



The Purple Heart

Magazine

March/April 2024



Comaraderie Among Combat Wounded Veterans

About the Cover

The National Women's History Month's theme for 2024 celebrates "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion." The theme recognizes women throughout the country who understand that, for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination entirely from our lives and institutions.

(<https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/2024-whm-theme/>)

The Defense Department celebrates military children during the month of April.

There are more than 1.6 million military children who face many challenges and unique experiences as a result of their parents' service. While military members serve around the world, we often forget the challenges faced by their children.

(<https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/Month-of-the-Military-Child/#:~:text=The%20Defense%20Department%20celebrates%20military,result%20off%20their%20parents'%20service.&text=While%20military%20members%20serve%20around,challenges%20faced%20by%20their%20children.>)

Features

20 Women' History Month: From the battlefields of the American Revolution to the deserts of Kuwait, women have been serving in the military in one form or another for more than 200 years. **They have had to overcome decades of**

obstacles to get to where they are today: serving in greater numbers, in combat roles and in leadership positions all around the world.

28 DAV Report on Mental Wellness

"Women veterans are different in important ways [from male veterans] that can impact their health treatment needs and preferences." (9/14/22) —Jennifer L. Strauss, Ph.D., National Director, Women and Gender-Related Mental Health, Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration

33 The scars of war and the miracles they bring. In a jungle battleground on July 4, 1969, Jim Renzo saved Wayne Miller's life. In an office in Montgomery County 50 years later, Wayne Miller saved Jim Renzo's life.

43 The Duster – January 13, 1968: As the convoy turned into one of the curves in the road, about halfway to Ca Lu (the area known as Ambush Alley), the NVA made their first full-scale attack of the new year.

64 Month of the Military Child: The Defense Department celebrates military children during the month of April. There are more than 1.6 million military children who face many challenges and unique experiences as a result of their parents' service.

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Commander's Message

Carder Ferguson
National Commander



Time has moved very quickly this year it does not seem that in 4 ½ months we will be in Orlando, Florida having our 91st National Convention.

Department of Florida should have its website up for the MOPH 91st National Convention so you can register shortly. On the Order website, you can find the Hotel link for the Convention, a Sponsor form, and Scooter rental information. The Department of Florida is working very hard to have an awesome convention this year. I know they are looking for hosts for hospitality rooms. If you are interested let Department Commander Craig Wertheim know.

In the past months, we had several things going on at the National Headquarters with the leadership awards going out, Life membership rebates being sent out to the Chapters and Departments and processing new members in the order. Next from the AIL mailing list we had around 2000 return pieces of mail that had bad addresses. So, the Headquarters team put a spreadsheet together showing whose address needed to be updated in addition to the list the National Adjutant sent out in October last year. Updating this information is a must so we can communicate with everyone. We have to have a way from mailing to emails or phone numbers to contact the patriots. Once you have this information an

individual can update their information by (Update your profile when you log in) or a chapter/ department officer can do this on our website in the Officer portal under (search for member). It is quick and easy.

We are now in the season for elections for Chapters and then Departments. This is the time to elect the leadership that will support the chapter and department goals for the upcoming year. Remember who you elect is your representation in the order. Our leadership program (ROTC, Badge of Merit, Scouts) has been going very well and shipment of the awards has been on time. The Headquarters staff Jesseca, and Caira have been on top of each order and fill orders each day. I am grateful they are part of the team.



The picture is from Chapter 1919 where they celebrated George Washington's 292nd Birthday. Chapter 1919 did this as a fundraiser for programs their chapter sponsors. In the picture from left to right, Chapter 1919 Commander Carl Rees, the Chapter Commander's Wife Joyce Rees, next Region V Commander Gus Wittschack, and me. I gave a brief to the Chapter on how the order is doing and where are going. During the Celebration Lunch, they



also recognize their chapter Patriot of the Year. It is awesome to hear about patriots doing good work for the Veterans and their

community.

In March we will be in Washington DC working on Legislation. Talking about issues that the order deems important and working with other veteran groups as we show support for their issues which will help the Veterans and their families. I will be there and the National Adjutant, National Senior Vice, National Junior Vice, and the National Legislative officer will be there. This is our time to let everyone know who the Military Order of the Purple Heart is and what we are about.

For membership, I see weekly that we are getting several new members in the Order. Jesseca is processing the application as soon as she gets them, and they should be receiving their card shortly. Thank you all for the hard work of recruiting and promoting the Order.

All leaders need to maintain transparency, foster collaboration, and ensure open lines of communication which will contribute significantly to the resilience and success of our organization. If you have any specific questions or need advice on particular aspects of the Order please start with your Chapter Officers, then to Department Officers, next will be the Region Officers. Provide them with details that you need help with so they can best assist you. Give

the officers at each level a chance to answer the question. TEAMWORK!!

Yours in Patriotism,

Carder Ferguson

Senior Vice Commander's Message

Robert Oliverez

National Senior Vice Commander



Patriots it is hard to believe that 6 months have already flown by so quickly with 6 months left and the and the 91st National Convention to be held in Orlando Florida is just around the corner.

With that being said we are gearing up to have our Chapter Elections followed by our Department Elections. The NJV and National Adjutant have sent out email requesting Department elections date please once the date is identified send it to your Region Commander so that they may update national.

We have been making more progress with our website and are still working hard to make it user-friendly and continue to make it better. As always if you're having any issues, please contact me first or our National Adjutant and we should be able to assist you. This way we do not overload our webmaster who is working diligently with our website. If you have any input on how

to make our website easier or a function in a way that'll help others, please email me and I can bring it up with the webmaster during our biweekly meetings.

We are still working with our program directors and trying to find ways to better improve the programs we have. But we will always need more patriots to step up and help our directors and ensure that the programs that we do have I.E. Purple Heart Trails, Suicide Prevention and Awareness, ROTC, Violas, Homeless Veteran Assistance, CDCE (Formerly VAVS), Disaster Relief, Legislative, Women Veteran Issues, Scholarship, Medal Recovery, and Software developer programs. We are always looking for patriots in each region to assist each program director. So, if you're interested, please reach out to me or the National Junior Vice.

Thanks for all you do and continue to do to help the MOPH.

Robert Olivarez Jr



The MOPH FUND, Inc. is a 501.c.3, non-taxable, public charity (EIN: 87-3168304). For questions, contact: treasurer@mophfund.org or call 844-MOPHFUND (844-667-4386).

Junior Vice Commander's Message

Tracey Brown-Greene
National Junior Vice Commander



Pushing Forward

Greetings Fellow Combat Veterans. We are having a great year moving the Order forward. Working for you all is my pleasure and joy.

Organizing, training, and assisting you and your family to gather more opportunities, peace of mind and love has been the goal and I have thrived to bring that to every one of you. This has been a historical year for all of us.

As time goes by, we tend to overlook the positive things that go on in our lives and around us. Today I would like you all to see the difference that time brings. As the Junior Vice Commander, learning is one of the most important aspects of this organization. Developing new relationships with the leaders from the Department of Defense to the Secretary of the Army, the things we do and say can determine the future for us as an order to the new service members joining our ranks.

As you go about your day, remember that I am here respecting you in every meeting, every city I visit and every Patriot that I meet. Together we can change the way they see us, and I am the first women they

have seen in this position, so I have strived to bring you the passion and dedication to push us forward while bringing the heart and drive of our Vietnam Veterans to the OIF/OEF Veterans and showing you all that women are capable to stand for you.

Lastly, I am running for Senior Vice Commander bringing all effective communication and peace. Vote for Tracey Brown Greene, your future Commander.

National Adjutant's Corner

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



Greetings Patriots,

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is and always will be the leader in Veterans' rights. As the only Veterans Service Organization

whose membership is made up of Combat Wounded, it gives the Order a special voice when advocating before Congress and the US Department of Veterans Affairs for the benefits earned by ALL Veterans who served and sacrificed for our great Nation.

As I write this article for our magazine, I know our National Commander, Carder Ferguson, is preparing his notes for the Annual Briefing to the US Congress where he will provide the Order's position on issues that are of concern to the Veterans Community.

One program that I believe needs to be changed is the Survivor's Benefits Program (SBP). As most of you are aware, the SBP is a Department of Defense sponsored and subsidized program that provides up to 55% of Service Member's retired pay to the eligible beneficiary upon the death of the member. The SBP is not a free benefit as it paid for out of the Retiree's retirement pay. The SBP premiums "base amount" is \$300.00 but can range to the full amount of the member's retire pay. To be fully vested in the program, the participating Retiree must pay the premium for 360 months and have reached age 70.

Retiring Service members sign up for SBP to protect their spouses by ensuring the spouse will have some income after the Veterans death. This scenario surrounds the assumption that the Military Retiree will die before the "covered" spouse. However, that is a flaw with SBP, and it is a change that MOPH must support.

Sometimes it is the covered spouse who is the individual who dies before the Veteran. This has happened in my own Chapter. A few years ago, the wife of one of my fellow Patriots passed away. The Patriot was enrolled in the SBP to ensure his wife had income after his death as he had always fully expected to die before her. However, and sadly, this turned out not to be the case.

After his wife's Memorial Service, the Patriot asked if there was a mechanism to recover the money, he paid into the SPB. I

had to inform him that unfortunately, considering the way the law was written, the answer is no. He then asked if part of the money could be returned to help pay for funeral expenses. Again, the answer is no. He asked if the beneficiary can be changed, i.e., leave the SBP benefits to one his [adult] children or grandchildren going to college. Again, no. I told him the only way any SBP money would be paid out is if he remarried and named his new wife as the beneficiary. The response was, "I'm 92 years old, the love of my life is gone, and I ain't going to remarry!". He then asked, "Where does the unpaid money go?" The answer is the "general fund."

I have no doubt that there are many Veterans who have or are now facing the same dilemma regarding this type of situation. It hardly seems fair that a Veteran who wants to ensure his/her spouse has income after his/her death loses any rights, use, or benefit from the premiums he/she has paid in over several years should the covered spouse die before the Veteran.

During the 2019 National Convention held in Branson, MO, a Legislative Resolution presented by the Department of Arkansas was passed requiring the Military Order of the Purple Heart Legislative Office develop, and sponsor a legislative proposal to present to both houses of the US Congress changing the Survival Benefit Plan so that in the event the covered Spouse dies first, that the Survivors Benefit Program will either:

- Return the premiums paid to the Retiree, until the death of the Retiree, at

the same monthly rate that the covered Spouse would have received, or

- Allow the Retiree to apply for reimbursement of Medical, Hospice, and Funeral Expenses for the covered Spouse and allow the Retiree's survivors to apply for reimbursement of his/her funeral upon his/her death.

Sadly, with the downsizing of the National Headquarters staff and lack of funding for the Legislative Director, the resolution was never developed into a legislative proposal nor included in the Annual Brief to Congress.

It is time for the Order re-undertake this effort in a singular manner or, in conjunction with our fellow Veterans Service Organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion (AL), Disabled American Veterans, and etc.

I will work with our National Legislative Director, PNC James McCormick to develop the SBP resolution into a legislative proposal that can be presented to members of Congress. I ask that those Patriots who have experience in drafting legislation at the local, state, or national level lend a hand on this worthwhile project.

As my usual sign off, I continue my pledge that the MOPH Headquarters Team will be responsive to your requests for information and work in an open environment while protecting the rights and privacy of all concerned. As always, please treat the HQ

Staff in the same respectful manner in which I expect them to treat you.

