

Military Order of the Purple Heart
90th National Convention



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CHRISTOPHER VEDVICK

NATIONAL COMMANDER

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Mending the Fractures: A Call for Unity and Healing Within the Military Order of the Purple Heart

Introduction:

As the National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, I am compelled to address the internal challenges that have yet again cast a shadow upon our noble organization. Over the past year, we have endeavored to heal the wounds of divisiveness within our ranks, striving to foster a sense of unity and camaraderie. Regrettably, there are those who persist in fanning the flames of discord, driven by a desire for personal aggrandizement and the pursuit of individual agendas rather than the collective mission of the MOPH.

The Price of Discord:

The actions of a small, yet vocal, minority of members have threatened the very fabric of our organization. By engaging in vitriolic personal attacks and violating the bylaws and spirit of fellowship that bind us together, these self-involved individuals have sown seeds of disunity and unrest. Such behavior is not only distasteful and unprofessional, but it also detracts from our shared purpose: honoring and supporting the brave men and women who have sacrificed for our nation. The vitality of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is contingent upon the infusion of fresh perspectives and the energetic zeal of younger veterans. Regrettably, the organization has been beleaguered by fratricidal discord, which has erected a formidable barrier to the retention and engagement of these invaluable members. The disheartening refrain, echoing throughout the ranks of younger veterans, is a desire to defer their national involvement for a decade, in the hope that the tumultuous atmosphere will have abated by then. This disengagement threatens to deprive the organization of the innovative ideas, technological proficiency, and unbridled enthusiasm that are the lifeblood of any thriving institution. It is incumbent upon us, as champions of the MOPH's noble mission, to recognize and address the detrimental impact of internal strife, lest we squander the potential of the very individuals who hold the key to our future success and longevity.

A Plea for Unity:

As an esteemed organization dedicated to the service of our veterans, it is incumbent upon us to rise above

the discord and to remember the core values that unite us. We must recognize that our strength lies in our solidarity and our unwavering commitment to the MOPH's mission. To preserve the integrity and reputation of our Order, we must reject the destructive forces that seek to divide us and instead embrace the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood that defines us.

The Path Forward:

To mend the fractures within our Order, we must take purposeful steps to promote healing and foster a renewed sense of unity:

1. Open Dialogue: Engage in respectful, open conversations that allow for a diversity of perspectives, fostering mutual understanding and empathy.
2. Conflict Resolution: Develop and implement processes to address and resolve disputes in a fair and impartial manner, ensuring that all members are treated with dignity and respect.
3. Reinforce Core Values: Emphasize the MOPH's core values in all interactions, nurturing a culture of integrity, compassion, and service.
4. Celebrate Shared Achievements: Highlight the collective accomplishments of our members and the positive impact of our programs and services, reinforcing our shared commitment to the MOPH's mission. We must recognize the profound power of communication in shaping our ethos, and strive to utilize mass emails as vehicles of celebration and encouragement, rather than conduits for tearing down our fellow compatriots.
5. Foster Inclusivity: Encourage the active participation of all members, creating an environment that is welcoming, supportive, and inclusive.

Conclusion:

The challenges we face are not insurmountable. As an organization forged in the crucible of sacrifice and bound by a shared history of service, we possess the resilience and determination to overcome adversity. By focusing on our common goals and embracing the spirit of fellowship, we can heal the wounds of divisiveness and build a stronger, more unified Military Order of the Purple Heart. Let us commit ourselves to the pursuit of unity, recognizing that our collective strength is greater than the sum of our individual ambitions.♥



CARDER FERGUSON
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Shortly, we will all have a chance to get together in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for the Order and Auxiliary 90th National Convention. I hope that you can attend, but I know that the Economy has shot prices way up and will make it hard for some patriots who want to attend to be able to. I know that Department Louisiana Commander Ron Crowley and his staff have put tremendous time and effort into making this a great convention. If you come, you will have a great time.

Many Patriots have stated that they are having difficulty getting information and getting on the purpleheart.org website. I know that the headquarters Staff and the Command team have handled every request sent in for working the Website, such as reports, Orders, and download of rosters. One of the essential pieces of information we need to operate the Website is your Life member Number, which is tied to your current email address.

If your Email is not kept up to date, you cannot access the Website or receive any information. Chapter Officers can access the Chapter Roster and download and review it to see if the information is correct. Each Patriot can update their information. If your Email has changed, your Department Officer can update your Email address.

I have worked with my Chapter, and we have all the patriots with current emails. I encourage everyone to get this done as soon as you can!! I know that at least half of the Orders Patriot either do not have an email on file or the email address is incorrect.

Next, I established an email for our chapter moph587@gmail.com we use so the Chapter Commander or Officers can get information in case they still need an email. We have a few Officers that have access to this Email, and when

their term is up, we can pass it on to the next leadership team. Your Email address is a way to keep an archive of information for the Chapter.

Ok, I will summarize what the Headquarters team has accomplished this year. We started with three Audits; one is finished, and the other two are in the hands of the Auditor, and working to have it completed by the Convention.

During the Audits, we had to handle a lawsuit against the Order this has been handled. So the next step is the National Commander writing a letter informing what has happened and will get that out shortly.

Renting out Building C has been completed. This process has been a long, drawn-out task but done!! We have also worked on Headquarters Office Expenses and have cut several Items like the phone bill/ Internet and printing costs. Also, we no longer have Storage fees. These actions were accomplished at the first of the year. We are paying attention to the cost of operation and working on getting a better cost for the product we use, especially when prices go up.

Next, we have updated the Chapter, Department, and National Officers' Job duties and have the new procedure manual ready. All this is on the website purpleheart.org under the Service tab and MOPH Forms.

The Headquarters team has done this while working on the Current programs of the Order as we go through changes and updates to make it more efficient to run the Order successfully. Our current budget will not let us do business the way we did in the past years, so we have to adjust and need the support Order's Patriots. ❤️

Yours in Patriotism,

Carder Ferguson



CARLTON L. CANNON
CHAPLAIN

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“WE ARE BLESSED”

My fellow Patriots, we are a blessed people living in desperately changing times! Does anyone really know what is going on in our society? Does Satan really have authority over us, and do you know that his power over you is limited?

According to the Bible (**Ephesians 1:22-23**), GOD has given the ultimate authority over what happens in history to His Son, Jesus Christ! One of the reasons we might not live in the light of this truth is that we could be confusing the terms “power and authority.” Satan continues to dominate the world in which we live and influences people’s lives in various ways. He is as powerful now as he has ever been, but he does not have final authority! **Authority is the right to use the power that you possess.**

For example, on the professional football field, the players are younger, bigger, stronger, and **more powerful** than the referees. Usually, the referees are older, smaller, and

more out of shape than the players. The players can knock you down = **power!** But the referee can put you out of the game **authority!** Obviously, Satan has power, but he does not have the authority to use his power on us when we function under the covenantal covering of JESUS CHRIST! Can you count your blessings? We are blessed!

Dear Jesus, our beloved Military Order of the Purple Heart needs to hear from YOU! YOU hold the authority over all things. The enemy likes to push us around and try to intimidate us with his power, but YOUR authority trumps all power, not YOU! Help us to keep that truth at the forefront of our minds. Show us how to align our thoughts with YOUR WORD so that we will walk in the **authority that comes from knowing YOU!** ♥

Yours In Patriotism;

Dr. Carlton L. Cannon, Sr

DEADLINE for article submissions

AUGUST 23, 2023

Deadlines are the 15th of even numbered months.

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The fiscal year is at an end. Reports are our metric for processing our accomplishments. Letters are en route to announce our status and just who will be ‘delegates’ to National.

Before us all are decisions of who we wish to be and how we believe we may serve.

Offices at National, and Region must have the very best stepping forward to lead. Various Committees will offer at least one ‘seat’ open for candidates to step up to receive the vote of their peers. I’ve enjoyed this season since first returning from Iraq in 2004. I see the goal of nearly two decades on the horizon.

