



The  
**Purple Heart**  
Magazine

September – October 2023

# COMMANDER SET THE GOALS ---



## ---the TEAM is ready to implement!

*Camaraderie Among Combat Wounded Veterans!*



# AMERICAN DREAM AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The American Dream Ambassador Program gives registered homeowners significant discounts to products and services needed to renovate or remodel their home and it can even help purchase a home. Once registered, you are an American Dream Ambassador for as long as you own your home.

Click on the MOPH Fund logo or scan the QR Code to watch a short video about the program and then register to be an Ambassador.



## Donation Included with Registration

Upon receipt of your payment (PayPal or Credit Card), a \$50 tax-deductible donation will be made in your name, to the MOPH Fund, and a \$25 tax-deductible donation will be made in your name to the MOPH Chapter or the MOPHA Unit of your choice.

While there are other websites that can be used to register for the Ambassador Program, this website is the only one that includes donations to the MOPH Fund and the MOPH Chapters and Units.

The MOPH Fund Inc. is an IRS 501.c.3 public charity (EIN: 87-3168403) and the official fundraising arm of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. We bring patriotic donors together with combat-wounded veterans who spilled their blood in the name of our nation's freedom to promote their recovery. The Fund has earned the Candid 2023 Gold Seal of Transparency.

**SOME GAVE ALL, SOME GAVE SOME!**

**[Become an Ambassador TODAY!](#)**



## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Thank you for your confidence in me to lead this great Organization. I am confident that the team we have in place will produce remarkable things for the

Order and make us successful in keeping to our mission statement. When we share our mission statement, we show our vision of promoting Patriotism through our Americanism Program, Youth Programs, and the Purple Heart trail. We also show we serve our veterans through our programs of Legislative, Suicide Awareness and Prevention, Homeless Veterans Assistance, Disaster Relief, Veterans Advocacy, Women Veterans Issues, Scholarships, Medals Recovery, and Software Developer Training. With this being stated, I have shared my goals to move the Order forward through teamwork and gathering more information on the programs we offer to the veterans and their families. Let us not forget about the Auxiliary because they have been there with every step supporting us and they too help support our mission statement.

I have been told this National Convention was a tremendous success and everyone had a great time. Many said I made this happen. I like to take credit, but it was the **team effort** that put this together that made this an awesome convention. Without support from the Department of Louisiana and their skills of having a good time and Healing the heART™ theme, we would not been so successful. Thank you to all who had a part in this year's National Convention and making it one of the best conventions ever. With this action, we are setting the pace which we are starting out the next year with. We had a few changes that will take effect after this convention, but they are all for the good of the Order. Please make sure to keep this motivation moving forward and let us have a momentous year in order.

During the National Convention, we made sure everyone had information about the MOPH FUND. Several flyers were stuffed in everyone's goodie bag. We also had a table filled with

information about the Fund, and I know Patriots took some information back to their chapters and departments. Please visit [mophfund.org](http://mophfund.org) to learn more about the fundraising arm that supports the Order's programs. There is a video that we showed at the National Convention about the Fund and how it operates. The video is on the Fund's website and will be sent out shortly so everyone can share it and learn about the MOPH FUND. This is especially important for the Order so we can keep the support of our program running smoothly and keep to our mission statement.

I have made a National Officers Organization Chart, which is posted on our website ([purpleheart.org](http://purpleheart.org)) under Leadership Listing. With this, we will be able to share leadership responsibilities and help train the new leadership for the future of the order. We all should be sharing tasks with everyone to keep them involved in the order and not do it all by ourselves. Many patriots want to help and letting them help makes the team more proficient and gets more accomplished for the Order.

Also under the Leadership Listing are my National Commander's goals for the Order. They are not in any priority order, just some SMART goals. This is what we need to achieve to move the Order forward and with your help, they can be met.

During the National Convention, I signed a Letter Of Intent (LOI) to work with the VFW to develop a partner-type Service Officer Program. There are a lot of details to be worked out before this partnership can be fully realized. We will form a committee to see how and when this can be achieved. Between our two organizations, we will take care of Veterans and their Families.

Again, thank you for your support and all you do for the Order. Yours in Patriotism!

*Carder Ferguson*

[purpleheart.org](http://purpleheart.org)



[mophfund.org](http://mophfund.org)



# Features

## 6 Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to recognize the impactful contributions and influence Hispanics have had on the United States. [According to the official website](#), the month is meant to “[pay] tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.”

## 16 Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month

September marks National Suicide Prevention Month – a month to remember the lives lost to suicide, the millions of people who have struggled with suicidal ideation, and acknowledge the individuals, families, and communities that have been impacted. It is also a time to raise awareness about suicide prevention and share messages of hope.

## 25 Patriot Day

Patriot Day on Sept. 11 is a day to **remember and honor** the lives of those who bravely sacrificed themselves for our country’s freedom. It began in 2001, just days after the tragic events of 9/11 to commemorate all those affected by the tragedy, including military personnel and first responders.

## 28 Walter Ram – WWII POW

Twenty-three days later on his fifth bombing mission, he and his aircrew were shot down over Kiel, Germany, where he began his year and a half as a prisoner of war. Ram received his first Purple Heart for his time as a POW.

## 33 Stories of Valor

Stories of Valor is an ongoing biographical program featuring written, audio and video tributes of America’s Purple Heart recipients curated by the National Purple Heart Honor Mission. This project helps ensure we capture and tell a new generation of Americans about those who sacrificed so much for our nation.

## 44 Commander’s S.M.A.R.T. Goals

The Commander’s briefing to the Convention included his vision as to how we, the TEAM, will be able to accomplish the Order’s mission.

## 54 MOPH – VFW Letter of Intent (LOI)

The Order’s and the VFW’s **intent** is to enhance the Order’s ability to accomplish its mission of supporting Veterans and families in our communities by having trained and certified Service Officers and not have to rely on County Veterans Service Offices or other Veteran Service Organizations.

## 64 Purple Heart Honor Mission Project

“Patriot Project honorees represent the best of the best our country has to offer,” said Richie Lay, a Purple Heart recipient and chairman of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, in a news release. “America’s Purple Heart veterans have given so much to defend freedom, and that sacrifice must always be remembered.”

## About the front cover –



National Commander Carder Ferguson poses with his team of the newly elected National Officers and the appointed National Adjutant. (L to R) Chaplain Carlton Cannon, Junior Vice Commander Tracey Brown-Greene, Senior Vice Commander Robert Olivarez, Commander Carder Ferguson, Adjutant Eric Johnson, Finance Officer Ernie Rivera, Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Witt.

National Judge Advocate Walter Kroptavich was reelected but was unable to attend the Convention.



# Table of Contents

2	American Dream Ambassador Program
3	Commander's Message
10	Forever More Posters
11	National Adjutant
12	Publications Committee
14	Disaster Relief
15	Air Force Birthday
20	Walleyes and Reflections
22	Rick Daberkow Needed Cavalry
23	A Celebration of the PH Medal
27	POW/MIA Recognition Day
30	WWII Operation Downfall
31	Ruptured Duck
32	Gold Star Mothers and Family Day
34	Medal of Honor Highway
38	PACT Act Extension
39	MOPHA Fundraiser
41	Two-million-mile journey
43	MOPHA President
47	2023 Patriot of the Year
51	Bylaws amendments
51	Legislative Priorities
53	For Freedom
57	Leadership Listing
61	Welcome Home Decades Later
66	First Responders Awarded
67	Navy Birthday
68	MOPH and MOPHA Membership
69	RaphaRub Testimonials
73	TAPS

## **TRACEY BROWN-GREENE**

**National Junior Vice Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart**



Tracey Lindette Brown-Greene made history in August of 2023; she was elected as the First Female as the National Junior Vice Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Tracey

served as the Department of Texas Commander; the Department of Texas has the largest number of Patriots out of all Departments in the Order. She has stepped up and been an inspiration to all members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Tracey Lindette Brown-Greene joined the Army in 1998. During her military career, she deployed around the world and served in combat and served in combat during Operation New Dawn (Iraq) and Operation Freedom Sentinel (Afghanistan). Tracey rose through the ranks culminating in her retirement rank as a Master Sergeant (MSG). MSG (Ret) Brown-Greene's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, and several others commensurate with her distinguished career. MSG (Ret) Brown-Greene sustained wounds in Afghanistan from an attack. Her final assignment was at Fort Hood, Texas where she served in the 1st Cavalry Sustainment Brigade as a Logistics manager. Tracey graduated from American Military University with a Bachelor of Arts in Management, a certificate from Cornell in Women's Entrepreneurship and a Master of Arts in Management and Leadership from Liberty University and a Graduate Certificate from North Central University in Management. She is currently working on a Doctorate in Business Administration with a concentration in financial management.

Tracey is passionate about military veterans' wellbeing and their families. She is a recipient of the Congressional Veterans commendation, a member of the Texas Association of Sports Officials and a Master Life Coach. She is focused on fostering an environment of goodwill, camaraderie among combat wounded veterans and providing service to all veterans and their families.

Tracey and her family reside in Harker Heights Texas. She serves in the following organizations: the Disabled Veterans of America (DAV 29) Executive Committee; Fort Cavazos Elijah King Soldier-for-Life Retiree Council; Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) State of Texas Suicide Awareness Committee chair, (VFW Post 12209) Adjutant Quartermaster; American Legion post 372, the Order of the Eastern Star Sunbeam Chapter 49, the Vice-chairperson for the Veterans Suicide Prevention Channel; and the Austin Veterans Arts Festival. She is involved in a myriad of other community ventures and volunteers in the School District. Tracey Brown-Greene is the epitome of a citizen Soldier.

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH (SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15, 2023)



**Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to recognize the impactful contributions and influence Hispanics have had on the United States.** According to the official website, the month is meant to “[pay] tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.”

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period

### Hispanics in the Marine Corps



While specific statistics were not kept on the number of Hispanics in the Marine Corps, history documents instances of their heroic actions. During the [Boxer Rebellion](#), Private [France Silva](#) (1876–1951) became the first Marine of Hispanic

descent to be awarded the Medal of Honor,<sup>[18]</sup> the highest [military decoration](#) awarded by the [United States government](#).

Private Silva joined the Marines on September 12, 1899, in San Francisco. In 1900, he was a member of the [1st Regiment \(Marines\)](#) under the command of Major [Littleton Waller](#), aboard the USS Newark (C-1).

<sup>[19]</sup> On May 20, 1900, the [USS Newark \(C-1\)](#), a [United States Navy protected cruiser](#) and the first modern cruiser in the U.S. fleet, sailed for China to help land



*The USS Newark*

reinforcements to relieve the legations under siege by the Boxers at [Peking](#) in what is known as the Boxer Rebellion. The *Newark* arrived at [Tientsin](#) on May, 22. On May, 31, Captain [John T. Myers](#), USMC, arrived in Peking in overall command of two ship detachments of U.S. Marines. This newly formed Legation Guard consisted of twenty-five Marines from the [USS Oregon \(BB-3\)](#) along with twenty-three Marines and five sailors from the *USS Newark*. Private Silva was one of the *Newark* Marines who were a part of the Legation Guard.<sup>[20]</sup>

On June 19, 1900, the 1st Regiment (Marines) attempted to take the city of Tientsin and failed. Then, on June 23, the Regiment, under the command of Major Waller, entered Tientsin in their second attempt after a Japanese blew open a gate to allow the Chinese to escape.<sup>[21]</sup> Private Silva, who was seriously wounded and two sailors, Navy Seaman Axel Westermark and Chief Machinist Emil Peterson, were awarded the Medal of Honor for their defense of the civilian compound (legation) at Peking—they defended the walled city from June 28 until the fall of the city which occurred on August 17.<sup>[22]</sup>



Navy and Marine  
Medal of Honor  
1862-1912

## Military veterans: We need to recognize Latinos' long history of service

Raule Reyes

NBC News

While “Latino” and “Hispanic” are modern terms, soldiers of Spanish or Latin American heritage have [fought in every U.S. conflict](#) since the Revolutionary War. The [first Hispanic recipient of the Medal of Honor](#), the armed forces’ highest award, was Joseph H. De Castro, who served in the Civil War as the Massachusetts Infantry’s color-bearer, the flag he was carrying making him a visible target of Confederate forces.



Members of the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as "the Borinqueneers," pose during the Korean War. U.S. Army

In total [there have been](#) over 60 Hispanic Medal of Honor winners recipients.

Luis Vazquez-Contes is the national commander of the American G.I. Forum, founded in 1948 to ensure that Mexican American World War II veterans could access their government benefits. "Latinos have a long and honorable tradition of military service," he said, "only somehow it is not as well-known as that of other groups. Sometimes, it feels like we are undervalued."

[Latinos are about](#) 19% of the U.S. population and, according to [Department of Defense statistics](#), make up 17% of active-duty service members. The Marine Corps has the highest percentage (23%) of Latino active-duty members.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are nearly 1.3 million Latino veterans, or about 8 percent of the veteran population. By 2045, this figure is projected to reach 12 percent.

Read Raul A. Reyes' complete [article](#) (Nov 2022).



Angel Mendez, a Puerto Rican U.S. Marine who was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his actions in the Vietnam War.



Carmen Conteras Bozak, the first Hispanic American to serve in the Women's Army Corps. | Photo credit The University of Texas in Austin

[USO Meet 5 Service Members of Hispanic Heritage Making Modern Military History](#)



### USO stories you should read.

[Courage and Valor: 5 Stories of Hispanic American Military Heroes](#)



Marcelino Serna, an undocumented Mexican immigrant who insisted on serving in the U.S. Army in World War I. He returned home as the most decorated soldier from Texas. | Photo credit The Daily Morning Oasis



President Barack Obama awards the Medal of Honor to Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry at the White House in Washington, D.C., July 12, 2011. | Photo credit U.S. Army/SpC. David M. Sharp



Air Force Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (SEAC) Ramón Colón-López is a Pararescuemen and the current, most-senior enlisted person in the military.



Rear Adm. Christina M. "Tina" Alvarado's favorite saying is, "If you see a turtle sitting on a fence post, one thing is for sure, he didn't get there by himself."



Two years after the 19th amendment passed, Soledad Chacón, nicknamed Lala, became the first Hispanic woman elected to statewide executive office in the United States when she was elected as Secretary of State of New Mexico in 1922.



Sonia Sotomayor became the first Hispanic to serve as Supreme Court Justice when she was appointed by Barack Obama in 2009.

**The First But Not The Last: 9 Latinas Who Made Political History**



The first Latina to hold a Cabinet-level position was Aida Álvarez. Álvarez was appointed as the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in 1997.

## CHAPTER 0147-OR-3 AUGUST MEETING

Larry Rupp  
Region III Commander



(Lt to Rt) Farley Howell, Al Punches, Tony Hixon, Marilee Rupp (Auxiliary), Larry Rupp (Region III Commander), Keith Wittnebel (Department of Oregon Commander), Rick Sciapiti (Chapter Commander), and Tom North

## WEEKEND AT MYRTLE BEACH RAFFLE

Don Kellum  
CHAPTER 0817-SC-4

(L to R) Ms. Brunson, Chapter Adjutant Leroy Thompson,



Chapter Commander Harry Thompson, and Patriots Ronald Harvin, Don Kellum, and Jamie Carl O'Neal.

Chapter 817 of Sumter, SC conducted a Raffle during July and August to raise funds for veteran assistance programs in Sumter County. The Prize consisted of a Weekend Get-Away at Myrtle Beach which was provided by Elliott Realtors of North Myrtle Beach. The Raffle concluded with a Drawing on September 1 by County Veterans Officer Ms. Valerie Brunson on the steps of the Sumter County Court House.

## FOREVER MORE POSTERS

Russ Ward  
Chapter 0187-NY-1



HONORING ALL THOSE KILLED OR WOUNDED IN  
COMBAT OF AMERICA'S WARS  
AND ALL VETERANS WHO HAVE PROVIDED FOR US  
TO LIVE IN FREEDOM

**FOREVER MORE**

New York State Chapter #187 now has an all weatherproof, full color patriotic sign 12" by 18" for only \$10.00 each to promote our American Flag and Purple Heart Medal. These signs could be displayed at your home or at local businesses to raise patriotism in your communities. If your chapter would like to use these signs as a fundraiser, a donation of \$20.00 or more could be asked for.

(A portion of profits from our sales will be given to national headquarters).

### For ordering we'll need:

Name:

Street Address:

City, state, and zip code:

Number of signs requested:

Price \$10.00 per sign, total cost:

**Includes S&H (4-6 weeks delivery) —no tax.**

**CHECKS ONLY** payable to MOPH #187.

Send to:

**MOPH #187, 151 Glendale Drive,  
Tonawanda, NY 14150**

**Questions: call Russ Ward 716-587-1120**

## NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Eric O. Johnson



Patriots of the Military Order of the Purple Heart,

I hope this note finds you in good health and high spirits. I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for granting me the opportunity to serve as the National Adjutant of our esteemed organization. It is an honor and a privilege to

work alongside such dedicated individuals who share the common goal of supporting our fellow Patriots.

My primary focus will be to strengthen the bonds within our community, enhance communication channels, and provide the necessary resources and guidance to ensure the success of our Chapters, Departments, and Regions. Together, we will continue to uphold the values and principles that the Purple Heart represents, offering our unwavering support to those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

To facilitate better communication, I am excited to announce that I will be conducting monthly Zoom meetings and training sessions exclusively for all Adjutants. These virtual gatherings will provide an invaluable opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices, and learn from one another. Through these sessions, we will foster a strong network of support, empowering each other to better serve our Purple Heart recipients.

In the upcoming days, you will receive detailed information regarding the schedule, topics, and registration process. I encourage all Adjutants to actively participate in these meetings as your insights and experiences are invaluable to our collective success. It is through uniting our efforts that we can truly make a difference in the lives of our deserving Purple Heart recipients.

Once again, thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility of being your National Adjutant. I pledge to work tirelessly, alongside our dedicated team, to advance the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Together, we will continue to honor the sacrifices of our heroes and ensure their well-being.

I look forward to connecting with each and every one of you soon. "Long Live the Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart"

Yours in Patriotism,

Patriot Eric O. Johnson  
National Adjutant  
Military Order of the Purple Heart



## National Viola Program

Bill Bull

National Viola Program Manager



Summertime and great weather is the time to meet and greet the public and introduce them to our organization and the Viola Program. A simple table and a Purple Heart Patriot or two with a handful of Purple Heart Violas can really draw a crowd at the entrance or exit of your friendly food store or big box retailer. Veterans and civilians alike will open up their hearts and support the programs of the chapters of The Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Contact me at the address, e-mail, or phone number below and get the process started. The cost is only \$155.00 per 1,000, postage paid.

Viola Program  
c/o William Bull  
22470 CSAH 14  
Darwin, MN 55324  
Phone 952-594- 2374  
[beprepared4cpr@gmail.com](mailto:beprepared4cpr@gmail.com)

**Make checks payable to: MOPH Viola Program.**

## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (NPC)

Larry Leighton, Chair



Welcome to the first issue of the Purple Heart Magazine without our long-time editor, Nic Mc Intosh.

The magazine has grown and improved over his time at the helm of the NPC and his personal sacrifices and devotion to making OUR magazine

something we can all be proud of.

At this year's convention, Chris Smrt declined to be re-elected at the end of his most recent four-year term and Charles Eggleston resigned from the committee. Their combined leadership and personal contributions are greatly appreciated.

At the Convention, Larry Leighton (AZ) was elected to the four-year position, Alan Gibson (GA) to the two-year, and Rick Cerone (WI) to the one-year. Matt Bridges (GA) who was elected to the four-year position in 2022 move up to the three-year position. Per the bylaws, Commander Ferguson is also on the committee.

Shortly after the convention adjourned, Rick resigned for personal reasons, leaving a vacancy which the NEC will be required to fill. After Rick's resignation, I was elected to be the NPC Chair.

By the time this issue is distributed, the National Adjutant will have sent out a "call for candidates" through the Order's Leadership. Until the vacancy is officially filled, Richard Daseke (WI) has graciously stepped up to help with this issue and has expressed interest in joining the committee "full-time".

### NEW EMAIL

The NPC now has a new permanent email address –[publications@purpleheart.org](mailto:publications@purpleheart.org). This email is actually a "group" and allows all incoming emails to be automatically routed to each committee member.

**Effective immediately**, please use this address for your input into the magazine and for any general correspondence to the committee. As we transition over the next month, emails sent to [thephmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:thephmagazine@gmail.com) will be forwarded to us.

## MAGAZINE INPUT

As with any organizational change, one of the first things to do is review, and update as necessary, existing policies and procedures. We have already started, but our focus was getting this issue in your hands.

The magazine is your magazine, and we need your help filling it with interesting stories about our members, associate members, auxiliary members, and Chapter/Unit activities. Although personal stories can be about combat experiences, they are not restricted to combat experiences and can cover any aspect of life or any activity that highlights how we promote the Purple Heart mission and Programs.

How many times have you looked at an old family picture and asked, "I wonder who that is?" With that in mind, please remember to answer the W's when in your submissions - **Who** is in the picture, **What** are they doing, **Where** are they doing it, and **Why** are they doing it. Remember also, good pictures bring articles to life.

We will attempt to include every submission sent to us in the next issue. We may have to edit the format to fit the available space, but we will not change the content without your permission. You can help us a lot by using a spelling and grammar checker before you hit the send button. A good practice is to also let someone close to you "proof" your work. If it passes their scrutiny, it will most likely pass ours.

Just a word about copyrights. Please do not send us a newspaper or magazine article without first getting written permission to republish their article. If you do, all we can do is give "headline" and a link to where it can be found. We cannot risk being challenged for violating copyrights.

### ADVERTISING

We are going to revise the advertising rates to be more in line with the size of our magazine and our distribution. We plan to offer discounts for annual subscriptions and discounts to vendors who attend our Conventions.

You can help! Share the magazine on your social media. Ask the business you support to advertise in the magazine. We'll get the new rates out to you through the chain of leadership soon!

# 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.

Please include the complete chapter designation in your submission (four-digit number with leading zero, if necessary, followed by a dash (-) and the two-digit state abbreviation followed by a dash (-) and the one-digit region designation. For example, 0691-AZ-6.

## Article XII – National Committees, Section 6 – National Publications Committee

I. The Purple Heart Magazine shall be the official publication of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA, Inc. Official notices and orders published in the Purple Heart Magazine shall be deemed sufficient and lawful notice to all members for all purposes whatsoever.

## CENTRAL POINT, OR 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Larry Rupp, Region III Commander

Chapter 0147-OR-3

MOPH Southern Oregon Chapter 147 entry in the Central Point, OR 4th of July Parade and Festival, 2023.



Second Place Award (Lt to Rt) Farley Howell, Al Panches, and Larry Rupp.



Larry Rupp, Commander National Region III; Jarrett Devine with his grandfather, Farley Howell.

## **MOPH DISASTER RELIEF**

Eric O. Johnson

**National Adjutant**

In these challenging times, MOPH is actively working to provide critical disaster relief assistance to those affected by the wildfires, floods, and earthquakes. However, we cannot achieve this without your generous help. We urgently ask you to consider making an emergency financial donation today to support our fellow veterans and their families who are grappling with the aftermath of these catastrophes.



To ensure that your contribution reaches those in need promptly, please send funds directly to the **MOPH FUND** (501c3; EIN 87-3168304), clearly marked for Disaster Relief. By making your donation in this way, you will also qualify for a tax deduction. Your support will directly impact the lives of those who have sacrificed so much in service to our nation.

We understand that transparency and accountability are paramount when it comes to charitable giving. Rest assured that your donation will be used solely for disaster relief efforts in Maui, Hillary's path, or other disaster areas not yet identified. We are working closely with local authorities and partners to identify the most pressing needs and distribute resources efficiently and effectively.

The devastation caused by any disaster, natural or made-made, is immense, and the road to recovery will be long and challenging. However, by coming together as a compassionate community, we can make a significant difference in the lives of our fellow veterans and their families during this time of crisis.

