinics across the country provides integrated and interdisciplinary care for veterans and first responders struggling with mild-to-moderate TBI (including concussion) and changes in psychological health.

[Warrior PATHH](#) sites nationwide provide intensive training through peer-led programming that ensures veterans and first responders suffering from PTS can lead the lives they deserve.

[Warriors Heart](#) provides treatment for Substance Use Disorder.

No out-of-pocket expenses and we serve pre AND post 9/11 veterans.

Veterans can apply for care directly on our website: <https://www.avalonactionalliance.org/contact-us>



## Veteran Resources

From time-to-time information regarding resources is sent to the headquarters or the Publications Committee. Most are in the form of advertisements, but some are altruistically provided for Veteran information and use. The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) and the National Publications Committee provide these resources. Caveat lector. (Caveat lector is a Latin phrase meaning "let the reader beware". It means that when reading something, the reader should take careful note of the contents, and undertake due



- Technical Sales Rep- Houston (Full REMOTE) \$80,000-\$94,000
- Supply Chain Manager- Des Moines, IA- \$90,000-\$120,000

If you are interested in any of these positions, or any of the other 1400 positions we are actively looking to fill on the [VeTalent site](#), send us an [email](#) after you apply with the job, location, and your resume. We (VeTalent) promise to review and get back to you if we see a match within 3 business days.

**Bonneville Power – DOE**

Melissa J. Peterson

Interim President: Military Veterans Resource Group (MVRG)

- General Engineer (Recent Graduate), GS-0801-07/09; Portland, OR / Spokane, WA (PD) (24-BPA-38034-12250229-RG): [LINK](#)

- Public Utilities Specialist (Recent Graduate), GS-1130-07/09; Portland, OR / Spokane, WA (PD) (24-BPA-38040-12250254-RG): [LINK](#)

- Operations Research Analyst (Recent Graduate), GS-1515-07/09; Portland, OR / Spokane, WA (PD) (24-BPA-38043-12250379-RG): [LINK](#)

- Student Trainee (General Engineer), GS-0899-04/05/07; Portland, OR / Spokane, WA (PD) (24-BPA-38036-12250402-INT): [LINK](#)

Student Trainee (Operations Research Analyst), GS-1599-04/05/07; Portland, OR / Spokane, WA (PD) (24-BPA-38045-12250432-INT): [LINK](#)

## Commander's Visit to Guam

Carder Ferguson

**National Commander**

Department of Guam and Chapter Building they share with VVA 668 and the Knight of Columbus assembly 2419 who support them.



In December after I visited Pearl Harbor, I went to Guam to visit and celebrate the Department's 20 years in the Order. While I was there I visited with the Speaker and the Governor of Guam and we had time to sit down and talk about Veterans issues that are affecting the Veterans of Guam. One thing I learned is that the MOPH in Guam is always leading the way for Veteran issues and has the attention of the Speaker and Governor. During my visit we spent our time addressing VA claims and VA care and addressing the chance of having a section in the new hospital for the VA which is badly needed for all they have is a small clinic for

the Veterans in Guam. Also, I learned that the average VA claim takes twice as long in Guam as it does here in the States. With several meetings with other Veterans groups, this was a major concern, so I will support the veterans in Guam so they can get what they deserve, earn, and not have to wait so long to get their benefits.

Here is the letter I wrote to Guam for 20 years in the Order.

*Department of Asia Pacific, Guam*

*I am writing to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you for the momentous occasion of celebrating 20 years of*



*unwavering service and commitment to the noble cause of supporting our Nation's Purple Heart recipients.*

*As we reflect on two decades of dedicated service, it is a fitting moment to express our deepest gratitude for the profound impact the Department of Asia Pacific (Guam) has made in the lives of those who have sacrificed so much for our country. The Military Order of the Purple Heart has been a beacon of hope and solidarity, providing invaluable support to Purple Heart recipients and their families.*

*Your commitment to recognizing and honoring the sacrifices of our brave men and women in uniform is truly commendable. Over the years, the Department of Asia Pacific (Guam) has not only offered vital assistance to those who have been wounded in service but has also fostered a sense of community and camaraderie among Purple Heart recipients, and Veterans in your Community, creating a network of support that is both enduring and inspiring.*

*The countless hours of volunteer work, fundraising efforts, and community outreach initiatives undertaken by the Department of Asia Pacific (Guam) have undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the lives of many. Your dedication to the principles of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, including Patriotism, Loyalty, and Compassion, has set a shining example for others to follow.*

*As we celebrate this significant milestone, let us take a moment to reflect on the lives touched, the challenges overcome, and the*

*collective strength that has been built through two decades of service. May the Department of Asia Pacific (Guam) continue to be a source of inspiration and a pillar of support for Purple Heart recipients for many years to come!*

*Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement. Your ongoing commitment to the Military Order of the Purple Heart is a testament to the enduring spirit of service and sacrifice.*

*Carder Ferguson*

## Scholarships for Military Children

Applications have now opened for Fisher House Foundation's [Scholarships for Military Children](#) program for academic year 2024 – 2025.