When we spend the effort teaching and mentoring our members to bring their unique skills and enthusiasm to this most unique of fraternities, we affirm its dedication to supporting each member and serving others in the community at large; our mission is thereby fulfilled.

I encourage you find, develop, & nurture your fellow Patriots to become more than just card members. Your actions and activities, your example in Chapter events and Community should be enviable and inviting.

Ron succinctly said, "...the sincere members of the MOPH should always elect the person that has a proven success record that benefits the organization first, and their personal desires last." He advised every voter to vote with your own heart and conscience, don't accept verbal bouquets that will potentially decompose as soon as the election ends.

As ever, share your pictures and words thru our National Publication. Develop the future leaders, and in turn the Order.

The best eMail address when sending items. -to the Magazine Editor is EditorPHmagazine@purpleheart.org

Please observe “TPHM” deadlines highlighted in each magazine edition (Note: Deadlines are the 15th day of every ‘Even’ Month).

As ever, let us serve... ♥

Christopher Smrt

Chairman National Publications Committee

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We need your material to produce an engaging and informative magazine.

EditorPHmagazine@purpleheart.org

Patriot Aaron P. Mankin, Homes for Heroes Recipient

Patriot Aaron P. Mankin, Chapter 460 (Fayetteville, AR), has been chosen to receive a mortgage-free home from the Building Homes for Heroes organization and the Bobby Bones Show.

Patriot Mankin enlisted in the US Marine Corps in 2003 as a Combat Correspondent and deployed to Iraq in 2005 to tell the Marine Corps story in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On 11 May 2005, near the Syrian-Iraq border, Aaron was severely wounded when an improvised explosive device exploded underneath his amphibious assault vehicle (AAV), killing four of his fellow Marines and wounding 11 others.

The heat from the explosion was so hot that when he tried to breathe, he inhaled debris and fire into his lungs. In addition, while Aaron was able to exit the AAV, he was still on fire, but even stop, drop, and roll could not dampen the flames.

Patriot Mankin was saved by the quick action of other Marines who came to his rescue, and he walked away with burns on his torso, ears, mouth, nose, neck, and arms; a few lost fingers; and damage to his lungs. Aaron was at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX, two days later to begin his long and arduous recovery.



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

These days, Patriot Mankin is a powerful motivational speaker who spends his time inspiring other injured Veterans. He has been featured on major network television and in several national magazines.

Patriot Mankin received the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America's Veteran Leadership Award in 2011.

When not traveling across the United States, Aaron spends his time in Rogers, Arkansas, where he resides with his wife and two children.

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



The MOPH Fund Inc. is the official fundraising arm of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Our sole purpose is to raise funds for programs executed by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Our goal is to help ensure their programs receive support so more Purple Heart recipients and their families can be provided the assistance.

MOPH Fund Update June 2023 1st Vice Robert Olivarez Jr.

The MOPH Fund is still asking for donations. You can scan our QR Code and donate through the site, or you can head over to Facebook and start a Birthday fundraising campaign, and you can set it to any amount you wish and share it with friends.

If you start a campaign, you can, and please let a member of the Moph Fund know so that we can keep an eye out for the funds and note from whom the donation came from. We still have our 501(c)(3) and donation letter. If you want a donation letter, please get in touch with Larry Leighton or Carder Ferguson. And they can email one out to you as soon as possible.

We have a few fund-raising plans, with more to follow throughout the year. As we plan these events, we would love to hear

from you about your ideas for raising funds through the MOPH Fund. Also, if any of our members have good contact with any veteran-friendly donating entities, please feel free to share your contact information with the MOPH Fund.



The board has voted on a few new logo designs. We want to share this new design, make it a MOPH Fund staple, and have it shown and known everywhere. We are still going strong with Vapor Apparel and should have some new clothing designs soon, so watch for them.

We have a new website manager so that you will get weekly updates from our social media pages, so please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and keep up with all of our updates. ♥

A Day of Remembrance MOPH Leadership Honors Fallen Heroes

By Christopher Vedvick

In the heart of our nation's capital, beneath a sky painted with hues of solemnity and respect, the National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), Christopher Vedvick, and the National President of the MOPH Auxiliary, Kay Jo Baucom, stood shoulder to shoulder. Their presence was a testament to the unyielding spirit of our nation's heroes, a tribute to the fallen, and a promise to the living.

On this hallowed day, the National Memorial Day ceremonies served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by countless men and women in the defense of our nation. As Vedvick and Baucom laid wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, and the Korean War Veterans Memorial, each gesture was a silent vow, a promise to remember, honor, and never forget.

The air was thick with reverence as Commander Vedvick and President Baucom paid their respects, accompanied by a distinguished assembly of MOPH members. Among them were MOPH Deputy National Adjutant Eric Johnson, Department Commander of Florida Craig Wertheim, Patriot Ronnie Baucom, Chapter 2222 Commander Tim Abele, and Patriot Tyrone Carelock. Each wreath laid a symbol of the nation's gratitude, a tribute to the courage of those who dared to face the unknown for the sake of freedom.

Special recognition must be given to Past Department Commander of Maryland Jennifer Hunt and Deputy National Adjutant Eric Johnson. Their tireless efforts and unwavering dedication were instrumental in making this event possible for the Order. Their work behind the scenes

ensured that this day of remembrance was a fitting tribute to our nation's heroes.

Among the attendees was James Diggs, a former Prisoner of War (POW) from the Korean War who endured 33 grueling months in captivity. His presence served as a stark reminder of the harsh realities of war and the indomitable spirit of our servicemen and women.

Earlier in the day, Commander Vedvick attended a Memorial Day breakfast at the White House hosted by the President and First Lady. The event served as a solemn reminder of the continuous support and recognition from the highest office in the land for our nation's heroes.

The MOPH, representing all Members of the Order, was proud to pay their respects on this significant day. Each wreath laid, each name uttered, and each silent prayer was a testament to their commitment to honor the fallen and support the living.

As the sun set on the National Memorial Day ceremonies, the echoes of gratitude, respect, and remembrance resonated across the nation. It was a day of honor and tribute, but above all, it was a day of promise - a promise to remember, respect, and honor the sacrifices of our nation's heroes today, tomorrow, and forever.

In the words of Commander Vedvick, "We stand here not just as representatives of the MOPH, but as Americans, honoring those who have given their all. We remember them, we honor them, and we thank them. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten." As we reflect on this day of remembrance, let us carry forward the spirit of gratitude and honor. Let us remember that freedom is not free, and our heroes' courage and sacrifice safeguard our liberties. 💜

**Today, we remember. Today, we honor.
Today, we promise never to forget.**



Commander Vedvick
President Baucom
Present a wreath



70th Anniversary US & Korea Alliance By Carl Walker

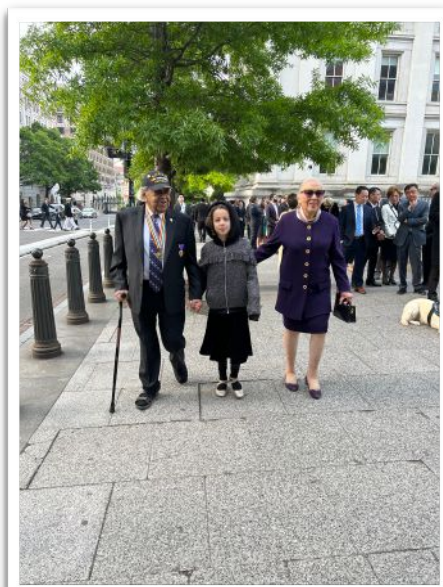
This State Arrival Ceremony honored His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea, and Mrs. Kim Keon Hee. The White House Press Secretary said the purposes of the visit included celebrating the 70th anniversary of the U.S.-South Korean alliance and to highlight Washington's "unwavering commitment" to South Korea.