To make your tax-deductible donation, please visit the MOPH Fund website (<https://mophfund.org/disasters-1> or scan the QR Code) and select Maui Fire Victims Fund, Hurricane Hillary Victims Fund or General Disaster Relief Fund.

Every donation, regardless of the amount, will have a meaningful impact on the lives of those affected by the disaster. We deeply appreciate your immediate attention and support in this urgent matter, as we remain committed to assisting our fellow veterans during times of hardship.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to standing by our heroes when they need us most. Together, we can bring hope, healing, and assistance to those who have selflessly served our nation.

Checks payable to MOPH Fund may be sent to MOPH Fund, 22511 N. Galicia Dr, Sun City West, AZ 85375. Be sure to designate your donation to one of the disaster funds.

All disaster relief funds will be held by the MOPH Fund in restricted accounts until the Order requests the funds be released to affected Departments.

If you have any questions please contact Patriot Larry Leighton, MOPH Fund Treasurer ([treasurer@mophfund.org](mailto:treasurer@mophfund.org) or 844-MOPHFUND (667-4386)).

## **THANK-YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS**

### **Maui Fire Victims - \$2,551.50**

Department of Virginia  
Chapter 1775-VA-1  
Charles Earthman  
David Bellis  
Dennis Bender  
Edward Riddle  
Frank Muscitelli  
Gary Garner  
John Trage  
Richie Thibeault  
Robert Webster

### **MOPH General Disaster Victims - \$325.50**

Allen Nawrocki  
Danny Cox  
David Luce  
Ron Huether  
William Bull

## 76<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY – SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>



Air Force Birthday 2023 – Celebrating 76 Years of Excellence and Legacy of the US Air Force  
2023-07-29 by [Patricia](#)

Across the United States of America (USA), Air Force Birthday 2023 will be celebrated on September 18th, 2023. It is the day observed to commemorate the United States Air Force's establishment in 1947. If you are a military buff then you might know that the US has the strongest Air Force in the World. Ever since its establishment, the US Air Force has played an important role in defending the US skies.

On this day, people all around the United States will come together to honor and show gratitude to the soldiers serving in the Air Force. It is also a day to recognize the achievement of the USAF (United States Air Force) from 1947 to the present. So, on this Air Force Birthday, let's spare some time to pay tribute to the legacy of the US Air Force.

### History of Air Force Birthday

Just like all other forces in the US military, the Air Force also plays a crucial role in maintaining the security of the nation. On 18th September 1947, the United States Air Force Birthday was officially established by the government. On this day, Harry S. Truman (then president of the US) signed the National Security Act and converted it into law.

Today, the Air Force is an independent military branch in the US due to this act. Before this, the air force used to operate under the Army (as the Army Air Force.) The decision to set up the Air Force as a separate military branch was taken to recognize the importance of a dedicated military branch focused on aviation and aerial warfare.

### Importance of Air Force Birthday

The importance along with various significance of the Air Force Birthday are explained in the following points.

- **Celebrating the Birthday of the Air Force** – It is a special day to commemorate the establishment of the US Air Force as a separate branch of the military.
- **Recognizing Aviation Achievement** – The United States is fortunate to have the finest Air Force in the world. This is the perfect day to acknowledge the achievement of the USAF.
- **Honoring Air Force Personnel** – Personnel of the USAF sacrifice a lot by living away from their families. Plus, a life risk is always there when participating in combat operations. This day allows us to show gratitude towards the air force personnel.
- **Flexing the Military Strength** – Air Force also uses this day to showcase its might. On this day, they flex their latest warplanes and weapons.

Read the rest of [the story](#).



**Happy Birthday to all 1293**

**Air Force Veteran Patriots!**

### Support Concurrent Receipt Reform

The FRA wants the House to pass the “*Major Richard Star Act*” (H.R.1282) this month. Please ask your legislators to support bills that will provide concurrent receipt for service members unable to complete 20 years of service, due to combat-related injuries (*H.R.1282, S.344*). The House Armed Services Committee unanimously approved the House version (H.R.1282). The bill now goes to the House floor for further consideration. Over two-thirds of the House and Senate are co-sponsoring the “Major Richard Star Act.” Legislators are beginning to understand that reducing a retiree's retired pay because they are disabled is an injustice!

Please [ask your legislators to support this legislation](#) today!

**“SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION  
MONTH”  
WHERE IS GOD IN ALL THIS?  
(SUICIDE - ENEMY #1)**

As of July 2023, the number of suicides across the active-duty military increased from 75 in the first quarter of 2022 to 94 in the first quarter of 2023; according to the Defense Suicide Prevention Office. The Pentagon’s office on prevention said to be wary of extrapolating and interpreting the data.

After reading **Patriot David’s Psalm in the Old Testament, Psalm 22: 1-5;** (1) My GOD, My GOD why have YOU forsaken Me? Why are YOU so far from helping Me, and for the words of My groaning? (2) Oh My GOD, I cry in the daytime, but YOU do not hear; and in the night season and am not silent. (3) But YOU are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel. (4) Our fathers trusted in YOU; they trusted, and YOU delivered them. (5) They cried to YOU and were delivered; they trusted in YOU and were not ashamed.

What is there to say, when death intrudes on life – especially a death that didn’t have to happen? What is there to say when feelings of grief, guilt, anger, and raw, aching pain are all tangled together? We wish people would be 100 percent angry, or selfish, or happy, or sad, or sinister, or saintly. But they are not. They are not 100 percent anything. No one on this side of heaven is 100 percent good, loving, faithful or anything else! **Although people aren’t 100 percent anything, the LORD GOD is 100 percent GRACE, and MERCY, and LOVE!**

There’s no way to turn back the clock and make the last events turn out differently! There’s no way to remake the events of past years, either. What’s said has been said, and what’s done has been done. We linger here, for a moment, where a loved one must be left behind. It’s time to grieve, but soon the time will come to move on.

The question that may come more readily to mind is, **“WHY?”** It’s only human to ask, but the question isn’t likely to lead to satisfaction. **IT’S A QUESTION WITHOUT AN ANSWER, AT LEAST IN THIS LIFE!**

A more fruitful question to ask is **“WHERE?”** – more specifically, **“WHERE IS GOD IN ALL THIS?”**

There are far too many suicides in the military! Seemingly, a loss due to suicide is more traumatic than a combat loss, because they were alone, and we were not there when they needed us most! The Vietnam War expanded my thoughts on suicide. Before, I thought only weaklings and those unprepared for the reality of combat and life, chose suicide. But war changed my thinking. Some of the bravest and toughest individuals I know – men and women who exhibited heroic acts of bravery under hostile conditions in the combat zone, with total disregard for their own life – have struggled with thoughts of suicide! These Veterans are not weak; they are wounded with **“INVISIBLE WOUNDS!”**

I ask every military veteran and fellow MOPH Patriots to prepare for **“SPIRITUAL BATTLE!”** We must reach out to our fellow Comrades who may be suffering from **invisible wounds. DO IT TODAY, TOMORROW, NEXT WEEK AND BEYOND; IT IS A LIFELONG COMMITMENT!** We must reassure and remind them that some of their finest hours are yet to come, and they are a valuable asset to GOD’S kingdom!

I don’t believe GOD will cause a gun to discharge; thereby tearing a person from their loved ones. You won’t find GOD by going back again and again into that place and situation of occurrence. I don’t think GOD is back there. I think HE is here with You and I. **GOD is right in the midst of our heartaches, confusion, and pain!** This is **NOT** a time to give up! We have **‘ONE MORE BATTLE;’ (Suicide Awareness and Prevention)** to fight! **“TOGETHER WE CAN DO THIS – Let’s “GIT’er Done for HIS SAKE!”**

Prayerfully submitted.

Military Order of the Purple Heart  
National Chaplain  
Dr. Carlton L. Cannon



Be Aware, Save A Life Today  
VETERANS CRISIS LINE  
<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/>  
VET CENTER  
<https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>  
NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY  
<https://nrd.gov/>  
SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE 988  
[988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org)

  
Suicide Awareness



Jo Keller  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
National Suicide Awareness Project  
Officer & Instructor  
(951) 544-9270



September marks National Suicide Prevention Month – a month to remember the lives lost to suicide, the millions of people who have struggled with suicidal ideation, and acknowledge the individuals, families, and communities that have been impacted. It is also a time to raise awareness about suicide prevention and share messages of hope.

- [Statement from HHS Secretary Becerra on National Suicide Awareness Month](#)
- [Center for Mental Health Services Director Dr. Anita Everett interview about Suicide Prevention Month](#)

The Veterans Crisis Line: call 988 and then press 1 or [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255) and Press 1, text (838255), or chat ([VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat)).

# SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS FOR ADULTS

Risk is greater if a behavior is new or has increased, and if it seems related to a painful event, loss, or change

- Talking about or making plans for suicide.
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly.
- Talking about being a burden to others.
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain.
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
- Sleeping too little or too much.
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated.
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.
- Displaying extreme mood swings.

#SUICIDEPREVENTIONMONTH

**EVERYONE** can play a role in suicide prevention. Know the suicide warning signs and #BeThe1To offer support. Seek help by calling or texting 988 or by chatting <http://988Lifeline.org> for help #SPM2023

# SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS FOR YOUTH



It's time to take action if you notice these signs in family or friends:

- Talking about or making plans for suicide.
- Expressing hopelessness about the future.
- Displaying severe/overwhelming emotional pain or distress.
- Showing worrisome changes in behavior, particularly in combination with the warning signs above, including significant:
  - Withdrawal from or changing social connections/situations.
  - Changes in sleep (increased or decreased).
  - Anger or hostility that seems out of character or out of context.
  - Recent increased agitation or irritability.

#SUICIDEPREVENTIONMONTH

**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

Learn and share the warning signs of youth suicide during #SuicidePreventionMonth. If someone is showing any of the warning signs, urge them to contact a mental health professional or @988Lifeline. #SPM2023

## How to Help Someone You Know

If you know someone who is at immediate risk of suicide, call 911 right away. It can be difficult when someone you know expresses thoughts about suicide, but you can show support by doing the following:

- **Talk.** Your willingness to express your concern for the person in crisis can be the first step in getting that person help.
- **Listen.** Being an active listener is another way of reminding a person in crisis that they are not alone.
- **Remain Present.** Your physical and emotional presence in the person's life makes a difference. If you are worried about their safety, get help from a mental health professional immediately.
- **Call or text 988.** Last year, 988 was activated as a new three-digit dialing code. When someone dials 988, they will be connected to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This confidential support line is available 24 hours a day to provide free help to people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress.



The Veterans Crisis Line: call 988 and then press 1 or [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255) and Press 1, text (838255), or chat ([VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat)).

## OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Jo Keller

### Suicide Prevention and awareness Officer

Suicide Awareness & Prevention is our responsibility every day

Every year in the month of September we participate in campaigns to raise Suicide Awareness & to educate on prevention methods. We attend seminars, classes, and events in support of saving lives. My question to you is, what about the other eleven months? Let me help you answer that. People commit suicide around the world about every 40 seconds. According to Veterans Outreach Center Inc. the suicide rate amongst veterans is about 57% higher than non-veterans. In October of 2021 one of our own Patriots lost his battle as he took his life outside of my local V.A. Senseless! I carry many memories in my heart, many of whom committed suicide while still serving. I remember their successes, friendships, and most of all, their smiling faces. I missed them and, for them I fight! Saying that we're already behind the curve and must step up our Ops tempo is more than obvious. We need to get to work. The time is now! Suicide awareness is a 24/7 mission, and it takes full commitment. Join me as we listen, learn, and prevent suicide. One life lost is too many.

As Military Order of the Purple Heart patriots, I challenge you to become involved in Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Prevention programs.

#### For those in crisis:

We listen

We care

We take action

#### Additionally:

We Educate

We provide resources

We follow up

## Who are we?

We are a team of combat wounded Veterans making a difference. Our military mission continues...

## Who do we serve?

Service members

Families

Friends

Community

## Why we serve:

We cannot leave a brother/sister behind

Families lives matter too

We will go the extra mile with you to obtain care/resources

## MISSION STATEMENT

Military Order of the Purple Heart is committed to be part of the Solution to end the crisis of Suicide. Anyone can join the fight, and everyone should join the fight! We aim to help any service member, veteran, family member or civilian in crisis.

## OUR VISION

To embrace those in crisis or who are feeling mentally challenged or defeated. To walk with them on a path of hope, peace, and healing. To provide Peer Support as well as targeted and specific local resources. Our ultimate goal is to educate, inspire and end the suicide crisis.

Please scan our QR code for information and resources. We will be adding course information soon.

*Be Aware, Save A Life Today*

VETERANS CRISIS LINE  
<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/>

VET CENTER  
<https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY  
<https://nrd.gov/>

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE 988  
[988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org)



*Suicide Awareness*



Jo Keller  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
National Suicide Awareness Project  
Officer & Instructor  
(951) 544-9270



## WALLEYES AND REFLECTIONS

Wendell Affield,  
Chapter 0194-MN-2



We all read the statistics about veteran drug addiction, homelessness, and suicide. Young men and women exposed to war traumas return home and struggle to make sense of what they have witnessed. As veterans, we often bury those memories and remain silent about our experiences. I did, for more than thirty years. For too many, over time, that silence becomes corrosive. Isolation, self-medication, and guilt—often survivor guilt—impacts us. Here in the upper Midwest, we are blessed to have many Veteran Outreach programs to connect veterans and break that self-destruct cycle. I recently participated in two of these retreats and highly recommend other veterans explore these programs.

Here is a glimpse of my experience.

“There’s still steak and hotdogs up here.” Tom is one of the volunteer helpers and a master cook. “Finish it off, or you’ll have it for breakfast.” Eight hours later we are devouring minced steak and chipped hotdogs in cream sauce over biscuits. Several of us joke that it is reincarnated SOS (s--- on a shingle), a staple during our military time. I’m participating in a fishing retreat for veterans, sponsored by *Mandatory Fun Outdoors*.

### Their Mission Statement

Mandatory Fun Outdoors (MFO) provides unique outdoor experiences that foster camaraderie, healthy living, unity and healing for veterans and their families. We are a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), veterans organization designed to get our veterans

and their families outdoors and enjoying this country they sacrificed so much to protect. 100% of all donations go towards lodging, meals and supplies needed for the events.

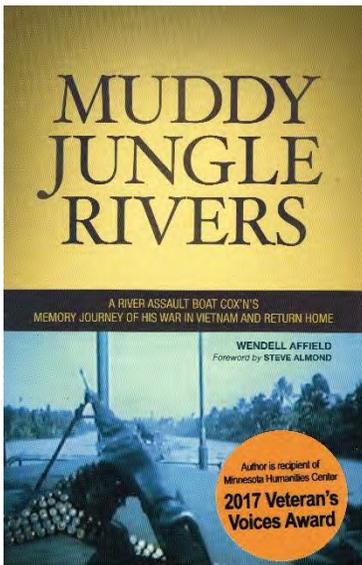
<https://mandatoryfunoutdoors.org/>

I am one of twelve veterans participating in the retreat. We have six boats with a guide in each, plus volunteers ashore to keep things moving along. We are staying at High Banks Resort on Lake Winnibigoshish, located in northern Minnesota. Each morning, with a different guide and fishing companion, we get to know one another. My friends Gary, “Carb,” and I, Vietnam Veterans, are the ancient ones—the rest of the guests are veterans from Desert Storm and later—hard to believe it’s been thirty years since the U.S. entered Kuwait, when the Mideast military adventure began.



Wendell Affield with a 24-inch walleye—too big for eating, the fish was happy to return to the lake.

Evenings, we sit around picnic tables, visiting, reminiscing—military stories, jokes, and life challenges upon returning home, interspersed by reflective silences. There is a sense of trust in the group—we are all veterans; peers who know that others will understand. Yet, a few remain silent. Perhaps this is the first time they have participated in such a group, and they are hesitant. Several years ago, a veteran shared with me, “If I start talking, I will start crying and won’t be able to stop.” I learned that writing my stories and talking about them is an avenue forward—to integrate old traumas into total life experience opens the door to posttraumatic growth (PTG), a concept every veteran should be made aware of.



The last evening, Dan, the organizer, speaks of past traumas and how he found an avenue forward through helping others. He introduces me; I gift a copy of my Vietnam memoir to each veteran and some of the guides. And I talk about the importance of telling our stories—for family and ourselves to make sense of traumas long past.

Earlier in the evening, the resort owner, Evan, spotted the logo *Muddy Jungle Rivers* on my cap. Evan asks, “Do you know the guy who wrote that book?” My friend Gary, standing nearby, chuckles. “Matter of fact I do,” I reply. Evan’s eyes widen. “No kidding. We read his book in a history class at BSU.”

Gary and I are both laughing as Evan figures it out. Evan is an amazing young man. To oldsters like Gary and me, he looks like a high school kid, but he and his wife purchased the resort summer 2022. They are just expecting their first child in a few months. Evan personifies hope for this new generation. Evan and I talk about stories in my book while Gary stands listening. I finally tell Evan, “This is the most amazing veteran you will ever meet,” and I introduce him to Gary Guggenberger. Gary was POW (prisoner of war) in Vietnam for more than four years. He and twenty-six other men were kept in the south, hidden in jungles, often moved, chained to a tree or locked in a hole. The group is known as the “Forgotten 27.” To me, Gary epitomizes resilience and strength of character. Rather than be destroyed by his trauma, he grew. Today he works with several veteran-related programs, helping others.



Gary, sharing pictures of when he was a POW, taken by a French photographer, with Evan and another young man, to view them, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3ykBKoQWHA>

Our four days fly by—Sunday evening I’m home, probably six pounds heavier. Oh yes, we did go out fishing—Mayfly hatch was in full bloom, so finding a hungry walleye was a challenge at times, but our guides did a great job. I will long remember this getaway and the new friends I met. Thank you Mandatory Fun Outdoors.

A few weeks earlier I had participated in “Vietnam Fishing at Lake of the Woods,” sponsored by the Brady Oberg Legacy Foundation. Their mission statement: “Our goal is to enhance and promote a happy and healthy life for our Veterans.” Brady’s father-in-law, Dave McCullum, organized our adventure. He spoke fondly of Brady. An excerpt from the website “Returning to civilian life appeared to go smoothly as he [Brady] continued with college to finish his degree, found employment, and planned to build a home on property he purchased with Katie. But the challenge of assimilating to his new life after combat proved to be more than he could bear and on August 6th, 2015, he took his own life.”

Our Lake of the Woods Retreat was an awesome experience I will not forget. I encourage other veterans to explore these Veteran Retreats. Here is a list of several organizations in the upper Midwest—I’m sure there are many more across the United States, just Google Veterans Outdoor Retreats.

If one or another of these in the Minnesota region sounds interesting to you, submit your name.

## VETERAN OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

American Heroes Outdoor TV:

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

Band of Brothers:

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

Brady Oberg Legacy Foundation:

<https://bradyoberglegacyfoundation.org/>

DAV of Minnesota: <https://davn.org/our-programs/veterans-outdoors/outdoor-events/>

Fishing With Vets: <https://fishingwithvets.org/>

Mandatory Fun Outdoors:

<https://mandatoryfunoutdoors.org/>

Middle River Veterans Outdoors:

<https://mrveteransoutdoors.com/>

Minnesota Veterans Outdoors:

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

Warriors and Walleyes:

<https://warriorsandwalleyes.org/>

Wounded Warrior Guide Service:

<https://wwgsmn.org/About-Us>

## RICK DABERKOW NEEDED THE CAVALRY.

[Tom Kisken](#) Ventura County Star (Reprinted with permission.)

Chapter 0750-CA-6



### "I can't even describe how much it means:' Thousand Oaks vet gets help from Purple Hearts

Rick Daberkow needed the cavalry.

The 82-year-old Navy veteran and his wife, Linda, live on about \$29,000 a year in Social Security benefits and disability payments from the U.S.

Department of Veterans Affairs. If they didn't have a reverse mortgage on their Thousand Oaks home, they might be homeless.

Their financial uncertainty mounted when the heater went on the fritz, leaving the Daberkows shivering and shaking on a cold March morning. They bought a new heating system at a discounted rate of about \$6,000 but were told their centralized air conditioning also no longer worked. A new unit would cost thousands.

"I'm still wondering how I'm going to pay for the heater," Daberkow said. "I can't do both."

They are both disabled because of back and neck injuries that leave them homebound and susceptible to heat and cold. A social worker at the Veterans Affairs clinic in Ventura learned of their straits and turned to a Purple Heart group for help.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 750, is made up of about 110 veterans from San Jose to San Pedro, all of them decorated because they were wounded in combat. The group is named for Sgt. Michael DiRaimondo, an Army medic from Simi Valley. He died in Iraq on Jan. 8, 2004, on a Blackhawk helicopter that crashed on its way to bringing medical aid to wounded soldiers. He was 22.

The Purple Hearts gather monthly in virtual meetings, talking about combat, trauma, VA benefits and the people they want to help. They lead a Thanksgiving food basket drive for vets in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. They delivered 58 meals to the veterans' residential care facility in Ventura for a Fourth of July celebration.

When a Santa Barbara veteran needed repairs to the flood-damaged trailer that serves as his home, the Purple Hearts provided help.

"The whole purpose is to assist needy veterans," said Gary Walker of Simi Valley, the chapter's vice commander. "I like doing things for people who need help."

Jerry Pitman once led a chapter of the order that served Monterey Bay. The group disbanded after age, mortality and the closure of the Fort Ord Army base winnowed it down to just three members. Pitman now serves as commander for the chapter that serves Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

Like many of the Purple Hearts, Pitman was

wounded in the Vietnam War. He was hit by shrapnel on March 10, 1970, when he left his bunker to fire a rocket launcher and stave off attacks from the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army.

"My best friend and I got medevac'd," he said, trying to explain why he feels driven to help other vets. "I feel blessed that I'm here and not 6 feet under."

Many of the group's projects come from the VA. When social worker Ivory Mae Long learned about Daberkow's broken air conditioner, she reached out to Michael Cook, the chapter's former commander and a retired filmmaker.

Cook, who lives in Santa Barbara, was also wounded in Vietnam. Six pieces of shrapnel ripped through his body in 1970 when he was walking point and brushed a wire that triggered a landmine. When Cook heard of Daberkow's story, he reached out to community groups and veterans' organizations that agreed to share the costs.

Then, the unexpected happened. A donor agreed to foot the bill for the installation and repairs himself. He didn't want his name used. He didn't want attention.

"We were all stunned," Cook said. "That's a remarkable human being. You don't see that kind of unassuming charity all that often."

Daberkow is a former financial controller who has had six operations to his neck and shoulder and also suffers from nerve damage. His health means temperature control is a necessity.

When his air conditioning failed and temperatures began to rise, he didn't know where to turn. The help from the military order came as a surprise.

"When they called, I said, 'I don't have a Purple Heart,'" he remembered. They told him their goal is to help any veteran who needs it.

He flipped on the air conditioning for the first time Wednesday when temperatures started to climb. The blast of cool air was a godsend.

"I can't even describe how much it means," he said.

For more information about the Purple Hearts, go to <https://moph-chapter-750.com/>.

Tom Kisken covers health care and other news for the Ventura County Star. Reach him at [tom.kisken@vcstar.com](mailto:tom.kisken@vcstar.com) or 805-437-0255.

## Purple Heart News

Gordon Sumner  
Chapter 0353-VA-1

### **AUGUST 4 & 5, 2023 A CELEBRATION OF THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL**

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Department of Virginia and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association celebrated the establishment of America's oldest military award, The Purple Heart Medal, during various ceremonies on 4 & 5 August 2022 at Mount Vernon, Virginia, the home of General and Mrs. George Washington.

On Friday, the Patriots and their guests enjoyed a visit to the National Museum of the US Army. After the Museum trip, we assembled in the Mount Vernon Inn for drinks prior to the Wreath Laying Ceremony. At 1800 hours, Patriots and guests assembled at the Purple Heart Monument by the Texas Gate (Main Entrance Gate) to honor and remember those awarded the Purple Heart Medal. Remarks were made by Ben King, Commander, Dept of Virginia, Military Order of the Purple Heart and Angelo Wider, Commander, Chapter 353, MOPH. The group was warmly welcomed by Jason Rusk, Nat. Purple Heart Day coordinator for Mount Vernon. Following the wreath laying ceremony, the group was given a presentation and tasting of George Washington's original recipe rye whiskey followed by a personal tour of the Mansion by a few of the great Docents from Mount Vernon.

