



## Subject: Commander's Final Thoughts About MOPH's Future

To my brothers/sisters in purple of the NEC,

We are facing extremely challenging times, both in ways of financial matters to the Order and our organizational structure for effectiveness of the Order. As your outgoing Commander, having served you for past two years, and experiencing the issues we continue to face, I wanted to give you my thoughts for you to ponder and consider.

Facing our present financial situation: **WHAT WE MUST DO NOW** for **OUR** future. First, the immediate financial crises we are facing. It is clear that MOPH has to become more financially self-sufficient. The future of adequate funding from the foundation is uncertain, and immediate funding is required. I have created that instrument already in place, our "**LEGACY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**". I realize that not every member may be able to afford \$19.32 a month amounting to \$231.85 a year. However, every member must know a family relative, a friend, or small businessperson that could afford it. The purpose of this program is not to recruit our members to join, **WE ARE** the legacy. Instead, the purpose of this program is to get the public, community, town, businesses (large/small), cities, influential persons, and ordinary citizens to join and "**Help Us Preserve the (our) Legacy**".

Think about this for a minute, if each member was to get 2 persons, or 2 businesses to join, not only would the Order **SURVIVE** but we would not be looking at reducing our Service Program, we would be growing our Service Program and helping even more Veterans. That is with just two "**Legacy Members**." Now imagine what it would be like if members signed up 3, 4 or more. Our members themselves are **OUR** best form of advertisement. We would be able to keep them year after year with a welcome certificate, the pin, followed by Holiday Greetings, a newsletter

from our "March on the Hill" Commander testimony, and with all the figures describing how our Service Program helps veterans.

Presently we have approximately:

46,000 membership @ \$231.84 = \$10,664,640.  
23,000 @ \$231.84 = \$5,332,530.  
11,500 @ \$231.84 = \$2,666,162.  
5,750 @ \$231.84 = \$1,333,080.

With an organized, concentrated commitment and a true effort in each of our six (6) regions, I am convinced that the 5,000 to 10,000 "legacy members" figure can be obtained. In our present situation for budget year 2018-2019, 6,000 members would well cover the shortfall from that budget the Foundation offered to MOPH.

For as little as \$240.00 a year, a business can be a Legacy member. That is who we need to YOU to recruit. If you have a large company that wants to donate \$2400.00 a year, then make 10 of their employees "Legacy Members."

We can control our future! I've heard that the other Veteran Service Organizations get 55% from their \$19.99 program. We are the original wounded warriors and it's our Legacy. We are the ones who have the members and their medals prove to it & to do it.

Godspeed,

Neil Van Ess  
National Commander



**STAY CONNECTED**