I was nominated for this "one-of-a-kind experience" by Chapter 465, Military Order of the Purple Heart Commander Lou Zayas and selected by Christopher Vedvick, National Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart. I was one of several veterans of the Korean War invited to the ceremony who had been wounded in combat and received the Purple Heart Medal.

The experience was special and meaningful to me for several reasons, including the fact that the Government of Korea and a corporation known as POSCO-America (a U.S. based steel manufacturing company) have been very generous in recognizing and honoring my service in Korea. They awarded me the following honors over a recent three-year period:

- 2019 Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal.
- 2020 Korean War Veteran Honor Plaque.
- 2021 American – Korean Unity Plaque.

I served as a gun crew member and later chief of the fire direction center. I was a Sergeant with the 25th Infantry Division, 90th Field Artillery Battalion, C Battery, (155mm Howitzers).



Currently, I am the Chaplain and Historian for both the MOPH Chapter 465, Atlanta, GA and the MOPH Department of Georgia.

My family was included in the invitation to the White House. When we arrived at the White House, there seemed to be hundreds of people waiting in line to enter the gates. I was tapped on my back by Ms. Jennifer Hunt, The White House Director of Veteran & Military Family Engagement. She informed me that we would not have to stand in line. We were then escorted through the gates and given a real VIP treatment. That courtesy was one of several arranged by Patriot Eric O. Johnson, Deputy National Adjutant for the MOPH.

The event was extremely important and pleasurable for my wife and me because our son, daughter-in-law, and two granddaughters, ages 10 and 12, came from California to join us and participate in the ceremonial event. While in Washington, they were also able to plan and undertake several tour trips, and even celebrate their Grandma's birthday.

The White House visit captured the two young ladies' full attention. They were fascinated with the extraordinary pageantry including non-stop music of bands, several marching military units, and many US and Korean flags flying high. We were seated within 20 feet of The President of the United States! We believe this experience arranged for us by the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the White House will be a life-long memorable event for our entire family and especially for the two young ladies. ♥

Sergeant James Diggs POW Korea 33 Months

James Diggs, a member of MOPH Chapter 2222 in Maryland, was with the 90th infantry division in the summer of 1950. He was with the 2nd of the 503rd Field Artillery, a 155 mm artillery piece. They loaded out of Fort Lewis, Washington, and were told they were going to Hawaii. After they were at sea for a few days, they were informed that the actual destination was South Korea.

Diggs got to Korea in August 1950, and they made the landing under fire. They came under fire because he was put into the Pusan Perimeter. At that point, the entire Pusan area perimeter was approximately 30 miles long.

They were helping the 24th Infantry Division. The battery's Forward Observers (FO) operated 5 to 10 miles ahead of their battery. On two occasions, they supported the First Marine Division. They could do this because they could fire up to 15 miles. They always traveled with others for support.

When they were firing 155 mm, it took 2 to 3 people to load the 95-pound projectiles. Consequently, they would get fatigued.

In October, they broke out of the Perimeter when the Marines made a landing at Inchon. This invasion put UN troops in the middle of the country. The North Koreans were forced to retreat because their supply lines were interdicted. Diggs' unit was part of the advance moving north. The northern advance was so rapid that word spread that the war would be over soon.

The UN Forces stopped when they reached the Yalu River because it was the border between North Korea and China. Diggs' unit was only very few miles from the Yalu. In November, the Chinese were coming crossed on the ice. It was so

thick that they could drive their vehicles across.

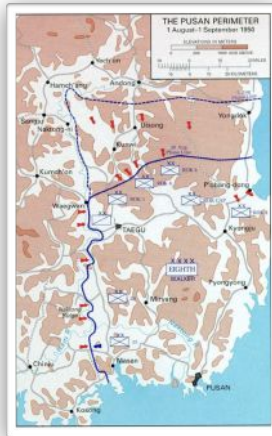
On the 27th and 28th of November, they had been packing their gear to return to Pusan because they thought the war was over. Unfortunately, they were in a trap. The heavy fighting was sometimes hand-to-hand. The UN units were ordered to retreat.

Diggs was with "C" Battery, which was told to hold back the enemy to keep the roads open for other units to escape while they were retreating. "C" Battery was moving at a pace between 5 to 10 miles an hour because of being ambushed frequently on the road.

At one point, he and one of his friends, John Bowman, started across the field. They came under fire. They turned back to get their equipment, looked down the valley, and saw Chinese everywhere.

The 155s were pulled by a tractor that could hold up to 20 personnel. Diggs was driving it, and he leaned down to shift gears, and a bullet passed where his head had been. They had to abandon the tractor, so he took off with another soldier, running across a field to escape a couple of Chinese soldiers. There was nothing but flat land with nowhere to hide until they came to a haystack. He and his buddy crawled into the haystack, and the two Chinese started bayoneting down into the stack. When they didn't hit anything, they turned around and walked away. It was cold, but he was able to sleep under the haystack.

Later, Diggs rejoined friends and crossed a creek. Machine gun fire was hitting all around. His fingers and toes ended up being frostbitten. He went to an aid station to be warmed, and they then heard that the Chinese were coming. An M-1 Garand was lying around, so he picked it up.



One of the Longest Held Korean War POWs

Diggs came across a major who told everyone to drop their weapons. He thought this action was weird because only bushes surrounded them, but he did as ordered. This action saved Digg's life because the major could see the Chinese all around them.

When he was captured, the Chinese started marching them north. They ended up, one time, in a coal mine at night. It was cold, but it broke the wind.

Diggs threw away his wallet and watch because he did not want to give the Chinese any information. He only gave them his name, rank, and serial number.

During the death march, they were only fed raw mallet and barley. He thought that both were only for birds and pigs, that is, until he got hungry.

In the morning, the Chinese would shoot anyone who did not get up immediately when they woke up. Anyone who was a straggler was killed. After walking, they got to the camps on the border just north of the Yalu River. He moved around to different camps but did not know he was.

When the Chinese got them to a camp where they stayed, they started an indoctrination program. The effort was to get soldiers to turn on other soldiers. The indoctrination went on for at least a year. Diggs survived by pretending that they were right. He learned that the less you said, the longer you lived.

The survival method of not talking about what was happening around him proved effective but made it difficult for his future wife. She couldn't understand why he wouldn't talk a lot.

In the camps, the soldiers were separated by nationality. They were allowed to play ball when the peace talks were going well. There was no escape from the camps because there was no place to go, and it was obvious that the soldiers were not Chinese, so that escapees could be rounded quickly.

He was liberated at Panmunjom after 33 months of captivity. When they crossed into South Korea, there were a number of officers there looking at the POWs. Diggs felt that one

four-star general did not respect him because of his race. So he just walked by him without saluting.

When he was repatriated, He was only weighing 120 pounds. Diggs was in pain because his gums and teeth hurt. The teeth had separated from his gums and had to be pulled.

He was promoted to Sergeant when he returned to Fort Meade in California. He was on home soil but had not regained his health because of the starvation he endured. One day a senior sergeant came by and told him he would have to stand guard duty. He had not fully recovered and did not think he should be treated that way after what he had been through. So Sergeant Diggs went to the office and told them he wanted to get out of the Army and go home. He got his discharge that same day.

When asked how he survived the brutal ordeal, Diggs said, "*Be prepared to do what you need to do.*"

Sergeant Diggs is now 93 years old and active enough to attend the White House's 70th Anniversary Korean Function. ♥

***"Be prepared to do what
you need to do."***

Colonel Frank Athanason (PNC)

Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training Interview

ATHANASON: I arrived there in October of 1950 and landed at Inchon, not as a combat landing; it was just a port then. They put us on trucks and took me all the way up to the Yalu River. I was assigned to the 555 Field Artillery Battalion, which came from Hawaii and was part of a separate regiment. That separate regiment was in the Twenty-Fourth Infantry division.