The program, entering its 24th year, recognizes the contributions of military families to the readiness of America's fighting force and celebrates the commissary's role in enhancing military quality of life.

The Fisher House Foundation will award 500 scholarship grants of \$2,000 each. The application deadline is Feb. 14, at 11:59 p.m. PST.

Share the information directly from our social media platforms:

[Facebook](#)

[X](#)  
[Instagram](#)

As always, we welcome the opportunity to cross-share your graphics and links on our social media platforms.

DeCA appreciates your commitment to service members and their families and we thank you for sharing these savings and the commissary benefit with our patrons.

Respectfully,

Norman E. Brown  
Director of Marketing  
Defense Commissary Agency

[SHOP.COMMISARIES.COM](https://www.shop.commissaries.com)



## Purple Heart Trail

Daniel Eddinger  
National Purple Heart Trail Coordinator

Beginning January 1, 2023, the entries are broken down into Five groups, Cities, Counties, Colleges and Universities, Other Entities, and Trails. For Cities and Counties, I only need the zip code to enter onto the “Trail” website. We have also added Monuments to the Trail as of May 2023. Colleges and Universities and Other entities require a physical address.

| 2023 Activity  | Cities | Counties | Universities | Others | Monuments | Trails |
|----------------|--------|----------|--------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Jan 1 - Oct 31 | 139    | 17       | 3            | 52     | 0         | 2      |
| Nov 1 - Dec 31 | 7      | 2        | 4            | 16     | 2         | 0      |
| Total 2023     | 146    | 19       | 7            | 68     | 2         | 2      |

Purple Heart Trail Break down by State as of Dec 31, 2023.

| State       | Cities | Counties | Universities | Others | Monuments | Trails |
|-------------|--------|----------|--------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Alabama     | 9      | 2        | 2            | 2      | 0         | 2      |
| Alaska      | 9      | 1        | 0            | 0      | 0         | 4      |
| Arizona     | 31     | 5        | 3            | 1      | 0         | 2      |
| Arkansas    | 85     | 47       | 4            | 17     | 0         | 10     |
| California  | 105    | 12       | 3            | 6      | 0         | 3      |
| Colorado    | 2      | 1        | 0            | 1      | 0         | 1      |
| Connecticut | 15     | 0        | 3            | 8      | 2         | 2      |
| Delaware    | 2      | 3        | 0            | 0      | 0         | 1      |
| Florida     | 60     | 38       | 4            | 49     | 0         | 7      |
| Georgia     | 98     | 43       | 6            | 51     | 0         | 1      |

|                |     |     |    |    |   |   |
|----------------|-----|-----|----|----|---|---|
| Hawaii         | 0   | 1   |    | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| Idaho          | 31  | 2   | 6  | 8  | 0 | 1 |
| Illinois       | 36  | 6   | 1  | 1  | 0 | 2 |
| Indiana        | 2   | 1   | 0  | 0  | 0 | 5 |
| Iowa           | 1   | 1   | 0  | 0  | 0 | 1 |
| Kansas         | 12  | 3   | 1  | 2  | 0 | 2 |
| Kentucky       | 46  | 9   | 0  | 1  | 0 | 7 |
| Louisiana      | 11  | 0   | 2  | 19 | 0 | 5 |
| Maine          | 1   | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0 | 2 |
| Maryland       | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0 | 1 |
| Massachusetts  | 117 | 0   | 0  | 3  | 0 | 6 |
| Michigan       | 39  | 3   | 2  | 1  | 0 | 4 |
| Minnesota      | 24  | 14  | 0  | 1  | 0 | 1 |
| Mississippi    | 85  | 32  | 3  | 2  | 0 | 6 |
| Missouri       | 146 | 78  | 21 | 7  | 0 | 3 |
| Montana        | 1   | 3   | 0  | 0  | 0 | 1 |
| Nebraska       | 3   | 1   | 2  | 2  | 1 | 2 |
| Nevada         | 7   | 2   | 0  | 4  | 0 | 1 |
| New Hampshire  | 2   | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0 | 2 |
| New Jersey     | 6   | 1   | 2  | 0  | 0 | 3 |
| New Mexico     | 3   | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0 | 1 |
| New York       | 45  | 12  | 5  | 8  | 1 | 6 |
| North Carolina | 136 | 100 | 5  | 8  | 0 | 1 |
| North Dakota   | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0 |
| Ohio           | 70  | 11  | 5  | 3  | 0 | 3 |
| Oklahoma       | 62  | 2   | 7  | 11 | 0 | 1 |