Chaplain's Messages

Carlton Cannon
National Chaplain



"Prayer Awakening 24"

Patriots, now that we are in full swing with our **"Prayer Awakening 24"**, I pray all is well! As **Combat Wounded Veterans**, we must never forget those in **harm's way**, and the many sacrifices they have endured since the New Year. There are yet so many naïve people in our society who are unaware of the imminent threat of war in America! **WE MUST PRAY!**

People need to know if they are depressed the Holy Spirit can help them with encouragement. If they are discouraged, He can help them with new strength. If they are afraid, He can help them by calming their fears. If they are struggling, He can even ease the struggle. And, if they are alone, the Holy Spirit will be their friend. I am convinced He can take care of any situation and all our needs!

March 6, 1968, I was wounded in combat during the Siege at Khe Sanh during "TET 68". I have since learned that **FREEDOM IS NOT FREE; I PAID FOR IT IN VIETNAM AND I HAVE WALKED THE WALK!** I served, I sacrificed, and I regret nothing! I am not a

hero, but I am proud to be a Vietnam Combat Wounded Veteran. I used to be an ill-tempered survivor! Now, my level of sarcasm depends on your level of intelligence. We were the best America had - **BROTHERS WHO FOUGHT WITHOUT AMERICA'S SUPPORT! BROTHERS WHO RETURNED WITHOUT AMERICA'S WELCOME! BROTHERS WHO WILL ALWAYS BE THE BEST AMERICA HAD!!!**

We were those which others did not want to be. We went where others **FEARED** to go and did what others **FAILED** to do. We asked nothing of those who gave nothing, and reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal loneliness; should we fail. We have seen the face of terror; felt the stinging cold of fear; and enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment's love. We have **CRIED, PAINED, and HOPED;** but most of all, we have lived times others would say were best **FORGOTTEN!**

Through it all I have learned to fully trust in JESUS. I realize **man's greatest need is for salvation!** Because mankind was once God's by creation but became lost through sin; the REDEEMER paid a worthy price to reclaim something previously owned! Together we will "GIT'er Done"!

"I NEED YOU TO SURVIVE"

During my prayer time today, I was reminded of GOD's gracious love and mercy for all mankind! I asked HIM to enlarge my faith and teach me to utterly trust HIM! I pledged to fully recommit myself and direct

all of my attention and energy into fulfilling HIS divine plan and purpose for my life.

This is why I write this letter to my fellow Comrades, Patriots and combat wounded Veterans – Military Order Purple Heart. Continue to faithfully stand with me in prayer! The following lyrics are from the song **“I NEED YOU TO SURVIVE”**:

“I need you; you need me. We are all a part of God’s body. Stand with me, agree with me; we are all apart of God’s body. It is His Will that every need be supplied. **You are important to me; I need you to survive!**”

I pray for you! You pray for me! I love you! I need you to survive! I won’t harm you with words from my mouth! **I NEED YOU TO SURVIVE!”**

Do not forget **“PRAYER AWAKENING;”** and the first 90 days of 2024 are dedicated to a time of consecrated prayer. **Prayer for:** each other, our families, our homes, our military veterans and allies, our nation, and the Military Order Purple Heart. Try and pray for at least **10 minutes each day at 12 noon**. That equates to only 5 hours per month with 2 months to go! I believe that prayer changes things!!!

I want to thank those of you for your excellent response and words of encouragement. God has and will continue to bless us! I feel so grateful for all you do! **TOGETHER WE WILL “GIT’er DONE” for HIS SAKE!**

IN GOD WE TRUST

A Gallup poll last year revealed that just 47% of Americans identify as “religious” and 33% as “spiritual but not religious.” These numbers coincide with steady declines in belief in God, religious service attendance and church membership. Yet even as wars, scandals and contentious political debates cast a shadow on our society, God reminds us His covenants are true and faithful and our hope for ultimate joy and victory are secured! **Is your faith and trust in God?**

Eighty-one years ago this month, four World War II chaplains (George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington) died rescuing civilian and military personnel as the American troop ship ‘USAT Dorchester’ sank just after midnight February 3, 1943. This has been referred to as the second-worst sea disaster of World War II. The Dorchester was a civilian liner converted for military service as a War Shipping Administration Troop transport; able to carry more than 900 military passengers and crew. The vessel was torpedoed by the German submarine U223 off Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. As the transport went down, Army chaplains George Fox (Methodist), Alexander Goode (Jewish), John Washington (Catholic) and Clark Poling (Reformed) were seen giving their life vests to four men who had none!

Standing on the USAT Dorchester’s slanting deck, icy waters rising around them, **Chaplains Fox, Goode, Washington, and Poling thought only of saving others!** Their

unselfish actions serve as a beacon of faith for our society to emulate; their traits of compassion and understanding based upon interracial and interfaith lessons and the basis for building bridges of understanding among all people groups inspire me! In a world short on faith, courage, and compassion, may you also be inspired! God has and will continue to bless us! **Together we will "GIT'er Done!"**

VETERANS' SUICIDE

Will it ever end? According to the latest Veterans Administration's annual report, America's youngest veterans were most at risk of suicide. The 2023 National Veteran Suicide Report showed a slight increase between 2020 and 2021 in suicides among veterans under 45 years old. Most concerning was statistics for the youngest group of veterans.

Within the report's key findings, the VA's data showed the 2021 reported suicide rate was highest among veterans between 18 and 34 years old, followed by those between 35 and 54.

Overall, the reported suicide rate among veterans in 2021 was at 33.9 percent, a 1.3 percent increase from the numbers in 2020. The percentages stem from a total of 6,392 reported suicides amongst the veteran's population, with 6,042 of those being men.

"I believe one of the main culprits behind the increase was the COVID-19 pandemic and the psychological side-effects it had on

veterans and civilians alike. The numbers are disappointing, but the time period covered was at the height of COVID." "Veterans and all people groups experienced at times a sense of helplessness, isolation and loneliness, which added to the preexisting stresses of everyday life."

The report also mentioned that many of the top causes of death among younger veterans are preventable with access to available benefits, proper balance of care, compassion, and community involvement.

My fellow Combat Wounded Veterans and Patriots, we must continue to combat veteran's suicide on all levels. Become the voice and endeavor to stay in tune with our local communities and places of worship. Build relationships with other service providers, civic groups and agencies who can all provide assistance when necessary.

Comrades, we need to keep suicide prevention front and center! In your prayer time, please remember to pray for America and those in uniform. Together we will "GIT'er Done for HIS SAKE!" God Bless America! And thanks for all you do!

Candidate - National Junior Vice

Frances Figueroa-Lowe
Region IV Commander



My MOPH friends and fellow Patriots; I have been encouraged by other Patriots to pursue the position of MOPH National Junior Vice Commander. I am honored to have the full support of some key members that have been active for many years in the Order.

I have been working myself up through the organization in various positions and learning more and more to be able to guide our members and to learn as much as I can about the Order.

My experience includes multiple leadership positions. They include:

- **National:**
Secretary of the Bylaws committee
National Veteran Advocacy Officer (for 2 years)
- **Regional:**
Region IV Commander (Currently serving 2nd term)
- **Department:**

Department of North Carolina
Commander (2 Terms)
Department Senior Vice Commander
Department Junior Vice Commander

- **Chapter:**
Chapter 2226 Adjutant for the past 3 years (still serving)

The National Junior Vice Commander position will allow me to implement some plans and ideas that will assist the health of the MOPH in the future. I am ready and fully qualified to serve and to support not only the National Leadership but the rank-and-file members that make our Order what it is. Therefore, I would appreciate your support with my candidacy. Further, I welcome your advice of how to best assist our other leaders in ways to make the MOPH an even better Veterans Service Organization.

With my solid respect and sincere gratitude,

Frances

“Ms. Bling Bling” (MOPHA)

Fran Holtgreven
National Sr Vice President



My Friend

The Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary lost a dedicated and loved member, Joyce Dalton, also

known as “Ms. Bling Bling,” on February 2, 2024, unexpectedly.

I met Joyce when I attended my first MOPH Auxiliary meeting in San Antonio Texas. She was the President of Alamo Unit 1836 and what a presence she had in her blinged out pants, shirt, and hat, even her boots were sequined! She had her God Bless America and her American Flag pins on her left shoulder and even her fingernails were painted with flags, purple hearts, and little sequins, along with a ring on every finger. I thought I should have brought my sunglasses in from the car because there was so much bling that lit the whole room.

Through the years, I found out that the bling she wore was nothing compared to her personality, love for Veterans, attitude, patriotism,

commitment, and dedication to the Military Order of the Purple Heart and Auxiliary and the VFW.

Joyce was currently the Department of Texas President of the MOPHA, National Region V President, Co-Americanism Office, and Co-Historian. The POW-MIA Table was the most important part of the Chapter, Department and National Conventions. She would take this very seriously and many times she would have to pause to take a breath and shed a tear before continuing. I would be her bell ringer, at last year’s Department of Texas Convention, I didn’t ring the bell in a timely order, and she turned her head and gave me “the look.” She was to orate the POW-MIA table this year for Founders Day for Alamo Chapter 1836, and I was to be her bell ringer, how I will miss being her partner in this moving experience.

Not only will the Auxiliary miss this quirky, happy, outgoing lady, but all Veterans and Patriot’s at Audie Murphy VA, the Fisher House, Floresville Texas VA Home will notice her shining face is missing from their life. She volunteered hours and hours to help and serve Veterans in honor of her husband,

Raymond Dalton. I believe they are together, dancing and having good times together.

Joyce was a special friend of mine from day one and we had a lot of good fun times together. I will miss her phone calls; she loved talking on the phone, participating in Chapter and Unit events, volunteering and just laughing together. She was a character and was always there to help me with raffles and other projects. She will be missed.

The Joyce Dalton Memorial Scholarship fund is accepting donations. Donations can be mailed to Past region V President Doris Williams at: Doris Williams 136 Billy The Kid Drive, Nolanville, TX 76559.

Rest in Peace my friend. You will not be forgotten. You have given each of us special memories and taught us to appreciate our Country and our Veterans. We will carry on your work. Love you.

All meetings were closed by Joyce with her virtual hug. In her honor I would like to close this article with her hug. She said, "Take your left

hand and place it on your right shoulder and take your right hand and place it on your left shoulder and squeeeeeze. – Because you deserve it."

Remembering Joyce Dalton

Colleen Orfanello
Past National President, MOPHA

Department of Texas & Region 5
President 1947 – 2024



Born in 1947 in Ft. Worth, Texas, Joyce "Ms. Bling Bling" Dalton was a true Texan. Her big heart, kind words, sparkling personality, and virtual and physical hugs were evident no matter where she was and who she encountered. Joyce's patriotism and commitment to the members of Military Order of the Purple Heart & Auxiliary, and VFW, was met with unparalleled dedication. In honor of Raymond Dalton, her late husband of 34 years, Joyce served in several leadership positions in many Veteran organizations. Joyce held the elected and appointed offices of Unit 1836 as President, Sr. Vice President, Secretary, and Trustee. On a national level, Joyce served as the Department of Texas President, Co-Americanism Officer, and Co-Historian. In August 2023, Joyce was elected MOPHA Region 5 President.