Q: The Indian Head division?

ATHANASON: No, the Taro Leaf. Indian Head was Second Division. They had had one regiment decimated during the Pusan Perimeter, so rather than rebuild that regiment, they took this separate regiment and made it the third regiment of the division, the fifth RCT.

I reported in, and I had a Colonel named Stuart. He looked to me like an old fella, but he must have been 42 years old. He was heavysset. He was a former chemistry teacher who got into the regular army. His whole goal in life was to make sure that West Pointers got anything they needed and wanted. If there were anything left over, he'd give it to the regular officers and the hell with the reserve officer. He had them in that category. If you were a reserve officer under him, you would never have a chance to command, regardless of how senior you were.

He called me in. At that time, I had almost three years in grade as a first lieutenant. At that time, it took six to ten years to make captain. He said, *"We're not going to give you an assignment now because the war looks like it's going to be over in two or three weeks. We're going back to Hawaii and there will be a lot of changes. Let me wait and see who's going where and then I'll decide*

where to put you." About a week later, the Chinese changed his plans. He called me in and made me the communication officer.

In the meantime, the headquarters battery commander and the communication officer were separated. They were two different jobs. Both required a captain. There was a rule that they were going under at the time that if you held a job of a higher rank for thirty days in combat, you would be promoted to that rank. My Colonel put a little spin on that; he said it had to be a command job. Communications officer was a staff job, so that didn't apply to me. Being that I was regular army, the first that he could put me in a command job, he would do so.

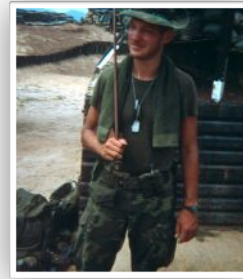
So we fell back from that point on all the way back south of Seoul. That was an awful period, as you well know--the weather. We had horrendous weather, the cold. We didn't get proper winter clothing until well after Christmas. We had to improvise the best we could with what we had. We were even short of anti-freeze to the point where we had to run the engines at night or drain the engines at night and keep the water warm somewhere and put it back in the morning.

The morale was very low. We just kept falling back until we got to Sou An, and we stopped at that point. There was a change of command, and that's when Ridgeway came in. He turned things around with an attitude. Morale went up.

We started getting better clothing and started getting tentage; we were mostly living in Korean houses. We started moving back up toward the 38th parallel. ♥

**"A NATION THAT FORGETS ITS PAST
HAS NO FUTURE."** WINSTON CHURCHILL

National Historian
Nick McIntosh



The Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention was held in San Antonio, Texas, in 1985. I went there because the MOPH National Service Officers (NSO) were doing their annual training. I did not know anyone when I arrived because Dick Gallant (National Service Director) hired me over the phone to establish a Service Office in Louisville, Kentucky. We finally met personally at the National Convention.

Most of the Patriots at the convention were WWI, WWII, or Korean veterans. Because of the age difference, I was respectful and polite. Harvey Thiede, a WWII veteran (National Commander 1971-72), chaired the Chapters and Charters Committee. He became my first MOPH mentor. Harvey had been coming to National Conventions since he was a teenager. His father had been an officer in the MOPH before Harvey joined the Army.

Jim Durkin, in 1979, became the first Vietnam Veteran to become the National Commander. It wasn't until the early 1990s before another Vietnam Vet became a National Commander.

Harvey's brother-in-law Gene Brown was the National Commander in 1989-90. Based on Harvey Thiede's recommendation, I was appointed as the National Historian.

The 82nd Airborne jumped into Panama in 1989. One of the PFC troopers landed in a swamp. Even though there was water all around, he did not refill four of his six canteens. His unit assaulted up a hill shortly after getting out of the swamp. A few random shots were fired at them, but nothing major.

The PFC trooper collapsed from a heat stroke after getting to the top of the hill. He was medevaced to Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. General Carl Vuono (Chief of Staff US Army) came through the ward pinning Purple Hearts on wounded soldiers. He included the heat-stricken PFC.

Heat Stroke is not considered a wound warranting a Purple Heart. The PFC was on leave in Owensboro, Kentucky, when the local newspaper ran an article about him getting the Purple Heart.

There was a MOPH Chapter in Owensboro, and several of the Patriots called me at the NSO Office in Louisville, Kentucky, complaining about the PFC's Purple Heart.

The PFC's older brother worked in the same federal building where I worked. The brother gave me all the details on how the PH was awarded for heat stroke.

As National Historian, I called the Army Chief of Staff's office to get background on the mistaken PH. After getting some runaround, a Colonel candidly told me they knew it

was wrong, but no one wanted to go to the General and tell him he made a mistake.

This prompted me to write an article for The Purple Heart Magazine. I found out later that several Army Officers called Gene Brown, the National Commander, and complained about my article. Patriot Brown being a great commander, told the officers that my column was correct and he would not do anything. It wasn't until a few years later that I learned was a great commander Gene was.

Over the ensuing years, Doc Binnion and Frank Athanason mentored me on the bylaws committee. Joe Hems, as Commander, supported me when a major issue arose about Purple Heart eligibility.

I cannot say that all of the Order's national officers have followed in the footsteps of PNCs Thiede, Brown, Durkin, Binnion, Athanason, and Durkin. When getting advice, I recommend finding out what training and experience the advice giver has.

Before I give some advice, let me give you some of my experience in the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Fifty years ago this past March, I joined the Order. My first national convention was in 1985 (38 years ago). For twenty-seven years, I have served on the National Publications Committee. For sixteen of those years, I was the chairman. In my chapter, I have been an officer since it was reactivated in 1986. Since 1989 when the Department of Kentucky was formed, I have held either an elected or appointed office.

I recommend that we be better at vetting candidates for national offices. First, find out what leadership training and experience potential commanders have. Second, what experience does the candidate have at the chapter, department, and/or national level? Third, does the candidate have a written list of goals and a written plan for accomplishing those goals?

Some WWII veterans didn't want to step aside for the Vietnam Veterans. One WWII vet even told me from the 1993 convention floor that the Vietnam veterans needed to wait their turn. My response was: "*we did not need to worry about waiting because I could read mortality tables.*" I can still read mortality tables and the median age of Vietnam Veterans is 76, therefore I realize that the future of the Order is in the hands of the War on Terror veterans.

Following Harvey's lead, I have made it a point to help the Desert Storm and War on Terror by helping them learn about the inner working of the Order. Many came to me for advice based on my historical knowledge of the bylaws and the history of past actions. ♥

I can be contacted at nnnrmc@twc.com



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



National Convention & Healing the heART Conference

“Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!”
(Let the good times roll)

The Department of Louisiana is thrilled to host the 2023 National Convention. No matter if you are a first time attendee or a seasoned pro, we promise to deliver an experience of a lifetime - The LOUISIANA EXPERIENCE!

In conjunction with the convention, we are offering the “Healing the heART Conference”. Healing the heART (with an emphasis on the letters ART), will offer speakers, seminars, and workshops focusing on artistic ways to cope with stress, anxiety, PTS, and depression. World renowned medical professionals, benefit specialists, life coaches, musicians, financial planners, and other specialists in various fields will be available to share their knowledge and services.

We invite you to join us on Sunday August 13th during our optional excursion to New Orleans. Registration for Sunday-Funday will be available in mid June.

Meetings will take place from August 14-18th. Start each morning with Tai Chi, enjoy upscale continental breakfasts and deli-style lunches, visit with friends during the mid-day cookie & coffee breaks, and wrap-up each evening with a themed hospitality night. Attendees are encouraged to participate in a mid-week complimentary excursion to downtown Baton Rouge’s USS KIDD (The ship is a Purple Heart Entity).

On Thursday evening put on your best threads and dancing shoes at THE LOUISIANA EXPERIENCE GALA. With Cajun-style fare (don't worry, there will be non-spicy food available), Zydeco music, Cajun dancers, and even a bead-throwing costume-wearing marching parade will be the highlight of the week.