Saturday's ceremony began in the Smith Auditorium with a great concert by the Colonial Singers of Williamsburg as they provided pre-ceremony music. Next was the official National Purple Heart Day Ceremony. Everyone was welcomed by Ms. Allison Wickens, VP for Education, Mount Vernon. She recognized all of the attending Purple Heart Medal recipients by the prior of their military service they were serving

and was awarded the medal. The Keynote Speaker was Major Nick Dockery, SF, USA. Nick spoke of his firsthand experiences and shared personal stories of those with whom he served in combat who were wounded or who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. His presentation was warmly received by all.

After the formal ceremony, attendees were treated to an encore performance by the Colonial Singers of Williamsburg, then all entered the Mount Vernon Inn for a fantastic reception.

The rest of the day provided attendees the opportunity to explore the grounds, Visitors Center, and the Education Building of Mount Vernon.

We greatly appreciated the support that was once again provided by the staff and volunteers of Mount Vernon. We also greatly appreciate the support by Boeing who sponsored this year's events.

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's ceremonies / weekend, 2 & 3 August.



Yours in Patriotism,  
Gordon Sumner, PhD  
Past Commander, Chapter 353

### SUMTER, SC PURPLE HEART DAY

Don Kellum  
Chapter 0817-SC-4



On August 1, Sumter, SC Mayor David Merchant signed an official Proclamation declaring Monday, August 7 as Purple Heart Day in the City of Sumter. The Proclamation honors military veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart. Pictured above are members of the General George L. Mabry Jr. Chapter 817 which was founded in 2011 and consists of 37 Purple Heart recipients from Sumter and nearby communities. In the photo above standing left to right are Patriots Brittany Lawson, Ron Harvin, Commander Harry Thompson, Mayor Merchant, Patriots Dave Nesbitt, Jamie O'Neal, Don Kellum, Adjutant Leroy Thompson, and Patriot James Oliver. In the front row (seated) are Patriots Jesse Burgess, John Carter, and Ollie Hannah.

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Carlton Cannon  
National Chaplain

### EVERY PATRIOT IS VITAL

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea.

(Romans 16:1)



The 90<sup>th</sup> Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana was a great success and an answer to prayer. Special thanks to all our PATRIOTS and AUXILIARY who poured their hearts and souls into making this one of the best ever! God bless each of you!

With that being said, I am reminded that it only takes one part of the body to slow things down. Perhaps, like myself, you have been in a church where there was an internal argument going on, and everyone in the church was occupied by it. It was only one issue, but it controlled everyone, and the ministry was stymied. There are many people who go to church and say, **“Preach to me. Sing to me. Serve me. If I’m sick, visit me. If I’m hurting, comfort me. If I need encouragement, encourage me. But don’t expect me to give any of my**

**time, talents, or resources to this work.” Such a person is not acting as a VITAL church member, but rather sucking the lifeblood of the church’s ministry without making any meaningful contribution.** That is a sin and an insult to our Heavenly Father!

As COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS, we must never forget that we are not here because we deserve to be. **We are here by HIS GRACE and MERCY** (Eph. 2:8-9). Every Patriot has a **VITAL** role to play in making the Military Order of the Purple Heart and Auxiliary function properly. The job of leaders is NOT to do the work while the others watch; and It is also not good for a Patriot to benefit from the Order and NOT contribute anything. I am blessed to know you as a PATRIOT and have you as my COMRADE! In closing, please remember the families of Chaplain Angello Moreno; PNC James Randles, and Patriot Russell Morgan during their time of bereavement.

**My prayer:** Lord God Almighty, may I never look to our beloved Military Order of the Purple Heart to simply help me without also investing my skills and talents to help others who are located in it as well. Continue to bless the Military Order of the Purple Heart and Auxiliary as we **“GIT’er DONE TOGETHER!”**

National Chaplain MOPH  
Carlton L Cannon



A marker at the temporary memorial, near Shanksville, PA, honors the passengers and crew of Flight 93, hijacked on September 11, 2001. ([National Archives Catalog ID 5616321](#))



An aerial view of the Pentagon two days after September 11 shows the impact point where the hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the building. (U.S. Air Force Technical Sgt. Cedric H. Rudisill; [National Archives Catalog ID 6523869](#))



A man walks through the 9/11 Empty Sky memorial at sunrise across from New York's Lower Manhattan and One World Trade Center in Liberty State Park in Jersey City, New Jersey, Sept. 11, 2013.

## PATRIOT DAY 2023



### Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance: September 11, 2023

Honor the heroes of 9/11 on Patriot Day - come together to remember and pay tribute to those who lost their lives in service of their country.

Patriot Day on Sept. 11 is a day to **remember and honor** the lives of those who bravely sacrificed themselves for our country's freedom. It began in 2001, just days after the tragic events of 9/11 to commemorate all those affected by the tragedy, including military personnel and first responders. On this day we can come together as a nation with respect and admiration for those selfless heroes who gave their lives for us.

[Photos courtesy ABC News](#)





**MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE  
HEART  
NATIONAL POW / MIA RECOGNITION  
DAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2023**

**“We will not rest until we achieve the fullest possible accounting of all missing American military service members from all wars and operations.”**

The numbers of unaccounted-military personnel are staggering, currently 72,000 missing, going back to World War II. Many will never be recovered because the loss occurred over deep water, were due to catastrophic explosions, or eyewitnesses to the incidents have long since passed, but every new identification helps bring closure to one more American family and is one step closer to achieving the fullest possible accounting of our missing. It is also a re-commitment to those currently serving in uniform today that America will not rest until we bring you home.

We encourage the U.S. government to continue its POW/MIA accounting efforts, and we are directly engaged with other nations and their veterans’ organizations to urge their cooperation and assistance to obtain information about missing Americans. MOPH national officers meet with senior U.S. officials to stress the importance of conducting investigation and recovery operations, as well as gaining access to documents and archival research facilities.

**EVENTS:** The Military Order of the Purple Heart will plan and hold POW/MIA events during the current 2023-2024 administrative year. These events may be in cooperation with current long-standing, annual Chapter and National events. The scheduling of these events will center around the **National POW/MIA Recognition Day** which is observed on **September 15, 2023**.

**REPORTING AND SUPPORT:** The Military Order of the Purple Heart **Region Commanders** and **Department Commanders** should track press releases from Defense POW /MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) regarding the recovery of those missing from their respective Region and State to ensure attendance at services for those returned to their families and this Nation. Updates from DPAA can be located here: [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency > News & Stories > Recent News & Stories \(dpaa.mil\)](#)

Family members of those missing and for updates please go to:

[Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency \(DPAA\)](#) DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



Joseph A. Tormala, USMC-USA (Ret)  
National POW/MIA Officer \* Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Email: [joetormalaret@gmail.com](mailto:joetormalaret@gmail.com)

**#POWMIARecognitionDay**

Each year since 1989, a presidential proclamation brings the nation together to remember and honor the members of the Armed Forces who remain missing in action or are prisoners of war. The day serves as a call to action, reminding the nation to rededicate our efforts. We’re responsible for bringing our patriots home and for caring for our military families awaiting word of their loved ones.

The POW/MIA Flag is flown on this day over significant national landmarks and government buildings across the country. Not only do the Capitol, the White House, and the Korean and Vietnam Veterans Memorials fly the flag, but so do the offices of the secretaries of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, and of the Selective Service System. Additionally, the POW/MIA Flag flies on the grounds or in the lobbies of every major military installation, post office, and all VA Medical Centers and national cemeteries.

## WALTER RAM – WWII POW

John Moore

### Chapter 0442-AZ-6

**September 15<sup>th</sup> is POW/MIA Day.** We will always remember and honor our Nation's prisoners of war and those still missing in action and keep the promise as a Nation to bring all of our heroes home. A special thank you to our members who sacrificed by spending time as a POW.



*"When I was your age, I didn't go backpacking across Europe, I bombed the s\*\*\* out of it!" -Walter Ram*

*Walter Ram's B-17 crash landed after being hit by enemy fire while flying over Kiel, Germany.*

Patriot Walter Ram, 0442-AZ-6, a World War II veteran, was presented his second Purple Heart Medal by U.S. Senator Martha McSally Aug. 20 during a World War II Purple Heart Presentation Ceremony held at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The 95-year-old Nogales native was presented the medal by U.S. Senator Martha McSally in front of his sister, sons, grandchildren and dozens of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base community members and Airmen.

McSally, a retired Air Force fighter pilot, told Ram that she is always honored and inspired to spend time with men like him, members of the Greatest Generation.

"It's never too late to give honor where it's due," McSally said. "This is well-deserved."

Ram was living in Nogales with his five brothers and two sisters when he left high school to join the Army in 1940, lying about his age to get in. He was honorably discharged the following year, but re-enlisted when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

In July 1942, Ram graduated from the Army Air Forces Technical School in Scott Field, Illinois. He then went to gunnery school at Harlingen Army Air Force Base in Texas, and in August 1942, Staff Sgt. Ram graduated from the aerial gunner's course and was sent to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base as a B-24

radioman/gunman. Eventually, he was assigned to Bassingbourn, England, and in April 1943, at 19, Ram was the radio operator on the B-17 named the "Helno-Gal."



During his third bombing mission, Ram's B-17 was crippled by an attacking German fighter and was forced to crash land. They were quickly rescued by Allies. It was this mission for which he was recognized in the Aug. 20 Purple Heart presentation.

Twenty-three days later on his fifth bombing mission, he and his aircrew were shot down over Kiel, Germany, where he began his year and a half as a prisoner of war. Ram received his first Purple Heart for his time as a POW.

A crew member had thrown him from the crashing plane, and he parachuted into enemy hands.

He was held in a civilian hospital in Kiel and eventually ended up in an interrogation center in Frankfurt.

Ram recalled being interrogated over and over at gunpoint, but refusing to give information other than his name, rank, and service number. His face was badly burned, he said.

Ram was moved to a prison hospital in Berlin for four months where his burns were treated. He later was moved by train to Stalag 7A, Germany's largest POW camp, north of Moosburg in southern Bavaria. He

remained there until October 1943, when he and other POWs were transferred by troop train to Stalag 17B near Krems, Austria.

The food was horrible and there was no glass in the windows, Ram said. They slept on wooden beds.

“We had one blanket and one overcoat, so we froze,” he said. He dropped from 160 pounds to 97.

He was at Stalag 17B for 19 months.

In April 1945, Ram and his fellow POWs were ordered to move out because the Russians were coming from the east and Gen. George Patton was coming from the west.

They marched more than 300 miles, Ram said. He lost six toenails because his shoes couldn’t protect him from the rain and snow.

He also recalled seeing a long line of Jewish prisoners and remembering how “big and strong” he and his fellow POWs felt compared to them.

“There was nothing left to them,” he said.

One fell in front of him, and he was just about to give him some water when one of the guards shot him dead, Ram said. He wasn’t the only one who was shot, Ram said. The guards left a long line of dead Jewish people because the prisoners simply couldn’t make it any further.

The POWs were liberated two weeks later, on May 8, 1945, by Patton’s 13th Armored Division near Braunau, Austria.

Ram remembers how happy he was to get home to Nogales, but then received the news two of his brothers died in the Pacific while fighting the Japanese, and his father was dying of cancer.

Ram finished high school and went to college, earning a degree in business administration. He and his wife, Katherine, spent much of their life in Tubac and Nogales. They were married 62 years before she died in December 2014. They have three sons and six grandchildren.

Copies of Walter’s Book, *Helno-Gal*, is available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).



## WWII MEMORIAL REDEDICATION WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN

Brenda Josoupit  
Chapter 0127-MI-2



Michigan State  
Commander Ron  
Allen at the  
rededication of the  
WWII memorial in  
Wyandotte,  
Michigan.



Commander Ron  
Allen with  
Congresswoman  
Debbie Dingell at  
the rededication.

## WWII OPERATION DOWNFALL

Tom Lasser

Chapter 0210-CA-6

Nearly 500,000 Purple Hearts Were Made In Preparation for the Proposed American Invasion of Japan



Photo Credit: Underwood Archives / Getty Images

Operation Downfall was a planned military operation by the United States and its allies toward the end of the Second World War. The aim was to invade and occupy Japan's home islands in what would have been one of history's largest amphibious assaults. It also had the potential to be one of the deadliest military operations ever executed. Despite the extensive planning that went into it, Operation Downfall was never put into action.

### Developing Operation Downfall



Invasion of Okinawa, 1945. (Photo Credit: Bettmann / Getty Images)

After the success of [D-Day](#), it was becoming more and more clear that the war in Europe was going to

soon be over. However, for those fighting in the Pacific, peace was still far away.

In early 1945, the Combined Chiefs of Staff met at the [Argonaut Conference](#) to [come up with a plan](#) to put an end to the fighting once and for all. At the conference, they created the first components of what would become Operation Downfall, the American-led invasion of Japan.

The plan was based on the assumption that the conflict in Europe would be over by July 1, 1945 and that the [invasion of Okinawa](#), which had yet to occur, would be over by the middle of August. Operation Downfall would be split into separate parts, which were intended to take place in November 1945 and at the beginning of '46, respectively.

The former would [use troops already serving](#) in the Pacific, while the latter would see a combination of those men and troops who had been transferred after the fighting in Europe came to an end. The scale was astounding, and the operation would have been a larger amphibious landing than D-Day.

### War History Online

Aug 9, 2023 [Rosemary Giles, Guest Author](#)

Read the rest of the story –



<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/world-war-ii/operation-downfall.html>



## RUPTURED DUCK PIN GIVEN

LOU ZAYAS

MOPH 0465-GA-4

The Honorable Service Lapel Button, colloquially called "[Ruptured Duck](#)" by the members of the military, was a lapel button awarded for honorable Federal military service between 1925 and 1946.[1] The award, designed by Anthony de Francisci, was issued for wear on the left lapel of civilian clothing upon discharge.



The U.S. departments of War and the Navy issued the lapel button to eligible servicemen and women upon discharge. It was made of gilt brass, except during metal shortages during which it was made of gilt plastic. Service members who received the plastic version were later allowed to trade it in for the brass version.



100-year-old Dick, WW II Navy veteran being pinned by Honor Flight Bay Area President Michael Singleton. Still very active in his church and community, Dick plans to wear his pin to church

tomorrow to show it off and tell the story. Dick's "baby brother", 97-year-old Bill will get his pin Thursday from Dick. Bill is also a WW II Navy vet.

## SCOTT COUNTY MEMORIAL DAY

Bill Bull

MN Finance Officer

Memorial Day flag raising at Scott County Government Center. Attended by Minnesota MOPH Past Commander David Bellis. Dedicated to Veterans of Scott County, MN who have served their Country.



## GOLD STAR MOTHERS AND FAMILY'S DAY

**The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895 as amended), has designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day."**

### A Brief History of Gold Star Mothers and Family's Day

By [Abigail Carey, Army Public Affairs Fellow](#) on 9/25/2022

The origin of what would become Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day started with a simple accessory: a black armband with a gilt star.

During World War I, family members would wear these armbands to represent a loved one who had died in the war. The stars would later find their way to being displayed on banners that were hung in windows or front doors. Banners with blue stars were hung to represent immediate family members who were serving. Some would have one star; others would have two or three. The stars symbolized the people who were supposed to be home but were missing from the dinner table. If a family member died during their service, the blue star would be replaced with a gold one.

Grace Darling Seibold was one of these mothers with a gold star in her window. Her son, 23-year-old George Vaughn Seibold, volunteered to be an aviator and was sent to England in 1917 as part of the British Royal Flying Corps. Grace and George had regularly exchanged letters until she suddenly stopped hearing from him. Nevertheless, she held out hope. In 1918, she received his personal belongings and confirmation of his death. George's body was never identified.

Grace then used her time and grief to reach out to other mothers trying to cope with similar losses. Twenty-five of

In 1936, Congress designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day (now known as Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day).

Following the end of World War II, Congress designated the Gold Star Lapel Pin. The pin was modeled after the banners and features a gold star with a purple background surrounded by laurel leaves. According to law, the United States military must present the lapel pin to the immediate family member of the deceased. If you see someone wearing this pin, know that they lost someone close to them who served the country heroically.

Gold Star mothers and families

suffer a loss too terrible for most people to imagine. Nothing can erase that tragedy from their lives. Today, we honor their sacrifices. This Sunday, September 25, Arlington National Cemetery is honored to host Gold Star Mothers and Families to commemorate the holiday at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Photo credit: Library of Congress

## GOLD STAR MOTHER'S AND FAMILY'S DAY

these women banded together in 1928 to create American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. — a group that still exists today — to honor their children, heal together, and support veterans and the nation.

[Read more.](#)





Stories of Valor is an ongoing biographical program featuring written, audio and video tributes of America's Purple Heart recipients curated by the National Purple Heart Honor Mission. This project helps ensure we capture and tell a new generation of Americans about those who sacrificed so much for our nation. **This month we are highlighting U.S. Army SGT Randy McConnell and U.S. Marine Corps SSgt Oliver Hickok.**



**U.S. Army SGT Randy McConnell is one of the Army's most decorated veterans of all time.**

In 1968, McConnell signed up to serve in the Vietnam War after a football injury halted his collegiate dreams.

He was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, serving as a Screaming Eagle and Pathfinder. McConnell only served in Vietnam for six months and three days, arriving just before the start of the Tet Offensive, but he felt the full force of the enemy - being shot, injured by shrapnel and targeted by the NVA.

**[READ SGT McConnell's Story of Valor HERE.](#)**



**Oliver Hickok first enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1956, before joining the Marine Corps in 1960.**

Hickok's first tour in Vietnam was part of Operation SHUFLY. After finishing his first tour in Vietnam, he returned to the U.S. and completed several schooling opportunities before being redeployed to Vietnam with the 7th ITT.

After previously being wounded on January 26, 1968, Hickok was hit three times – in the left shoulder, back and knee – during an attack February 2, 1968 during the Tet Offensive. He would go on to serve at the Recruiting Station in Kingston before retiring.

**[WATCH SSgt. Hickok tell his Story of Valor HERE.](#)**

# Share a Story of Valor Today

Capturing stories like these creates a lasting legacy for those brave men and women who reflect the true cost of freedom. Help us tell these remarkable stories and preserve them for future generations.

[Share A Story Of Valor](#)

## About the Purple Heart Mission

Since its founding in 1997 as the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Inc., the National Purple Heart Honor Mission has been dedicated to paying tribute to our nation's combat wounded through special outreach and educational programs. Through the expansion of a national Purple Heart Roll of Honor, Purple Heart Patriot Project missions, the celebration of National Purple Heart Day and other programming, we engage people of all ages in showing respect for our nation's heroes. You can learn more and donate to support the work of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission at [www.PurpleHeartMission.org](http://www.PurpleHeartMission.org).

Reprinted with permission:

**Bob Driscoll** | Senior Associate

**Empire Solutions** | *Strategies for Growth* | [www.EmpireStrategy.com](http://www.EmpireStrategy.com)

1-716-307-7406 M |

## NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY

Dick Tobiason Dick Tobiason, Chairman, Bend Heroes Foundation; Project Manager, National Medal of Honor Highway April 3, 2023

Beginning 14 years ago, the non-profit Bend Heroes Foundation located in Bend, Oregon initiated legislation and dedication of 8 veterans highways across Oregon: WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf/Afghanistan/Iraq, Purple Heart Trail, POW/MIA Memorial Highway, and Oregon Medal of Honor Highway.

By its 2017 initiative, the Foundation requested the

Oregon Legislature to designate the 451-mile U.S. Highway 20 across Oregon as the **Oregon Medal of Honor Highway** honoring 29 Medal of Honor recipients connected with Oregon. Twelve highway signs were dedicated along U.S. Hwy 20 between Newport, OR (Pacific Ocean) and the Oregon/Idaho border.

As drafted by the Foundation, the law creating the **Oregon Medal of Honor Highway** envisioned a Medal of Honor Highway spanning our nation between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans on U.S. Hwy 20 honoring each state's current and future Medal of



Honor recipients and recipients from all states who travel on it.

At 3,365 miles in length, U.S. Highway 20 is the longest highway in our nation. Its western terminus is in Newport, OR on the Pacific Ocean, crosses 12 states with its eastern terminus in Boston, MA at the Atlantic Ocean.

Since the Medal of Honor medal was first awarded during the Civil War 160 years ago, 3,516 awards have been presented with every state represented. As of March 1, 2023, there are only 65 Medal of Honor recipients living in the United States of America.

Of the 1,241 awards of the Medal of Honor medal presented since WWI, 645 or 52% of those recipients also received the Purple Heart medal with some receiving up to 10 awards of our nation's oldest military medal.

The Medal of Honor medal is the highest award presented to members of the Armed Forces for **acting with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty during combat at the risk of one's life against an enemy of the United States**. President Lincoln signed legislation creating the Medal of Honor award during the Civil War.

Veterans' groups located in all 11 states east of Oregon partnered with Bend Heroes Foundation, their state legislatures, and governors creating 11 state Medal of Honor Highways on U.S. Hwy 20. The groups included the American Legion, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Collectively, the 12 states honor about 60% of our nation's 3,516 Medal of Honor recipients from all 50 states. Medal of Honor recipients from the other 38 states are not honored on U.S. Hwy 20 but should be. A **National Medal of Honor Highway** overlaying the 12 state Medal of Honor Highways designated by the U. S. Congress would honor all 3,516 recipients from all 50 states and territories and all future recipients.

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden and Pennsylvania Representative Mike Kelly have graciously agreed to our request to introduce legislation for the National Medal of Honor Highway. It would be the first veterans highway on the longest continuous highway in the United States and designated by Congress.

The national leaders of 6 major veterans groups have sent letters of support for Congressional action to Bend Heroes Foundation. Included is MOPH National

Commander Christopher Vedvick's March 25 letter of support and praising the five Purple Heart recipients who managed their state Medal of Honor Highways across Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Massachusetts.

In his letter dated National Medal of Honor Day, Commander Vedvick stated: *"The National Medal of Honor Highway will serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made by these courageous individuals and the debt of gratitude we owe to all those who have served our country in uniform. By honoring these heroes this way, we can inspire future generations to live up to the high ideals of service and sacrifice they represent"*.

Below are photos of some of the 40 signs already dedicated in Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. MOPH project managers are included in the photos with legislators, governors and fellow MOPH members. Note display of the 3 versions of the Medal of Honor medal. Massachusetts will dedicate its signs before summer. Other states have already dedicated 34 more signs with 26 more expected for a total of 100 signs on 3,365 miles of highway.

Hopefully, Congress will have already introduced legislation by the time this article is published.



Since its creation during the American Civil War, the Medal of Honor has undergone several design changes. The U.S. Army and U.S. Navy have always had separate designs for their personnel. Until the U.S. Air Force introduced its design in 1965, all airmen received the Army design. The U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard receive the U.S. Navy design.