The generosity of her time and talents were most appreciated by the staff and patients of Auaie Murphy VA Hospital and Brook Army Medical Center on Ft. Sam Houston Army Post, for several years where she served as a VAVS representative. On Christmas and New Years, Joyce could be found volunteering in the Warrior's Building touching the hearts of families and wounded troops as she treated them as her own family; many still contact her. The Fisher House was another organization that was lucky enough to have her volunteer and interact with families of infirmed Veterans. She received many plaques, certificates, and other honors. Joyce was also a member of the San Antonio Fiesta for several years and collected all their special Fiesta pins. She was the "Volunteer Extraordinaire" and always shining and happy. She was a friend to all. Joyce was a true Patriot and was never without her American Flag and God Bless America pins on her left shoulder. Joyce was most proud of her role of orator of the POW-MIA Table; especially during her Department of Texas meetings, and the 2023 National Purple Heart Convention. She was also known as "Ms. Bling Bling" not only for her sparkling personality, but also her bedazzled outfits and jewelry. She was the first one to join monthly zoom calls and ended each one with her signature virtual hug. She said, "Take your left hand and place it on your right shoulder and take your right hand and place it on your left shoulder and squeeeeeeze. - Because you deserve it".

Her enthusiasm and effervescent personality will be missed and not forgotten.

Publications Committee Message

Larry Leighton
NPC Chair

Members of the National Command Team have received multiple queries from leaders and individual members saying “many members” want a hard-copy of The Purple Heart Magazine.



As most of us know and recognize, publishing a hard-copy magazine costs money the Order does not have – and have not had since our challenges with the Foundation funding stream. The last annual cost was over \$330,000 and was limited to six issues of 36,000 copies.

In March 2024, the NPC will send out a survey to see if we can determine the **level of interest** in receiving a hard-copy magazine – **for an annual subscription.**

It is important to note this is a survey only and not a commitment. The results of the survey will be presented during the 2024 Convention so the Supreme Body can determine whether to or not to publish a hard copy magazine.

Some interesting facts (based on the Feb 23, 2024, National Roster:

- 47,650 Members, Associate Members, and “testing” entries

- 14,763 Members and Associate Members without email address
- 30,315 with an email address including:
 - 213 duplicates
 - 33 “bogus” (xx@email.com; xx@none)
- 10,689 unsubscribed from HQ Constant Contact (including PHM distribution)
- 3,593 known bad mailing address

There will be two versions of the survey.

1. The first will be sent to valid email addresses not on the unsubscribed list to see how many, if any, would like to subscribe to a hard-copy in addition to the digital copy.
2. The second will be mailed to approximately one-third of those without an email address and their mailing address has not previously been identified as bad. The sample size (limited by printing and postage costs) will be representative of each region.

Everyone is encouraged to answer the survey.

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

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Ferguson

Chair (4-yr term): Larry Leighton

Member (3-yr term): **Vacant**

Member (2-yr term): Alan
Gibson

Member (1-yr term): **Vacant**

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 (15th 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.

2024 National Convention

Craig Wertheim

Department of Florida Commander

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

The Year of the Family

July 15-18, 2024

Rosen Plaza Hotel 9700 International Blvd. Orlando, Florida

Hotel prices of \$139 per night plus tax will be honored for up to one week before and one week after the convention. Click on the link or scan the QR Code to register.

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



Click [HERE](#) for information on scooter rentals. The prices range from \$35/day to \$60/day with a 2-day minimum rental.



Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention 2024

“Year of the Family”



July 14 - July 18 2024
Orlando, Florida



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Women's History Month

Every year, March is designated Women's History Month by presidential proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history.

Over 200 Years of Service:

The History of Women in the U.S. Military
By Danielle DeSimone

From the battlefields of the American Revolution to the deserts of Kuwait, women have been serving in the military in one form or another for more than 200 years. **They have had to overcome decades of obstacles to get to where they are today: serving in greater numbers, in combat roles and in leadership positions all around the world.**



In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson opened promotions to women to general and flag ranks.
Photo credit Department of Defense (DoD)

Here is a look at the history of women in the military, how their roles have changed over the years and how the USO has supported them since our founding as an organization in 1941.

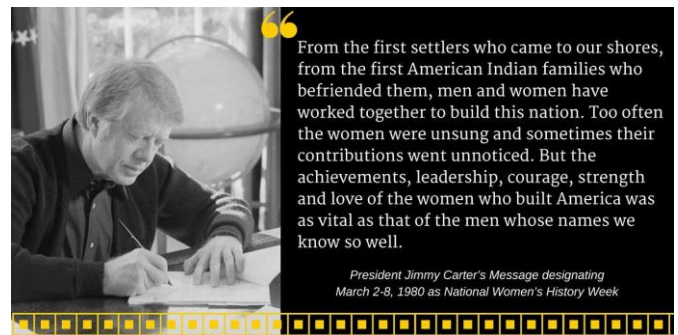
<https://www.uso.org/stories/3005-over-200-years-of-service-the-history-of-women-in-the-us-military>



Women's History Week

Did You Know? Women's History Month started as Women's History Week . . .

Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year.



In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians—led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation

declaring the Week of March 8th, 1980, as National Women’s History Week.

<https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/womens-history-month>



March 8th is International Women’s Day

8 female soldiers who changed the course of US military history.

March 8 is International Women’s Day — a celebration which would be incomplete if the female trailblazers of the United States Army were not recognized. Though not often viewed as equals by their male counterparts, women have dutifully served their country since the days of the American Revolution. From breaking barriers in combat to challenging the status quo across eras, here are eight female soldiers who changed the course of history for the U.S. military.



First Lt. Shaye Haver, left, and Capt. Kristen Griest talk on the phone Aug. 20 with Defense Secretary Ash Carter, who called to congratulate them on

being the first women to earn the Ranger Tab. (Photo: Patrick A. Albright/Army)

<https://www.armytimes.com/off-duty/2020/03/09/8-female-soldiers-who-changed-the-course-of-us-military-history/>



Marines with the Lioness Program

7 Badass Women Who Made Military History



FILE -- Marines with the Lioness Program refill their rifle magazines during the live-fire portion of their training at Camp Korean Village, Iraq. (Marine Corps Photo/ Sgt. Jennifer Jones)

Women have blazed a trail of innovation and made military history. They have been fighting and sacrificing for this country much longer than you may think -- one even going as far as disguising herself as a man to serve.

In September 2017, [a Marine officer](#) passed the rigorous requirements to become the first female infantry officer. In addition, two officers made history by

becoming [the first women to graduate](#) from the traditionally all-male U.S. [Army Ranger](#) School.

Read the rest of the story at <https://www.military.com/history/7-bad-ass-women-who-made-military-history.html>



Remembering Navy WAVES

During Women’s History Month
March 3, 2017 | By [Donna Cipolloni](#),
[Naval Air Station Patuxent River](#)



An undated photo from the personal collection of Alice Virginia Benzie, a Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service -- WAVES -- sailor stationed at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., in the 1940s, shows WAVES standing in formation outside the hangars. By the time recruiting ended in 1945, the WAVES boasted a force of 86,000 enlisted and more than 8,000 female officers -- around 2.5 percent of the Navy’s total strength at the time. Courtesy photo.

Following the last of the female yeomen leaving active duty at the end of World War I, only a small number of Navy nurses represented their gender in naval service. But World War II would change all of that.

In the early 1940s, the Navy prepared to accept not only a large number of enlisted women, but also the first female commissioned officers who would supervise them.

On July 30, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Navy Women’s Reserve Act into law, creating what was commonly known as the WAVES -- Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service -- a division of the U.S. Navy created during World War II to free up male personnel for sea duty. Little did anyone know that the resulting influx of women in the U.S. Navy would last far beyond the World War II “emergency” for which they had been recruited.

First Director

In August 1942, Mildred McAfee, president of Wellesley College, was sworn in as a Navy Reserve lieutenant commander and became the first female officer in U.S. Navy history, as well as the first director of the WAVES.

One of those WAVES was Alice Virginia Benzie, originally from Brookville, New York, who served at [Naval Air Station Patuxent River](#), then known as the U.S. Naval Air Test Center. She entered the service Nov. 4, 1943, at age 21 and was honorably discharged having achieved the rank of chief yeoman.

Read the rest of the story at <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/article/article/1102371/remembering-navy-waves-during-womens-history-month/>



Those Who Did – So We Knew We Could



The fight for equality for women in the Armed Forces is an ongoing process requiring persistence, patience, and courage. During World War II, many women served their country in uniform as WASPs, WAACs, and WACs, performing many support duties that were previously performed by men, so that the men were able to move into combat roles. After the war, women continued to serve as WACs in the Army and the Army Air Forces. After the National Security Act of 1947 created the United States Air Force as a separate military service, Army WACs continued working in Air Force units. When Women in the Air Force (WAF) was created in 1948 by the Women's Armed Services Integration Act giving women permanent status in the Regular Air Force and The Air Force Reserve, many WACs transferred into the

WAF. On July 8, 1948, Esther Blake became the first woman to enlist in the Air Force, joining the WAF the first minute of the first hour of the first day that regular Air Force duty was authorized for women.

The accomplishments and legacies of women serving in the Air Force have only grown since that day Esther Blake enlisted. In 1967, the first WAFs were assigned to duty in Vietnam and President Johnson signed Public Law 90-130, opening promotions for women to general and flag ranks. The first female Air War College student graduated from AWC in 1970 and Jeanne Holme became the first woman to achieve the rank of brigadier general in 1971 and major general in 1973. Women were admitted to the United States Air Force Academy for the first time in 1976 and the first ten women pilots graduated from the Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training Program the next year. Women were assigned to missile crews for the first time in 1978.

The 1990s saw more firsts, as Maj Gen Marcelite Harris became the first African American female general officer in the Air Force in 1991, Sheila Widnall became the first woman to serve as Secretary of the Air Force and Jeannie Leavitt became the first female fighter pilot in 1993, and Lt Col Eileen Collins became the first woman to command a space shuttle mission in 1995. The 2000s saw Air Force women reach even higher – Lt Col Shawna Kimbrell became the first African American female fighter pilot in 2000, Col Martha McSally became the first female commander of a

fighter squadron in 2004 and General Janet Wolfenbarger became the first women in the USAF to achieve four-star rank in 2012.

Most recently, Chief Master Sgt JoAnne S. Bass was installed as the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force on August 14, 2020, the first woman to serve as the highest-ranking noncommissioned officer of a U.S. military service.

On March 4th, 2020, Air University Library opened an exhibit to celebrate and showcase well-known and unsung female pioneers who set the bar high, making it easier for those who followed. "Female

Pioneers: Those Who Did, So We Knew We Could" was an exhibit to not only spotlight significant women but simultaneously foster education, awareness, appreciation, and inspiration that will resonate with individuals from various walks of life.

<https://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/WomenInTheAirForce#:~:text=The%201990s%20saw%20more%20firsts,Col%20Eileen%20Collins%20became%20the>



Presidential Proclamation

PROCLAMATION ON WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, 2024
MARCH 1, 2024

During Women's History Month, we celebrate the courageous women who have helped our Nation build a fairer, more just society.

Throughout history, the vision and achievements of powerful women have strengthened our Nation and opened the doors of opportunity wider for all of us. Though their stories too often go untold, all of us stand on the shoulders of these sung and unsung trailblazers — from the women who took a stand as suffragists, abolitionists, and labor leaders to pioneering scientists and engineers, groundbreaking artists, proud public servants, and brave members of our Armed Forces.