For updated **ACTIVITY** information, visit
www.MOPHLA.org/convention

For **PATRIOT** registration, visit
www.purpleheart.org/ConventionRegistration

For **AUXILIARY** registration, visit
www.PurpleHeartAuxiliary.org/convention-registration

For **HOTEL** registration, visit
www.MOPHLA.org/convention-lodging

Questions? Contact the Dept. of Louisiana at info@MOPHLA.org



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



National Convention & Healing the heART Conference

“Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!”
(Let the good times roll)

CONVENTION LOCATION & LODGING

The Crowne Plaza Executive Center is located in the heart of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The hotel is 10 miles from Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport (BTR) and 65 miles from New Orleans' International Airport (MSY). The hotel is pet-friendly and offers complimentary Wi-Fi, gym, pool, onsite restaurant and lounge, free parking, ADA accessible amenities, and close proximity to restaurants, shopping, and other conveniences. An airport shuttle (\$) is available to & from the BTR Airport. Contact the hotel in advance to schedule service. Standard rooms are available at the group rate of \$99.00 is available until July 14, 2023. Reservations can be made by phone at 225-925-2244 or website (www.crownebaton.com). For information about dining, stores, and other attractions, visit www.MOPHLA.org/around-town-map

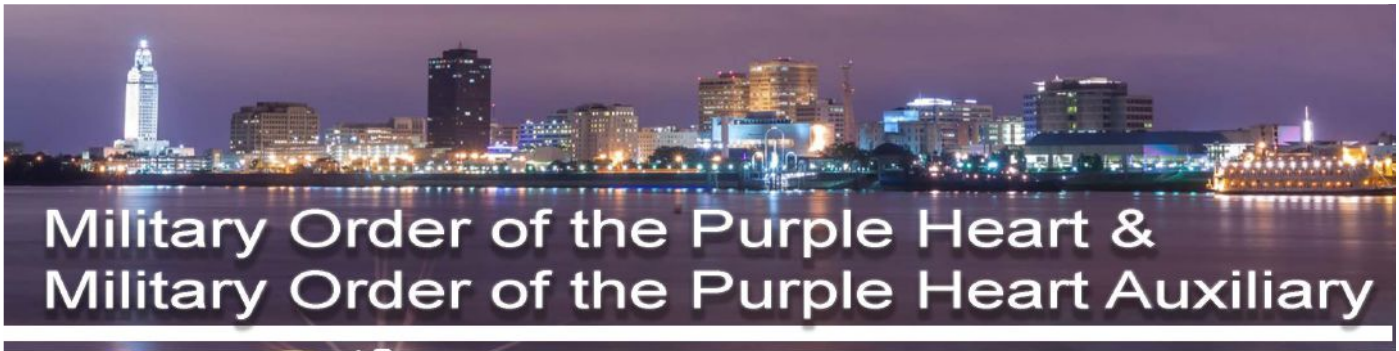
1. Go to www.CrowneBaton.com. In the upper right-hand corner, select the dates anytime from (arrival) 8/11 through (departure) 8/19 2023 and click “Book now”.
2. In the right-hand section of the dark grey strip-bar, click “Change Selection”
3. Select the number of rooms and number of people.
4. Choose “GROUP RATE” under rate preference,
5. Enter our promo code of **MPH** in the field.
6. Then click “search”. The \$99 nightly rate will apply after these steps are taken.

Information about Sunday Funday! Optional trip to New Orleans August 13, 2023

This optional excursion provides the best “The Big Easy” has to offer. Busses will depart from the Crowne Plaza on Sunday morning and will make the 1.5 hour trip to New Orleans. Busses will depart New Orleans and arrive back to Baton Rouge at approximately 6pm. This day-long Hop-On Hop-Off tour bus excursion includes all of New Orleans' most important highlights and landmarks. The guide on the Hop-On Hop-Off bus will provide commentary as you ride through the city. Visit the attractions or enjoy a few loops on the bus. Round-trip loops are approximately 90 minutes. Busses arrive at each scheduled tour-stop every 30 minutes. Stops include include major attractions including the National WWII Museum, Jackson Square, the French Market, and many of the best restaurants and bars in the city. “Come hungry, leave happy” during the excursion. Restaurants will be participating in Coolinary Month during August. Discounted food and cocktails and a list of locations will be announced in June. Registration for the tour will be opened in June. The fee for this excursion is \$50 for adults, \$25 for children 3-12; under 3 years of age are free. For more information, or to reserve your space early, visit www.MOPHLA.org/sundayfunday .

Information about the US KIDD.

On Wednesday afternoon, a generous sponsor has allowed us to tour the USS KIDD free of charge. This will be a great way to see the museum and tour the ship herself. Learn about the “KIDD” at www.usstkidd.com



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



National Convention & Healing the heART Conference

“Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!”
(Let the good times roll)

SOUVENIR COINS, PINS, and MORE

Convention Pins are sold at \$10. Convention Coins are sold at \$15. Order a Coin or Pin before May 31st and receive 1 free raffle ticket for a Hand Painted Purple Heart Coin Holder. (One for each order). Order the set for \$25 before May 31st and receive 3 free raffle tickets. See more at www.MOPHLA.org/souveniritems.

To print out an order form, please click [here](#)

2023 National Convention Coin & Pin Set



Specifications:

Challenge Coin Holders are 2" and Pin is 1.25" x 1.5".

Pin has a clutch-style backing



The Purple Heart themed coin holder was hand-painted by Purple Heart families.



2023 MOPH & MOPHA National Convention Coin & Pin Order Sheet

ITEM	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Challenge Coin	\$15		\$
Commemorative Pin	\$10		\$
Coin & Pin Set	\$25		\$
Mailing Fee (up to 3 items)	\$4		\$
TOTAL			\$

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I have attached check # _____ In the amount of \$ _____

I will pick-up my item(s) at Convention. _____ or Mail _____ my items & raffle tickets* to me at the following address: Same as above? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please send payment made payable to **Louisiana Combat Wounded Veterans**

Commander Ron Crowley

203 Belle Grove Blvd

Lafayette, LA 70503

LaCMDR.MOPH@gmail.com

2023 National Convention Coin & Pin Set



*Each Coin or Pin will receive one free raffle ticket for a hand painted Purple Heart Themed-Coin Holder, if ordered before May 31, 2023.

Each set (Coin & Pin) will receive 3 free raffle tickets. Winner does not need to be present when name is called on 8/17/23.

We will ship coin holder at our expense.

Friends & Family can order souvenir items and receive raffle tickets.



Iowa MOPH held their Department Convention on Saturday, May 6th in Des Moines. Left to right are: Dept. CDR Jack Hanson, DSVC Tony Polich, DJVC Francis McAllister, Adjutant Paul L Pickart, Fin. Off. Marty Douglas, Sgt-at-Arms Dave Bayless, Inspector Robert Suesakul. Not pictured as Installation Officer CofS Steven Hyde.

No work day, regular dinner meeting here, a May/June PH meeting had Ch. 845 gathered at the Greer, SC



Auto Museum that houses numerous cars in pristine condition, (primarily from the '50s and '60s') and hosts free tours on the first Saturday of every month.

Gathering at 10am Patriots saw some of the cars of our youth; many we dreamed to possess. John Montgomery a fountain of knowledge and facts, conducted the tour. All were 1st greeted by John's 1947 Studebaker & entered to view the sights of yesteryear's Mercury, Pontiac, Ford, Oldsmobile, Stutz, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Dodge, & many more.



Photo at left are Patriot Richard Sciapiti, Chapter 147 CDR (L) George Hadd, Chapter. Viola CMTE Chairman as they are placing a wreath at the National Cemetery in Roseburg Oregon at the 2023 Memorial Day Ceremony.