|                |      |     |     |     |   |     |
|----------------|------|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|
| Oregon         | 27   | 6   | 1   | 4   | 0 | 1   |
| Pennsylvania   | 3    | 2   | 1   | 1   | 0 | 1   |
| Rhode Island   | 0    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0 | 1   |
| South Carolina | 23   | 46  | 7   | 19  | 0 | 1   |
| South Dakota   | 12   | 8   | 1   | 8   | 1 | 1   |
| Tennessee      | 8    | 5   | 2   | 7   | 0 | 12  |
| Texas          | 87   | 60  | 21  | 112 | 0 | 6   |
| Utah           | 0    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0 | 1   |
| Vermont        | 2    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0 | 1   |
| Virginia       | 5    | 14  | 4   | 1   | 0 | 2   |
| Washington     | 33   | 4   | 0   | 44  | 0 | 1   |
| West Virginia  | 15   | 40  | 5   | 2   | 0 | 2   |
| Wisconsin      | 2    | 0   | 0   | 2   | 0 | 2   |
| Wyoming        | 1    | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0 | 0   |
| Totals         | 1520 | 619 | 104 | 417 | 5 | 132 |

## Software Developer Training

Kevin Bucek  
**MOPH Webmaster**

The Military Order of the Purple Heart and Redding Software Corporation have joined forces to offer MOPH members, Veterans, and family members of MOPH members a unique opportunity: free Software Developer training. Annually, 15 individuals are selected to participate in the Redding Software Corporation's complimentary training program. The tentative start date for this year's program

is 02 January 2024 Priority admission is given to MOPH/MOPHA members.

*Editor's Note: Space may still be available. If you are interested, contact the webmaster.*

### Program Details:

This training spans one year, divided into approximately one (1) month long modules. Students must commit to participating in Zoom meetings from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Central Standard Time (CST), Tuesday through Friday. Successful

graduation requires attendance at 90% of the classes unless an exception is granted.

### Curriculum:

Our students follow a modular curriculum, earning certifications for each module through platforms like SoloLearn and freeCodeCamp. They commence with HTML, move on to CSS, and progress to JavaScript. Following the fundamentals of front-end web development, students delve into back-end languages such as Python and SQL.

### Project Portfolio:

The first task for students is to create their own resume/portfolio website, as most employers favor applicants who can showcase their skills through a personal website. Each time students master a new programming language, they apply their newfound skills to update their website.

- Mobile app development\*\*
- Web app creation\*\*
- Website creation
- Assist with the MOPH website
- Human Resources management system
- Technical interview questions

\*\*Some of these projects may necessitate knowledge of the C# programming language, which will be taught as needed.\*\*

For more information please go to "<https://www.purpleheart.org/SoftwareDeveloperInternship>" or email the webmaster directly at

[webmaster%20@%20webmaster@purpleheart.org](mailto:webmaster%20@%20webmaster@purpleheart.org).

Interested personnel can either fill out the online form or contact the Webmaster directly.

## Patriot Books and Films

### The Man with the Big Hat

Brian Easley  
Member 0146-KY-2

Brian Easley, a former U.S. Army Infantry Staff Sergeant who was wounded November 22, 2003 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, made a promise to himself after he was wounded to do great things - in honor of those lost in Iraq and Afghanistan who no longer had the chance to.



Originally from San Antonio, Texas, Easley

has since completed his bachelor's degree and two master's degrees, gotten married and had three children, formed an indie-rock band called Exit Vehicles, published a book of poems titled The Bracken Road, and become a restaurant and real estate executive in the Midwest, nonprofit board member, as well as a film producer. Easley is currently producing a documentary film about a U.S. Navy veteran, singer-songwriter, actor, rancher, river guide, and

Texas Poet Laureate named Steven Fromholz. The film is called *The Man with the Big Hat*.



Though five years in the making, and despite struggling to raise funds and shoot the film during the pandemic - as a Purple Heart recipient, Easley felt producing this film was part of a higher calling, raising awareness about wounded warriors and those with disabilities in the arts.

Fromholz himself suffered a massive stroke several years before his passing and had to relearn many of his own songs. The Man with the Big Hat was produced alongside Three Chords And The Truth, an Austin, Texas nonprofit organization. The documentary will premiere in 2024, and hopefully feature in multiple film festivals world-wide. The director of the film is Austin Sayre; produced by Brian Easley and Stephanie Moore; photography and cinematography by Aaron Colussi and David Broad; sound by Miles Blunt; editing by Nevie Owens.

More information about the film can be found at [www.themanwiththebighatfilm.com](http://www.themanwiththebighatfilm.com)



Easley, who has also recently helped fund another documentary about U.S. Navy veteran and international

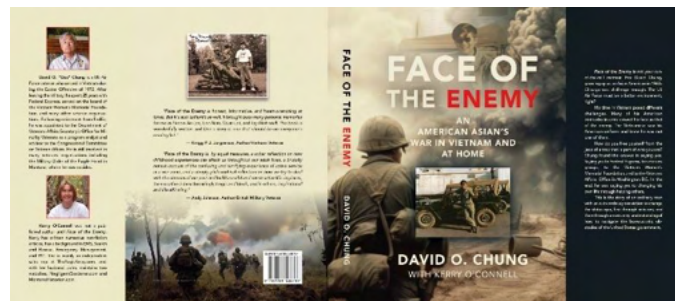
folk-rock icon Shawn Phillips, hopes to produce several more films in the future, based from his adopted hometown of Louisville, Kentucky.