Robert D. Maxwell, WWII Medal of Honor Recipient and Recipient of 2 Purple Hearts Seated at Dedicated Sign in Newport, OR. Purple Heart Recipient Dick Tobiason Standing Next to Oregon Department of Transportation Sign Installer in Orange Shirt



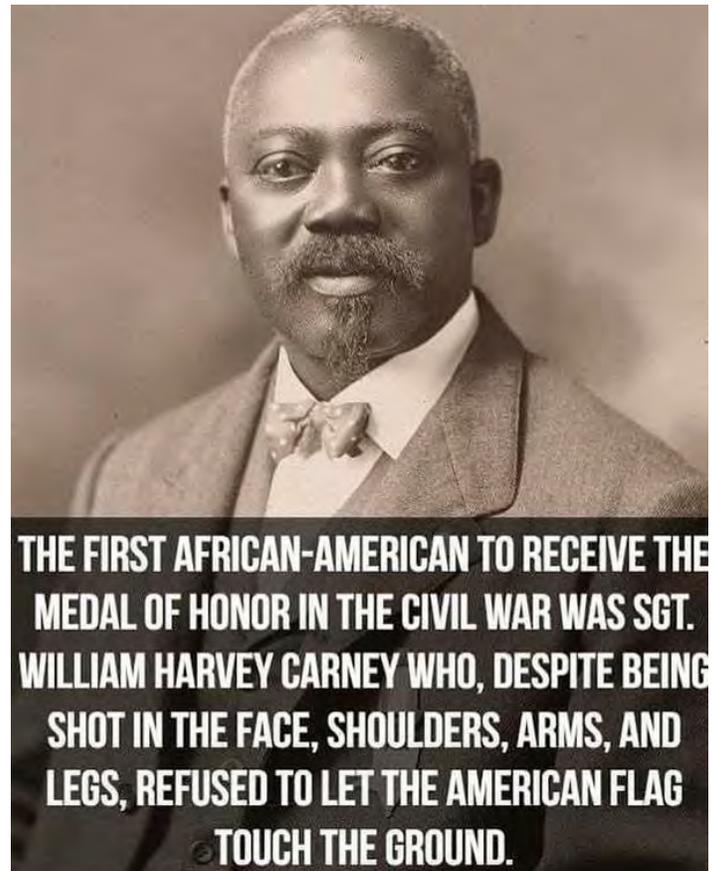
Wyoming MOPH Department Commander Barry Gasdek Standing Under Dedicated Sign Next to Wyoming Governor, 3<sup>rd</sup> from Right.



Idaho MOPH Department Commander Ned Barker Standing Next to Idaho Governor Under Center of Dedicated Sign. Purple Heart Recipient Dick Tobiason Standing Next to Idaho Governor



Purple Heart Recipient Pete Oakander Standing Under Dedicated Sign, 4<sup>th</sup> from Left.



## ARIZONA VETERANS HOME

John Moore

Chapter 042-AZ-6

Patriots John Grand, John Moore, Dave Bertagoli & Cody Phipps visited the Arizona State Veterans Home Tucson.



The Chapter visited the Arizona State Veterans Home to honor Purple Heart recipients; **Richard Ross, George Sievers, & Gerald Cornelius**, who are residents in the home. Each was presented a Certificate of Appreciation, a PH challenge coin, a PH Hat, a Badge of Military Merit, and a mini-Purple Heart.



Patriot John Moore presents veterans home Director, **Sam Nanez**, a check for \$500 for the welfare of the residents of the home.



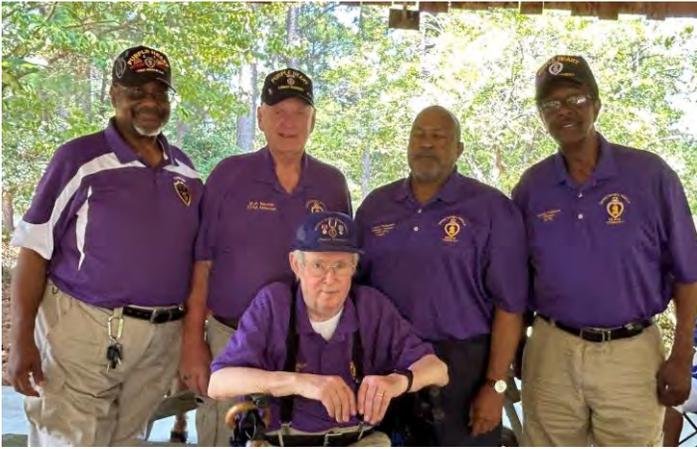
## FUN DAY AND PICNIC

Don Kellum

Chapter 0817-SC-4



On July 22, Sumter, SC Chapter 817 conducted a Fun Day and Picnic at Swan Lake Gardens/. Pictured above during the Chapter Picnic at the near table are Patriot Johnny Williams and his family. The lady facing away from the camera is Rosemary Nesbitt. At the far table are Adjutant Leroy Thompson and his family.



At termination of the Chapter Fun Day and Picnic, the above photo was taken of chapter members participating in the event. Standing left to right are Adjutant Leroy Thompson, former Commander Dave Nesbitt, Commander Harry Thompson, and Patriot Johnny Williams. Seated is Patriot Don Kellum.

#### Chapter Leadership Awards



During May, Chapter 817 of Sumter, SC presented leadership awards to Jr. ROTC cadets to recognize outstanding leaders at all three area High Schools. Pictured above is the SC Department Adjutant and Chapter Finance Officer Brittany Lawson presenting the award to the outstanding cadet at Sumter High School.

## PACT ACT EXTENSION



PACT Act Extension is ending soon. Thanks to the [PACT Act](#), many Veterans are now able to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits – including Vietnam Veterans, Gulf War Veterans, Veterans who deployed to a combat zone and left active duty in the last ten years, and more. But for some Veterans, the time to apply is running out. Specifically:

- Veterans who deployed to a combat zone, never enrolled in VA health care, and left active duty between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care – **but their deadline to apply is September 30, 2023.**
- Veterans who deployed to a combat zone, never signed up for VA health care, and left active duty after October 1, 2013, are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care – **but their deadline to apply is 10 years after they left active duty (meaning that some Veterans' eligibility could expire as early as October 1, 2023).**

If you fall into any of the above categories, VA wants you to apply for the health care you deserve today at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).

Even if you don't fall into those categories, there are other ways for you to access [VA health care](#). And – of course – you can also still apply for [PACT Act disability compensation benefits anytime](#).  
<https://www.va.gov/res.../the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>



**FAIRBURN, GA PURPLE HEART CITY**  
LOU ZAYAS  
MOPH 0465-GA-4

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, the City of Fairburn, Georgia became a Purple Heart City.



**HAMILTON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**  
LOU ZAYAS  
MOPH 0465-GA-4



Commander Zayas presents Patriot Lee Stuart a \$500.00 scholarship check for his granddaughter Grace Hamilton at their meeting July 15, 2023. She will be attending school in Texas. Her credentials were impeccable.



**MOPH AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER**

Rada Cutlery has many great products at great prices. It's the perfect gift for every cook (and non-cook) on your list. All earnings are exclusively used to provide services for the Veterans we serve. 100% of Rada's items are made in the USA. Please consider purchasing from Rada or items in our store.



To visit our Rada website, please click [HERE](#).



To visit our online webstore for more great products, click [HERE](#).

## FIRST MONUMENT FOR THE ORDER – 1943

Dave Polczynski

Chapter 0127-MI-2 “Down River”

It is good to remember and reflect on the good events and happenings instead of all the bad ones.



The monument is a focal point of the Downriver area. We hold our ceremonies there . Located in downtown Wyandotte.



Chapter Members attending a ceremony at the monument.

## Wyandotte Independence Day Parade July 4, 2023

Dave Polczynski

Chapter 0127-MI-2 “Down River”



From left to right is Past Michigan Department Commander Lenny Milewski, Present Michigan Department Commander Ron Allen, Past Commander David Polczynski Chapter 127 Downriver.



## TWO-MILLION-MILE JOURNEY

Eric O. Johnson

### Chapter 2222-MD-1

Once upon a time, in the bustling city of Washington, D.C., there lived a man named Timothy Abele. Timothy was no ordinary man; he was a patriotic soul who had dedicated his life to serving his country. Having served in the military and now a member of the esteemed Military Order of the Purple Heart, Timothy's commitment to duty and honor was unwavering.



After his military service, Timothy found a second calling in a rather unexpected place – behind the wheel of a Metrobus. With his keen attention to detail and a sincere desire to serve his community, Timothy became a reliable and beloved figure among the city's commuters. Little did they know,

however, that this humble bus driver had an extraordinary achievement under his belt.

One crisp autumn day, as the leaves danced in the wind, Timothy completed a remarkable feat – he reached an astonishing two million safe miles as a Metrobus driver. It was a milestone that even the most seasoned drivers could only dream of achieving. The news spread like wildfire through the city, sparking admiration and pride within the hearts of the community.

Metrobus officials, keen to honor Timothy's exceptional accomplishment, planned a surprise celebration for him. The day arrived, and Timothy, unaware of the grand tribute awaiting him, embarked on his usual route along the city's busiest streets. But little did he know that this time, he was transporting more than just passengers.

As Timothy approached his next stop, the bus suddenly diverted from its normal route. Confused, he glanced in the rearview mirror, only to find a group of decorated veterans from the Military Order of the Purple Heart boarding his bus, wearing their medals with pride. These were men and women who understood the true extent of Timothy's achievement – the dedication, the discipline, and

the undying commitment to safety.

The veterans, grateful for Timothy's service to his country, had come to salute him. Each of them shared tales of bravery and sacrifice, thanking him for his continued commitment to protecting the lives of those riding his bus. Timothy, moved by the unexpected honor, felt humbled by their presence. His eyes welled with tears as he listened to their stories and words of appreciation.

News of the surprise celebration circulated throughout the city.

Passengers on Timothy's bus expressed their gratitude with heartfelt applause and words of admiration for the man who had driven them safely day after day. Timothy, the bus driver turned national hero, had touched countless lives during his two-million-mile journey.



From that day forward, Timothy's story became an inspiration not only to his fellow Metrobus drivers but to all who heard it. It reminded them of the immense impact that dedication, commitment, and kindness can have on a community. It was a tale that showcased the true essence of being a patriot – serving the country in any capacity, no matter how small, and making a difference, one safe mile at a time.



# GREAT FUN WAS HAD BY ALL!



Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary

90<sup>th</sup>

NATIONAL CONVENTION  
& HEALING THE HEART CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY:  
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.  
THE ARMY UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR  
BRAIN HEALTH

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA - AUGUST 14-18, 2023

The poster features a cityscape at the top, the 90th anniversary logo with a map of Louisiana, and logos for JPMorgan Chase & Co. and the Army University Center for Brain Health.

## 2023 MOPH AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Barbara Ray

Auxiliary National President



Greetings Everyone!

I would like to thank the MOPHA for this roller coaster ride by becoming the 2023-2024 National President of a prestigious organization. It is the greatest accomplishment that anyone could

ever imagine having. Also, I would like to thank Colleen and the Department of Louisiana for giving us a convention that was the talk of the town. Thank you, team!



Our first event to kick off the convention was a tour of the WWII museum in New Orleans. There we were able to follow the lives of patriots by receiving a dog tag following their life journey in the military.



Another amazing event of learning was at the USS KID. We learned about submarines (from old to new) and the roles the submarines played in the different wars.

The Commander of the MOPH will be working closely with us to put funds into our auxiliary bank accounts. This is not to say that our workloads will increase, but hopefully our bank accounts will grow. This is just in the planning stage and more news on this subject will be published once it is finalized.

Our main goal this year is for the auxiliary to have more visibility. I want people to know what we do, what we are about and the many hats we sometimes wear. Our ladies work hard and so much of who we are is truly unknown. This is to say, "we will strut our stuff".

We are off to a great start for this year, and I am looking forward to accomplishing great things in our Auxiliary. The year will move quickly, and Orlando will be here before we know it. So Auxiliary members, let's get busy and start saving for the convention and have fun along the way.

I will close for now and leave you with a few pictures from our outstanding convention.

Barbara Hale-Ray  
National President



## COMMANDER'S S.M.A.R.T. GOALS



The Commander's briefing to the Convention included his vision as to how we, the TEAM, will be able to accomplish the Order's mission. The full briefing is included in this issue and can be downloaded from the website, after logging in, at <https://www.purpleheart.org/MOPHForms>.



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.

**We do this By: TEAMWORK**





**S M A R T**

- **What do you want to achieve?**
- **Explain exactly what you want to accomplish.**
- **How will you be able to measure progress during and/or after?**
- **Is this attainable?**
- **Is it realistic?**
- **When do you want to accomplish this?**

- **Promote the Programs in the Order**
- Task program officers goals for Improvement
- By updates every two months
- By Articles in the PH magazine and Website and Social media
- From reports showing and sharing success stories
- In November 2023

- **Updating the Website**
- Easier for National Officer to Login
- Classes to use website
- Once a month training class for each Region
- Have access by mobile device and computers
- Sharing information builds teamwork
- Will notice when reports are due

- **Working with the Auxiliary**
- Build the contacts with the Auxiliary
- Conducting meetings with Auxiliary at all levels to share Information
- Teamwork
- Meeting at all levels to support each other
- Seeing Auxiliary and the Order at Events together



**S M A R T**

- **What do you want to achieve?**
- **Explain exactly what you want to accomplish.**
- **How will you be able to measure progress during and/or after?**
- **Is this attainable?**
- **Is it realistic?**
- **When do you want to accomplish this?**

- **Clean and Restructure Finances**
- Restart set up the accounting program properly
- Through monthly Finance Reports
- Yes by the monthly reports
- Getting the Financial records Organize
- Quick books done by 1 Dec 2023
- 2021, 2022 Audits done by 1 Dec 23 Audit for 2023 Done by Feb 2024

- **Identify and reduce bad members information**
- 23 a Week
- Have chapter officers contact their members
- Updates sent to Region Commander from Departments
- Only clean up the ones needed
- Largest Chapter having 820 if had to them all would have it done 2 Months with 4 patriot helping
- Want this done by December 2023

- **Help the MOPH FUND raise \$100,000**
- By Promoting the MOPH FUND will bring in revenue for the ORDER
- By having National Officer improve grants request
- Keeping information updated on programs
- Grants and donations received
- \$50,000 by Feb 2024 and \$50,000 by July 2024





# S M A R T

What do you want to achieve?	Explain exactly what you want to accomplish.	How will you be able to measure progress during and/or after?	Is this attainable?	Is it realistic?	When do you want to accomplish this?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the VFW on Service Officers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have MOPH members be train and certified with the VFW Service Officer Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start with a letter of Intent between VFW and MOPH</li> <li>Form a committee to see if this is can work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes this will be the start to see if we can keep to our mission Statement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes by putting a team together and working out the details</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start after the National Convention</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work on how Communications is done in the Order</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication from National is to the Regions, and Region to Departments, Departments to Chapters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To Reestablish this by letting the (Chain of Command work)</li> <li>TEAMWORK</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This can be done by asking who they contact first before answering Questions or helping them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes help out when possible but work out away to make sure all is involved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start after the National Convention</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Working on the Orders Legislative Issues</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have the Legislative officer work with Departments Reps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having the Legislative Officer have a quarterly meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teamwork through the Legislative Officer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting the Order Legislative issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a report to Congress</li> </ul>



# S M A R T

What do you want to achieve?	Explain exactly what you want to accomplish.	How will you be able to measure progress during and/or after?	Is this attainable?	Is it realistic?	When do you want to accomplish this?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Options for printed Magazine</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See where there are options to have a printed Magazine/ Digital</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start with a poll who wants a printed magazine and figure a cost!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes this can be done by showing cost such as \$25/\$35 per year per member that wants a magazine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For those who want a printed magazine this would be a solution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with the publication Committee on Ideas</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Increase membership</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tools for Chapters and Departments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By seeing membership increase by 2%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insuring that online information is ready and available by digital and hard copy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote membership in a section in the PH magazine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the new membership report</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Establish partners for the Order</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team of National Officers show list of potential partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Officers provide feedback of contacts made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a team we promote our achievements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Showing at all Social Media levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As program grows with partner support.</li> </ul>



## 2023 NATIONAL PATRIOT OF THE YEAR

Patriot Joshua Dale, Region VI Patriot of the Year, was selected as the 2023 National Patriot of the Year at this year's convention.



## NATIONAL POTY HONOR ROLL

- 2002 Kip Monroe (Region IV)
- 2003 None
- 2004 Frank Simko (Region I – deceased)
- 2005 Jack Ott (Region IV– deceased)
- 2006 Jim Logsdon (Region II)
- 2007 Dallas Lynch (Region V)
- 2008 William E. Everett (Region IV)
- 2009 Jerry Houston (Region VI)
- 2010 Thomas P. "Pat" Maney (Region IV)
- 2011 Bruce Dwyer (Region V)
- 2012 William Nazario (Region I)
- 2013 James R. Schaller (Region IV)
- 2014 Mike Stubbs (Region IV)
- 2015 Cyril "Cy" Kammeier (Region II)
- 2016 Richard Hunt (IV)
- 2017 Peter Rosie (Region V)
- 2018 Larry Leighton (Region VI)
- 2019 Rob Shalvoy (Region VI)
- 2020 Washington Sanchez (Region IV)
- 2021 Allan Tobiason (Region III)
- 2022 Joseph Garrido (Region IV)
- 2023 Joshua Dale (Region VI)

## Region VI and National Patriot of the Year Joshua Dale

Patriot Dale joined in July. Since the moment he joined 385, Patriot Dale and His entire Family has been a pillar in the 385 and Veteran Outreach Community. Spending whole days manning a fireworks sales booth. Picking up food from a food bank and delivering it to multiple veteran families. Organizing and participating in a surprise WW II Birthday, including SWAT police Trucks and Fire Trucks. Wife Jennifer, Daughters Chloe and Sofia helped with Wreaths Across America, as well as homeless Veteran outreach and immediate needs assistance. Josh has a knack for homeless outreach, as well as speaking to, hard to handle veterans. Josh has a unique way of lifting ALL veteran organizations, and simply not tolerating negative talk.

I have example after example of how BIG of a heart Patriot Dale has. But there is one moment that secured it for me. 22 December 2022. Recently, a Local Veteran claimed many things, Homelessness, and immediate needs. A few Local Organizations helped with housing. During this time, the Veteran kept reaching out asking for monetary help. Ultimately, Dale discovered this Veteran has untreated Drug and Alcohol abuse issues. When Patriot Dale denied the Veteran further assistance until he took up the resources offered to him, the Veteran soured, cursed, and began "Raking our good name through the mud". With his commander's protest, he drove the 40 minutes to the location of the Veteran, to remind the veteran of how service organizations work, the VA HUD VASH system works, and an impromptu lesson in gratitude.



Simply put, Patriot Dale did not allow any abuse of donated funds. Peacefully, yet aggressively handles "problem veterans". Patriot Dale is an absolute asset. One Disabled Female Veterans Fence Collapsed during a storm, She sent a picture of her

emotional support dog in the street, during a rainstorm, responded to make sure the veteran and her dog were safe. It was heartfelt and appreciated. He has fixed multiple fences. ANYTHING a commander needs, Josh Dale, and his lovely family have helped, me, the organization, Fellow disabled Veterans, the community, and yes! Dog sat dogs for members, hospital, or vacation! Lastly, when members have hospital stays, he cleans up the landscape before they come home.

### **Region I Patriot of the Year**

No nomination this year.

### **Region II Patriot of the Year**

No nomination this year.

### **Region III Patriot of the Year David Flute**

Patriot David Flute, 5355-DK-3, was a key person while planning the National Convention as the main contact person for coordination of all the many tribal entities involved with the Convention.



David sought funding and other resources for the convention. He is an advocate for Veterans on a community, state, and National level. Patriot Flute serves as the Tribal Leader for South Dakota.

He is actively participating in the restructuring of the Department of The

Dakotas to make it more recruitment friendly.

### **Region IV Patriot of the Year Chris Ebitz**

Since founding Chapter 0776-FL-4 in April 2004, Patriot Ebitz' selfless and diligent dedication to his fellow Patriots, Chapter 776 and the Department of Florida singularly distinguish him as a Patriot without peers.

As a direct result of his dedicated leadership and faithful support of the Chapter's purpose of "Promoting the proud legacy of the Purple Heart Medal," Patriot Ebitz has been instrumental to Chapter's ability to build relationships with community leaders and organizations that have elevated the public visibility and stature of the Chapter within the community.



One of Patriot Ebitz' most significant initiatives were his founding of the Citrus County Veterans Foundation, a 501(c) (3) organization that provides emergency financial grant assistance to needy honorably discharged veterans or their surviving spouses. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised and disbursed over a half million dollars to needy Citrus County veterans and their surviving spouses.

At the Department level, Patriot Ebitz was a strong advocate for his fellow veterans as the Legislative Officer and greatly improved communication among the Chapters and with the Department as the Editor of the Department's Purple & White Newsletter and Supervisor of the Department's first website after successfully advocating for their creation.

A devoted member of the Order and recognized community leader, Patriot Ebitz has dedicated his life to serving our country, the State of Florida, and the Citrus County community, which has earned him induction into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.

### **Region V Patriot of the Year Jesse Sanchez**

Patriot Jesse Sanchez, 0617-OK-5 worked tirelessly and successfully to save the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital in Muskogee, Oklahoma

for the last two years. He single-handedly developed the petition that helped gather over 18,000 signatures to save the VA Hospital. He himself collected over 8,000 signatures and drove several hundred miles collecting them. Patriot Sanchez actions conceivably saved the lives of a number of Veterans in Southeastern Oklahoma. He demonstrated the highest characteristics of dedication and service to his fellow veterans.



When this article is being written, Jesse is in the VA Hospital he helped to save. Our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery are with him and his family.

## National Patriot of the Year Selection

Each year the Regions will select from among the Department Patriots of the Year submissions a Region Patriot of the Year for outstanding achievement during the **immediate past preceding year only**.

The Six Region Patriots of the Year will be entered for the National Patriot of the Year Award. **No Patriot may qualify for National Patriot of the Year in successive years.** No National **elected** Officer is eligible for this esteemed award. National **appointed** Officers **shall be eligible** for the Patriot of the Year.

Log in to the National website. (<https://www.purpleheart.org/MOPHForms>) to download the complete instructions for this prestigious award.



Proudly Serving

Purple Heart Recipients  
For the past 20 Years

# The REAL Purple Heart Store

## Personalized Just For You, LLC

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)

Veteran Owned & Operated



## 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

Combat Wounded Veterans

\$79.95



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



Honoring America's Combat Wounded Veterans

The Purple Heart Store

Officially Licensed



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

## BYLAWS AMMENDMENTS

Twenty-two resolutions recommending changes to the National Bylaws were submitted to the Supreme Body for consideration. Fifteen passed and seven failed. The resolutions and the action taken are listed below.

### **Resolution 2023-007-AZ allows Associate Members to be appointed Chapter Adjutant, if they are not related to the Chapter Commander or Chapter Finance Officer.**

A copy of the resolutions can be downloaded from our website under MOPH Forms (must be logged in).

The name of the file (button) is [2022-2023 Resolutions Submitted to 90th National Convention 07 July 2023 Rev.pdf](#).

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



Resolution #	Passed / Failed
2023-001	Passed
2022-002	Passed
2023-003	Passed
2023-004	Passed
2023-005	Passed
2023-006	Passed
2023-007-AZ	Passed
2023-008-AZ	Failed
2023-009-AZ	Passed
2023-010	Failed
2023-011-AR/AZ/TX/FLA	Failed
2023-012-AR	Failed
2023-13-AR	Failed
2023-14-KY	Passed
2023-15-KY	Passed
2023-16-KY	Passed
2023-17-KY	Failed
2023-18-KY	Passed
2023-19-KY	Passed
2023-20-KY	Passed
2023-21-KY	Failed
2023-022	Passed

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2023-2024

Brian M. Ohler, National Legislative Director  
Email: [legislatedirector@purpleheart.org](mailto:legislatedirector@purpleheart.org)

### Legislative Program

The MOPH National Legislative Program is the voice of MOPH and its supporters on Capitol Hill, as well as within the chambers of each state's legislative body. This program allows MOPH to take official positions on legislation that affects Purple Heart recipients, military veterans, their families, and survivors. What We Do:

- Send letters of support or opposition on legislation
- Work to develop MOPH national legislative priorities.
- Provide accurate, relevant, timely, and impactful testimony.
- Coordinate grassroots efforts through our Voter Voice service.
- Track current legislation as it moves through numerous channels.
- Assist Regional Commanders with state and regional legislative priorities.
- Build and maintain relationships with members of Congress, their staff, federal officials, and other VSOs in Washington, DC and beyond.