MOPH Patriots comprise the Rifle Detail, Treasure Valley Honor, at a recent Idaho interment.



Transferred to San Francisco, he was asked to take a leadership role at the First Baptist Church of California, and soon learned that people from various parts of the country had many different ideas of how a meeting should be run.

Recognizing a need for a general reference tool, Robert began to seriously research and study parliamentary law - the basic rules of order that originated in England. He

researched both the historical and current rules to develop a set procedure that could be used by modern-day meetings. His research resulted in a short reference guide in 1869, created for himself and his friends to facilitate church meetings.

Robert's research continued into the spring of 1874, and although it was ready to go to press he couldn't find a publisher for his work. It was at this point, at the suggestion of his wife - who felt the rules might be too complex - that he added two new sections. The first section dealt with practical matters such as the scheduling of meetings and preparation of agendas. The second addressed legal rights of assemblies and the correct procedures for regulating behavior at meetings.

Once the manuscript was completed in 1875, Robert paid to have 4,000 unbound copies of "Rules of Order" typeset and printed by Burdick & Armitage, printers in Milwaukee. In early 1876, again with his own money, he paid publisher S.C. Griggs & Co. in Chicago to manage the sale and distribution of the "Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies."

Officially published on Feb. 19, 1876, 1,000 copies of the first edition were given free to civic leaders, educators, church groups and parliamentarians across the United States. That act helped create a tremendous demand, and the remaining 3,000 copies were sold out by May.

At the end of Robert's military career, on April 30, 1901, President William McKinley



Henry Martyn Robert Wikimedia Commons

rewarded him for his 44 years of service, promoting him to the rank of brigadier general and appointing him chief of the Corps of Engineers. Just two days later, on his birthday of May 2, he retired from the Army at 64.

Robert spent the rest of his life writing new rules and revising old ones, answering questions on points of order and accepting suggestions that were incorporated into the later editions of his book.

In 1915, "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised," featuring new material and a new copyright, was published. "Parliamentary Practice: An Introduction to Parliamentary Law" was published in 1921.

On May 11, 1923, Henry Martyn Robert died at 86 in Hornell, N.Y. The Robert family was active as the owner of the rules up through the sixth edition in 1951. They established the Council of the Robert's Rules Association, which currently owns the copyrights and continues to maintain the rules.

A quick internet search reveals more than 1.5 million nonprofit organizations throughout the United States. Robert's Rules of Order has withstood the test of time and is generally specified in the bylaws of most of these nonprofit organizations nationally as well as worldwide. In 2003, when the Hussein regime was toppled, the Iraqi Parliament was provided a translation to guide their new democracy. Today, government bodies, city and town councils, planning boards, school committees and every one of the more than 12,000 American Legion posts continue to rely on Robert's Rules of Order as the foundation for effective meetings. 🇺🇸

Douglas E. Osborn is a retired lieutenant colonel who served 25 years in the Army, with assignments to Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan and the continental United States. He is a member of Stafford American Legion Post 290 in Fredericksburg, Va.



ACTION	WHAT TO SAY	CAN I INTERRUPT SPEAKER?	NEED A SECOND?	CAN BE DEBATED?	CAN BE AMENDED?	VOTES NEEDED
Introduce main motion	"I move to..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move to amend the motion by..." (Add or strike words or both)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Move item to committee	"I move that we refer the matter to committee."	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Postpone item	"I move to postpone the matter until..."	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
End debate	"I move the previous question."	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Object to procedure	"Point of order."	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decision
Recess the meeting	"I move that we recess until..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Adjourn the meeting	"I move to adjourn the meeting."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Request information	"Point of information."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote
Overrule the chair's ruling	"I move to overrule the chair's ruling."	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Extend the allotted time	"I move to extend the time by ___ minutes."	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3 vote
Enforce the rules or point out incorrect procedure	"Point of order."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote
Table a motion	"I move to table."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority

The processes set forth in Robert's Rules are intended to be used in large assemblies and are far too formal to be utilized in small meetings. In fact, strict use of Robert's Rules in small meetings (such as board and membership meetings) may actually hinder the conduct of business. Robert's Rules recognizes this and specifically provides that in board meetings some of the formality necessary in a large assembly may be relaxed.

If you're looking for examples of the types of processes in Robert's Rules that may be counter-productive to the conduct of meetings there are numerous items to reference on the 'interwebs' or directly in Edition 12, Roberts Rules of Order..



Ceremony at the White House South Lawn for the Official Visit of The President of the Republic of South Korea



Patriot Leo Connelly Jr. is also a Commissioner in his Ohio community in Mahoning County Veteran Services. He represents the Military Order of the Purple Heart on that commission.



Commander Leo H. Connelly Jr. was sworn in as Commander of the Department of Ohio, Military Order Of Purple Heart; 2023-2024

After that the outgoing commander Larry Emery passed incoming Commander Leo

the gavel as they stood in front of the U.S., MOPH, and POW Flags.

Patriot Larry Emery is from Canton Ohio. Patriot Connelly is from Youngstown Ohio, & an Army Vietnam veteran (1967-1968).





New York State, Chapter #187 now has an all-weather proof, full color patriotic sign, 12”by 18” (see picture) to promote our American Flag and Purple Heart Medal. These signs could be displayed at your home or at local businesses for raising patriotism in your communities. If your chapter would like to use these signs for a fund raiser, 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 :
 YOUR
 NAME _____
 STREET _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY and STATE, _____
 ZIP _____

AMOUNT of signs requested _____ PRICE \$10.00
 per sign _____ Total Cost _____

Includes S&H,-no tax

Checks only, made out to; MOPH #187, send orders to MOPH 151 Glendale Drive or call Russ Ward at 716-587-1120 6-8 weeks delivery please.

Purple Heart Regulation CAPS

Official Vendor’s Supply List

Cap prices include the cap patch and the lettering "Military Order of the Purple Heart" and "U.S.A." On the left side, and Chapter number on the front right, if requested.

NATIONAL CAP

Men’s and Ladies’ Style

All white with purple piping & letters: **\$24.75 each**

DEPARTMENT CAP

Men’s and Ladies’ Style

Purple with white top, gold piping & white letters: **\$24.75 each**

CHAPTER CAP

Men’s and Ladies’ Style

All purple with white piping & letters: **\$24.75**

PURPLE HEART BERET \$20.00

(Lettering not available)

Life Member Annotation

Includes direct embroidery

“Life Member” around flap curve on front right side: **\$6.00**

Associate Member

Annotation: **\$9.50**

(in addition to cap price).

Additional letters:

\$0.60 each

Remove/replace letters:

\$1.50 per letter

Plastic zippered cap bag:

\$4.00 each

Winter baseball caps:

\$15.00 each

Dress Tie: **\$15.00 each***

Purple tie – 100% polyester with white-bordered MOPH patch (specify standard tie or clip-on)

*ONE SIZE FITS ALL

Allow approximately four (4) weeks for delivery.