### Face of the Enemy

David Chung  
Member 2015-MT-3

I have finally written a book about my upbringing, and what Vietnam did to me. I thought I would send you the link to look at.

The book "Face Of The Enemy" is now out through Book Locker.



It's so hard to realize that being a pleasant person when you are not becomes a bad

habit. I always thought that by working myself to death would be my salvation.

A lot of heartache went into this project. As with so many veterans, "The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places. Especially at the VA Central Office working at the Secretary's Office.

After over 25 years, I retired from Federal Express, and was brought on board at the VA Central Office working at the Secretary's Office Center For Minority Veterans where I was a Program Manager for Asian American and Pacific Islander Veterans benefits and Medical care. I also worked alongside with Native veterans and the Center for Women Veterans.

I was commissioned to bring the Vietnam Women's Memorial on a Whistle Stop Tour across America to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., thanks to Fred Smith at FedEx. I started on the ground floor when Mr. Smith came up with the idea of Federal Express. Most of us were Vietnam Veterans when the company began operations in Memphis TN. I was also on the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation Board Of Directors with Diane Carlson-Evans, who is the founder of the program, and was a combat nurse while in Vietnam. After leaving the VA in Washington, D.C., I was asked to be Chair of the Board of Directors for the Utah State Veterans Nursing Home.

Being the person to bring the Vietnam Women's Memorial on a Whistle Stop Tour across America was a healing hard to describe.

Page 112 of 122

A lot of soul searching went in to putting my life down on paper. Everyone has a story to tell. I finally had to face the reality of seventy-three years looking in the mirror and realize everyone has the power to overcome their demons.

If you click on the link below you will see my story through Book Locker. You can also go to Amazon. Please look at this book and let me know what you think.

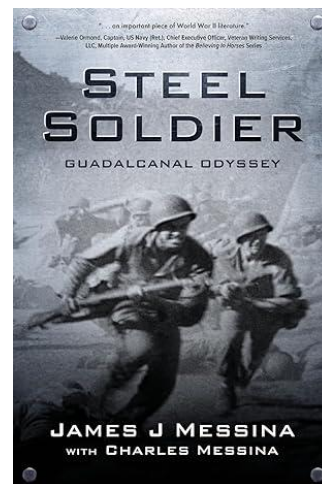
David O. Chung (Doc)

<https://booklocker.com/books/13091.html>



## **Steel Soldier – Guadalcanal Odyssey**

**Charles Messina**



My father, the most influential person in my life, passed away on March 20, 2008. As an intimate gift to his children, he wrote and illustrated his life story.

In the end, it took him eight years to complete his autobiography, and I was so impressed with his storytelling and artistic talent that I reached out to a journalist who had an interest in regional history.



Following an interview with my father, the local newspaper ran a two-page article chronicling his life growing up in West Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, and his time serving as a Marine in World War II. The journalist applauded his work as an enormous achievement and an important part of history. He encouraged me to publish his story and share it with the public, which is something I had wanted to do for a long time. However, my dad was not interested and said it was merely a token of love for his children to remember him by.

This is an American tale about a working-class man who lived an honest life, believed strongly in God, and fought for his country. He represents thousands of other hardworking Americans with untold stories of integrity and honor. It's also a compelling story of survival that begins in a gritty Pennsylvania steel town during the Great Depression and then transports the reader into the steaming jungles of Guadalcanal, where a young Marine faces death in one of the most pivotal and bloodiest battles of World War II.

Steel Soldier serves as a testament to the special man my dad was. It's not a

gripping mystery that concludes with a thrilling climax. Rather, it is a series of vignettes with some entertaining moments of a bygone era, which have been compiled by a very talented storyteller.

To look at him, you'd never guess this mild-mannered, unassuming, and kind man had once been a fierce warrior. As long as I live, I will always admire and honor my father and all the men and women who have fought for this country. He was loved by everyone who knew him, and to me he is a true American hero.