### Veterans' Health Care

- Reduce the number of service members and veterans who die by suicide to zero.
- Fully fund the Veterans Health Administration, to include both VA and non-VA care.
- Non-VA health care must be viewed as a supplement to VA care whenever VA cannot provide care that is timely and geographically accessible, not a replacement for VA care.
- Oppose any proposals to pay for non-VA care programs by increasing veterans' out-of-pocket expenses.
- Require VA to include "number of days until next available appointment" in its mandatory publishing of appointment data in order to reflect the amount of time veterans more accurately are waiting at each facility.
- Require that VHA grant enrollment to all veterans whose discharges are other than "dishonorable" as defined by DOD who are otherwise eligible.

- Fully fund VA medical research programs, in areas that disproportionately affect veterans such as prosthetics, toxic exposures, and TBI.
- Ensure that VA can provide the full array of gender-specific services for women veterans.
- Expand geriatric care options, including long term care eligibility and housing options.

### **Veterans' and Survivors' Benefits**

- Fully staff VBA so that they have enough employees to simultaneously process claims and appeals in a timely manner.
- Require VBA to accept private medical evidence that is competent, credible, and complete.
- Improve decision notification letters so that veterans and VSOs can fully understand why claims are denied.
- Ensure Veterans have a choice; that private/rural providers are allowed to administrator care for all veterans without penalty or refusal to cover costs.
- Expand PACT Act in order provide greater pool of veterans who are impacted.
- Grant disability claims on a presumptive basis to veterans who are known to have been exposed to toxic substances, to include Blue Water Navy, those suffering from Gulf War Illness, and burn pit exposure (PACT Act).
- Relax the standards for those suffering from disabilities related to MST but often have no documentation in their service record due to an historically low reporting rate.
- Improve VBMS to allow VSOs to track claims that were brokered under National Work Queue.
- Allow for full concurrent receipt of VA disability compensation and military retired pay (Star Act).
- Eliminate the SBP/DIC offset for survivors.
- Continue to oppose any efforts that make it more difficult for veterans with illnesses related to asbestos to pursue their federal personal injury trust and tort claims.
- Extend the VA home loan funding fee waiver to active-duty Purple Heart recipients.

### **Accountability**

- Continue to support VA authorities to discipline and remove employees who are not properly performing their duties; especially those who

willfully or negligently put veterans at risk quickly and decisively.

- Promote a customer service-based culture across VA; one that is veteran-centric as opposed to VA centric.
- Institute a robust "secret shopper" program in order to improve and properly monitor the level customer service provided by VA employees.
- Continue to ensure that whistleblowers are fully protected and are not subject to reprisal for coming forward.

### **Education and Employment**

- Protect the integrity and sustainability of GI Bill benefits.
- Advocate for tuition-free education at all state schools and state universities for Purple Heart recipients and their immediate family members (Blue Star and Gold Star).
- Close the "90/10 loophole" to ensure GI Bill benefits receive the same protections as other federal education benefits.
- Close the loophole that allows employers to violate USERRA with forced arbitration agreements.
- Reject proposals to diminish veterans' hiring preference in the federal government.
- Promote veterans' hiring in the private sector.
- Support opportunities for veteran entrepreneurship, including assistance to spouses.

### **DOD and Those Currently Serving**

- Ensure that DOD provides a robust, competitive compensation package, to include base pay and BAH, in order to preserve the all-volunteer force.
- Protect the integrity of TRICARE so that service members, retirees, and their families have access to the high-quality medical care they deserve.
- Eliminate arbitrary budget caps that harm military readiness, capability, and morale.
- Fully fund the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to ensure that all those who are yet unaccounted for are finally brought home.
- Ensure that the intentions and protections of SCRA are not violated through forced arbitration clauses in financial contracts.

- Eligibility for burial at Arlington National Cemetery must continue to include Purple Heart recipients and those who may be killed in action in present and future conflicts.

**Honoring Purple Heart Recipients**

- Continue to oppose any effort to amend the criteria for award of the Purple Heart medal that would diminish the prestige or purpose of the award.
- Authorize the U.S. Treasury to mint Purple Heart commemorative coins, the proceeds of which would be used to support the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.
- Support full federal recognition of August 7th as “National Purple Heart Day” in perpetuity in order to properly honor all those who were killed in action or became wounded in defense of our country.

Prohibit the commercial sale of military-issued Purple Heart medals on the secondary market.

**AND FROM THE HISTORICAL FILES**  
**JULY 4, 1826**  
 Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died hours apart on the same day. it was the 50th anniversary of American Independence.





**MOPH FUND**  
**EXCLUSIVE FUNDRAISER**





**Framed 30"X24" canvas print; \$189.00 each**  
 Black or brown frame  
 Free shipping within the US

Joelee Meucci's

"FOR FREEDOM"

\$35.00 from each print sold will be donated to the MOPH FUND!

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.



## MOPH-VFW LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)

Carder Ferguson  
National Commander

As I announced during the Convention, I signed the Letter of Intent with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to establish a mutually supporting Service Officer program.

**This LOI will NOT result in the Order becoming a subordinate organization of the VFW!**

**This program is NOT intended to establish a program that will allow Service Officers to be certified by the Order.**

As we all know, the Order's Service Officer Program is SUSPENDED, not terminated, by the Veterans Administration pending our ability to fully fund a 10-year sustainable program.

The Order's and the VFW's **intent** is to enhance the Order's ability to accomplish its mission of supporting Veterans and families in our communities by having trained and certified Service Officers and not have to rely on County Veterans Service Offices or other Veteran Service Organizations.



National Commander Ferguson and VFW National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Albert J. "Al" Lipphardt.

At this point, all we really know is there are a multitude of details that have to be discussed and agreed to before we commit to any legally binding agreement. The one fact we do know about this program is that our Patriot Service Officers must also be VFW members.

Patriots who volunteer will be **trained and certified by the VFW**. The VFW intends to pay for the training and all certification requirements. The Order intends to pay for travel to consolidated training sites, not each individual Chapter.

When this Program comes to fruition, the Order AND the VFW will be able to help more Veterans and families than we do now.

I will be calling for volunteers to serve on the Order-VFW Service Officer Planning Committee. If you have an interest in serving on this committee, please submit your name for consideration through the Chain of Leadership.

A complete copy of the executed LOI (although without signatures) can be found on the next few pages. It will also be available for download from our website under Forms.

Thank-you for supporting this initiative to improve the Order.

*Carder Ferguson*

### Letter of Intent (LOI) Defined

A letter of intent (LOI or Lol, or Letter of Intent) is a document outlining the understanding between two or more parties which they intend to formalize in a legally binding agreement.

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letter\\_of\\_intent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letter_of_intent))

A **Letter of Intent** is NOT intended to be binding upon either party - its purpose is to express the intent of the Parties to continue to negotiate in good faith and to outline the key aspects of the transaction. ([Law Depot](#))

Letter of Intent  
Between  
The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
And  
The Military Order of the Purple Heart

August 14, 2023

This Letter of Intent (LOI) establishes an intent between the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH).

**I. MISSION**

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is dedicated to serving the MOPH veteran community, their families, survivors, and military caregivers. MOPH seeks to address the broad range of social, economic, and healthcare needs of the Nation's veteran community by building strategic partnerships with public and private organizations, creating veteran-centered policy initiatives, and developing strong relationships with the veteran community. Building on these relationships, MOPH acts as a liaison between the Nation's veteran community and the MOPH membership, District agencies, Federal agencies, and non-profit organizations in order to ensure that the Nation's veteran community has access to the full range of resources available to them.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is a nationally recognized Veterans Service Organization of long standing which is comprised of veterans who have participated in conflicts past and present. VFW support for these veterans takes many forms to include fraternal activities, benefits counseling, legislative advocacy and representation before the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Together the parties intend to form a partnership to mutually promote the effective delivery of disability benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for transitioning service members, veterans, and their eligible dependent family members.

**II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Veterans of Foreign Wars wish to collaborate in order to ensure service members, veterans, and eligible dependents are adequately counseled and represented with respect to disability benefits due them under the law. The target population consists of service members, veterans, and dependents who are members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

In 1932, MOPH was established to protect the mutual interests of all those who have received the Purple Heart. MOPH established a Veterans Service Officer program, but now lacks independent accreditation by Department of Veterans Affairs to prepare and prosecute veterans benefit claims before VA.

MOPH and the VFW intend to form an agreement to work together for the common purpose of establishing new VSO positions who are dual members of both the VFW and MOPH to provide information, advocacy and representation for MOPH members.

MOPH would like to be trained and accredited by the VFW for the purposes of representing claimants before the benefits delivery systems with the intent of having a network of VFW/MOPH accredited representatives.

**III. RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each party will appoint a person to serve as the official contact and coordinate the activities of each organization in advancing this LOI. The appointees of each organization are:

Carder Ferguson  
National Commander

Michael Figlioli  
Director

Military Order of the Purple Heart

National Veterans Service  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
202-608-8373  
mfiglioli@vfw.org

The organizations are exploring the following tasks for this LOI:

The VFW will explore providing MOPH personnel as identified by the MOPH National Commander with accreditation for the purposes of representing claimants before the Department of Veterans Affairs commensurate with all applicable rules and regulations promulgated by aforesaid agency.

MOPH and VFW will collaborate to complete a cost analysis to determine necessary funding associated with providing MOPH representatives with access to VFW NVS's training program, quality assurance oversight, equipment and software required to provide adequate claims representation, and salary and benefits. It is the intent of both organizations that MOPH would fund all necessary costs associated with VFW providing accreditation to MOPH/VFW accredited representatives.

The VFW will provide MOPH with a roster of national VFW representatives in order to ensure that MOPH can refer claimants to VFW service officers who will continue representation if the claimant does not have access to an accredited representative.

MOPH intends to utilize the VFW as its sole source for accreditation and collaborate exclusively with VFW with respect to representation of veterans or dependents until such time that MOPH receives independent accreditation through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This LOI will remain in effect for one year from the effective date and may be extended upon written mutual agreement to provide both organizations adequate time to obtain the aforementioned cost analysis, obtain approval from both organizations' body of members, and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding or Contract. Either organization may terminate this LOI upon thirty (30) days written notice without penalties or liabilities.

#### **IV. INDEMNITY**

VFW shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless MOPH, its officers, directors, employees, agents, successors and assigns from and against any and all liability, including but not limited to demands, claims, actions, fees, costs, and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs), arising from or connected with VFW's acts and/or omissions arising from and/or relating to this LOI. The provisions of this section shall survive any termination or expiration of this LOI with respect to any liability or damage occurring prior to such termination.

MOPH shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless VFW, its officers, directors, employees, agents, successors and assigns from and against any and all liability, including but not limited to demands, claims, actions, fees, costs, and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs), arising from or connected with MOPH's acts and/or omissions arising from and/or relating to this LOI. The provisions of this section shall survive any termination or expiration of this LOI with respect to any liability or damage occurring prior to such termination.

#### **V. AUTHORIZATION**

The signatories of this document agree to strive to reach, to the best of their ability, the objectives stated in the LOI. On behalf of the organization I represent, I wish to sign this LOI and contribute to its further development.

Duane Sarmiento  
Commander-in-Chief  
Veterans of Foreign War of the United States

Carder Ferguson  
National Commander  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

## The Leadership TEAM

The Patriots listed below were elected or appointed to lead the National Organization and the Departments. This is the LEADERSHIP TEAM which will make our 2023-2024 year a success. With all of us pulling in the same direction, we'll be able to fully implement and realize Commander Ferguson's **Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-based** goals.

Ever wonder what the other Departments are doing to manage the Order's Programs? What are they doing that works or what they've tried that did not work so well? This list can get you started, but just **log in** the National website (<https://www.purpleheart.org/MOPHForms>) and download the complete list with emails and phone numbers and contact your counterparts.



If you are interested in filling one of the "vacant" positions, submit your name up through the Chain of Leadership.

NATIONAL ELECTED POSITIONS		
Name	ST	Title/Position
Carder Ferguson	AR	Nat'l Cdr *
Robert Olivarez	WA	Nat'l Senior Vice Cdr *
Tracey Brown-Greene	TX	Nat'l Junior Vice Cdr *
Walter Kroptavich	VA	Nat'l Judge Advocate *
Ernie Rivera	FL	Nat'l Finance Off *
David Jackson	CA	Nat'l Inspector *
Gary Witt	VA	Nat'l Sergeant-at-Arms *
Dennis Wallot	MI	NFC Chair *
Paul Pickart	IA	NFC Member *
Craig Wertheim	FL	NFC Member *
Jim Anderson	CA	NFC Member *
Larry Leighton	AZ	NPC Chair *
Matthew Bridges	GA	NPC Member *
Alan Gibson	GA	NPC Member *
VACANT		NPC Member *
NATIONAL FINANCE CMTE		
Dennis Wallot	MI	Chair
Paul Pickart	IA	Member
Craig Werthiem	FL	Member
Jim Anderson	CA	Member
Carder Ferguson	AR	Nat'l Cdr
Robert Olivarez	WA	Nat'l SVC
Tracey Brown-Greene	TX	Nat'l JVC
Ernie Rivera	FL	Nat'l FO
Walter Kroptavich	VA	Nat'l JA
Charles Eggerston	MD	Nat'l Service Dir
NATIONAL INVESTMENT CMTE		
Dennis Wallot	MI	Chair
Paul Pickart	IA	Member
Ernie Rivera	FL	Nat'l Finance Off
Jim Anderson	CA	Member
Craig Wertheim	FL	Member

NATIONAL APPOINTED OFFICERS		
Eric Johnson	VA	Nat'l Adjutant *
Frances Figueroa	NC	Advocacy Off
Ed Abbey	NC	Americanism Off *
Louis Barnes	FL	Assistant Nat'l SAA
VACANT		Assistant Nat'l SAA
Carlton Cannon	DE	Chaplain *
Kevin Bucek	TN	Chief Information Off
Brandon Wegner	TX	Deputy CIO
VACANT		Gold Star Family Liaison
Nick McIntosh	KY	Historian
Lee Brown	FL	Homeless Veterans Off
Brian Ohler	CT	Legislative Dir *
Zachariah Fike	VT	Dir of Medal Recovery
	VT	Purple Hearts Reunited
VACANT		Public Relations Off *
Joseph Tormala	MI	Nat'l POW/MIA Off
Daniel Eddinger	CT	Purple Heart Legacy & Trail
Charles Eggerston	MD	Nat'l Service Off
Brandon Wegner	TX	Software Development Pgm
Jo Keller	CA	Suicide Awareness Pgm
Robert Bibeau	NM	Surgeon
VACANT		VAVS Off
Bill Bull	MN	Viola Pgm Off
Felicia Flake	LA	Dir of Women's Veterans
Roger Newell	NM	Youth Services Off
NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS CMTE		
Larry Leighton	AZ	Chair (4year)
Matthew Bridges	GA	(3 year)
Alan Gibson	GA	(2 year)
VACANT		(1 year)

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP CMTE		
Tracey Brown-Greene	TX	Chair
Ken Swords	FL	Member
Gustav Wittschack	TX	Member
NATIONAL BYLAWS CMTE		
Robert Olivarez	WA	Senior-Vice Cdr (Chair)
Chuck Adkins	AR	Secretary
Joe Schaler	IL	Member
Tom Moorman	IN	Member
Keith Wittnebel	OR	Member
Frances Figueroa-Lowe	NC	Member
Mitchel Reed	OK	Member
Raymond Wetzal	CA	Member
Joshua Dale	CA	Member
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CMTE		
Brian Ohler	CT	Chair
VACANT		Secretary
Charles Egelston	MD	Nat'l Service Dir
VACANT		Rgn I Member
VACANT		Rgn II Member
VACANT		Rgn III Member
VACANT		Rgn IV Member
VACANT		Rgn V Member
NATIONAL CHIEFS OF STAFF		
Brian Willette	MA	Nat'l Chief of Staff - MA *
Charles "Char" Gatlín	MT	Nat'l Chief of Staff - MT *
Andrew Farrer	TN	Nat'l Chief of Staff - TN *
Sam Talkington	UT	Nat'l Chief of Staff - UT *
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS		
Frank Athanason	FL	PNC *
Boyd Barclay	OK	PNC *
Jim Blaylock	GA	PNC *
James Durkin	NY	PNC *
Felix Garcia III	TX	PNC *
Hershel Gober	FL	PNC *
William Hutton	CA	PNC *
James McCormick	WV	PNC *
Bruce McKenty	WA	PNC *
Ernie Rivera	FL	PNC *
Jeffrey Roy	CO	PNC *
Ron Siebels	AK	PNC *
Alfred Silvano	SC	PNC *
Fred Taylor, Jr	FL	PNC *
Cornelius Van-Ess	NJ	PNC *

REGION I		
Frank Bokan	PA	Nat'l Rgn I Cdr *
Bryan Bossong	PA	Rgn 1 Adjutant
Charles Eggerston	MD	Rgn 1 Chief of Staff
Michael Perron	CT	Cdr*
James Yacone	CT	Senior Vice Cdr
Dean White	CT	Junior Vice Cdr
Jason Coppola	CT	Adjutant
Gary Morris	DE	Cdr*
John Hohman	DE	Senior Vice Cdr
VACANT	DE	Junior Vice Cdr
Gary Morris	DE	Adjutant
James Hauser	MD	Cdr *
Calvin Burgess	MD	Senior Vice Cdr
Chad Baker	MD	Junior Vice Cdr
James Hontz	MD	Adjutant
Joseph Belardo	NJ	Cdr *
Norman Glover	NJ	Senior Vice Cdr
John McCabe	NJ	Junior Vice Cdr
Richard Clark	NJ	Adjutant
Ruben Pratts	NY	Cdr *
VACANT	NY	Senior Vice Cdr
Erle Mutz	NY	Junior Vice Cdr
Howard Goldin	NY	Adjutant
Philip Arnold	PA	Cdr *
Bryan Bossong	PA	Senior Vice Cdr
VACANT	PA	Junior Vice Cdr
Peter Verbos	PA	Adjutant
Benjamin King	VA	Cdr *
Dominique Dionne	VA	Senior Vice Cdr
Richard Wise	VA	Junior Vice Cdr
Clifton Johnson	VA	Adjutant

REGION II		
Terry Anderson	MN	Nat'l Rgn II Cdr *
Paul Pickart	IA	Rgn II Adjutant
David Bellis	MN	Rgn II Chief of Staff
Joe Schaler	IL	Cdr *
Dan Wellman	IL	Senior Vice Cdr
VACANT		Junior Vice Cdr
Dan Wellman	IL	Adjutant
Tom Moorman	IN	Cdr *
Micheal Shadowen	IN	Senior Vice Cdr
David Bandelier	IN	Junior Vice Cdr
Micheal Shadowen	IN	Adjutant
Jack Hanson	IA	Cdr *
Anthony Polich	IA	Senior Vice Cdr
Francis McAllister	IA	Junior Vice Cdr
Paul Pickart	IA	Adjutant
Jerry Thompson	KY	Cdr *
Kyle Lankford	KY	Senior Vice Cdr
Christopher Smrt	KY	Junior Vice Cdr
Christopher Smrt	KY	Adjutant
Ronald Allen	MI	Cdr *
Fred Honerkamp	MI	Senior Vice Cdr
Scott Wilson	MI	Junior Vice Cdr
Sam Alvarado	MI	Adjutant
John Marshall	MN	Cdr *
Willie Pargo	MN	Senior Vice Cdr
David Bellis	MN	Junior Vice Cdr
Chuck Jones	MN	Adjutant
John Dimer	MO	Cdr *
Alios Befort	MO	Senior Vice Cdr
Carl Dietrich	MO	Junior Vice Cdr
Alios Befort	MO	Adjutant
Michael Sheets	NE	Cdr *
Terry Minarik	NE	Senior Vice Cdr
Robert Montag	NE	Junior Vice Cdr
Thomas McBride	NE	Adjutant
Leo Connelly	OH	Cdr *
Dennis Hanneman	OH	Senior Vice Cdr
John Looker	OH	Junior Vice Cdr
Terry Blair	OH	Adjutant
Charles Baisden	WV	Cdr *
Porter Jackson Southern	WV	Senior Vice Cdr
Marcel Depersig	WV	Junior Vice Cdr
Larry Thompson	WV	Adjutant
George Banda	WI	Cdr *
Richard Daseke	WI	Senior Vice Cdr
Robert Wanish	WI	Junior Vice Cdr
William Hustad	WI	Adjutant

REGION III		
Lawrence Rupp	OR	Nat'l Rgn III Cdr *
Blanca Taylor	ID	Rgn III Adjutant
Keith Wittnebel	OR	Rgn III Chief of Staff
Stephen Blair	AK	Cdr *
Timothy Robbins	AK	Senior Vice Cdr
Armando Martinez	AK	Junior Vice Cdr
William McClain	AK	Adjutant
Ned Barker	ID	Cdr *
Blanca Taylor	ID	Junior Vice Cdr
Frank Ellsbury	ID	Junior Vice Cdr
George Nickel	ID	Adjutant
Keith Wittnebel	OR	Cdr *
Ryan Howell	OR	Senior Vice Cdr
Anthony Hixon	OR	Junior Vice Cdr
Larry Rupp	OR	Adjutant
Connie Johnson	DK	Cdr *
Larry Perry	DK	Senior Vice Cdr
Buck Underwood	DK	Junior Vice Cdr
Bill Flippo	DK	Adjutant
Jennifer Horn	WA	Cdr *
Nick Mccallon	WA	Senior Vice Cdr
William Nesmith	WA	Junior Vice Cdr
Allen Acosta	WA	Adjutant
Barry Gasdek	WY	Cdr *
Brian Olson	WY	Senior Vice Cdr
Daniel Carmona	WY	Junior Vice Cdr
Charles Livermont	WY	Adjutant
REGION IV		
Francis Figueroa-Lowe	NC	Nat'l Rgn IV Cdr *
Ed Abbey	NC	Rgn IV Adjutant
Lou Zayas	GA	Rgn IV Chief of Staff
David Daughtry	AL	Cdr *
Robert Green	AL	Senior Vice Cdr
Robert Jones	AL	Junior Vice Cdr
Delbert Leonard Robinson	AL	Adjutant
Craig Wertheim	FL	Cdr *
Louis Barnes	FL	Senior Vice Cdr
Stewart Hilbmann	FL	Junior Vice Cdr
Bill Smith	FL	Adjutant
Harold Jones	GA	Cdr *
Lou Zaya	GA	Senior Vice Cdr
Alan Gibson	GA	Junior Vice Cdr
John Wilder	GA	Adjutant
Charlie Tolliver	MS	Cdr *
Holis McArthur	MS	Senior Vice Cdr
Alexander Campbell	MS	Junior Vice Cdr
Edward Buckman	MS	Adjutant

REGION IV (continued)		
Bill Ebersbach	NC	Cdr *
Lenny Lazzara	NC	Senior Vice Cdr
James Nelson	NC	Junior Vice Cdr
Eddie Abbey	NC	Adjutant
Carl Lopez	SC	Cdr *
Cottie Allen	SC	Senior Vice Cdr
Harold Palmer	SC	Junior Vice Cdr
Brittany Lawson	SC	Adjutant
Manuel Davila-Galarza	C Is	Cdr *
Richard Lopez-Lugo	C Is	Senior Vice Cdr
Victor Manuel Betancourt-Castro	C Is	Junior Vice Cdr
Emilio De Leon	C Is	Adjutant
REGION V		
Gustav Wittschack	TX	Nat'l Rgn V Cdr *
Chuck Adkins	AR	Rgn V Adjutant
John Footman	TX	Rgn V Chief of Staff
Jimmy Lewis	AR	Cdr *
Quinton Ezeagwula	AR	Senior Vice Cdr
Lonnie Young	AR	Junior Vice Cdr
John Parette	AR	Adjutant
Peter Dowding	CO	Cdr *
Roy Ray	CO	Senior Vice Cdr
William Dunn	CO	Junior Vice Cdr
Jon Eckhoff	CO	Adjutant
Joe Sutton	KS	Cdr *
Douglas Randolph	KS	Senior Vice Cdr
Martin Bryne	KS	Junior Vice Cdr
VACANT	KS	Adjutant
Ron Crowley	LA	Cdr *
Deron Santiny	LA	Senior Vice Cdr
Richard O'Brien	LA	Junior Vice Cdr
Harold Molbert	LA	Adjutant
Geoffory Stone	NM	Cdr *
Gregory Long	NM	Senior Vice Cdr
Peter Comstock	NM	Junior Vice Cdr
Roger Newall	NM	Adjutant
Larry Van Schuyver	OK	Cdr *
Mitchell Reed	OK	Senior Vice Cdr
Michael Manning	OK	Junior Vice Cdr
Gary Lewis	OK	Adjutant
Micheal Matthew	TX	Cdr *
John Footman	TX	Senior Vice Cdr
Lorenzo Rodriguez	TX	Junior Vice Cdr
VACANT	TX	Adjutant

REGION VI		
Charles Anderson	CA	Nat'l Rgn VI Cdr *
Timothy Haney	CA	Rgn VI Adjutant
George Waller	CA	Rgn VI Chief of Staff
Keith Gray	AZ	Cdr *
Rodger Ely	AZ	Senior Vice Cdr
John Moore	AZ	Junior Vice Cdr
Larry Leighton	AZ	Adjutant
Nicholas Francisco	AP	Cdr *
Ricardo Cruz	AP	Senior Vice Cdr
VACANT		Junior Vice Cdr
Pedro Aguon	AP	Adjutant
Jo Keller	CA	Cdr *
Raymond Wetzel	CA	Senior Vice Cdr
David Baltierra	CA	Junior Vice Cdr
Raymond Wetzel	CA	Adjutant
Joel Brilliant	HI	Cdr *
Robert Cox	HI	Senior Vice Cdr
Thomas Tanaka	HI	Junior Vice Cdr
Romeo Ubaldo	HI	Adjutant
Andrew LePeilbet	NV	Cdr *
Daniel Peterson	NV	Senior Vice Cdr
Kenneth Santor	NV	Junior Vice Cdr
Andrew LePeilbet	NV	Adjutant

## WELCOME HOME – DECADES LATER

Ronald Krul

Chapter 0264-NY-1



More than 50 years ago, Viet Nam Veterans returned home in most cases to an unwelcoming America. There were no parades, marching bands, or crowds of people at the airport waving flags and recognizing us for our service to our country. On June 16 & 17 this year, the Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight Mission #14 changed that completely. Twenty-Nine Purple Heart Recipients (28 wounded in Viet Nam, 1 in Afghanistan) were selected and recognized with an Honor Flight beyond our imagination.