Despite the progress that these visionaries have achieved, there is more work ahead to knock down the barriers that stand in the way of women and girls realizing their full potential — in a country founded on freedom and equality, nothing is more fundamental. That is why my Administration has put women and girls at the heart of everything we do. When I first came into office, I established the White House Gender Policy Council to advance their rights and opportunities across domestic and foreign policy. I also released the Nation's first-ever National Gender Strategy to

advance gender equity and equality across my Administration — from women’s economic security and leadership opportunities to freedom from gender-based violence and equal access to education and health care. Women are seated at every table where decisions are made in my Administration — from our first female Vice President, Kamala Harris, to a record number of female cabinet secretaries to the most diverse set of judges ever nominated to the Federal bench, including Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

If we want to have the strongest economy in the world, we cannot leave women — half of our workforce — behind. Since I have been in office, the economy has created nearly 15 million jobs, and we have seen the lowest unemployment rate among women in more than five decades. As we implement major pieces of legislation like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, we are ensuring that women get their fair share of opportunities. We are increasing their access to new jobs in sectors where women have been historically underrepresented, like manufacturing, construction, and clean energy. We are championing equal pay, including issuing new regulations that advance pay equity and pay transparency for Federal workers and employees of Federal contractors.

We are making sure women have access to the resources they need to enter and remain in the workforce, including high-quality, affordable childcare. My Administration’s American Rescue Plan helped working mothers, especially during the most challenging times of the pandemic, by keeping the doors of 220,000 childcare centers open — 90 percent of which are owned and staffed by women. Our Child Tax Credit cut the number of children in poverty by 50 percent and provided breathing room for 65 million children and their families, and we will keep fighting to restore it. I have also signed legislation that provides new protections for pregnant and postpartum workers.

To promote the health and wellness of women in America, under the leadership of Vice President Harris, we launched the Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis to combat the high incidence of maternal mortality — especially for Black, Native, and rural women — due to systemic inequities in quality health care. We have expanded access to health care services for women veterans — the fastest growing group of veterans receiving services at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Last fall, we launched the White House Initiative on Women’s Health Research to change how we approach and fund women’s health research, and pioneer the next generation of discoveries in women’s health care.

Further, Vice President Harris and I are fighting to protect women’s reproductive freedom. In 2022, the Supreme Court made an extreme decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, reversing nearly five decades of recognizing a woman’s constitutional right to choose and make deeply personal decisions about her health care. Now, tens of millions of women live in States with an extreme and dangerous abortion ban currently in effect. Across the country, women are being turned away from emergency rooms, forced to go to court to seek permission for the medical attention they need, and made to travel hundreds of miles for care. This is unacceptable. That is why I have taken action to safeguard access to reproductive care, including abortion and contraception. Vice President Harris and I will keep calling on the Congress to restore the protections of *Roe v. Wade* in Federal law — the only way to ensure women in every State have the right to choose.

As we lift up women’s health and economic prosperity, we also have to protect their physical security. As a United States Senator, I was proud to write the Violence Against Women Act, which helped change the culture of silence around the scourge of gender-based violence in America. When we reauthorized the law, we increased our total investment in prevention and support to \$700 million for 2023 alone — the highest funding ever to protect women from gender-based violence in nearly 30 years. I have also spearheaded historic military justice reforms to better protect survivors and ensure that, in cases of gender-based violence, prosecutorial decisions are fully independent from the chain of command. Last year, my Administration released the first-ever National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, advancing a comprehensive Government-wide approach to preventing and addressing gender-based violence across the United States.

Globally, my Administration is supporting initiatives that help expand access to childcare, end gender-based violence, cut the digital gender divide in half, promote women’s leadership, and more. Thanks to the leadership of Vice President Harris, we have galvanized more than \$2.9 billion in investments to advance the economic status of women around the world and ensure they play a meaningful role in the industries of the future.

This Women’s History Month, may we recognize the long, storied history of great women helping to realize our Nation’s founding promise and highest aspirations. May we all continue working to build a world worthy of the dreams and goals of all women and girls.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the

United States, do hereby proclaim March 2024 as Women’s History Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month and to celebrate International Women’s Day on March 8, 2024, with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. I also invite all Americans to visit WomensHistoryMonth.gov to learn more about the vital contributions of women to our Nation’s history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

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Shirley Bull MOPH Associate Member

MOPH FUND Promotional Video



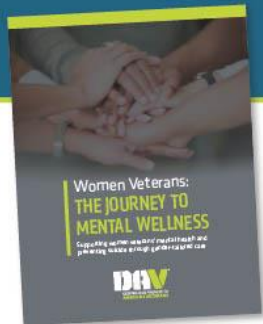
View the video on the MOPH FUND Facebook page.

<https://fb.watch/qu5SldFB7V/>



DAV Report on Mental Wellness

THE JOURNEY TO MENTAL WELLNESS A CALL TO ACTION



Women Veterans: **THE JOURNEY TO MENTAL WELLNESS**

DAV's *Women Veterans: The Journey to Mental Wellness* is a comprehensive assessment of the unique factors contributing to the staggering rate of suicide among women veterans. It details how the system charged with their mental health care can and must do better. Using the latest in research and data, combined with a thorough review of the Department of Veterans Affairs' available services, this in-depth report reveals that too many women veterans are at risk of falling through the cracks due to gaps in lifesaving mental health care.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Women veterans are dying by suicide at an alarming rate compared with their male and civilian counterparts.

Suicide rate among women veterans between 2020 and 2021:

↑ 24.1%

Nearly 4X higher than the 6.3% increase among male veterans and vastly higher than the 2.6% increase among nonveteran women

2X

more likely than male veterans to attempt suicide

3X

more likely than nonveteran women to choose a firearm as means of suicide

More than

50%

of deaths for women veterans are by self-inflicted firearm injury

THE CHALLENGES

Women veterans experience unique challenges that can put them at greater risk for suicide, including:



Military sexual trauma (MST)

Among veterans enrolled in the VA, 1 in 3 women report experiencing MST.



Intimate partner violence

Nearly 1 in 5 women veterans using VA primary care reported experiencing intimate partner violence in the past year.



Substance use disorder

The risk of suicide death among women veterans with active substance use disorder is **more than twice** what it is for men.



Pregnancy

During pregnancy and **up to one year** after giving birth can be a time of increased risk for a mental health diagnosis and suicidality.*

* In women patients with a prior mental health diagnosis.



Menopause

Menopause has been shown to raise the risk for depression twofold and corresponds to the **highest rates of suicide** among U.S. women.

- 24.1% - suicide rate increase between 2020 and 2021 among women veterans
- 2X - more likely than male veterans to attempt suicide.
- more than 50% of deaths for women veterans is by self-inflicted firearm injury.



THE GAPS

The report found numerous gaps in mental health care and understanding related to women veterans, including:

- **Screenings:** Evidence shows a significant number of false negative screens for MST, a known risk factor for suicide among many women veterans.
- **Intervention:** The VA's innovative model to predict suicidality and intervene with high-risk veterans uses male veterans as its baseline and does not consider MST.
- **Access:** According to the VA, 1 in 4 women veterans live in rural areas, and rural veterans face significant barriers to accessing health care.
- **Gender-specific care:** The VA reports that only about 13 residential rehabilitation centers nationwide provide gender-exclusive care and services.
- **Training:** Community care providers are not required to be trained in suicide risk identification and intervention or lethal-means safety counseling.
- **Understanding:** The impact of reproductive life stages on mental health and suicide risk among women veterans is woefully understudied and not well defined.
- **Awareness:** Many women veterans say they did not even know they were eligible for VA health care or were unaware of the resources available to them, including mental health care and other VA benefits.



THE SOLUTIONS

DAV makes over 50 policy and research recommendations intended to spark necessary and urgent change that can save lives, which include the following:

- MST should be a central pillar of suicide prevention efforts within the VA, and the VA must ensure veterans are effectively screened or rescreened for MST.
- Similar to 988 for veterans in crisis, the Department of Health and Human Services should create a three-digit number, with a veteran option, for the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233).
- The VA must revise its model for predicting suicidality to incorporate risk factors weighted for women veterans.
- The VA must develop targeted solutions to bridge gaps for the provision of mental health care services in rural communities.
- The VA should assess the need to increase gender-specific programming in residential rehabilitation programs.
- The VA must require that providers in the VA Community Care Network be trained in suicide prevention and lethal-means safety counseling.
- VA and non-VA experts in menopausal women's health should collaborate to explore a research agenda on the related threads of menopause and suicide.



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DAV's third landmark report is one of the most comprehensive assessments of the unique factors contributing to the staggering rate of suicide among women veterans and how the system charged with their mental health care can and must do better.

[Download the Key Findings](#)



[Download the Full Report](#)



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Blood Sugar

Body Pain

the **RaphaRub** story . . .

We had no intention of creating a business. My father-in-law's neuropathy had

worsened to the point that his foot pain was so severe, he could not take 3 steps without

falling. He was an active, athletic man, and being relegated to the sofa caused thoughts of

suicide. My wife, Journee, would not sit back and watch. She asked some Amish folks for potential answers. They introduced her to the unique benefits of cannabis. She studied and experimented and came up with a formula for a balm and sent some to her father in Arizona.

Dad quickly announced after applying some to his feet, "I was able to take 6 steps today, but don't get excited." Soon after, he began going fishing, painted his house on ladders, did gardening, got a new dog, and bragged that he walked his dog twice a day, a mile each time.

Word spread near and far and, with the help of some pastors, we were getting requests for samples from across the country, for which we were glad to send out mini-Tupperware-containers-full to anyone who asked. The testimonials came quickly and someone asked, "Hey, can I buy some of this from you?" **RaphaRub** was born.

We know it helped with pain of neuropathy and soon learned from RaphaRub users that it was effective for so much more (we had no idea). Fibromyalgia, deep muscle/joint/bone/tendon pain, arthritis, inflammation, psoriasis, eczema, acne, scoliosis, sciatica, even headache/migraines and severe menstrual cramps. Then we heard about how it relieved glaucoma, how people were forestalling surgeries, gaining range of movement in knuckles, knees, shoulders. Almost everyone reported relief in less than 10 minutes and that the more they used **RaphaRub**, the less they needed it.

RaphaRub and its line of products are on a steep growth curve and we measure success, not by revenue, but by the number of people that have found relief (and the goosebumps we get from the heart-warming stories we receive daily).

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The Military Order of Purple Heart plus your local Chapter (or Auxiliary) receive a nice financial benefit from each order. And you'll get a discount, as well!



Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras Organizations Honor Purple Heart Recipients

The Legion of Mars and the Krewe of Dionysus invited National Jr. Vice Commander, Tracey Brown Greene to participate in the Mardi Gras festivities in Louisiana.



On February 22, 2024, several Purple Heart Recipients, including National Jr. Vice Commander Tracey Brown Greene, were asked to participate in the Legion of Mars and Krewe of Dionysus' Mardi Gras Parades. The Legion of Mars is the only known Mardi Gras Krewe that is comprised of active duty and Veteran Military and first responders, patriotic civilian friends, and supporters, and presents a "Parade of Patriots," riding on themed floats saluting each branch of the Armed Forces, plus local police and fire departments and other first responders.

Although it was a rainy and chilly day, riders enjoyed throwing trinkets and beads to masses of people along the 7-mile route in uptown New Orleans. The following day, Jr. Vice Commander Brown Greene enjoyed being a spectator during the Krewe of Dionysus Parade where Patriot and Department of Louisiana Sr. Vice Commander Deron Santiny was a guest.

The Krewe of Dionysus was a sponsor of the 2023 National Convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Their sponsorship gave attendees a "little taste of Louisiana" with their homemade jambalaya, and king cake from New Orleans.