Semper Fi, Dad

[https://www.amazon.com/Steel-Soldier-James-J-Messina/dp/1646638883/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crd=1CN22F2J4XULY&keywords=steel+soldier+koehler+books&qid=1682034603&redirectFromSmile=1&srefix=Steel+Soldier%2Caps%2C71&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Steel-Soldier-James-J-Messina/dp/1646638883/ref=sr_1_1?crd=1CN22F2J4XULY&keywords=steel+soldier+koehler+books&qid=1682034603&redirectFromSmile=1&srefix=Steel+Soldier%2Caps%2C71&sr=8-1)



# Wholesale Hotel Rates



Your Membership  
Courtesy of  
Purple Heart



Private Hotel Booking Rates Never Offered to the Public  
600,000 Hotels Worldwide  
Every Brand and Independent Hotel  
No Blackout Dates Ever  
Up to 50% Lower Price Over Expedia, Priceline, Hotels.com  
Forget TV Advertising Retail Sites, This is Wholesale!!!  
#1 Rated Booking Software  
Multi Language and Currency Options  
Internet and Mobile Booking  
95% of Searches Cheaper than Expedia, Priceline, Hotels.com  
Always Check Wholesale Hotel Rates Before You Book Anywhere

Go to: <https://purpleheart.wholesalehotelrates.com/PinRegister>

It Takes 1 Minute to Register for a Lifetime of Hotel Savings

# MOPH Application for Membership

<https://www.purpleheart.org/newaccount?>



## 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, (most or adopted descendant, child, grandchild or great-grandchild) of either a living or deceased Purple Heart recipient, evidence of the award of the Purple Heart and the relationship must be submitted with the application.  
If the Purple Heart recipient is living, the recipient must be a member in good standing of the MOPH and he/she must sign to acknowledge the relationship and consent for membership.

### Dues Schedule

#### Military Order of the Purple Heart

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Life Membership           | \$200.00 |
| Associate Life Membership | \$200.00 |

If the installment plan is selected, \$50 must be submitted with the application. The amount of each installment and the frequency of the installments is at your discretion, not long as the remaining \$150 is paid within one year of the application being approved. If you want to use this option, include 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 No. \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Recruited by (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

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

Consent  to be Member

Card: Card # VJISA  Military Card  DPO  American Express  CVR # (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Card: Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

App. over signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(required even if not being by credit card. Taking my name away will deactivate my account)

All applicants must complete the Agreement section below & save with payment to MOPH National Headquarters, 34 5th Street, 1st Floor, Springfield, VA 22151. www.purpleheart.org memberhelp@purpleheart.org 703-944-5393

**Purple Heart Recipient** MOPH Dues may be a spouse of the decedent (the spouse of a spouse of the Purple Heart recipient) and surviving social relations. A copy of documentation submitted to determine the actual relationship. Evidence of the award of the Purple Heart must be submitted with the application. Certificates are not sent out before the front of event. If discharged, discharge document such as a DD-214 must be provided. Submit a copy of service recordable or general (for service only) under PCS orders. Multiple card orders and multiple card certificates. There is no posthumous membership. All requests are submitted to membership with the Member's Personal Records Center/Member Service.

- DD-214  DD-216 (Must be supported by DD-216)  COB (See MTR Certificate)  DND ACC 3343
- Service  Army  Navy  Air Force  Marine  Coast Guard
- Wounded  WWC  Korea  Vietnam  CEF  OIF  CVO  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Dear awarded service \_\_\_\_\_  Active Duty (Provide PCS orders); Date Departed Service/Discharge \_\_\_\_\_

Dear awarded \_\_\_\_\_  Local of Emergency \_\_\_\_\_

Dear awarded source \_\_\_\_\_  Have you been contacted of a Purple?  Yes  No

Associate Member \_\_\_\_\_  Director of relationship and proof of Purple Heart award required

Name of Purple Heart Recipient \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_

Member # & Signature \_\_\_\_\_  DD-214  DD-216  DD-216 (Must be supported by DD-216)  DD-216 (Must be supported by DD-216)

Relationship of Applicant to PH Recipient  Parent  Spouse  Sibling  Child  Grandchild  Grand-grandchild

Relationship document  Health Certificate  Adoption Papers  Marriage Certificate  Military Report

The National Agreement and rules for the MOPH are available at [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org). There is no charge for membership. Payment for dues is not due until the 1st of the month following the 1st of the year. Payment Code: Dues (For dues submission to the Purple Heart) \$50.00  
All information disclosed on this site is subject to change without notice.  (Effective 5/1/2011, previous editions are obsolete.)

# MOPHA Application for Membership

<https://www.purpleheartauxiliary.org/join?>

## LIFE MEMBER APPLICATION (revised July 2020) Based On Relationship to Purple Heart Recipient

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Requested \_\_\_\_\_

I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Purple Heart Recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Her/she is a member of MOPH Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member Number \_\_\_\_\_

Her/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# \_\_\_\_\_

## ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION (revised July 2020) Based On Relationship to Auxiliary Member

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to Auxiliary Member \_\_\_\_\_

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# \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP Eligibility is based on relationship to Purple Heart Recipient and is granted to a parent, grandparent, spouse, widow, 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.



**Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary**  
**Application for Life Membership**



## TAPS

**From the National Chaplain, Attention Chaplains:** All death notices should be sent to the National Commander; National Junior Vice; and National Adjutant for verification. Afterwards, I will complete a letter of condolence (LOC) to the family!