The celebrations began on Friday, June 16 at our assembly area which was the corporate headquarters of TOPS Markets who is one of the major sponsors of the Honor Flights. There to greet us were the President and Chief Operating Officer of Tops Markets, John Persons, US representative Brian Higgins, American Legion State Department of New York commander, David Reilly, and numerous other dignitaries from the Western New York Area. The American Legion Department of New York sponsored the entire Honor Flight for the Purple Heart Veterans and their guardian/chaperones.

We boarded the buses for our trip to the Buffalo Niagara Airport to spend 2 days in Washington, D.C.

As the buses left for the airport, we were led by an escort comprised of area law enforcement vehicles and Patriot Guard motorcyclists. Upon our arrival at the airport there was a throng of people, Patriot Guards, Law Enforcement Honor Guards, and Veteran Organization Color Guards and veteran greeters. Arrival at our gate, Southwest Airlines when overboard by decorating the gate area with American Flags, Branch of Service Flags, and red, white, and blue lights. And of course, at boarding time, we received preferential treatment. Taxiing out to the runway, the Airport Fire Department had their vehicles with water cannons create an "Honor Arch of Water" for us. An honor only bestowed on retiring pilots flying their last flight and for Honor Flights.

Upon our arrival in Baltimore, Maryland, we were greeted by another group of people welcoming us which included many veteran groups and a "Town Crier Bell Man" who led us through the airport announcing our arrival. Following a banquet dinner, we were taken to visit the Vietnam and Korean Memorials along with a nighttime bus tour of several other memorials. The next day we attended a changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and a Purple Heart wreath laying ceremony was conducted at The Tomb in Arlington National

Cemetery. We also visited the Air Force, Iwo Jima, World War II, and US Navy Memorials before returning to Buffalo.

Arrival back in Buffalo was emotionally overwhelming. At the gate we were greeted by a law enforcement honor guard and a Scottish Bag Pipers Marching Band. We were asked to line up in columns of four and were led down the concourse marching behind our escort of Pipers and Law Enforcement. We entered the airport lobby to hundreds of welcoming veterans, friends and relatives, and children waving flags and singing patriotic songs. WELCOME HOME signs were everywhere. Eyes were flooded with tears. Every aspect of the Honor Flight exceeded our expectations. What a memorable experience!

Orchestrating this mission and many others is Tom Petrie, President of the Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight Board of Directors. He and all the others involved in putting together a flight are volunteers, including the medical staff who accompanied us on our mission. Tom indicated that, "this is a way to honor veterans for their service and to continue to honor all of America's veterans." Tom is the proud grandson and son of decorated WWI and WWII Army veterans. Thank God for people like Tom and those who volunteer with him to honor our Veterans.

## **PURPLE HEART MEDALS RECEIVED DECADES LATER**

Ronald Krul  
**Chapter 0124-NY-1**

Many decades after being wounded in combat, Congressman Brian Higgins (NY-26), in a ceremony on August 4, at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, presented 3 Purple Hearts honoring combat wounded veterans. Recipients of the medal were Viet Nam Veteran John Jenkins (pictured above), the family of Joseph M. Urbanczyk KIA in Viet Nam, and the family of Florian J. Fenclau wounded in WWII.

Florian J. Fenclau served in the Army in World War II, He was assigned to the 418<sup>th</sup> Technical School Squadron, 326<sup>th</sup> Bomber Squad, 92<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group. While serving overseas, he was a Ball Turret Gunner on a B-17 when it was shot down on Oct. 4, 1943. He was then placed in a Prisoner of War camp at Stalag Luft 6 Heydekrug East Prussia. He returned to the US on Sept. 22, 1944, with bullet wounds to his arm that never fully healed.



John R. Jenkins was a Technical Sergeant in the Army's 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. While on patrol with his squad on Oct. 1, 1968, John was wounded when the squad made contact with an enemy force. John was discharged in 1969 and went on to work at the Buffalo VA Medical Center until his retirement.

Joseph M. Urbanczyk rose to the rank of Specialist Four while serving with Company C, 321 Infantry, 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry, Americal Division. Specialist Urbanczyk was killed in action on March 13, 1969, by enemy forces in Quang Tin Province.

"Veterans and their families make significant sacrifices for our country. It is a true privilege to see them receive the honor and recognition they earned," said Congressman Higgins. "The Purple Heart is a solemn, but courageous distinction. These brave Western New Yorkers represent the very best in our community and we are proud to recognize all they gave. On behalf of a grateful community and a grateful nation, we are forever indebted to their selfless service."

# # # # # # # # # # #

For additional information contact, Ronald Krul, Adjutant, NY 264, 716-432-6386, August 7, 2023

## **AUTO FOR VETERANS ACT**

John Moore  
**Chapter 0442-AZ-6**

Exciting News! The AUTO for Veterans Act has been signed into Law! This vital legislation helps severely disabled veterans get the adaptive vehicles they need. Under the previous law, veterans were limited to a single automobile grant over their lifetime. But with the new AUTO for Veterans Act, veterans will now be eligible to receive a grant from the VA every ten years to purchase adaptive vehicles, ensuring they can drive safely and maintain their independence. With adaptive vehicles costing upwards of \$50,000, this change will significantly ease the financial burden for disabled

veterans, enabling them to access work, medical appointments, and family commitments more easily.

You can download the PDF to file here:  
<https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-21-4502/>

### Susan Collins, Senator from ME, January 9, 2023

<https://www.collins.senate.gov/newsroom/provisions-of-auto-for-veterans-act-signed-into-law>

**Washington, D.C.**—Today, the president signed into law provisions of the *Advancing Uniform Transportation Opportunities (AUTO) for Veterans Act*, legislation co-authored by U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) that will reduce the financial burden for severely disabled veterans who require special adaptive equipment to drive a motor vehicle. The legislation will make these veterans eligible to receive a grant through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to help purchase a new adaptive vehicle once every ten years, helping them to drive safely and maintain their independence.



Under the prior law, veterans could only receive a single automobile grant over the course of their lives. The provisions authored by Senator Collins were enacted as part of the *Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022* (H.R. 7939), which was amended in the Senate to include the *AUTO for Veterans Act* provisions.

The *AUTO for Veterans Act* will relieve an enormous burden for many veterans throughout the country who need to purchase expensive adaptive vehicles in order to drive safely or to drive at all.

“Our nation owes American veterans our deepest gratitude. We must continue to honor that commitment to our veterans by supporting their needs, including those of disabled veterans who require adaptive modification of their vehicles long after they are discharged or retire from active duty,” **said Senator Collins**. “Neal Williams, a disabled veteran in Shirley, Maine, has had to purchase several adaptive vehicles since 1999, with each one lasting more than 250,000 miles. A new van costs well over \$50,000, which is more than he paid for his home. Neal was the inspiration behind the *AUTO for Veterans Act*, and this important step will help

those like Neal who have served our nation so honorably and sacrificed so much for our freedom.”

“Our Veterans have made tremendous sacrifices to protect our great nation, and it is our duty to take care of them when they return home,” **Senator Manchin said**. “I’m pleased President Biden has signed provisions of our bipartisan AUTO for Veterans Act into law to help reduce financial pressure on disabled Veterans who require special equipment to drive motor vehicles. West Virginia is the most patriotic state in our nation, and I will continue working every day to support our brave West Virginian and American Veterans who have made invaluable sacrifices to protect our country.”

“PVA applauds Senator Collins and Senator Manchin for their efforts to pass the *AUTO for Veterans Act*,” **said Heather Ansley, Associate Executive Director of Government Relations at Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)**. “This bill will help veterans preserve the freedom and independence that adapted vehicles provide them, ensuring they are able to travel safely to and from work, medical appointments, and family obligations.”

Under the previous law, the VA was authorized to provide eligible veterans with a one-time grant of approximately \$21,400 to be used to purchase a new or used automobile and necessary adaptive equipment, such as specialized pedals or switches. This grant is often used together with the VA Special Adaptive Equipment Grants, which help veterans purchase adaptive equipment, such as powered lifts, for an existing automobile or van to make it safe for a veteran’s use. The average cost to replace modified vehicles ranges from \$20,000 to \$80,000 when the vehicle is new and \$21,000 to \$35,000 when the vehicle is used.

Although veterans could receive multiple Special Adaptive Equipment Grants over the course of their lives, they were limited to a single grant to purchase a vehicle. This limitation failed to take into account that a disabled veteran will need more than one vehicle in his or her lifetime. According to the Department of Transportation, the average useful life of a vehicle is 11.8 years, and a vehicle that has been modified structurally tends to have a shorter useful life. Under the *Auto for Veterans Act*, disabled veterans will

be eligible for a grant to purchase a new adaptive vehicle once per decade.

Representatives Dan Meuser (R-PA) and David Trone (D-MD) introduced the House companion bill of the *AUTO for Veterans Act*.

## LAWRENCEVILLE MAN HONORED BY PURPLE HEART PATRIOT PROJECT

Lawrenceville resident Louis Zayas, who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, has been selected as a 2023 Purple Heart Patriot Project honoree.



Lawrenceville resident Louis Zayas (left) has been selected as a 2023 Purple Heart Patriot Project honoree. Gwinett Daily Post Special Photo

During the week of Sept. 18, Zayas will serve as Georgia's representative at a multi-day tribute to America's combat wounded at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, located just north of West Point, New York, not far from the site where Gen. George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit — the forerunner of today's Purple Heart medal — more than 240 years ago.

The National Purple Heart Honor Mission — which supports programs to promote the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor — has awarded Zayas an all-expense-paid trip that will include a visit to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the historic Washington's Headquarters, and a special tour of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

"Lou and his fellow Patriot Project honorees represent the best of the best our country has to offer," said Richie Lay, a Purple Heart recipient and chairman of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, in a news release. "America's Purple Heart veterans have given so much to defend freedom, and that sacrifice must always be remembered.

These brave men and women are true American heroes. We are privileged to be able to provide this unique salute to service for our Purple Heart heroes."

This year's Patriot Project honorees include recipients from World War II, the Vietnam War, Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and other conflicts. Honorees range in age from their mid-30s to 100 years of age.

Drafted into the Army in 1965, Zayas was serving as a helicopter door gunner escorting other troops into a dangerous landing zone in Vietnam when his unit came under heavy fire. During the firefight, Zayas (who was a sergeant) was struck in the thigh from an explosion.



In addition to the Purple Heart, Zayas received numerous medals and commendations for his service, including the four Air Medals with "V" device, the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal, among others.

"It was an honor to serve my service," said Zayas. "I am proud to have answered the call of my country when it came."

After returning stateside, Zayas worked as a truck driver and warehouse operations manager, and he continues to serve his fellow veterans as the Commander for Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter 465 (which meets monthly in Tucker) and the Senior Vice Commander for the MOPH Department of Georgia.

For more information about the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, visit [www.purpleheartmission.org](http://www.purpleheartmission.org).

## **MN Recipient – 2023 Purple Heart Project Press Release**

Bill Bull

**MN Finance Officer**

*South St. Paul Army Veteran Chosen to  
Represent Minnesota's Purple Heart Recipients  
During the 2023 Purple Heart Patriot Project*

(NEWBURGH, NY) – A local Purple Heart recipient has been chosen to be one of the nation's 2023 Purple Heart Patriot Project honorees. U.S. Army Specialist 4th Class Glenn Boche will represent his fellow Purple Heart heroes as Minnesota's representative at a multi-day tribute to the courage and sacrifice of America's combat wounded. The Purple Heart Patriot Project is a program of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission. The all-expenses-paid trip includes visits to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, historic Washington's Headquarters, a special tour of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor and other unique tributes.

"Glenn and his fellow Patriot Project honorees represent the best of the best our country has to offer," said Richie Lay, a Purple Heart recipient and Chairman of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission. "America's Purple Heart veterans have given so much to defend freedom and that sacrifice must always be remembered. These brave men and women are true American heroes. We are privileged to be able to provide this unique salute to service for our Purple Heart heroes."

"Our Purple Heart recipients have made enormous sacrifices for America, and this is our opportunity to say 'thank you' on behalf of a grateful nation. For some, this will be like the homecoming they never had. We received hundreds of nominations from across the country and we look forward to honoring Glenn for his courage and service, both during combat operations and in the years since returning home," said Col. Russ Vernon (NYARNG Ret.), the Executive Director for the National Purple Heart Honor Mission.

This year's Patriot Project honorees include men and women Purple Heart recipients from World War II, the Vietnam War, Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and other conflicts, representing all branches of the service and ranging from 37 to 100-years-old.

Asked what he would want others to know about his service, Specialist Boche said, "At the time, while I was in Vietnam, it was about surviving for another day."

Boche was drafted into the U.S. Army in April 1969 and served with the 22nd Infantry Regiment, the 25th Infantry Division, while in Vietnam. Specialist Boche was wounded-in February 1970 in fighting along the Cambodian border, north and west of the Tay Ninh base camp. The wounds were minor and for the most part, the fragments from the shrapnel were removed by himself and the company medic who, tragically, would be a killed-in-action the very next day. While this mission was temporarily called off, Specialist Boche and the other members of his unit, the very next day at a ceremony awarding commendations to the troops we, were told they were going right back out to the same location the next day as part of a six-company operation to locate the 272 NVA Regiment.

Boche was wounded a second time the very next day when they returned to the same location near the Cambodian border. Boche had been given the choice not to go, because he had been wounded already, but chose to go because he was made a squad leader earlier that day. Upon returning to the location, Boche's squad was ambushed three times when they tried to move out after a brief fire fight. Regrettably, two members of the squad were killed-in-action during the first two ambushes, and several men were wounded. Boche and the other men then attempted to direct the medivac chopper in using flashlights on their helmets, but those efforts were unsuccessful because of the thick jungle canopy. The squad then moved out to go return to their landing zone, only to be ambushed again. During this third firefight, Boche was wounded by an explosion that occurred within their perimeter.

Boche shared "At first it was thought I had shrapnel wounds again but in 2008 when I had my knee replaced, doctors found copper fragments and it was then determined these were two bullet wounds just below the right knee and the third in the inside of my right ankle, as well. We ended up with two killed-in-action and 13 others were wounded."

Along with two Purple Hearts, Specialist Boche was awarded numerous medals and commendations during his service, including a Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Combat Infantry Badge, and more. Married, Boche worked for nearly 40 years with BNSF Railroad after completing his military service.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is located just north of West Point, New York, near the site where General George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit in 1782 during the Revolutionary War. The Badge, a purple cloth cut in the shape of a heart, was the forerunner of today's

Purple Heart medal. In addition to creation of the museum, the National Purple Heart Honor Mission was instrumental in the creation of the Purple Heart Forever stamp now issued by the US Postal Service, and the organization was the driving force behind the nation's first official Purple Heart Commemorative Coin series, which was issued by the United States Mint in 2022.

Those wishing to learn more about the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, signup for their newsletters, or donate to support the Purple Heart Patriot Project should visit [www.PurpleHeartMission.org](http://www.PurpleHeartMission.org).



## MN FIRST RESPONDERS AWARDED

William Bull  
MN Finance Officer

Minnesota First Responders receive award plaques from the Minnesota Military Order of the Purple Heart in their honor for being injured or wounded in the performance of their duties protecting the citizens of the communities of Minnesota. Thank you, Officers, for all you do for us, and may you be held in the protective hands of our Lord God every day.



(L to R): Sergeant Darrell Caturia, McLeod County Sheriffs Dept (shot serving warrant 2023); Deputy Sheriff Angie Malz, McLeod County Sheriffs Dept (shot serving warrant 2023); Deputy Sheriff Darrel Nelson, Itasca County Sheriffs Dept (shot at domestic 2021); Officer Michelle Coffey, Coon Rapids Police Dept (hit by truck failing to yield to squad 2023); Officer Samantha Strandberg, Lakeville Police Dept (squad hit by drunk driver 2021)

## Keystone Uniform Caps

2251 Fraley St, Philadelphia  
PA 19137, United States  
+1 215 821 3434



MOPH Chapter Cap



MOPH Department Cap



MOPH National Cap



MOPH - AUX Cap

## 248<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY – OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>



*A 13 October 1775 resolution of the Continental Congress established what is now the United States Navy with “a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible dispatch, for a cruise of three months....” After the American War of Independence, the U.S. Constitution empowered the new Congress “to provide and maintain a navy.” Acting on this authority, Congress established the Department of the Navy on 30 April 1798.*

*In 1972, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized official recognition of 13 October as the birthday of the U.S. Navy. Since then, each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion “to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service.”*

**13 October 2023 will mark the Navy's 248th birthday. Commemoration toolkit items will be added to this page as they become available.**

*Need additional information for Navy birthday commemoration planning? Please contact the Communication Branch of NHHC at 202-433-7880 or email [NHHC\\_PublicAffairs@us.navy.mil](mailto:NHHC_PublicAffairs@us.navy.mil).*

**Happy Birthday to all 2139**

**Navy Veteran Patriots!**



**Commemoration Resources**



**Digital Resources**



**Navy Logos**



**Navy History and Imagery**



**Archived Content**

## MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Jesseca Voorheis

Membership Director



If you are a parent, grandparent, spouse, widow, widower, sibling, child, or grandchild of a combat veteran of a war of the United States, who for their valiant service has been awarded the Purple Heart you can join the Auxiliary.

### Purple Heart Recipient Membership Application

All persons of good moral character who are awarded the Purple Heart Medal by the Government of the United States AND are Active Duty or have Honorable or General discharge are eligible for active membership in the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A.

Please note that not have memberships. Purple Heart eligible for



the MOPH does posthumous Only living Recipients are membership.

The easiest and most secure method of applying for membership can be found on our website. Click [here](#) or scan the QR Code and then select the appropriate type of membership.

### Associate Member Application

Associate Membership is available to a parent, spouse, sibling, lineal or adopted descendant (child, grandchild, or great-grandchild) of either a living or deceased Purple Heart recipient, evidence of the award of the Purple Heart and the relationship must be submitted with the application. If the Purple Heart Recipient is living, the recipient must be a member in-good-standing, and he/she must sign the application to acknowledge the relationship and consent for the membership. There is no online application for Associate Membership. To download or print an application form, please click on the button.

## Online Membership Application Process

There are four easy steps to our online membership process. Please have a digital copy of your documentation ready to upload. Please allow 1 year for the complete processing and delivery of your welcome package.

**Step 1: Complete a Membership Application Online (and submit Life Member Application Fees).** Complete the membership registration, ensuring all required information is provided. Before starting the application, use the "Find a Chapter" to find the chapter closest to your residence (you will be asked for this on the application), or one will be assigned automatically. Pay a one-time Life Member Application Fee of \$200.00 OR use the installment plan.

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 your discretion as long as the **remaining \$150 is paid within one year** of the application being approved.

**Fees submitted with applications for membership are NON-REFUNDABLE.**

**Step 2: Submit Proof of Purple Heart Award and Honorable Service.** An email will be sent once the application is received. Please respond to the email attaching the required document/s. A copy of the documentation submitted will be retained on file for future reference.

### Veteran Applicant

DD214 Member-4 or Service-2 with Purple Heart Award AND Honorable or General discharge, if necessary, DD215 (if Purple Heart Award, Honorable or General discharge is not on DD214) Recommend: Purple Heart Award Orders Plus Purple Heart Certificate Active-Duty Applicant, provide PCS Orders and the documents listed below. Purple Heart Award Orders plus Purple Heart Certificate Make sure all documents are UNALTERED, COMPLETE and LEGIBLE

**Step 3: Eligibility Review Process by the National Adjutant.** If documentation MEETS eligibility requirements, the application will be processed for membership, and you will receive a notification email welcoming you to the MOPH. If documentation DOES NOT MEET eligibility requirements,

notification will be sent with reason/s for disapproval and steps needed if any to resubmit documentation.

**Step 4: Notification of Membership.** Your membership will be activated, and you will be notified of your membership number and chapter assignment. A new member packet with your permanent membership card, membership certificate, and additional information on MOPH will follow this initial notification. Please allow 1 year for processing and delivery. A copy of your documentation will be retained on file for future reference. All applications are subject to verification with the National Personnel Records Center. All information and requirements are subject to change without notice. If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact us at:

Email: [membership@purpleheart.org](mailto:membership@purpleheart.org)

Mail: MOPH Headquarters, Membership Department, 5413-B Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151-3960

Phone: 703-642-5360

### RaphaRub Community Testimonials



"Your product rid him of his restless leg syndrome, which prescription medication did not, and he sleeps very well every night. The oncologist was very supportive of our using this product. I am reordering because I don't ever want to run out of your product."

"I get bad leg cramps. It takes away the pain."

"I have restless leg syndrome at night. I can't believe how well it works."

"It's really calmed down my restless leg."

"I had trouble sleeping and restless leg syndrome. Both are completely eliminated."