For shipping & handling,

add **\$8.00 per order**

With your order, include the

following when ordering:

(Please print clearly)

Your Name

Your Address

Your Chap. # Cap Size

Your Tel No(s)

VISA/MC No. & Expiration Date

Compute the Total Amt. of your Order and email, phone or mail check or Money Order to:

KEYSTONE UNIFORM CAP

2251 Fraley Street

Philadelphia, PA 19137

PHONE: (215) 821-3434

Fax: (215) 821-3438

caps@keystoneuniformcap.com

www.keystoneuniformcap.com/MOPH

WAR HAS NO COLOR

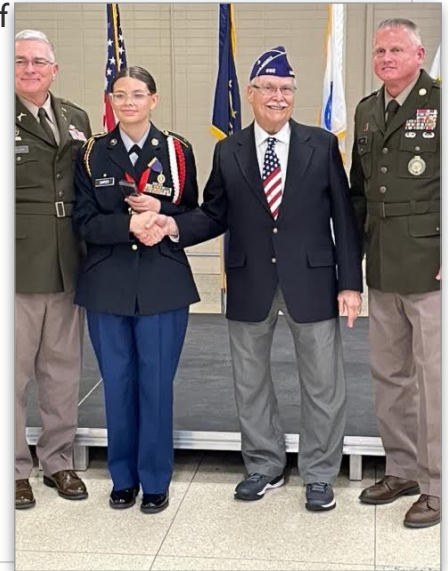
War Has No Color,
 All Bodies Bleed Red.
 We Shared Our Canteens And The Fear,
 Of What Waited In The Jungle Up Ahead.
 Human Hunting Human,
 For Freedom's Sake We Made Our Stand.
 We Fought As One Soldier
 Staying Alive Our Battleplan.
 Death Is Colorblind,
 A Bullet Has No Eyes
 Landmine Quicker Than A Cobra's Bite,
 Left Little Time To Say Goodbye.
 We Gave Blood To Save A Life,
 Bias Had Lost All Rhyme Or Reason
 To Hate The Country You Live In,
 Seems Like Another Form Of Treason.
 Talk To Soldiers Who Walked Point,
 Through The Deadly Jungles Of Vietnam.
 Who Fought In The Bitter Cold Of Korea,
 Or High Up In The Mountains Of Afghanistan
 Hear Stories Of Untold Bravery,
 The Lifelong Brotherhood They Share.
 The Navy Seal Who Shows Quitting's Not In His
 DNA,
 Stands Tall Every Day Helping Vets From His
 Wheelchair
 Two Desert Storm Soldiers With Little In
 Common,
 Not Politics, Religion, Or Race
 Fought Side By Side So The Wounded,
 Could Be Taken To A Safer Place.
 Maybe I'm The One Who's Racist,
 As Far As Life's Color Wheel Goes.
 One Man Was Proud Army Green And The Marine,
 Red, White And Blue From His Head Down To His
 Toes.

By, Dennis R. Leahy
 9th Division Infantry

Patriot Leahy wrote "War Has No Color" knowing when lives are on the line the color of one's skin or ethnicity fades away. Leahy states we fought as one, we survived together and even after the gunfire subsided we remember years later a 'Brotherhood.' Soldiers who served in the worst circus of horrors and brutality imaginable, who stuck together through the daily mental grind of trying to stay alive, all wanted the prize: going HOME. Patriot Leahy was wounded and carried out of the jungle through two canals by - - pick a color, city or country. All were represented. Those who at their own risk of death got him to the helicopter and on the surgeons table in less than 30 minutes. Leahy was in a coma for 5 days. Daily he wonders how he could thank them. What words are enough. Patriot Dennis Leahy spent nine months in various Army Hospitals, is a 100% disabled veteran. He was awarded the Bronze star, (2) Purple Hearts, Army Commendation Medal amongst other decorations for service as a RECON specialist with the 9th Division Infantry.

Leahy said, "I still love my country and help ALL the veterans I can. I believe my poems have value and may hit home on many fronts. May we carry on the tradition of duty, honor, country from old boot like me to the soldier of today that the story of service and pride lives on."

Indiana's presentation on 4 May of the Leadership Award went to Cadet Cierra Huston by the Senior Vice Commander Rolland Street, of Charles T. Applegate Chapter 692 at the Marion High School, Marion Indiana JROTC. L-R: LtCol David Farlow, Cadet Cierra Huston, SVC Rolland Street, and the Unit CSM, John Smith.



In Iowa a white '03 Dodge Dakota pick up owned, operated & is decorated by one Paul L Pickart, the Department of

Iowa Adjutant and driven in the local Parades along with his patient spouse, Dixie.



At Eagle Idaho Rodeo Military Appreciation Night the Dept. of Idaho and Ch. 509 were selected as beneficiaries. The Rodeo 'comped' 10 tickets and presented the donation 'Cheque.' Without cowboy hats are Patriots George Nickle, Dept. & Chap. 509 Adjutant; Hayward Sawyer, and Past Dept. & Ch. 509 Commander Walter Jackson. In Hats are officials with the Eagle Idaho Rodeo.'



Department of Oregon Officers being sworn in. (R to L): Sgt-at-Arms Gary Grange, CoS Phillip Jacques, Legislative Off. Rick Sciapiti, Inspector John Swanson, Fin. Officer Robert Haltiner, Chaplain/ JVC Anthony Hixson, SVC Joseph Howell, Dept. CDR Keith Wittnebel. Region III CDR Larry Rupp administering the Oath of Office.

A tribute Gold Star Memorial marker as part of gardens, The Fallen War Heroes Memorial located in Central Point, OR by MOPH Chapter 147.



The Oregon Department Commander Keith Wittnebel (left) shown presenting the Department Patriot of the Year Award to Patriot Robert Haltiner, the OR Department Finance Office.



Patriot Al PUNCHES (seen on Right) was one of fifteen MOPH Chapter 147 Patriots and volunteers to place American flags on the graves of the 122 Veterans buried at the Oregon Central Point, Cemetery for this past Memorial Day.



Photo at left: Is The Fallen War Heroes Memorial located in Central Point, Oregon.

Right to Left - Lee Alley, Patriot Timothy Tomaszewski, Sr. Vice Commander, Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon, Dan Stark [Founder & Chairman of The National Museum of Military Vehicles], and Department of WY Commander Berry Gasdek.

Lee Alley is the most decorated veteran in Wyoming and the author of "Back From War" a book that focuses on the difficulty vets have recovering from the trauma of combat. Lee was the guest keynote speaker for the "**Veterans Talking to Veterans Program.**"

Alley attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. with the Armor Division. He went to Vietnam in July of 1967 and served as the infantry platoon leader, recon platoon leader and infantry company commander. His decorations include a Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Soldiers Medal, two Air Medals, Two Purple Hearts, and an Infantry Badge. He was the Commanding Officer for the 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry of the 9th Infantry Division, in Vietnam.





Chapter 817 participated in the Sumter, SC Memorial Day Ceremony in Sumter's American Legion Post 15 Auditorium consisting of the traditional format: an address by Colonel William Oden of the SC State Guard. Pictured above during the ceremony (L to R) are Patriots Johnny Williams and Don Kellum, Chapter Adjutant Leroy Thompson, Patriot Rom Harvin, Mrs. Odell Thompson, and Ch. Commander Harry Thompson.

Sumter, SC Chapter 817 was designated as the South Carolina Chapter of the Year at the Purple Heart Convention during the last week of April. The Chapter received the award for outstanding community support and accurate and on-time reports to the South Carolina Department and Purple Heart National Headquarters. Also during the Convention, Patriot Don Kellum was designated South Carolina Patriot of the Year. In the above photo (L to R) are Chapter Adjutant Leroy Thompson, State Adjutant and Chapter Finance Officer Brittany Lawson, and Chapter Commander Harry Thompson as they receive the award

from Department Commander James Miller at the State Convention in Columbia's Embassy Suites Hotel.



In the photo, right, Patriot Don Kellum is receiving the South Carolina Patriot of the Year Award from Commander James Miller.



Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 817 elected officers for 2023-2024 at their monthly meeting on April 20. Pictured above in the rear row left to right are Commander Harry Thompson, Senior Vice Commander Johnny Williams, Chaplain Ron Harvin, Trustee 2 Ollie Hannah, and Adjutant Leroy Thompson. In the front row left to right are Past Commander Dave Nesbitt (standing) Public Affairs Officer Don Kellum, Sgt-At Arms Jamie O'Neal, Junior Vice Commander Glenn Braden, Trustee 1 Jesse Burgess and Finance Officer Brittany Lawson.