While visiting New Orleans, Jr. Vice Commander Brown Greene secured the donation of several king cakes to be enjoyed during the 2024 National Convention in Orlando.



Both the Legion of Mars and the Krewe of Dionysus invite Purple Heart Members to be a participant in the tradition of Mardi Gras and join them during the 2025 Mardi Gras festivities.

For more information, visit the websites of these Purple Heart friendly organizations. The Legion of Mars can be found at www.LegionOfMars.com. The Legion of Mars was named after the god of war and they will ride the streets of New Orleans on Saturday February 22, 2025.

The Krewe of Dionysus can be found at www.kreweofdionysus.com. Named after the god of wine, the krewe is celebrating its 40th anniversary when it rolls down the streets of Slidell, Louisiana on Sunday February 2, 2025.

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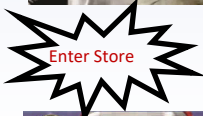
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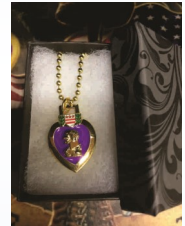
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Region I News

Chapter 2222-MD-1

Wayne Miller
Member

The scars of war and the miracles they bring - by Judith Hruz, Editor, The Greater Olny News



James "Jim" Renzo and Wayne Miller share a war story like no other.

Wayne Miller was 18 years old on July 4, 1969, and he was dying. The U.S. Marine and his unit were moving through the jungles of Vietnam.

"The enemy was nearby. One of our guys hit a boob)' trap that tipped off the other guys of where we were. They fired three mortars and AK47 rounds, and I got hit."

Miller fell to the ground - at least his body fell to the ground. Some other part of him was looking down on his nearly lifeless body, watching the action below. Then he saw his family having a Fourth al July picnic.

"I saw them there. Everything about them. I did."

Then Miller came crashing back to the ground at 100 mph. He opened his eyes and saw a helicopter land.

"I don't remember much else. I was dying."

A medical corpsman was tending to him. He thinks so anyway. Little of what was happening stayed with him.

He woke up in a hospital in Da Nang.

"The doctor told me, 'I have good news and I have bad news. The good news is you are alive. The bad news is we had to take your leg.'"

But he understood the good news was very good news. He should have died on the battlefield.

Returning home

When he returned to the States, he spent time at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Philadelphia. With his family around his bedside, he recalled the one solid memory he had of that fateful July 4 in the jungles of Vietnam: The vision of his family sitting on a picnic blanket enjoying the Independence Day holiday.

He asked them what they were doing that day.

His mother described his vision exactly.

That cemented what he already knew and what countless people have told him for five decades: He should have died that day. Had it not been for the nameless, faceless corpsman who tended to him, despite the bombs falling around them, he would be dead.

In Philadelphia, he was fitted for his first prosthesis.

Somewhere along the path of recovery, he decided that the leg would not limit him.

People told him it would. But he was alive - alive against all odds - and he took the challenge of a prosthetic leg as the impetus to propel him forward. With the help of the Veterans Administration (VA), he attended college and earned several master's degrees. He has a wife, children, and grandchildren. Through his own sheer will and determination, he has earned medals. He sings, even recording a song.

He has dedicated his life to serving other veterans, now counseling veterans at the Veterans Center in Montgomery County and serving as chair of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs.

Thousands of miles away

On the other side of the country, James 'Jim' Renzo was living a different life.

After he returned from service in Vietnam just after Christmas 1969, the Marine corpsman lacked direction.

"I was bouncing from here to there."

The VA offered to send him to medical school because of his corpsman training, but that did not appeal to him, perhaps because of all the horrors he saw in those jungles and rice paddies of Vietnam.

He was "the old man" in those battles - 20 years old in the summer of 1969 - when he was patching up and piecing together the battlefield casualties.

In one particular battle on July 4, he remembers digging shrapnel from his own body as he pushed forward to get to other injured men.

Eventually, he went to divinity school and became a bishop in his non-denominational religion. He ended up moving to the East Coast and working for the Smithsonian.

Slowly withdrawing

Renzo was slowly, but surely, withdrawing. And then the coronavirus pandemic hit and that 'allowed' him to pull away from people even further. No one was going anywhere, and he used that as an excuse to go deeper inside his own head.

He never sought help for the confusion he felt for 50 years. How could he explain it to someone else when he hardly understood it himself?

Renzo could never reconcile the work he did as a corpsman.

"Did I save anyone? Did I screw up anyone's life? I carried a lot of baggage."

Finally, someone recommended that he go to the Veterans Center and talk to Miller.

'Go see Wayne. Go see Wayne. Go see Wayne,' he was told.

Eventually, he did.

The answers they needed.

As he sat facing Miller, Renzo recounted his stories of hell. In particular was a story from a horrific battle on July 4, 1969.

Miller was shocked. He thought someone had put Renzo up to some sort of horrible joke. No one could know the details of that day unless they knew Miller and heard him talk about it.

Miller didn't even know the details from that day.

The person sitting across from him in his office in Forest Glen - seemingly a million miles from Southeast Asia - was telling Miller's story of being shot up in the jungles of Vietnam, how he was "rescued" and put on a helicopter as war raged around them.

Miller never knew Renza's name. All corpsmen are just "Doc." You don't ask names on the battlefield. That way, if someone dies, it is less personal.

So, Miller never knew, nor did Renzo, the name of the man in whose life he became forever entwined on July 4, 1969.

But Miller looked at Renzo, straight in the eyes and said:

"You had to be there. You saved my life."

Call it coincidence. Call it a miracle. Call it the universe and its infinite wisdom in knowing what to do.

From that moment on, those two men had the validation they had been seeking for over a half century.

"I was his validation, and he was my validation," Renzo said.

For Miller, he always believed in the 'Band of Brothers' mentality- leaving no one behind.

And Renzo believed it too. He just didn't know how deeply he believed it.

"He gave me back part of me that I was throwing away," he said of Miller.

In a jungle battleground on July 4, 1969, Jim Renzo saved Wayne Miller's life. In an office in Montgomery County 50 years later, Wayne Miller saved Jim Renza's life.



Jim Renzo's cap.

Reprinted from The Greater Only News

Chapter 0353-VA-1

Gordon Sumner

Past Chapter Commander

Reprinted from Chapter Newsletter



Veteran Homelessness Facts

More Than You May Think

- While only 8% of Americans can claim veteran status, 17% of our homeless population is made up of veterans.
- In 2023, 35,574 veterans were experiencing homelessness.
- Veterans between the ages of 18 and 30 are twice as likely as adults in the general population to be homeless, and the risk of homelessness increases significantly among young veterans who are poor.

For a lot more information go to: <https://greendoors.org/facts/veteran-homelessness.php>



Chapter 0353-VA-1

Gordon Sumner

Past Chapter Commander

Reprinted from Chapter Newsletter

Navy Medal of Honor Recipient from Pearl Harbor Is Honored at Arlington Funeral

As the bugle fell silent on the fields of Arlington National Cemetery on a gray December Thursday, a heroic sailor was finally laid to rest 82 years after his story and that of one of the most defining moments of American history became intertwined.

The sailor was Seaman 1st Class James Ward. He was stationed aboard the battleship USS Oklahoma when the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.



U.S. Navy Chaplain, Lt. Cmdr. Robert Price, renders a hand salute to Medal of Honor recipient Seaman 1st Class James Richard Ward during a ceremony where he is laid to rest in the Arlington National Cemetery, Dec. 21, 2023. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ellen E. Sharkey)

As the ship, holed by three aerial torpedoes, began to roll, and sink in the bay, Ward remained at his 14"-gun turret holding a flashlight -- an act of heroism that meant the rest of the turret crew could see their way to safety but at the cost of his own life. His actions earned him the Medal of Honor.

Ward, who enlisted in the Navy just about a year prior to Pearl Harbor, became one of five Oklahoma sailors who would be honored for heroism and courage for their actions on that day and one of 16 Medal of Honor recipients related to the attack. He also became one of 429 sailors -- about one-third of the crew -- who would perish on the USS Oklahoma.

Theron's Note: My parents were newlyweds that Sunday. My father reported it immediately. That was the last my Mother saw of him except for a short time when she drove to New Orleans from New York. where Dad was going through advanced training. He came home in late 1944 after serving at Normandy then in the Pacific. This was quite normal for that generation who won the War.

For more information:

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/22/after-82-years-navy-pearl-harbor-hero-laid-](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/22/after-82-years-navy-pearl-harbor-hero-laid-rest.html?ESRC=eb_231226.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231226)

[rest.html?ESRC=eb_231226.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231226](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/22/after-82-years-navy-pearl-harbor-hero-laid-rest.html?ESRC=eb_231226.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20231226)



Chapter 0353-VA-1

Vivian Cochran
Senior Vice Commander



L-R: Walt Cooper and Matthew Manville

In November 2023, Chapter 353 conducted a Viola Drive at Giant Foods at Huntsman Square in Springfield, VA. We were thrilled to witness such tremendous support. It was a heartwarming reminder of the unity that can be found within our community. The Viola Drive allowed us to connect with our fellow citizens and raise awareness about the incredible work being done by our chapter. It's events like these that help us forge stronger bonds with our community and ensure that the stories of our Purple Heart recipients are never forgotten. We have planned 2-3 Viola Drives in 2024 and look forward to continuing outreach on behalf of our PH veterans.

We were privileged to participate in a joint Veterans Day Ceremony at American Legion

Post 176 in Springfield, VA. Chapter 353, VFW Post 7327 and American Legion Post 176 leadership gave short speeches on honoring all of the veterans who have served our country.



Chapter 353 celebrated the end of 2023 with our annual Holiday Lunch. It was a delightful occasion that brought our members and their families closer together. Sharing stories, laughter, and a delicious meal, we took a moment to cherish the spirit of togetherness that defines our chapter.

One of our proudest achievements in 2023 was our successful fundraising campaign with Wreaths Across America. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we sponsored a total of 230 wreaths to be laid on the graves of veterans at Arlington National Cemetery. Not only did this initiative allow us to pay our respects to those who have passed, but it also raised funds for our chapter. A portion of these funds will come back to support our important work, ensuring that we can continue our mission.

In our ongoing efforts to connect with our community and share our activities, Chapter 353 has established a brand-new Facebook page. We invite you all to join us at <https://www.facebook.com/353moph>. It's a space where we can come together, share stories, and stay updated on the latest news and events happening within our chapter. Your support and engagement on our Facebook page will help us reach even greater heights in the coming year. "Save the Date" for Saturday and Sunday, August 3 & 4 in 2024 for National Purple Heart Day ceremonies and events at Mount Vernon. More information is forthcoming later this Spring.

American Dream Program

<https://mophfund.org/partners>



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Region III News

Larry Rupp
Region Commander

As Commander of Region III, I want to take this opportunity to nationally say thank you to all the Department and Chapter Officers and Patriot Members in Region III for your participation and support in projects across Region III. In the past recent months, members have been participating in Sportsman's shows, Viola sales, providing financial support for veterans in need and many more activities. Members have been working with the legislators in their states to secure benefits for veterans.

I would like to recognize one individual in particular, Patriot Dick Tobiason. Patriot Tobiason is a member of Chapter 551, Department of Oregon. He is responsible for having over 20 state highways dedicated to military conflicts from World War I to the present. He established the Medal of Honor Highway in Oregon and was the driving force to have a National Medal of Honor Highway traveling east/west across the United States. He was also the driving force behind the Veteran's Village in Bend, Oregon. This is where homeless veterans are provided housing in tiny homes, given counseling and the tools they need to become productive citizens in the community. In April 2024, Patriot Tobiason is being inducted into the Oregon Military Hall of Honor.