"My legs always feel like they are on fire, at times it feels like acid is being poured on my legs or through my veins. I rub the ointment all over my legs and the pain calms down. It has made a huge difference to me. May God bless you."

~~~~~

Just when it's time to rest from your activity, your legs don't seem to be in agreement. Or maybe you just need to be in a car or on a plane for an extended period of time and the restlessness in your legs becomes problematic. Can you relate?

It's estimated that 7 to 10 percent of Americans suffer from Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS). The sensation, though hard to describe, seems to be like burning, throbbing, or pulling. And the medical community is still at a loss for the cause or the cure.

While leg movement provides some relief, maybe it's time to give you and your legs a rest. Maybe it's time to try **RaphaRub**.



**Thank You**

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

*Ron and Journee*

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND HELP YOURSELF, YOUR CHAPTER, AND THE ORDER!**



## 2023 MOPH AUXILIARY SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Fran Holtgreven

### Auxiliary National Senior Vice President



It is an honor and privilege to be National Sr. Vice President of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary for 2023-2024. Thank you for your support and by working together we will be able to help our Patriot's and Veterans throughout the coming

year.

My goal this year is to focus on Membership.

- (a) How can we as an Auxiliary increase membership? Reach out to a spouse, son, daughter, or grandchild of a Patriot who attends your local Chapter. Invite them to a meeting, informative program, or special occasion to help them understand what the Auxiliary does for their Patriot and how they could help.
- (b) How can we help a Unit who is struggling and has not turned in an Installation or other reports? Just letting a member or past officer of the Unit know we are here to help with any questions they may have, ideas to keep the Unit open and that we miss them and their input to this organization may open discussion to keeping them active. Unfortunately, we may not be able to keep the Unit open, but we can help with information on how to close the Unit properly and transfer to another unit.
- (c) How can we keep the roster updated? We continually need to be diligent in keeping our roster updated. This is something each Department and Unit can help with by letting the National Membership Officer, Cheryl Perez (Members.MOPHA@gmail.com) know when there is a change in their roster. Also, please inform the National Officers of the change.

If any Auxiliary members have other ideas, suggestions or comments that can help the MOPHA focus on membership goals, please speak up and let me know what is on your mind.

Remember, our National President Barbara Hale Ray's, theme for the year is: "TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT!"

I also would like to thank everyone for all the gift cards, raffle items and other items that were donated to the Ways and Means during the 2023 MOPH and MOPHA Convention in Baton Rouge LA. Also, a big THANK YOU to everyone who purchased tickets and who purchased the auction quilt and stained-glass items. With your support and help the Ways and Means prospered. Thanks to the Dept. of LA, this was a great working, informative and fun Convention.

## APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

MOPHA Unit 1836

Anita Hunt-Trevino



Auxiliary members in photo (R to L): Trish Rosie, Joyce Dalton, Rosa Rodriguez, Maria Cain, Julia Ramirez, Camille Ovitz-Matassarini, and Herlinda Sifuentes.

MOPHA Unit 1836, San Antonio, Texas, held a Patriots Appreciation Breakfast on August 5, 2023. Auxiliary members hosted the breakfast to thank Patriots of Alamo Chapter 1836 for their dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of all veterans and their families. The event was also a celebration of Purple Heart Day. Commander Porfirio "Tony" Quesada and 33 Patriots enjoyed an assortment of breakfast tacos, pastries, fruit, and beverages before their regular monthly meeting.



# Application for Life Membership

## Military Order of the Purple Heart

**Purple Heart Recipient** Eligibility: Any person of good moral character who is serving in or has served in one of the Armed Forces of the United States, or any foreign country, who can show proof of the award of the Purple Heart for Wounds

Evidence of the award of the Purple Heart must be submitted with the application. Certificate alone does not constitute proof of award. If discharged, discharge document such as a DD-214 must be provided reflecting character of service as honorable or general.

For active duty, provide PCS orders, Purple Heart Orders and Purple Heart Certificate.

There is no posthumous membership.

All applications are subject to verification with the National Personnel Records Center and/or Service.

**Associate Member** For a parent, spouse, sibling, lineal or adopted descendant (child, grandchild or great-grandchild) of either a living or deceased Purple Heart recipient, evidence of the award of the Purple Heart and the relationship must be submitted with the application.

If the Purple Heart recipient is living, the recipient must be a member in-good-standing of the MOPH and he/she must sign to acknowledge the relationship and consent for membership.

## Dues Schedule

### Military Order of the Purple Heart

Life Membership \$200.00  
Associate Life Membership \$200.00

If the installment plan is selected, \$50 must be submitted with the application. The amount of each installment and the frequency of the installments is at your discretion as long as the remaining \$150 is paid within one year of the application being approved. If you want to use this option, initial here \_\_\_\_\_.

**Fees submitted with Application for Membership are NON-REFUNDABLE.**

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Member# \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter# \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work/Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Check one  Life Member  Associate Life Member

Credit Card  VISA  MasterCard  Discover  American Express CVV # (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(required even if not paying by credit card) Typing my name above will constitute as my signature

All applicants must complete the appropriate section below and send with payment to: MOPH National Headquarters 5413-B Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151 www.purpleheart.org membership@purpleheart.org 703-642-5360

**Purple Heart Recipient** MOPH Bylaws require that a copy of the document that supports the award of the Purple Heart medal must accompany each application. A copy of documentation submitted will be retained on file for future reference. Evidence of the award of the Purple Heart must be submitted with the application. Certificate alone does not constitute proof of award. If discharged, discharge document such as a DD-214 must be provided reflecting character of service as honorable or general. For active duty, provide PCS orders, Purple Heart Orders and Purple Heart Certificate. There is no posthumous membership. All applications are subject to verification with the National Personnel Records Center and/or Service.

DD-214  DD-215 (Must be supported by DD-214)  Orders plus PH Certificate  WD AGO 53-55  
**Service**  Army  Navy  Air Force  Marines  Coast Guard  
**War Wounded**  WW2  Korea  Vietnam  OEF  OIF  OND  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Date entered service \_\_\_\_\_  Active Duty (Provide PCS orders) Date Departed Service/Discharged \_\_\_\_\_

Date wounded \_\_\_\_\_ Location of Engagement \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioning source: \_\_\_\_\_ Have you been convicted of a Felony?  Yes  No

**Associate Member** Documentation of relationship and proof of Purple Heart award required.

Name of Purple Heart Recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Member# & Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter# \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledge the relationship and consent for associate membership (if applicable)

Purple Heart documentation  DD-214  DD-215  Orders plus PH Certificate  WD AGO 53-55

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

Relationship documents  Birth Certificate  Adoption Papers  Marriage Certificate  Casualty Report

The National Adjutant will make the final determination on eligibility. Altered documents constitute automatic denial of membership. Payment for dues is not deductible as a charitable contribution according to the Internal Revenue Code. Dues include subscription to the Purple Heart Magazine.

All information and requirements are subject to change without notice.

(Effective 9/1/2021; Previous editions are obsolete.)

See left side for Dues schedule.  
MOPH use only



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



**AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP** Eligibility is based on relationship to Purple Heart Recipient and is granted to a parent, grandparent, spouse, widow, widower, sibling, child, or grandchild of persons who have been awarded the Purple Heart by the Armed Services of the United States, and to those who served in the Armed Forces and have received the Purple Heart decoration in their own name. Life Membership is subject to conditions set forth in Article I of the MOPHA Bylaws.

**ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP** is available based on relationship to Auxiliary member and is granted to a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, or spouse of a member in the Auxiliary. Associate Membership is subject to conditions set forth in Article XVIII of the MOPHA Bylaws.

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

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

Associate Life Membership—\$50.00

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

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

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

He/she is not a member of MOPH. Attached is the DD214 for certification of Purple Heart award.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary member name & ID number signing you up

**Membership eligibility must be certified by Chapter or Department MOPH Officer or DD214.**

I certify that the MOPH Member & ID Number is known to me & the Applicant is eligible for membership in MOPHA.

Certified by \_\_\_\_\_ MOPH Officer Position \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter# \_\_\_\_\_

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

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Relation to Auxiliary Member Name of Auxiliary Member Life Member Number

Who is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Auxiliary member Relation to Recipient Name of Purple Heart Recipient

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary Member & ID number signing you up

**Membership eligibility must be certified by Chapter or Department MOPH Officer or DD214.**

I certify that the MOPHA Member & ID Number is known to me & the Applicant is eligible for membership in MOPHA.

Certified by \_\_\_\_\_ MOPH Officer Position \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter# \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete appropriate application and send with payment to:**

Cheryl Perez . PO Box 120085 . Chula Vista, CA . 91912 / Email: Members.MOPHA@gmail.com

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

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

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

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

## TAPS

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 Jan 1 – Aug 31, 2023, regardless of the actual date of death. Future issues will only include members who were reported deceased between issues (two-month increments).



| <b>Chapter</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>Date Of Death</b> | <b>Date Death Posted</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 0375-CO-5      | Robert L          | LUCERO           | 1985-06-09           | 2023-02-24               |
| 0120-NY-1      | Thomas J.         | PHILBIN          | 1992-08-29           | 2023-07-05               |
| 0010-NJ-1      | F Allan           | HINNI            | 1992-12-31           | 2023-06-26               |
| 0021-NY-1      | Walter E          | KLINE            | 1993-03-03           | 2023-07-11               |
| DML-WA-3       | Yancie            | WITHERITE        | 1993-03-21           | 2023-07-11               |
| DML-WV-2       | Milton M          | HARTLEY          | 1995-10-13           | 2023-07-10               |
| 0010-NJ-1      | Leslie K.         | HOPMAN           | 1996-11-23           | 2023-07-05               |
| 0005-MN-2      | Louis T.          | HANDWERK         | 1998-06-11           | 2023-05-01               |
| 0021-NY-1      | Fred A.           | CHADDERTON       | 1999-04-18           | 2023-07-06               |
| DML-FL-4       | Joseph R          | GILL             | 1999-06-12           | 2023-07-06               |
| DML-MN-2       | Arthur            | CHRISTENSON      | 1999-06-25           | 2023-03-20               |
| DML-WV-2       | Randall Kent      | TAYLOR           | 1999-12-01           | 2023-07-10               |
| 0260-NE-2      | Radford D         | HYDE             | 1999-12-26           | 2023-08-16               |
| DML-FL-4       | William P.        | BURNS            | 2000-05-19           | 2023-07-05               |
| DML-OH-2       | Edward R.         | BRYANT           | 2000-06-15           | 2023-07-06               |
| 0705-FL-4      | Raymond V         | POLLARD          | 2000-07-20           | 2023-07-05               |
| 0194-MN-2      | Stanley J.        | PETERSON         | 2001-01-30           | 2023-08-21               |
| 0010-NJ-1      | Joseph P.         | GIAQUINTO        | 2002-04-02           | 2023-07-05               |
| 0459-MI-2      | Stanley J         | CZERNIK          | 2002-05-09           | 2023-07-05               |
| 0091-MI-2      | Neal              | DE MEY           | 2002-06-04           | 2023-07-24               |
| DML-NC-4       | Ray V             | ORREN            | 2002-07-02           | 2023-07-04               |
| DML-NC-4       | Charles O.        | VAN GORDER       | 2002-11-28           | 2023-07-05               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Martin J          | GEMOETS          | 2003-02-19           | 2023-03-05               |
| DML-WV-2       | Grover L          | EVANS            | 2003-10-21           | 2023-07-10               |
| DML-MN-2       | Daniel J          | HOOLIHAN         | 2003-12-09           | 2023-03-20               |
| 0617-OK-5      | George H          | CALDWELL         | 2004-01-23           | 2023-07-11               |
| 0385-CA-6      | Roy               | TOOLEY           | 2004-02-25           | 2023-07-05               |
| 0393-TX-5      | Guinn B           | GOODRICH         | 2004-05-11           | 2023-07-06               |
| 0156-OH-2      | Joseph E.         | FREY             | 2004-09-25           | 2023-08-15               |
| 0418-WV-2      | Harold H.         | LYNCH            | 2005-01-23           | 2023-07-06               |
| 0509-ID-3      | Gordon H          | WILLIAMS         | 2006-01-30           | 2023-08-23               |
| 1732-VA-1      | Lloyd J           | SKINNER          | 2006-03-14           | 2023-08-15               |
| 0147-OR-3      | Robert C          | WALLS            | 2006-09-09           | 2023-03-24               |
| DML-NC-4       | George H          | MITCHELL         | 2007-04-03           | 2023-07-04               |
| 0393-TX-5      | Clifford A        | MARTINEZ         | 2007-06-14           | 2023-08-16               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Nial W            | WARNER           | 2008-04-30           | 2023-02-23               |
| 0423-CO-5      | Gordon H          | KELLOGG          | 2008-10-06           | 2023-06-29               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Bill              | TOWNSEND         | 2008-10-12           | 2023-03-05               |
| 0400-FL-4      | Clinton H         | WESTBROOK        | 2008-11-08           | 2023-08-16               |
| DML-WV-2       | Robert L          | HYSELL           | 2009-01-30           | 2023-07-10               |
| 0190-PA-1      | Joseph            | NIZIO            | 2009-07-17           | 2023-08-16               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Oscar K           | HOLCOMB          | 2009-09-26           | 2023-08-28               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Joseph T          | KENNEDY          | 2010-01-20           | 2023-02-23               |
| DML-NC-4       | Glen G            | GIBSON           | 2010-01-25           | 2023-07-04               |
| 0375-CO-5      | Charles           | BROWN            | 2010-02-22           | 2023-02-24               |
| 1898-CA-6      | Rommy             | ENTAC            | 2010-06-01           | 2023-08-21               |
| DML-WV-2       | John L            | MCSHERRY         | 2010-07-10           | 2023-07-10               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Morris H          | SNOW             | 2010-09-20           | 2023-03-05               |
| 1782-NY-1      | John T            | GILSTORF         | 2010-12-24           | 2023-02-24               |
| 0577-MD-1      | Ralph A           | DINTERMAN        | 2010-12-27           | 2023-08-16               |

| <b>Chapter</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>Date Of Death</b> | <b>Date Death Posted</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1782-NY-1      | James D           | HUGHES           | 2011-01-12           | 2023-02-23               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Frank C           | BACA             | 2011-01-20           | 2023-03-05               |
| 0577-MD-1      | Marvin A          | GEYER            | 2011-03-20           | 2023-08-16               |
| 0558-KS-5      | Samuel            | BOESE            | 2011-08-19           | 2023-08-16               |
| 1775-VA-1      | Paul K            | NIENABER         | 2011-10-20           | 2023-06-30               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Lawrence G        | COPELAND         | 2012-01-26           | 2023-02-23               |
| 0867-TX-5      | Willie E          | COOK             | 2012-03-12           | 2023-08-16               |
| DML-NC-4       | Steve             | CZARNECKI        | 2012-04-30           | 2023-07-05               |
| 0375-CO-5      | Bruce J           | RAHLING          | 2012-09-03           | 2023-02-24               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Lewis             | PINKUSSOHN       | 2012-09-22           | 2023-02-23               |
| 0489-HI-6      | Ricarte           | TUMACDER         | 2012-11-01           | 2023-08-11               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Robert L          | CAHILL           | 2012-11-05           | 2023-02-23               |
| 0018-MI-2      | Clarence F        | MADSEN           | 2012-12-26           | 2023-08-15               |
| 0005-MN-2      | Carl F            | GOERS            | 2013-07-24           | 2023-05-01               |
| 0010-NJ-1      | Clarence A        | COTTRELL         | 2013-08-15           | 2023-08-16               |
| 0489-HI-6      | Charles V.        | BLANKENSHIP      | 2014-01-06           | 2023-08-11               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Glenn M           | LATIMER          | 2014-01-18           | 2023-03-05               |
| DML-NC-4       | J Frank           | WALLER           | 2014-02-27           | 2023-07-05               |
| 0005-MN-2      | Harry C           | BEMLOTT          | 2014-04-03           | 2023-05-01               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Charles B         | BALDWIN          | 2014-09-10           | 2023-04-16               |
| 0197-PA-1      | Anthony           | KURT             | 2015-01-11           | 2023-08-16               |
| 0717-FL-4      | Joseph F          | MICULINIC        | 2015-01-22           | 2023-05-16               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Paul D            | DRUM             | 2015-02-06           | 2023-03-05               |
| 0423-CO-5      | Robert R          | MCKITTRICK       | 2015-05-14           | 2023-06-29               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Harold B          | KAUFMAN          | 2015-06-19           | 2023-02-23               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Richard Lee       | HOWLAND          | 2015-09-08           | 2023-02-24               |
| 2004-NM-5      | George D          | NAYLOR           | 2016-01-25           | 2023-03-05               |
| 0366-NJ-1      | Samuel            | ALLAR            | 2016-03-05           | 2023-08-16               |
| 1775-VA-1      | Frederick G       | TOMPKINS         | 2016-03-10           | 2023-06-30               |
| 0509-ID-3      | Thomas C          | JOHNSON          | 2016-04-20           | 2023-08-23               |
| 1782-NY-1      | George            | HUPE             | 2016-06-01           | 2023-02-23               |
| 0845-SC-4      | Will              | SWANK            | 2016-06-17           | 2023-08-31               |
| 1983-PA-1      | Sylvester R       | WILHELM          | 2016-07-03           | 2023-08-16               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Alfred            | REILLY           | 2016-08-07           | 2023-02-23               |
| 1513-TX-5      | Leon B            | DEERE            | 2016-08-31           | 2023-06-11               |
| 0417-NY-1      | Arma              | ANDON            | 2016-12-08           | 2023-08-13               |
| 0005-MN-2      | Robert F          | CLASS            | 2017-02-02           | 2023-05-01               |
| 0531-GA-4      | John E            | HOUSE            | 2017-03-27           | 2023-08-28               |
| 0442-AZ-6      | James A           | CLARKE           | 2017-04-01           | 2023-04-14               |
| 0531-GA-4      | R Ernest          | MCCLURE          | 2017-05-31           | 2023-08-28               |
| 0393-TX-5      | George            | PAZ              | 2017-06-17           | 2023-08-21               |
| 0577-MD-1      | Cosmos D          | QUATTRO          | 2017-11-22           | 2023-08-13               |
| 0147-OR-3      | Lawrence W        | CARTER           | 2018-01-06           | 2023-03-24               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Terry W           | WELBORN          | 2018-02-21           | 2023-08-28               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Terry W           | WELBORN          | 2018-02-21           | 2023-08-28               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Gilberto R        | HERNANDEZ        | 2018-04-03           | 2023-03-05               |
| DML-NC-4       | Carlie C          | JORDAN           | 2018-04-30           | 2023-07-06               |
| 0375-CO-5      | David L           | VAN WORMER       | 2018-06-15           | 2023-02-24               |
| 0056-MN-2      | Harold I          | BROWN            | 2018-06-23           | 2023-05-01               |
| 0056-MN-2      | Harold I          | BROWN            | 2018-06-23           | 2023-05-01               |

| <b>Chapter</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>Date Of Death</b> | <b>Date Death Posted</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 0001-CT-1      | Robert Lamar      | FRENCH           | 2018-07-05           | 2023-07-11               |
| 1775-VA-1      | Dannie N          | WILSON           | 2018-08-18           | 2023-06-30               |
| DML-NC-4       | Glenn T           | EURE             | 2018-09-06           | 2023-07-10               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Ernest            | FREDENBURGH      | 2018-09-11           | 2023-02-24               |
| 0393-TX-5      | Armando           | REY              | 2018-09-23           | 2023-08-21               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Charles L         | BUCKLEN          | 2018-11-09           | 2023-02-23               |
| 0589-OK-5      | David L           | DEFFENBAUGH      | 2018-11-11           | 2023-03-12               |
| DML-NC-4       | Eric M            | EMOND            | 2018-11-27           | 2023-07-04               |
| 0122-MD-1      | Norman S          | IKARI            | 2018-12-09           | 2023-08-16               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Theodore R        | CODY             | 2018-12-22           | 2023-02-23               |
| 0393-TX-5      | Bloyce            | BRADFORD         | 2019-01-29           | 2023-08-21               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Robert D          | SCOTT            | 2019-02-03           | 2023-02-23               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Victor W          | HOWELL           | 2019-03-23           | 2023-08-28               |
| 0375-CO-5      | Patrick E         | PARKHILL         | 2019-03-28           | 2023-02-24               |
| 0393-TX-5      | Ollie C           | PATTERSON        | 2019-03-28           | 2023-08-21               |
| 0393-TX-5      | Carmen J          | GOMEZ            | 2019-04-05           | 2023-08-21               |
| 0490-NY-1      | Larry A           | DOBSON           | 2019-04-18           | 2023-01-21               |
| 0005-MN-2      | Lester C          | BEVINS           | 2019-06-19           | 2023-05-01               |
| 0268-MN-2      | John              | AASEN            | 2019-07-12           | 2023-07-10               |
| 0375-CO-5      | Craig S           | VAUGHAN          | 2019-07-16           | 2023-02-24               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Charles           | HOPKINS          | 2019-07-26           | 2023-08-28               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Charles           | HOPKINS          | 2019-07-26           | 2023-08-28               |
| DML-NC-4       | Joseph Q          | DICKERSON        | 2019-07-29           | 2023-07-05               |
| 0375-CO-5      | Arlen             | BORNSTEIN        | 2019-07-31           | 2023-02-24               |
| 0011-PA-1      | Gifford W         | ABBOTT           | 2019-08-06           | 2023-07-10               |
| 0393-TX-5      | Amado             | CHAVEZ           | 2019-09-02           | 2023-08-21               |
| 1775-VA-1      | Jarrod            | KAPP             | 2019-09-15           | 2023-06-30               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Clarence R        | JANSEN           | 2019-09-28           | 2023-02-23               |
| 0490-NY-1      | James S           | CAMPBELL         | 2019-10-06           | 2023-01-25               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Paul E            | DEROGATIS        | 2019-10-07           | 2023-02-24               |
| 0490-NY-1      | Richard E         | SPRIGGS          | 2019-10-19           | 2023-01-21               |
| 1818-MI-2      | Joseph A          | VOHS             | 2019-10-24           | 2023-03-28               |
| 1937-TX-5      | Gerald G          | LACKEY           | 2019-11-01           | 2023-05-30               |
| 9377-DE-1      | Joseph T          | FITZGERALD       | 2019-12-31           | 2023-05-01               |
| 0558-KS-5      | Mike A Doc        | HIGDON           | 2020-01-10           | 2023-03-12               |
| 0558-KS-5      | Ralph William     | ANDRUS           | 2020-01-16           | 2023-03-12               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Franklin          | CHAPMAN          | 2020-01-20           | 2023-03-05               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Rupert E          | MANSELL          | 2020-01-28           | 2023-03-05               |
| 0268-MN-2      | Harvey W          | SELL             | 2020-02-06           | 2023-05-01               |
| 1775-VA-1      | Francis J         | TANSEY           | 2020-02-06           | 2023-06-30               |
| 0423-CO-5      | Donald G          | STRATTON         | 2020-02-15           | 2023-06-29               |
| 0509-ID-3      | Elven Joe         | SWISHER          | 2020-03-14           | 2023-08-23               |
| DML-NC-4       | Thomas            | PYLE             | 2020-03-15           | 2023-07-10               |
| 0490-NY-1      | Forrest           | COMPTON          | 2020-04-04           | 2023-01-21               |
| 0558-KS-5      | Walter V          | LAWRENCE         | 2020-04-04           | 2023-03-12               |
| 0423-CO-5      | Robert M          | DRAKE            | 2020-04-23           | 2023-06-29               |
| 0423-CO-5      | Delmar            | CLAUSSEN         | 2020-05-02           | 2023-06-29               |