The information on the following pages is taken directly from the Deceased Member Roster downloaded from the National website. For this issue, deceased members who were **REPORTED** between **Nov 1 – Dec 31, 2023**, regardless of the actual date of death. The listing has been sorted by last name, first name, date posted, and date of death.



| Chapter   | First Name | Last Name   | MI  | Date Of Death | Date Posted |
|-----------|------------|-------------|-----|---------------|-------------|
| 0393-TX-5 | Luis H     | AGUIRRE     |     | 2023-10-28    | 2023-11-04  |
| 0366-NJ-1 | Louis S    | AMICO       |     | None          | 2023-12-26  |
| 0682-MS-4 | Carland Y  | BAKER       |     | 2014-06-24    | 2023-11-10  |
| 0146-KY-2 | Allen      | BARKER      | N   | None          | 2023-11-02  |
| DML-WV-2  | Sherman R  | BATMAN      |     | 2023-09-22    | 2023-11-16  |
| DML-MI-2  | Bramuel    | BELCHER     | H   | None          | 2023-11-14  |
| 0366-NJ-1 | Andrew     | BLAHUT      | J   | None          | 2023-11-02  |
| 0634-NC-4 | Joseph F   | BOZYK       |     | 2021-12-28    | 2023-11-20  |
| 0162-WI-2 | Gary       | BRYNJULFSON | Lee | 2023-10-14    | 2023-12-27  |
| 1966-NM-5 | Jack L     | CANNON      |     | None          | 2023-12-18  |
| 0530-SC-4 | Paul       | CAPE        | E   | None          | 2023-12-21  |
| 1876-TX-5 | Antonio    | CARPIO      | V   | 2023-10-11    | 2023-11-02  |
| 0602-OK-5 | Melvin L   | CASSADY     |     | 2023-11-26    | 2023-12-07  |
| 0210-CA-6 | George     | CHOMA       |     | 2023-10-06    | 2023-11-07  |
| DML-HI-6  | William K  | CHOY        |     | 2023-03-02    | 2023-11-16  |
| 0375-CO-5 | Bradley    | CLARK       | D   | 2019-06-05    | 2023-11-06  |
| 2212-AL-4 | Jerry W    | CLEEK       |     | 2023-11-29    | 2023-12-08  |
| 0875-MA-1 | Richard    | CONNELLY    | E   | None          | 2023-12-22  |
| DML-OK-5  | Kenneth T  | CRAWFORD    |     | None          | 2023-11-02  |
| 1965-VA-1 | Herbert S  | DELBRIDGE   |     | 2023-12-14    | 2023-12-18  |
| 5354-DK-3 | Robert     | DIETZMAN    | D   | 2022-04-19    | 2023-11-10  |
| 0717-FL-4 | John       | DOUGAN      | A   | 2021-10-07    | 2023-12-14  |
| 1513-TX-5 | John RAY   | DOUGLAS     |     | 2023-07-15    | 2023-12-11  |
| 0696-FL-4 | Allen      | DUNSWORTH   | R   | None          | 2023-11-09  |
| 0705-FL-4 | Charles R  | EARNEST     |     | 2020-08-21    | 2023-11-05  |

| Chapter   | First Name    | Last Name  | MI     | Date Of Death | Date Posted |
|-----------|---------------|------------|--------|---------------|-------------|
| 0001-CT-1 | Robert S      | ERWIN      |        | 2023-12-09    | 2023-12-19  |
| 0511-ID-3 | Donald        | FABIAN     |        | 2023-11-09    | 2023-11-13  |
| 0194-MN-2 | Melvin        | FALENSCHEK |        | None          | 2023-11-13  |
| 0830-AK-3 | William       | FIELD      | L      | 2023-11-07    | 2023-11-21  |
| 5555-MN-2 | Randy         | FISH       |        | 2023-08-14    | 2023-11-21  |
| 1922-IN-2 | Johnny D      | FURR       |        | 2023-07-10    | 2023-11-15  |
| 0717-FL-4 | Emanuel       | GELBURD    |        | None          | 2023-12-06  |
| 0472-AZ-6 | Nicholas G    | GERVASE    |        | 2023-11-20    | 2023-12-08  |
| 0509-ID-3 | James H       | GRIMM      |        | 2021-03-21    | 2023-12-18  |
| 0861-IA-2 | JOHN          | GUALTIER   | THOMAS | 2023-07-30    | 2023-11-06  |
| 5555-MN-2 | Robert J      | HAFNER     |        | 2022-05-15    | 2023-11-06  |
| 0736-IN-2 | RICHARD       | HAMILTON   |        | 2023-10-20    | 2023-12-15  |
| 0392-CA-6 | Anthony       | HERNANDEZ  | G      | 2015-11-15    | 2023-12-15  |
| 0575-IL-2 | Richard       | HOFFMAN    | C      | 2021-07-19    | 2023-11-01  |
| DML-NC-4  | Larry LEE     | HOUSDEN    |        | None          | 2023-11-08  |
| 0711-NV-6 | Louis         | HOWARD     |        | 2022-11-29    | 2023-11-06  |
| 0641-OK-5 | Jeff          | HUDGENS    |        | 2023-12-20    | 2023-12-29  |
| 1966-NM-5 | John W        | HUDSON     |        | None          | 2023-11-13  |
| 1041-CO-5 | Gary D        | HUFFMAN    |        | 2023-10-15    | 2023-11-21  |
| 1876-TX-5 | Steven        | JARAMILLO  |        | 2023-10-18    | 2023-11-14  |
| 1836-TX-5 | Nolan A       | JONAS      |        | 2023-11-05    | 2023-11-10  |
| 1513-TX-5 | Jim ED        | JONES      |        | 2023-11-01    | 2023-12-22  |
| 0570-MD-1 | Neal H        | JONES      |        | 2022-04-25    | 2023-12-02  |
| 0570-MD-1 | Delbert Ellis | KLINE      |        | 2022-03-03    | 2023-12-02  |
| 0632-NE-2 | Lyle E        | KNOTT      |        | None          | 2023-11-06  |