As you can see, although Region III is small in size and number, we are busy working toward our mission of combat wounded

veterans helping veterans and their families.

Chapter 0012-WA-3

Robert Olivarez
Member

MOPH and VFW Working Together



WA Dept Commander Jeniffer Horn speaking with VFW State Commander Craig Dougherty speaking about Veterans issues in Washington State and how to better serve all veterans in Washington.



National Senior Vice Robert Olivarez with DEPT of WA Commander Jennifer Horn along with VFW State Commander Craig Dougherty and Frank Persa.



Dept Commander Jennifer Horn along with Chapter 12 Seattle Commander Jim Reeff getting ready to start off their Awareness Campaign at the Washington Sportsman Show.



Chapter 12 Commander Jim Reeff and volunteers getting ready to kick off the weekly feed the Homeless Veterans food and clothing drive held every other Saturday in the greater Puget Sound area.



Chapter 0417-OR-3

Larry Rupp
Member

On Saturday, January 20th, 2024, four members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 0147-OR in southern Oregon were recognized for their service to our Nation.

Larry Rupp, Commander, National Region III and Keith Wittnebel, Commander, Department of Oregon shared their experiences while receiving Purple Heart Canes from the Purple Heart Cane Project. The idea for Purple Heart Canes started in Oklahoma some years ago and gradually spread to other carving clubs around the country. Each eagle head/Purple Heart Cane is decorated with a combat wounded Veteran's name, rank, unit and awards they earned while in service.



Pictured with Purple Heart Canes are Larry Rupp, Commander, National Region III and Keith Wittnebel, Commander, Department of Oregon.

The Purple Heart canes are presented once a year at a ceremony that is held at the National SEAL Museum in Florida at no charge and with utmost gratitude.

Commander Rupp, who received his Purple Hearts in 1969 and Commander Wittnebel, who received his Purple Heart in 1970, proudly shared their Purple Heart Canes with other members of the Chapter.



Chapter 0147-OR's monthly meeting in Grants Pass, OR. At the head of the table is Rick Sciapiti, Commander, MOPH Chapter 147 and Legislative Officer for MOPH Region III.

In addition, two other members of the Chapter were recognized with the presentation of a Quilt of Valor. Farley Howell, Trustee, and Al Punches, Sgt at Arms, both were presented with a Quilt of Valor. A Quilt of Valor is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our Nation."



Quilt of Valor presented by quilter and family friend of veteran, Darlene Hicks (Lt) and awarded to Farley Howell (Rt).

Farley Howell's quilt was designed and crafted by Mrs. Darleen Hicks, a long-time family friend and quilter and was specifically designed to reflect his service in the United States Air Force. Al Punches' quilt was designed and crafted by the State of Jefferson Quilters. He was recognized for his service in the United States Marine Corps.



Al PUNCHES (center) presented with Quilt of Valor by Keith Wittnebel, Commander, MOPH Department of Oregon.

Chapter 5355-DK-3

Ken Teunissen
Past Department Commander

November 10, 2019, on Fox and Friends presented Lloyd Jack Gill, from Chapter 5355, Department of the Dakotas, a 2019 Ford Raptor Pickup with all the Handicap accessories.

Department Commander Ken Teunissen accompanied Jack to assist in driving back to Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



Ceremonial "draping of the quilt" on Al PUNCHES by Christine Sellman, State of Jefferson Quilters.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pM9pFYDvkzM>



MOPH Chapter 0147-OR is actively involved in serving the Southern Oregon Veteran Community by promoting veteran programs in concert with the VA Southern Oregon Healthcare System and local county veteran service programs. In addition, the Chapter partners with other regional veteran organizations. It conducts outreach through Sportsman Shows and community events. Chapter 0147-OR is the most active MOPH Chapter in the State.

South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery



The South Dakota Veterans Council was able to pass Senate Bill 91, which would allow South Dakota to build its first Veterans Cemetery by Sioux Falls, SD. It is planned for in 13 stages over the next 130 years.

The South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery is the first federally funded, state-owned and operated veteran's cemetery in South Dakota. Its official dedication date was Memorial Day 2021. The first veterans were laid to rest on June 4, 2021.

This is the link to it from the Department Veteran Affairs for South Dakota:
<https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteranscemetery/default.aspx#:~:text=The%20South%20Dakota%20State%20Veterans,rest%20on%20June%204%2C%202021>



The Duster - January 13, 1968

By Joseph Belardo

Vietnam January 13, 1968, Battle



1st Battalion (Automatic-Weapons) (Self-Propelled) 44th Artillery was a mobile combat and body recovery unit attached to the Third Marine Division stationed along the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) in the northern most sector of "I" Corp, Vietnam. The 44th Artillery's combat weapon systems were Ack-Ack gun track vehicles with Twin 40mm Auto-Cannons better known as a "Duster", one of the most powerful ground weapons in Vietnam.

Each Duster is a self-contained fighting machine equipped with Twin Bofors 40mm auto-cannons (more like a big machinegun) capable of shooting its 40mm auto-cannons either single shot or automatic at 120 or 240 high explosive rounds per minute. Each 40mm shell has a pie-shaped killing area of about a one-hundred feet wide traveling at over 1200 miles per hour. After one minute at full auto the

Cannoneers load an amazing 1680 pounds of cannon shells. The Dusters' additional weapons included M60 Machine Guns, Hand-grenades, LAWS Rockets, Claymore Mines and Medical Supplies. The Dusters consisted of a crew of five: Squad Leader, Driver, Gunner and two Cannoneers. Each soldier was equipped with his personal M16 rifle with bayonet and 45 cal. pistol. 1st/44th was Headquartered in Dong Ha and had four combat batteries, A, B, C and D each operating and rotating out of different combat bases across the DMZ.

I served in Charlie Battery whose home base was Camp J.J. Carroll and we were spread from Carroll to Delta-5, Khe Gio Bridge Outpost, Rockpile, Ca Lu, LZ Stud and Khe Sanh Combat bases. I started as the Driver and second in command on a Duster known as the "Grim Reaper." Eventually, I became a Squad Leader and Combat Team Leader.

JOE BELARDO on "GRIM REAPER"



On January 13, 1968, we escorted a small convoy of India Company, 3rd Battalion 9th Marines out of Camp J.J. Carroll and

headed west on Route 9 with our destination being Ca Lu Combat Base. After reaching Ca Lu, we were scheduled to return with another convoy back to Carroll. The Marine Tanks led the convoy which was made up of about fifteen Marine trucks full of Marines, supplies, and ammunition. Our Duster was rear security.

We first stopped at the Khe Gio bridge outpost, dropped off men and supplies, and continued to The Rockpile. At The Rockpile, the convoy regrouped and proceeded to Ca Lu with the remainder of the troops. Our Duster remained as rear security. The Marines main ammo truck and a flatbed lowboy truck were positioned in the middle of the convoy.

As the convoy turned into one of the curves in the road, about halfway to Ca Lu (the area known as *Ambush Alley*), the NVA made their first full-scale attack of the new year.

AMBUSH ALLEY



Using command-detonated mines, the NVA blew up the ammo truck and lowboy. *Charlie* had his shit together and had lined both sides of the road with booby traps

and personnel mines. The trucks in front of our Duster came to a scattered halt all over the road. Marines seeking cover started jumping out of and off their vehicles, landing on the NVA personnel mines and being tossed into the air like rag dolls. It was a terrible sight. It happened in seconds.

The NVA soldiers were less than five meters off the road and raked the stalled convoy with automatic weapons, mortars, and RPGs. Our Duster started shooting but was unable to clear the area close to the convoy because of the mix of NVA and Marines.

The Marines, knowing that the land mines and automatic weapons would kill them, were forced to push into the heavy elephant grass brush and try to regroup. I could see individual and small groups of NVA soldiers moving into the convoy and onto the trucks trying to finish off the survivors and wounded along the road. I shot as many as I could with my M-16 and .45 pistol. A group of NVA Sappers rushed us swirling satchel charges over their heads, only to be instantly cut down by our M60 Machineguns in our turret. Quickly, I threw a couple of hand grenades into the elephant grass on each side of the Duster. Our Duster's standard shooting and killing routine was to shoot close, sweep quickly out about 100 yards, mow the middle, start all over, and quickly pick targets.

The Marines unconsciously had been drawn into a well-planned ambush. The NVA were shooting RPGs and recoilless rifles from both sides of Route 9. The NVA

were so close I could see them throwing satchel charges into the trucks. Our Duster was forced to shoot over the Marines at the NVA, shooting from the ridgeline on the north side of the road. Wounded and dead Marines were scattered everywhere.



As I drove my Duster slowly forward, I could feel and hear the small NVA personnel mines exploding under my tracks. I feared that the small mines would blow the tracks off, rendering us immobile. Sam Lewis, my Squad Leader, was screaming in my headset to be careful and not get us killed. We could only advance a few feet before I had to stop and remove the injured and dead Marines from our path.

I placed the Marines, who were alive, on the rear of the Duster. I moved the dead to the side of the road. I felt horrible that I had no time to give them aid. Finally, our 40mm high-explosive shells cleared a path for a group of Marines from the road to the first ridgeline. We positioned the Duster so we could shoot effectively at both the north and south sides of the road.

It was important that we suppressed the heavy NVA automatic weapons and RPG teams... or die.

All the Marine trucks were riddled with holes. Dead and wounded Marines were scattered all over the road. We were running low on 40mm ammo, and I radioed the Rockpile. Dusterman John Rowe volunteered to run us ammo from the Rockpile into the ambush site with one of our pickup trucks. I cannot tell you how many times he continually replenished our Dusters with ammunition. It had to be over five trips. On every trip back to the Rockpile, we would load the back of his truck with wounded and dead Marines. As he pulled into the Rockpile with the last of the wounded we could find, the truck engine ceased. The radiator and engine were pierced with holes from the heavy NVA firepower.

Thank God, the convoy was led by 3rd Marine Tankers who saved the front end of the ambush. All the truck drivers knew each other, and I knew that my Tanker Driver friend Wally Young had his hands full.

The Marines, now regrouped, swept both sides of the road and we all killed and cleared out the NVA. To advance the Duster just a few feet, I had to jump out and pick up the wounded or dead and either put them in John Rowe's truck or on the back of the Duster.

I ran out again to pick up two more Marines. I carried the one on my shoulder

and placed him on the back of our Duster and sadly noticed he was dead. Then I ran back for his wounded buddy. Bullets were flying all around us. He asked how his buddy was and I could not tell him. Instead, I replied "What's your name Marine?" He said "Flipper" and for some strange reason I started to laugh. Who names a Marine "Flipper?" We both started laughing and he said my last names "Seals." I picked him up and threw him on the Duster with the rest of his Marine buddies. (Years later we became great friends, and he only lived a few miles from me.)

We never ever ran over any Americans. We either moved them out of our path or placed them on the back of our Duster. But, running over gooks dead or alive was part of the game. It was a sad day for 1/3/9 Marines. Our Duster never got to Calu. We returned to the Rockpile with our rear deck covered with Marines, wounded and dead, whom I had retrieved from the ambush. We never counted how many Marines we recovered and heard later that India Company 3/9 Marines known as "The Flaming Eyes" had 22 KIAs and 60 WIAs.