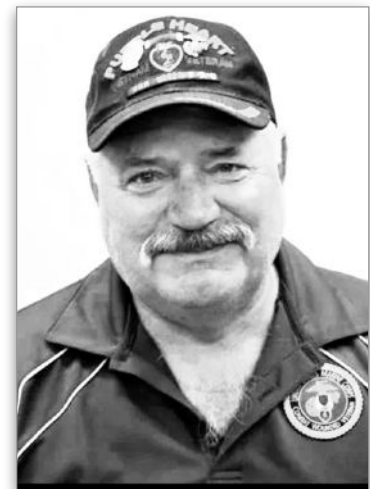




Mount Scott chapter 602 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart bought all of the prizes/fishing poles and a LOT of worms for the Fort Sill Kid's Fishing Tournament held the Fort Sill (OK) Army base last June 3rd.

Patriot Dwyer had the privilege of taking pictures for the event- as he has for all the Kid's Fishing and Hunting events (3 per year); as he has for the last 16 years.

Here's a montage he made (in 11X14" format /metallic picture poster).



Fiesta Flambeau Parade

Alamo Chapter 1836 participated once again in the Fiesta Flambeau Nighttime Parade. This is the largest night parade in the Nation. The 2023 parade in San Antonio on April 29 drew an estimated 750,000 attendees and another 1.5 million TV viewer. Chapter 1836 has a team carrying a banner walking the route followed by a vehicle pulling the 20 ft. decorated Chapter trailer along with its riders. Shown with the banner before the parade are Chapter Members (Left to Right) : Patriots Ruperto Cruz, Jason Cain, Alfredo Davila, Eddie Ybarra, Bill Crumlett, Pete Rosie, Tony Roman and Lorenzo Rodriguez.





Kay Jo Baucom

National President

Kjb531028@gmail.com

704-289-1986

I am one of the luckiest women on earth, and this has been a whirlwind of a year! My name is Kay Jo Baucom. I have been the National President of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary for ten months, moving toward eleven months, and I have had an extraordinary year.

From the moment I took office, I have been surrounded by the most remarkable men and women anywhere. There have also been individuals that have challenged my patience and made me question the direction that the Order was moving and question also if the auxiliary is willing to continue seeking partnership with the Order.

To have faith means to continue to believe- not things visible sometimes- in the goodness of those you encounter. The Auxiliary does this without hesitation and with kindness leading our path. I remain steadfast in my faith and believe our MOPHA family is connected, strong, and diligent in wishing to work side by side with the Order- or our counterpart. When there is a need, we answer it. When there is sorrow, we share it; when there are challenges, we meet them head-on. Our Auxiliary knows that we are stronger together, and we work towards that end!

Let me tell you about my exceptional adventures and how meaningful they have been to me! First and foremost, realizing that I have been entrusted to guide and represent our Auxiliary is mind-boggling and a responsibility I have taken very seriously. Receiving a beautiful cap with embroidery, I stepped up to the podium and, along with my leadership team- undeniably the best in the world- I believe we hit home runs almost daily. I have been welcomed and honored at

every place or event I have attended. I have strived to present myself so that those who don't know us or what we are about get so excited and motivated that they want more information or to join our fantastic family. I have been privileged to share wreath-laying experiences at Arlington, the Vietnam Wall, and the Korean War Memorial. I have held Zoom conferences with my leadership team every month as needed and with our membership as often as possible, if not monthly. Consistently, I am thrilled to see those I care so much about and humbled by the dedication and service our sisters and brothers of the Auxiliary give so selflessly.

Being from the South, I naturally say, "Hey, y'all," and love to hug those that I am so impressed to meet. The hugs I have received will remain in my memory forever, and my heart swells with pride as I reflect on those I have met who have given so much of themselves through military service

and are still giving today. Because of them, my personal heroes, I have had experiences I never could have imagined.

Joining Department conventions or conferences has taught me the true meaning of leadership and teamwork, for without both, little is accomplished. I feel like royalty because of how all of my organization has accepted me and been so gracious and accommodating. What a gift you all have given me- a priceless one- and I will continue to sing the praises of our military heroes, Auxiliary members, and those we call family. No matter where I go, someone will always need a kind word or a smile when words are not needed. And if a hug seems like the best medicine, know Kay Jo stands ready to give one. ♥

Communication is vital to the success of any organization, and thus transparency is a non-negotiable goal.

Fran Holtgreven

National Jr Vice President

fran.mopha@gmail.com

910-286-6424



The National Convention is fast approaching, and as the Ways and Means Chair, please remind your Departments and Units to make an In-kind donation of a gift card to be raffled at the 90th National MOPHA Convention in Baton Rouge, LA, August 14-18, 2023. Remember, Patriots and Auxiliary members will be from all areas of the United States, so please give an In-kind donation gift card from a national business. Several gift cards have been sent to me, which is appreciated.

Also, remember to be looking for those dollar bills with the “A” for AUXILIARY and “L” for LOVE our Veterans. Please track how many you have collected and send a check to Tracy Derr, National Treasurer, bring a check to the Convention, or mail a check to me.

I have started receiving jewelry for Miss Bling Bling’s table, and believe me. Auxiliary members are seriously cleaning their jewelry boxes!!

The two Money Jars that will be filled with money and surprises are starting to be filled with contributions; these jars will be raffled off by buying tickets, and the winning ticket, one for each jar, will be drawn instead of having a 50/50 drawing this year.

When you sign in at the registration table, 90 birthday presents will be available for purchase to Patriots and the Auxiliary. The 90 presents salutes to the 90 years the organization has existed. There will be a \$100 bill in one of these little presents. You cannot touch, shake or pick up a present. You will write your name on a piece of paper; the

volunteer will place your name on the present you pointed at. At the 90th Birthday party, the presents will be given to the person who purchased the present, and they will all open their presents simultaneously. Only one present will contain the \$100 bill.

Please remember to bring cash or your checkbook to help support the Ways and Means activities at the Convention.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary as your National Jr. Vice President this last year. Therefore, I am announcing my candidacy for National Sr. Vice President for 2023-2024.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary has been a presence for 90 years, helping our Patriots and Veterans across this great country; I want to keep our Auxiliaries open and robust for another 90-plus years. I am willing and able to keep our Auxiliary strong with the support and help from all our Departments and Units.

By working together with each other and the Order, we will be able to stay strong, prosper, accomplish many new ideas and projects, and help all Patriots and Veterans across the United States of America.

Thank you for your support and consideration for the office of National Sr. Vice President of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary. ♥

In Patriotism

Fran Holtgreven

Also, remember to be looking for those dollar bills with the “A” for AUXILIARY and “L” for LOVE our Veterans.



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 # _____

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

Date Rec'd _____ Member Type _____ Member # _____

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 # _____

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

Date Rec'd _____ Member Type _____ Member # _____

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



THE PURPLE HEART MAGAZINE

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Advertisements Rates

Online Combo Rates

Location in Magazine	Full	Half	Third
	7 1/2" x 10"	7 1/2" x 5"	7 1/2" x 3 1/2"
INSIDE PAGES	\$275	\$140	\$90
PAGE 3	\$425	\$215	\$145
Discount Multiple Issues: Four 20% ~ Three 15% ~ Two 10%			

The website hosting The Purple Heart Magazine is open to the public and is not restricted to our Combat Wounded Patriots. A .pdf copy is downloadable.

All of the links to websites and E-mail addresses are **live** links. An example of a live link is the E-mail address of the Editor shown below.

The Purple Heart Magazine is a **full-color** digital edition.

The six editions per year of The Purple Heart Magazine begin with the January/February issue.

Ads submission dates are the **15th** day of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Chairman of the National Publications Committee with any questions.

Christopher Smrt

(502) 639-9655 npcmoph@hotmail.com

Click —> npcmoph@hotmail.com



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

Fees may be paid in four equal payments of \$50. The first \$50 must be submitted with this application and the remaining \$150 within one year when using this option. 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) _____ Relationship _____

Next of Kin (Print Name) _____

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 888.668.1656

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 (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# _____

I 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.)