| Chapter   | First Name  | Last Name   | MI    | Date Of Death | Date Posted |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------------|
|           | Charles     |             |       |               |             |
| 0691-AZ-6 | Joseph      | KRATZENBERG |       | 2023-10-15    | 2023-11-16  |
| 0593-AK-3 | Richard E   | LAWRENCE    |       | 2023-10-15    | 2023-11-18  |
| 1979-IA-2 | Earl D      | LETTS       |       | 2023-10-18    | 2023-11-02  |
| 1963-FL-4 | Donald R    | LISTON      |       | 2020-04-04    | 2023-11-06  |
| 1836-TX-5 | Marcos A    | LOPEZ       |       | None          | 2023-11-29  |
| 0736-IN-2 | Robert L    | MARTIN      |       | 2022-12-12    | 2023-12-14  |
| 2929-CA-6 | Wilbur W    | MAYHEW      |       | 2014-09-19    | 2023-12-22  |
| 0638-NC-4 | William     | MCCOLLUM    | T     | 2017-10-30    | 2023-11-13  |
| 0159-IL-2 | Maynard E   | MELHORN     |       | None          | 2023-11-07  |
| 0570-MD-1 | Louis G     | MICHAEL     |       | 2020-05-03    | 2023-12-02  |
| 0200-NE-2 | Mike        | MILAM       |       | None          | 2023-11-08  |
| 0535-FL-4 | Ralph       | MILLS       | G     | 2023-11-27    | 2023-11-28  |
| 0156-OH-2 | William F   | MOORE       |       | None          | 2023-12-04  |
| 1513-TX-5 | William A   | MOSHER      |       | 2023-09-26    | 2023-11-02  |
| 0375-CO-5 | HAROLD      | NELSON      |       | 2023-10-22    | 2023-11-20  |
| 2929-CA-6 | Don Everett | PACKHAM     |       | 2020-04-16    | 2023-12-22  |
| 0639-NC-4 | James       | PLATT       | E     | None          | 2023-11-06  |
| 0570-MD-1 | Joseph E    | POTTER      |       | 2023-02-23    | 2023-12-01  |
| 0570-MD-1 | Robert      | PRICE       | P     | 2017-04-16    | 2023-12-01  |
| 0323-IL-2 | Wallace G   | RATHER      |       | 2023-11-17    | 2023-12-22  |
| DML-MN-2  | Daniel      | SCHNEDECKER |       | 2022-10-15    | 2023-11-11  |
| 0845-SC-4 | Klaus D K   | SCHOENING   |       | 2023-11-19    | 2023-11-29  |
| 0570-MD-1 | William H.  | SHIFLET     |       | 1999-08-15    | 2023-12-03  |
| 0867-TX-5 | Robert      | SMATHERS    | Louis | 2020-10-21    | 2023-11-08  |