| 1041-CO-5      | Robert            | RHODES           | 2020-05-03           | 2023-03-06               |
| DML-WY-3       | Louis             | DALE             | 2020-05-30           | 2023-07-10               |
| DML-NC-4       | William J         | ISENHOOR         | 2020-06-01           | 2023-07-10               |

| <b>Chapter</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>Date Of Death</b> | <b>Date Death Posted</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 2004-NM-5      | Gary C            | NEWMAN           | 2020-06-03           | 2023-03-05               |
| 0393-TX-5      | George            | SNEAD            | 2020-07-11           | 2023-08-21               |
| 0393-TX-5      | Moises            | FLORES           | 2020-07-18           | 2023-08-21               |
| 0490-NY-1      | Robert H          | HOLLAND          | 2020-07-22           | 2023-01-21               |
| 1041-CO-5      | Modesto           | MARTINEZ         | 2020-08-03           | 2023-03-06               |
| 1775-VA-1      | James             | KEITH            | 2020-08-09           | 2023-06-30               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Fred              | DENSON           | 2020-08-24           | 2023-06-04               |
| 0268-MN-2      | Ed W              | REVSBECK         | 2020-09-28           | 2023-05-01               |
| 0375-CO-5      | Oscar H           | GILLESPIE        | 2020-10-13           | 2023-02-24               |
| DML-NC-4       | Dominick G        | GIGLIO           | 2020-10-26           | 2023-07-06               |
| 0393-TX-5      | William C         | WHITE            | 2020-11-02           | 2023-08-21               |
| 0091-MI-2      | Allen             | BODVEN           | 2020-11-09           | 2023-07-24               |
| 0636-NC-4      | Shannon M         | LONGINOTTI       | 2020-11-26           | 2023-07-04               |
| 1782-NY-1      | James L           | NOVAK            | 2020-12-04           | 2023-02-24               |
| 1041-CO-5      | Thomas George     | VALLE            | 2020-12-05           | 2023-03-06               |
| 1041-CO-5      | Francisco S       | LOPEZ            | 2020-12-28           | 2023-03-06               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Douglas M         | KEMPER           | 2021-01-24           | 2023-02-24               |
| 1513-TX-5      | Roy D             | JAMES            | 2021-01-30           | 2023-06-11               |
| DML-NC-4       | Stamey J          | HOLLAND          | 2021-02-03           | 2023-07-04               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Daniel            | WILSON           | 2021-03-26           | 2023-08-28               |
| 0375-CO-5      | Gregory           | BRADFORD         | 2021-04-02           | 2023-02-24               |
| 0393-TX-5      | Manuel E          | MARTINEZ         | 2021-04-08           | 2023-08-21               |
| 0323-IL-2      | Nathan U          | FIRESTONE        | 2021-05-16           | 2023-08-16               |
| 1782-NY-1      | William G         | STRATIS          | 2021-05-20           | 2023-02-23               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Gary L            | WHIDDON          | 2021-06-26           | 2023-08-28               |
| 0442-AZ-6      | Laural            | GOMILLION        | 2021-07-03           | 2023-05-08               |
| 0375-CO-5      | Terry L           | LYONS            | 2021-07-03           | 2023-02-24               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Perry Allen       | THOMPSON         | 2021-07-26           | 2023-08-28               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Robert            | WESTFALL         | 2021-07-28           | 2023-02-24               |
| DML-WV-2       | Ray W             | SCHOOLCRAFT      | 2021-07-30           | 2023-08-15               |
| 0636-NC-4      | Larry H           | FARMER           | 2021-08-09           | 2023-07-03               |
| 0375-CO-5      | John E            | CARY             | 2021-08-15           | 2023-02-24               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Richard           | DRAGO            | 2021-08-21           | 2023-02-23               |
| 0110-MI-2      | William F         | MORRIS           | 2021-08-22           | 2023-01-24               |
| 0621-MO-2      | Nathaniel         | BROOKS           | 2021-09-10           | 2023-07-11               |
| 0393-TX-5      | Robert            | GIRON            | 2021-09-19           | 2023-08-21               |
| 0535-FL-4      | Leroy E           | GRIGGS           | 2021-09-23           | 2023-04-19               |
| DML-MN-2       | John L.           | SAXHAUG          | 2021-10-10           | 2023-03-20               |
| 0558-KS-5      | Christopher F     | SWARTZ           | 2021-10-12           | 2023-03-12               |
| 1782-NY-1      | Lloyd G           | SELLERS          | 2021-10-26           | 2023-02-23               |
| 1775-VA-1      | Clarence D        | LONG             | 2021-10-28           | 2023-06-30               |
| 0005-MN-2      | Dale R            | BORK             | 2021-11-07           | 2023-05-01               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Margarito         | TRUJILLO         | 2021-11-08           | 2023-03-05               |
| 1818-MI-2      | Larry R           | PRETZER          | 2021-11-10           | 2023-03-28               |
| 0393-TX-5      | Arthur            | SEELIG           | 2021-12-04           | 2023-08-21               |
| 1041-CO-5      | George A          | YUTHAS           | 2021-12-11           | 2023-02-06               |
| 0008-MN-2      | John J            | STROJAN          | 2021-12-13           | 2023-04-13               |
| 0636-NC-4      | William D         | MCHENRY          | 2021-12-14           | 2023-07-03               |
| 0375-CO-5      | Jeffrey L         | WHITLING         | 2021-12-25           | 2023-02-24               |
| 0845-SC-4      | Roy               | SPIVEY           | 2022-01-02           | 2023-04-12               |

| <b>Chapter</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>Date Of Death</b> | <b>Date Death Posted</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1775-VA-1      | James             | SMITH            | 2022-01-03           | 2023-06-30               |
| 0531-GA-4      | David M           | SEMON            | 2022-01-25           | 2023-08-28               |
| 1754-VA-1      | John D            | CHAMBERS         | 2022-01-29           | 2023-01-03               |
| 0091-MI-2      | Jack E            | LONGCORE         | 2022-02-01           | 2023-07-24               |
| 0268-MN-2      | Leon R            | KESSLER          | 2022-02-15           | 2023-07-05               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Daniel M          | MCBRIDE          | 2022-02-16           | 2023-03-05               |
| DML-NC-4       | Robert E          | PATTERSON        | 2022-02-18           | 2023-07-05               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Francis J         | JOHNSTON         | 2022-02-26           | 2023-08-28               |
| 0820-OK-5      | Kathy             | MCKINNIS         | 2022-03-03           | 2023-04-02               |
| 0393-TX-5      | Willie A          | PEREZ            | 2022-03-09           | 2023-08-21               |
| 0423-CO-5      | A Wayne           | FIELD            | 2022-03-10           | 2023-05-22               |
| 0531-GA-4      | James V           | BRYAN            | 2022-03-16           | 2023-08-28               |
| DML-MN-2       | Eldon W           | TRACY            | 2022-04-13           | 2023-03-20               |
| 0490-NY-1      | Albert            | TOWNSEND SR      | 2022-05-26           | 2023-01-13               |
| DML-NC-4       | James Edward      | WILLIAMS         | 2022-06-01           | 2023-07-05               |
| 0932-SC-4      | Bobby             | MACK             | 2022-06-04           | 2023-06-30               |
| 0721-IN-2      | Charles           | GLASPER          | 2022-06-07           | 2023-04-24               |
| 1754-VA-1      | John D            | MILEY            | 2022-06-10           | 2023-05-02               |
| 0730-NV-6      | Elijio            | GRIEGO           | 2022-06-12           | 2023-01-18               |
| 1775-VA-1      | Claude R          | JOBBER           | 2022-06-21           | 2023-06-30               |
| 9377-DE-1      | Ronald L          | WALSTRUM         | 2022-06-24           | 2023-01-18               |
| 0636-NC-4      | Darry R           | CLARK            | 2022-06-28           | 2023-07-03               |
| 0442-AZ-6      | Edward L          | CHRISTIANSEN     | 2022-07-14           | 2023-01-03               |
| DML-NC-4       | Paul              | FOX              | 2022-07-14           | 2023-07-04               |
| 0589-OK-5      | Donald G          | CLAPSADDLE       | 2022-08-02           | 2023-03-12               |
| 0417-NY-1      | Andy              | VIOLA            | 2022-08-03           | 2023-01-10               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Louis J           | STRAUS           | 2022-08-10           | 2023-04-17               |
| 2212-AL-4      | William R         | KORWATCH         | 2022-08-24           | 2023-07-22               |
| 0776-FL-4      | Edwin D           | ABBOTT           | 2022-08-26           | 2023-04-12               |
| 0268-MN-2      | Harry L           | BURKE            | 2022-09-06           | 2023-07-03               |
| 0776-FL-4      | Richard           | ALLEN            | 2022-09-10           | 2023-08-26               |
| 1513-TX-5      | Robert E          | MCADAM           | 2022-09-11           | 2023-07-10               |
| 0091-MI-2      | Bryon M           | BAILEY           | 2022-09-13           | 2023-07-24               |
| 0830-AK-3      | Joseph J          | SAWYER           | 2022-09-13           | 2023-02-02               |
| 0782-TX-5      | John L            | SOMERS           | 2022-09-18           | 2023-08-22               |
| 0375-CO-5      | Fred E            | LYSSY            | 2022-10-10           | 2023-02-24               |
| 1775-VA-1      | Robert M          | MALLARD          | 2022-10-15           | 2023-06-30               |
| 9377-DE-1      | Ronald C          | HOPPLE           | 2022-10-23           | 2023-05-24               |
| 0558-KS-5      | John D            | GALLEHER         | 2022-10-28           | 2023-03-12               |
| 1787-DE-1      | Clement R         | JAMES            | 2022-11-11           | 2023-04-05               |
| 0455-PA-1      | Robert            | SZOSZOREK        | 2022-11-11           | 2023-06-20               |
| 0585-KY-2      | Homer W           | CURLING          | 2022-12-08           | 2023-01-04               |
| 0190-PA-1      | Charles L         | GUBISH           | 2022-12-13           | 2023-08-16               |
| 0493-CA-6      | Manuel            | GONZALES         | 2022-12-22           | 2023-03-12               |
| 0691-AZ-6      | Kenneth           | KRUSE            | 2022-12-22           | 2023-03-21               |
| 0570-MD-1      | Lawrence          | HANSEL           | 2022-12-23           | 2023-03-28               |
| 0625-OH-2      | Joyce L           | MORTON           | 2022-12-25           | 2023-04-23               |
| 0777-IA-2      | Barry             | ADAMS            | 2022-12-26           | 2023-01-03               |
| 0036-NJ-1      | Robert            | GIRARD           | 2022-12-29           | 2023-01-24               |
| 0490-NY-1      | Norman A          | MORDUE           | 2022-12-29           | 2023-01-25               |

| <b>Chapter</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>Date Of Death</b> | <b>Date Death Posted</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1876-TX-5      | Joseph C          | VANDERLIP        | 2022-12-31           | 2023-02-08               |
| DML-NC-4       | Glenn C           | HUGHES           | 2023-01-01           | 2023-07-10               |
| 1876-TX-5      | Ralph E           | PEARMAN          | 2023-01-01           | 2023-01-10               |
| 0535-FL-4      | Mervin W          | GREENE           | 2023-01-02           | 2023-04-12               |
| 0535-FL-4      | Donald G          | JOHNSON          | 2023-01-02           | 2023-04-19               |
| 0535-FL-4      | Alice             | SANTIAGO         | 2023-01-02           | 2023-04-19               |
| 5555-MN-2      | Charles E         | ARDINGER         | 2023-01-03           | 2023-01-31               |
| 0777-IA-2      | Jerry             | MEEK             | 2023-01-03           | 2023-01-13               |
| 1777-PA-1      | Eric W            | WELKE            | 2023-01-03           | 2023-02-12               |
| 0691-AZ-6      | Ronald E          | BOEHME           | 2023-01-07           | 2023-07-25               |
| 0593-AK-3      | J W               | TERRILL          | 2023-01-08           | 2023-01-26               |
| 1876-TX-5      | Richard J         | IMHOLTE          | 2023-01-10           | 2023-02-01               |
| 0691-AZ-6      | Lawrence R        | BROWN            | 2023-01-11           | 2023-01-31               |
| 0875-MA-1      | Robert M          | DELIA            | 2023-01-12           | 2023-04-13               |
| 1787-DE-1      | Charles H         | PATRICK          | 2023-01-12           | 2023-01-19               |
| 2206-AL-4      | Donald L          | SMITH            | 2023-01-15           | 2023-03-17               |
| 1876-TX-5      | Federico          | REY              | 2023-01-18           | 2023-01-30               |
| 1836-TX-5      | Narciso           | PULIDO           | 2023-01-20           | 2023-02-03               |
| 0005-MN-2      | Thurston          | TRUMBOWER        | 2023-01-20           | 2023-06-15               |
| 0833-IN-2      | Charles           | MURPHY           | 2023-01-23           | 2023-03-29               |
| 0484-TN-4      | Robert            | BAKER            | 2023-01-25           | 2023-02-22               |
| 0524-FL-4      | Stewart J         | CONOVER          | 2023-01-25           | 2023-01-26               |
| 0490-NY-1      | Jack A            | REISING          | 2023-01-26           | 2023-02-01               |
| 3620-OH-2      | William J         | GROGER           | 2023-01-28           | 2023-02-07               |
| 0613-TN-4      | James             | AARON            | 2023-02-01           | 2023-07-10               |
| 0492-GA-4      | Nokomis           | CRONEY           | 2023-02-01           | 2023-03-22               |
| 0820-OK-5      | Jeanne            | QUICK            | 2023-02-02           | 2023-04-02               |
| 0558-KS-5      | Marcus E          | SCHMIDT          | 2023-02-02           | 2023-08-13               |
| 1777-PA-1      | John P            | FERKO            | 2023-02-03           | 2023-02-12               |
| 9377-DE-1      | Richard           | MAGNER           | 2023-02-05           | 2023-04-19               |
| 0576-GA-4      | Wilbur            | MATTISON         | 2023-02-09           | 2023-02-10               |
| 0845-SC-4      | James A           | HUNT             | 2023-02-10           | 2023-02-28               |
| 0690-MS-4      | Robert E          | NIXON            | 2023-02-13           | 2023-05-01               |
| 1836-TX-5      | Jesse C           | TREVINO          | 2023-02-13           | 2023-03-02               |
| 1818-MI-2      | George M          | SAWYER           | 2023-02-28           | 2023-03-28               |
| 9377-DE-1      | J. Patrick        | LITTLE           | 2023-03-02           | 2023-04-19               |
| 0684-KS-5      | James R           | FREEL            | 2023-03-03           | 2023-03-18               |
| 0027-NJ-1      | Martin C          | MILES            | 2023-03-03           | 2023-03-06               |
| 1979-IA-2      | Duane J           | ZIMMERMAN        | 2023-03-03           | 2023-03-08               |
| 0049-CA-6      | Alex              | LUJAN            | 2023-03-07           | 2023-03-23               |
| 0455-PA-1      | Michael J         | MELOSKY          | 2023-03-07           | 2023-06-20               |
| 0642-NC-4      | Thomas J          | PRENDERGAST      | 2023-03-13           | 2023-03-16               |
| 0577-MD-1      | Orville R         | HUGHES           | 2023-03-16           | 2023-03-28               |
| 0643-OH-2      | Douglas Sean      | DEWOLFE          | 2023-03-17           | 2023-03-18               |
| 2560-AZ-6      | Phil              | YIN              | 2023-03-25           | 2023-03-27               |
| 0717-FL-4      | Edward O          | HOLLOWAY         | 2023-03-27           | 2023-06-15               |
| 1876-TX-5      | Lee B             | WILSON           | 2023-03-27           | 2023-04-12               |
| 0636-NC-4      | A J               | GRADY            | 2023-04-02           | 2023-07-03               |
| 2216-AL-4      | David P           | BROWN            | 2023-04-03           | 2023-04-12               |
| 0587-AR-5      | James             | FRYE             | 2023-04-04           | 2023-04-04               |

| <b>Chapter</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>Date Of Death</b> | <b>Date Death Posted</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 0602-OK-5      | Hector            | ORTIZ            | 2023-04-05           | 2023-04-25               |
| DML-NC-4       | Bailey            | GILLESPIE        | 2023-04-11           | 2023-07-06               |
| 2206-AL-4      | John R            | NEW              | 2023-04-16           | 2023-07-26               |
| 1974-OH-2      | John R            | RIEKER           | 2023-04-16           | 2023-06-30               |
| 0455-PA-1      | Paul H            | SAGER            | 2023-04-17           | 2023-06-20               |
| 0570-MD-1      | Andrew            | ANDERSON         | 2023-04-19           | 2023-05-31               |
| 0636-NC-4      | Bernard           | NYKANEN          | 2023-04-19           | 2023-06-17               |
| 0110-MI-2      | James D           | WAGNER           | 2023-04-22           | 2023-04-26               |
| 0817-SC-4      | Robert D          | FISSETTE         | 2023-04-29           | 2023-05-05               |
| 0727-LA-5      | Nickolas S        | YOST             | 2023-05-04           | 2023-06-02               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Elliott           | WORTHINGTON      | 2023-05-09           | 2023-06-03               |
| 0509-ID-3      | William           | HAMILTON         | 2023-05-15           | 2023-05-22               |
| 0634-NC-4      | Thomas            | BECKHAM          | 2023-05-20           | 2023-05-30               |
| 0005-MN-2      | Stephen J         | SAGSTETTER       | 2023-05-25           | 2023-06-15               |
| 0159-IL-2      | Robert K          | COWLES           | 2023-05-26           | 2023-06-04               |
| 0699-OH-2      | Richard F         | STOLTZ           | 2023-05-28           | 2023-05-30               |
| 0717-FL-4      | Donald A          | MATES            | 2023-06-02           | 2023-06-02               |
| 0682-MS-4      | Elliott C         | JACKSON          | 2023-06-04           | 2023-07-07               |
| DML-WV-2       | Fred              | SIX              | 2023-06-05           | 2023-07-10               |
| 0553-TX-5      | Durwood D         | ROSSER           | 2023-06-09           | 2023-06-15               |
| 0031-OH-2      | Edward            | DAMRON           | 2023-06-21           | 2023-06-22               |
| 3620-OH-2      | Leroy             | OLIVER           | 2023-06-21           | 2023-07-19               |
| 0840-OH-2      | Paul R            | WILSON           | 2023-06-22           | 2023-06-24               |
| 0402-SC-4      | John B            | GRACE            | 2023-06-23           | 2023-07-07               |
| 0011-PA-1      | William C         | HOSLER           | 2023-06-23           | 2023-07-24               |
| 0049-CA-6      | Donovan R         | LEAVITT          | 2023-06-24           | 2023-07-31               |
| 0400-FL-4      | John S            | MCLEOD           | 2023-06-25           | 2023-07-07               |
| 2206-AL-4      | Howard P          | ATCHINSON        | 2023-07-11           | 2023-07-26               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Edward Velarde    | GAMBOA           | 2023-07-18           | 2023-07-22               |
| 2004-NM-5      | Rudy              | GUTIERREZ        | 2023-07-19           | 2023-07-22               |
| 0492-GA-4      | Teddy N           | WHEALTON         | 2023-07-22           | 2023-08-01               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Ronnie W          | BROWN            | 2023-07-23           | 2023-08-28               |
| 0705-FL-4      | William E         | HENSHAW          | 2023-07-23           | 2023-07-27               |
| 0005-MN-2      | Richard L         | JENKINS          | 2023-07-26           | 2023-08-24               |
| 0642-NC-4      | Alice             | WILLIAMS         | 2023-07-27           | 2023-07-27               |
| 0531-GA-4      | Armand            | CHAPEAU          | 2023-07-31           | 2023-08-05               |
| 0587-AR-5      | John P            | GOODMAN          | 2023-08-03           | 2023-08-22               |
| 0492-GA-4      | Wayne J           | VOTER            | 2023-08-06           | 2023-08-16               |
| 0553-TX-5      | Danny             | AGUILERA         | 2023-08-10           | 2023-08-31               |
| 0442-AZ-6      | Ralph             | MASTERS          | 2023-08-13           | 2023-08-17               |
| 0036-NJ-1      | Stephen           | JAMISON          | 2023-08-14           | 2023-08-22               |
| 0385-CA-6      | Charles Jim       | APODACA          | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 0165-WI-2      | Clement L         | BAKER            | None                 | 2023-06-20               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Richard N         | BLASONGAME       | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 0406-NY-1      | Richard E         | BRISTOL          | None                 | 2023-02-01               |
| 0385-CA-6      | John E            | BUTLER           | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 0385-CA-6      | John              | CHAVEZ           | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 0777-IA-2      | Edward V          | CHESNUT          | None                 | 2023-02-01               |
| 0385-CA-6      | Peter             | CONATY           | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 0609-MI-2      | Richard A         | CRANDALL         | None                 | 2023-01-10               |

| <b>Chapter</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>Date Of Death</b> | <b>Date Death Posted</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 0566-FL-4      | Peter J           | DOWLING          | None                 | 2023-04-17               |
| 0385-CA-6      | Robert G          | ECKHOFF          | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 0932-SC-4      | Joseph K          | FAIREY           | None                 | 2023-06-30               |
| 0385-CA-6      | Gary              | FERGUSON         | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 0003-NY-1      | Stanley           | FISHBEIN         | None                 | 2023-01-18               |
| 0027-NJ-1      | Margaret          | GALKA            | None                 | 2023-03-15               |
| 0385-CA-6      | Fred B            | GARZA            | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Walter R          | HANKO            | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 0354-SC-4      | Orren H           | HIGHTOWER        | None                 | 2023-01-09               |
| 0566-FL-4      | Richard           | HINES            | None                 | 2023-04-17               |
| 0027-NJ-1      | Maynard           | HOOPER           | None                 | 2023-03-15               |
| 0385-CA-6      | Raymond L         | HYDER            | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 0566-FL-4      | Jesse             | JOYCE            | None                 | 2023-05-03               |
| 1983-PA-1      | Benjamin          | KAYLOR           | None                 | 2023-02-01               |
| 7110-MN-2      | Earl              | KINNEBERG        | None                 | 2023-02-21               |
| 0417-NY-1      | Terence A         | KREIDER          | None                 | 2023-02-01               |
| 0385-CA-6      | Lamar L           | KUTTLER          | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 0165-WI-2      | William M         | LANDERS          | None                 | 2023-07-12               |
| 0027-NJ-1      | Raymond V         | LANZA            | None                 | 2023-03-15               |
| 0558-KS-5      | Michael L         | LICHTENBERG      | None                 | 2023-02-01               |
| 0657-NC-4      | Edwin             | LONG             | None                 | 2023-01-17               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Hermerejildo      | LOPEZ            | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 0385-CA-6      | Brad              | LUSK             | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 0490-NY-1      | Dave              | MANN             | None                 | 2023-01-21               |
| 0570-MD-1      | Norval G          | MEADOWS          | None                 | 2023-03-27               |
| 0385-CA-6      | Henry J           | MONTIJO          | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 1974-OH-2      | William A         | MUNSON           | None                 | 2023-06-26               |
| 0589-OK-5      | James Q           | OGDEN            | None                 | 2023-02-02               |
| 0159-IL-2      | Thomas D          | O'HARA           | None                 | 2023-03-10               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Gary A            | OLIVER           | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 0027-NJ-1      | Kenneth           | PICKELL          | None                 | 2023-03-15               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Ralph             | PILKENTON        | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 0473-OH-2      | Richard A         | PLATT            | None                 | 2023-01-04               |
| 0392-CA-6      | Michael R         | PRESTON          | None                 | 2023-01-25               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Steven J          | RADFORD          | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 2201-AL-4      | Thomas C          | REED             | None                 | 2023-02-28               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Herbert C         | REICHERT         | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 0031-OH-2      | Ronnie G          | RIGGS            | None                 | 2023-08-09               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Socorro A         | ROSALES          | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 1775-VA-1      | Joseph            | SAITTA           | None                 | 2023-06-30               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Michael           | SAMBERG          | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 0385-CA-6      | Michael A         | SCHMID           | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Bruce R           | SCOTT            | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Thomas R          | SHUPE            | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 1889-WA-3      | James             | SIMS             | None                 | 2023-02-07               |
| 0015-CA-6      | John W            | THOMAS           | None                 | 2023-06-28               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Norman D          | THOMPSON         | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 1670-SC-4      | Sherman W         | THOMPSON         | None                 | 2023-04-13               |
| 2929-CA-6      | David R           | TONER            | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 0717-FL-4      | John              | VAN ABEL         | None                 | 2023-05-22               |

| <b>Chapter</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>Date Of Death</b> | <b>Date Death Posted</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1607-VA-1      | Earle P           | WEEKLEY          | None                 | 2023-02-03               |
| 0385-CA-6      | Ronald T          | WHITENACK        | None                 | 2023-05-12               |
| 2929-CA-6      | John M            | WRIGHT           | None                 | 2023-06-06               |
| 0027-NJ-1      | Walter            | WYNKOOP          | None                 | 2023-03-15               |
| 2929-CA-6      | Leslie F          | ZIMMERMAN        | None                 | 2023-06-06               |