If it weren't for my grenades and a 45 pistol, I would have been killed on January 13th. A gook had gotten within a few feet of me and my Duster. I had the Duster in "Park" and was handing out reserve 40mm ammo from inside my Duster to the guys in the turret and, when I turned, this NVA guy had his rifle aimed at my head.... All I could think of was "Oh Shit." The Rifle just clicked, and I was lucky he was out of ammo, and I wasn't. My 45's saved my life

and I just kept humping ammo to the guys in the turret and loading wounded and dead Marines on the back of my Duster. The guys in the turret just yelled and laughed. We were all nuts.

Thirteen becomes my unlucky, lucky number.

Back at Carroll, I was running out of bloody shirts to burn. We needed a mail run back to Dong Ha, so we could replenish our clothes from the fatigue rag bin at the motor pool.

January 14, 1968, At the end of the battle, it took us two days to recover all the dead and missing Marines.

Hundreds of dead NVA were everywhere. We just let them rot where they fell. What a nightmare. The grunts find their missing comrades. I just sucked it up and lit another Tarryton cigarette.

In 1993 at the "Vietnam Women's Memorial" dedication banquet in "DC", I met John Lang, one of the Marines from India Company 3/9. That day in DC was one of both tears and joy. I was honored that they made me an honorary member of their association... another bond to the Vietnam brotherhood, another toast to the Dusters.

Sadly, my Marine brother Al "Flipper" Seals passed away November 3, 2011.

The 1st Battalion 44th Artillery was one of the highest decorated combat units in Vietnam. From 1965 to 1972, the Battalion

served in Vietnam, their soldiers were awarded 450 medals for heroism and bravery, over 1000 Purple Hearts, including one Medal of Honor Recipient (Awarded Posthumously), to Sgt. E5 Mitchell W. Stout.

Legendary on the battlefield, the Battalion also earned the Army Presidential Unit Citation, Army Valorous Unit Award, Army Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy (Marine) Presidential Unit Citation, Navy (Marine) Meritorious Unit Commendation, The Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and The Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal.



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Beth Bucek
Senior Director of Marketing

If you are on LinkedIn, X (Twitter), Facebook or Instagram you can follow us at the links below (Or search our username on the platforms):

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Honoring Women's History Month

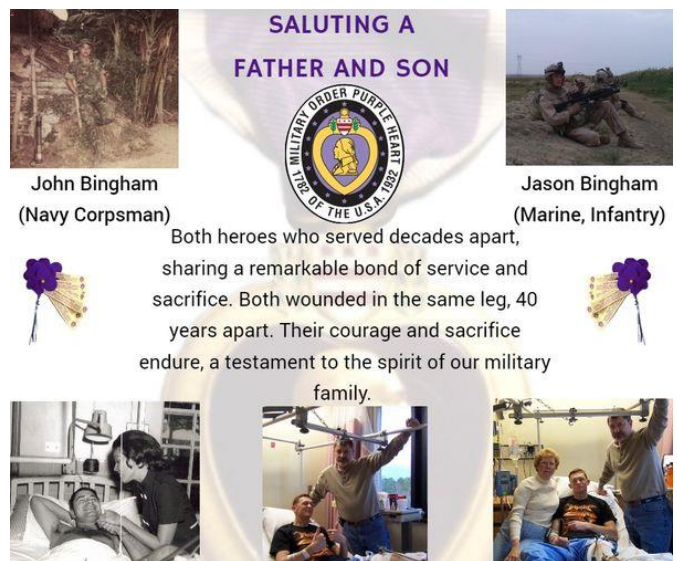


This March, we salute the incredible contributions of women who have served our nation with courage, resilience, and unwavering dedication. From pioneers in military service to advocates for veterans'

rights, women have played vital roles throughout history.

Let us continue to recognize, empower, and uplift the women who have shaped our past, present, and future. Together, we honor their legacy and stand in solidarity with all who strive for equality and justice.

Saluting A Father and Son



A Father and son both served and were injured on the same leg decades apart. Jason said, "My father served in Vietnam as a corpsman for a Marine CAP unit living in a village in 1969 and was wounded in his left leg and face. Not one to avoid family tradition apparently, I (Jason, DML-FL-4) was wounded in the same manner in 2007 on my third deployment as an infantryman with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, Weapons Company."

From all of us at the Order, we thank you both for your service and wish your dad a wonderful birthday week!

Please take care and remember you are not alone!

Vehicle Donation Program

Larry Leighton
Treasurer

<https://www.ncvehicledonations.com/nonprofits/moph-fund/>




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Region IV News

Chapter 0637-NC-4

Frances Figueroa-Lowe
Region IC Commander

NC Chapter 637 attended a fundraiser where they were gifted this wonderful handmade steel purple heart emblem. The metal was made by Christy Dunnegan Stainback of Stainback Steel works (stainbacksteelworks.com) of Henderson, NC.



(Left to Right) Patriot Jesse Torres, Patriot Dave Martin, Patriot Glen Schoenling, Patriot George Aux, Patriot Hartwell Wright, Patriot James Hicks, and Patriot Andy Roberson.

Chapter 0817-SC-4

Don Kellum
Chapter Public Affairs Officer

Sumter, SC Chapter 817 recently selected Harry Thompson as Patriot of the Year for 2024. Patriot Thompson made significant contributions to the chapter and to active duty and retired veterans in Sumter County while serving as Chapter Commander.

He also represented the chapter at Sumter County Veterans Association Meetings and at State of South Carolina Purple Heart

functions. In addition, due to his outstanding leadership and support, he was selected to serve another year as the Chapter 817 Commander.



Pictured above at the presentation ceremony left to right are former Commander Dave Nesbitt, Commander Thompson, and Adjutant Leroy Thompson.

Department of North Carolina

William Ebersbach
Department Commander

NC Department Commander William Ebersbach providing Past National President Kayjo Baucom with a certificate of appreciation for all of her hard work and dedication that she has given to the MOPHA and with the Department of North Carolina.



Past National President Kayjo Baucom, NC Department Commander William Ebersbach

Region VI News

Chapter 0078-CA-6

Jo Keller
Department Commander



The current Adjutant (PDC) Charles Earthman called a meeting to plan the upcoming year regarding fundraisers, projects, and incoming leadership. The Patriots of Chapter 78 with great ideas and energy to support veterans, families, and their surrounding communities.

New leadership is sworn in for Chapter 78 Santa Rosa CA. Congratulations Patriots!



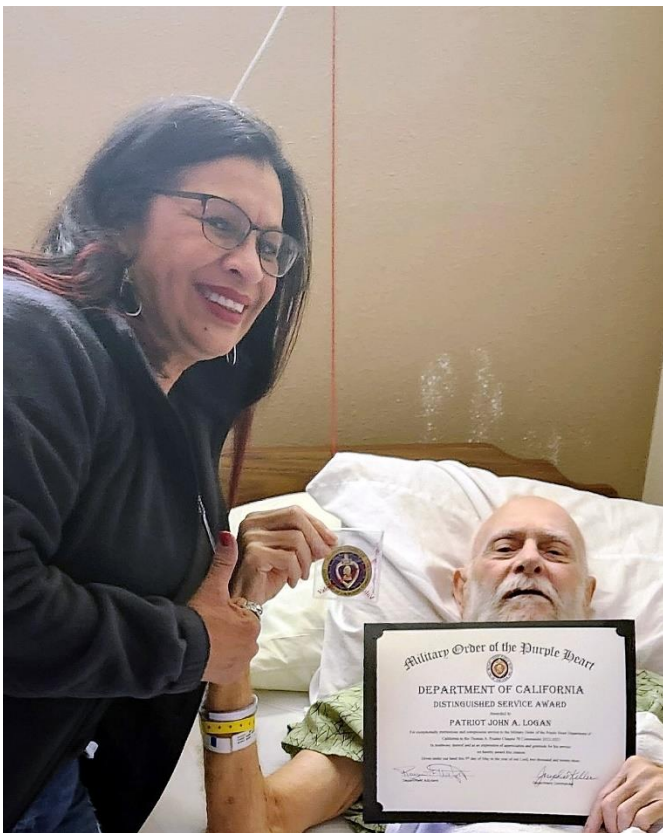
Commander, George Sager, Senior Vice Robert Evans, and Junior Vice Nicholas.

Chapter 0106-CA-6

Joe Keller
Department Commander



Commander Mike Holguin, MOPH Chapter 106, Fresno, CA speaks at the Presidents' Day celebration held in Clovis, CA.



Patriot John Logan receives the Distinguished Service Award while in recovery.

Sharp salute to the colors!



(L to R) Commander Mike Holguin, Patriot David Baltierra, Patriot Joe Garcia and Patriot Richard Rey

Chapter 0385-CA-6

Joe Keller

Department Commander



Region VI Commander Charles Anderson and Department Commander Jo Keller visited one of the Chapter meetings.



The Americanism Award was presented to Past Chapter Commander Chris (Doc) Archuleta.



Department Commander Keller enjoying conversation with National POY Joshua Dale, Jennifer, and their daughter.



Region VI Commander with Bruce Hodgman, both Marines are from the same regiment.

Chapter 0493-CA-6

Jo Keller

Department Commander



Chapter 493 Commander Tim Haney presents the MOPH Leadership Award to Cadet Mia Hill of Fallbrook High School. This was the first award of the year. Congratulations Cadet Hill.

CHAPTER 0691-AZ-6

James Starkman

Sr Vice Commander



L to R: Ken Burns, Jr Vice Commander and John Ballenger, member

Members from Chapter 691 set off from the Sun City/Surprise Area to Wickenburg to participate in their Annual Gold Rush and Rodeo Days February 9-11, 2024. After setting up the display booth, our Combat Wounded Veterans set out to educate the public on the mission of the Purple Heart Organization and the meaning of being awarded a Purple Heart. Even though our primary reason for participating was to raise awareness and educate the public we also set out to utilize the venue to raise funds for our Veterans throughout Arizona. Men, women, children, and fellow veterans stopped by our booth to meet and talk with our combat wounded Veterans throughout the three-day event. We successfully raised \$2,545 in donations and 50/50 raffle ticket sales. We also were honored to be awarded second place for our booth display by the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce.



Sr Vice Commander Jim Starkman with Second Place Medal

Chapter 2929-CA-6

Jo Keller
Department Commander



Chapter 2929 Doc Hooper is recognized again for his selfless actions benefiting our veterans, their spouses, and our surrounding communities.

Thank you, Doc, for your selfless commitment.

Department of Hawaii

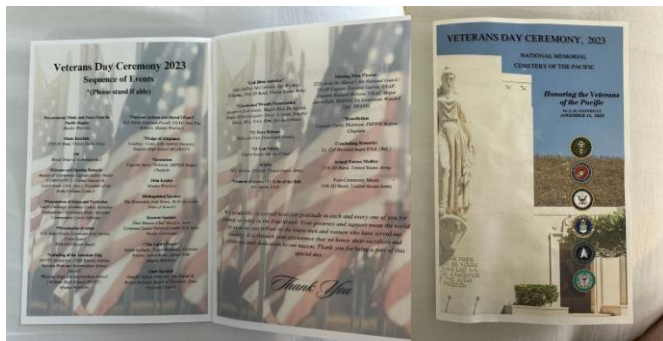
Joel Brillant
Commander



Cdr Brillant with Department Wreath and HI Governor Josh Green, MD.



Cdr Brillant with Honolulu Chief of Police Joel Logan and his two Army general brothers. Front -Henry Lee and wife, Rose. Lee passed away after this event.