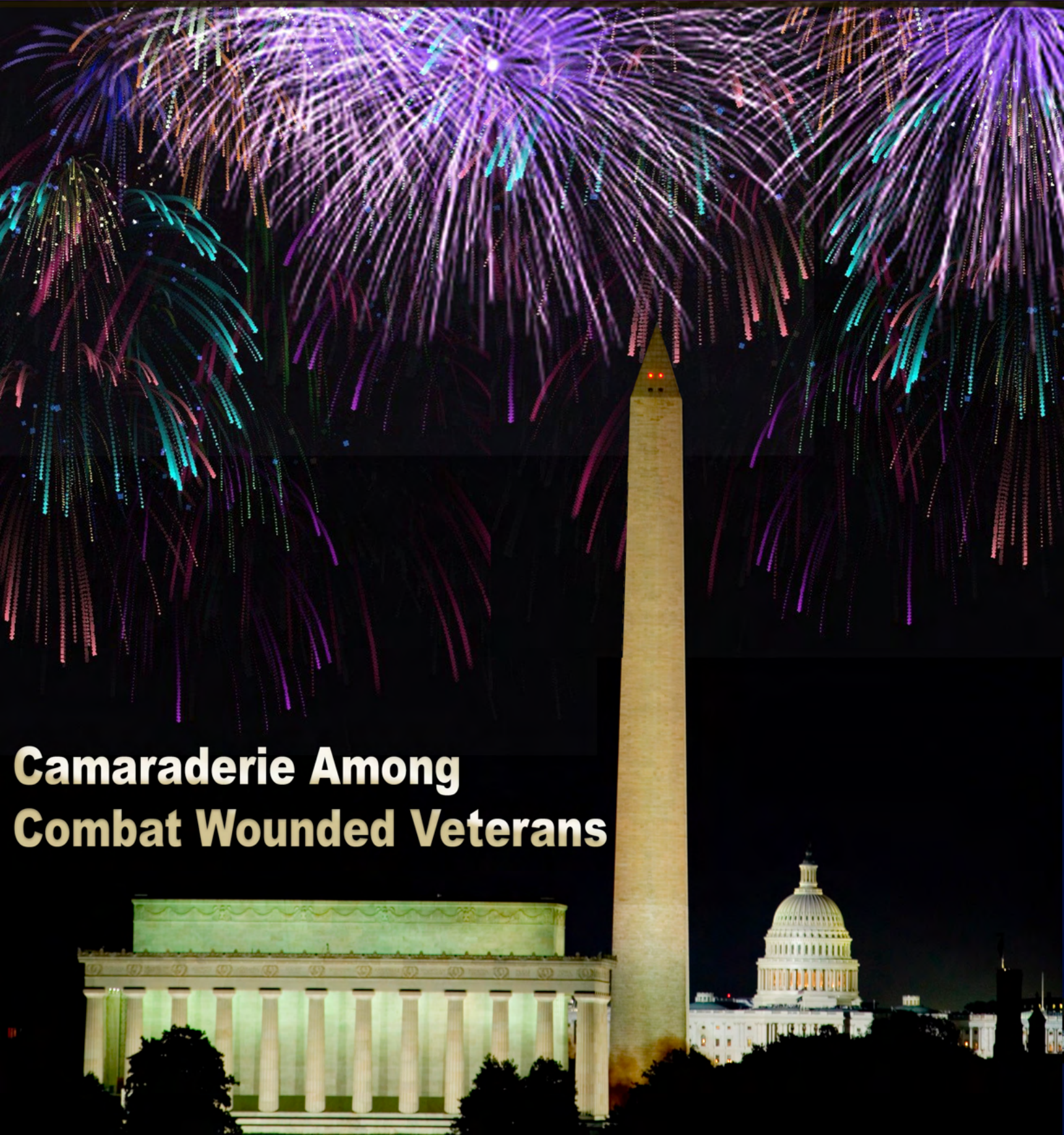
| Chapter   | First Name | Last Name  | MI    | Date Of Death | Date Posted |
|-----------|------------|------------|-------|---------------|-------------|
| 1889-WA-3 | Timothy    | SMITH      | M     | 2023-10-09    | 2023-11-09  |
| 0736-IN-2 | David L    | SONAFRANK  |       | 2023-03-01    | 2023-12-15  |
| 0593-AK-3 | Wayne A    | STACKHOUSE |       | 2023-08-14    | 2023-11-18  |
| 0570-MD-1 | Warner I   | SUMPTER    |       | 2021-09-22    | 2023-12-01  |
| 0736-IN-2 | Ronald     | THOMAS     | A     | 2023-06-04    | 2023-12-15  |
| 0621-MO-2 | William C  | THOMSON    |       | 2023-11-07    | 2023-11-16  |
| 2929-CA-6 | Karo D     | TONELLI    |       | 2016-04-14    | 2023-12-22  |
| 1513-TX-5 | Chet       | USZYNSKI   |       | 2023-04-05    | 2023-12-11  |
| 0181-NJ-1 | Lawrence   | VINCI      | Peter | None          | 2023-11-08  |
| 1876-TX-5 | Howard     | VINSON     | Gene  | 2023-10-19    | 2023-12-13  |
| 2226-NC-4 | Don        | WATTS      |       | 2023-04-26    | 2023-11-09  |
| 0570-MD-1 | David A    | WEINSTEIN  |       | 2017-12-26    | 2023-12-01  |
| 0671-OH-2 | Lynn M     | WELLMAN    |       | 2023-11-12    | 2023-11-17  |
| DML-AZ-6  | John A     | WICKHAM    |       | 2022-07-26    | 2023-12-13  |
| 2226-NC-4 | Robert     | ZSCHOCHÉ   | C     | 2023-08-10    | 2023-11-13  |



# The Purple Heart

Magazine

January/February 2024



**Camaraderie Among  
Combat Wounded Veterans**