Oahu Veterans Council's President and MOPH Chapter Commander - Col Ed Cruickshank, US ARMY (ret) represented the Veterans Day Ceremony Host.

Legislation

Disabled Veterans Housing

Tom Lasser

Member, Chapter 0210-CA-6

REPS LIEU AND SHERMAN URGE HUD TO CHANGE POLICY PREVENTING DISABLED VETS FROM GETTING HOUSING

WASHINGTON – Today, Congressman Ted W. Lieu (D-Los Angeles County) and Congressman Brad Sherman (CA-32) called for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to change its policy on counting service-connected disability benefits as income so that homeless disabled veterans can access housing. The Members are requesting that Secretary Marcia Fudge make changes to HUD’s current policy on income thresholds because the policy counts service-related disability benefits as income, which can then disqualify disabled servicemembers from veterans housing vouchers.

Effectively, because of this HUD policy, the more disabled a veteran is, the less likely it is that they can access permanent supportive housing, including the West LA VA veteran housing that Reps. Lieu and Sherman have championed.

In the letter, the Members write:
Thank you for your service to our nation. We are writing to you regarding an urgent matter impacting the ability of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to house disabled veterans at VA campuses,

including at the Greater Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Medical Center (West LA VA) campus located in the City of Los Angeles, and which affects homeless disabled veterans nationwide.

We ask that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) consider a definition change that would eliminate service-connected disability benefits only when qualifying a disabled veteran for a HUD-VASH voucher thus allowing them to live in permanent supportive housing and get the services they so desperately need. The veteran’s benefits could continue to be counted when determining their fair share of the rent.

The current policy choices by HUD have unfortunately resulted in disabled veterans being shut out of housing intended for disabled veterans. This matter has become urgent due to a recent federal court ruling where the judge wrote that “Perversely, the more disabled a veteran, the less likely they are to receive a HUD-VASH voucher and become housed.”

The West LA VA campus is one of the largest facilities operated by the VA, providing medical care and support services to over 86,000 veterans living in five counties in Central and Southern California. Southern California is home to one of the largest concentrations of military veterans in the nation. It also has one of the largest populations of homeless veterans, with a no fewer than 3,000 veterans being unhoused in Los Angeles County alone.

In an effort to ensure that all of our region's veterans have access to permanent housing, we co-authored the West Los Angeles Leasing Act, a law that authorizes the VA to enter into enhanced-use lease agreements with third parties to build and operate permanent supportive housing. That legislation was signed into law in 2016 by former President Obama and since that time, it has allowed the VA to create a Master Plan for the West LA VA property. Though there were delays due to the National Environmental Preservation Act process, an unprecedented pandemic and numerous construction challenges, the VA has now opened three new housing buildings on campus and is about to break ground on additional housing this month.

As the VA works to place veterans into housing in these new buildings at the West LA VA, it has encountered barriers to housing many disabled veterans. Income limits set by HUD typically limit the income of a voucher holder to 80% of Area Median Income in determining if that applicant can qualify to live in a housing unit. However, for housing constructed with the assistance of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, AMI limits for a prospective resident are much lower, typically a 30% AMI limit.

Most of the new housing under construction or completed at the West LA VA benefited from the LIHTC program and as such, only applicants that can meet those very low-income limits can reside in new permanent supportive housing on

campus. This presents a significant barrier both for veterans who would like to reside at the West LA VA and for VA staff who have embarked on a massive effort to house the more than 3,000 homeless veterans in Los Angeles County. When we wrote the West Los Angeles Leasing Act, our goal and the goal of the VA was to make sure that every veteran had an opportunity to live in housing at the West LA VA.

The very low AMI threshold has created major barriers for VA staff trying to house veterans with higher disability ratings. These veterans who were injured and disabled while serving our nation, many of whom are chronically homeless, should not be denied an opportunity to seek housing on at the West LA VA. For example, in Buildings 205 and 208, which opened in May, there are a number of vacancies despite thousands of unhoused veterans in Los Angeles County. To the credit of the VA and local and state governments, the AMI limit has been slightly raised to 50%, in an effort to help house more disabled veterans. But numerous disabled veterans still remain shut out. More must be done and be done soon.

As we work each year with the VA to make sure we get our nation's heroes into the homes that they deserve, we ask that Treasury and HUD work together to find a solution to help us in that effort. No veteran should be denied access to veteran housing due to their disability status. We ask that you give this request immediate consideration.

We are ready to work with our partners at HUD, Treasury, and the VA to ensure that every veteran in this region has an opportunity to be considered for housing in the West LA VA. We look forward to your response regarding this very important matter.

[READ THE FULL TEXT OF THE LETTER HERE](#)

###

Congressman Lieu is a member of the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Judiciary and serves as Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus. Mr. Lieu is a veteran, having served on Active Duty in the Air Force. LIEU.HOUSE.GOV

Disabled Veteran Benefits

Frank Bokan
Region I Commander

H.R. 6362, the Protecting Benefits for Disabled Veterans Act

"When a veteran's disability is rated less than a total 100% evaluation, but he or she is unable to obtain or maintain substantial gainful employment, VA regulations allow the veteran to apply for Total Disability Based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU). It is based on the severity of the individual veteran's unique disability picture and its impact on the veteran's ability to obtain and maintain substantial gainful employment. Generally, the veteran must have a single disability rated at 60% or a combined evaluation of 70% to be eligible for TDIU."

"In recent years, reducing or limiting TDIU has been the focus of many Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reports as a deficit reduction measure. In December 2018, it was suggested to terminate and cut off TDIU benefits at the age of 65, and in reports in December 2020 and December 2022, CBO recommended to restrict TDIU once a veteran reaches the age of 67."

"H.R. 6362, the Protecting Benefits for Disabled Veterans Act, would provide additional protections for TDIU and prohibit the VA from considering the age of the veteran or their eligibility to any retirement benefit, including Social Security, in making such determinations."

"DAV strongly supports H.R. 6362, as it would ensure the availability of TDIU for all veterans regardless of age or receipt of any other earned federal benefits. Consistent with DAV Resolution No. 445, DAV supports the protection of TDIU as it is not a retirement or pension program."

"We are calling on all DAV members and supporters to contact their elected representatives and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 6362 to protect veterans and their families now and in the future from these harmful proposals. Thank you for all you do for America's veterans and their families."

We need to stop the D.O.B. (Department of Budget) and other groups from cutting or eliminating benefits that many disabled/retired veterans need for them and their families. Our benefits are not

retirement funds! For my retired veteran friends, we saw an increase in their cost for Tricare. Stop this erosion now!! Ulinski

Please call and/or email your politicians in Washington and tell them to keep their hands off benefits we have earned. Support H.R. 6362!

Commissary Access

– In Case You Missed It



The Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018 authorized the Department of Defense to [expand access to commissary shopping privileges](#) to:

- Veterans with any VA-documented service-connected disability.
- Purple Heart recipients.
- Former prisoners of war; and
- Individuals assessed, approved, and designated as primary family caregivers to eligible veterans under VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

This will require most newly eligible veterans to present a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) reflecting the proper designation in order to shop. Please contact the installation to inquire about local policies regarding installation access.

When you shop at Your Commissary, you can enjoy a shopping environment that exclusively serves the military community, with a workforce that understands your needs. Plus, studies show our customers save an average of 25% worldwide, compared to prices at commercial stores!

Please help us spread the word about this by sharing the following posts directly from our social media pages:

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

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

Respectfully,

Norman E. Brown
Director of Marketing
Defense Commissary Agency

<https://corp.commissaries.com/extended-eligibility>



South Dakota Legislation

SD State Representative Ken Teunissen

Agent Orange

House Commemoration 8012, Feb 12, 2024,

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring the victims of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.



Long Term Care

House Concurrent Resolution 6007, ENROLLEDA CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Encouraging the United States Department of Veteran Affairs to allow veterans to receive long-term care services at facilities that do not otherwise meet the requirements set by the department.



February 21, 2024

Representative
Ken Teunissen
7712 W. Browning St.
Sioux Falls, SD. 57106

Secretary McDonough
Department of Veteran Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20420

Secretary McDonough

It has come to our attention that South Dakota is considered one of the five Rural States along with Nebraska, North Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming in the United States.

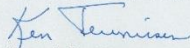
Therefore, during our Legislative session House Concurrent Resolution 6007 was presented to both the Senate and the House of Representatives which passed it unanimously.

As a rural state we are seeking your assistance in relaxing the requirements to allow veterans to receive long-term care services at facilities that do not otherwise meet the requirements set by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Thus, allowing veterans to stay close to their home and families.

Therefore, without placing more of a hardship not only on the veteran but also on the veteran's family.

Thank You for Your Consideration,


Kenneth Teunissen



2024 South Dakota Legislature
House Concurrent Resolution
6007
ENROLLED

AN ACT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Encouraging the United States Department of Veteran Affairs to allow veterans to receive long-term care services at facilities that do not otherwise meet the requirements set by the department.

WHEREAS, South Dakota has a population of approximately sixty-three thousand three hundred and twenty-two resident veterans, of whom twenty thousand and seventy-one veterans are older than the age of seventy; and

WHEREAS, the current and only state veterans nursing home, the Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota State Veterans Home, is located in the extreme southwestern part of the state, in Hot Springs, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, long-stay services are available for enrolled veterans who need nursing home care for life or for an extended period of time if the veterans have a service-connected disability rated sixty percent and who are unable to be employed, or if the veterans have a seventy percent or greater service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, the community nursing home program has contracts established with VA medical centers to help meet the needs of veterans who require long-term nursing home care in their own community, close to family, and meet the enrollment and eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, a nursing home must meet the requirements established by the VA for veterans to receive long-term care services at the facility; and

WHEREAS, a veteran is eligible to be admitted to a community nursing home if the veteran receives an increased pension based on the need for regular aid and attendance, because the veteran must be permanently housed in a nursing home, or because the veteran is determined

to be catastrophically disabled by the chief of staff, or equivalent clinical officer, of the VA facility where the veteran was examined; and

WHEREAS, any honorably discharged veteran who is at least seventy-nine years and one day old receives full access to VA medical care based solely on the veteran's honorable discharge and age; and

WHEREAS, as our nation's veteran population ages, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and rural states will face an increasing demand for long-term care services:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Ninth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature encourages the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to amend the requirements for a long-term care service provider to admit veterans to better allow veterans to receive required and necessary care.



HCR6007 ENROLLED

Dental Care for Veterans Act

Please add your support for H.R. 2413, the Dental Care for Veterans Act. This bill would require the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service and defines a 4-year implementation plan beginning with veterans in Priority Groups 1 and 2 (veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 30% or more) in year one.

Dental care has been proven to be an important part of overall health care. Many

private employers and state Medicaid programs provide these critical services as part of a comprehensive health care package. Most clinicians agree there are strong associations between certain dental conditions and other adverse systemic health outcomes. Unfortunately, gaps in dental coverage often affect people with lower incomes and complex health needs the most.

This legislation is consistent with DAV Resolution No. 029, which calls for the provision of comprehensive dental care to all service-connected disabled veterans

within the VA health care system.
Therefore, DAV strongly supports this bill.

Please use the prepared email or your own letter and urge your Representative to co-sponsor H.R. 2413, the Dental Care for Veterans Act.

Thank you for your support of the DAV's legislative priorities.


[Take Action](#)



For Freedom Prints


<https://mophfund.org/partners>






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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.



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Month of the Military Child



DOD Spotlight

Please use the link at the end of this section to view the entire DOD Spotlight on the Military Child.



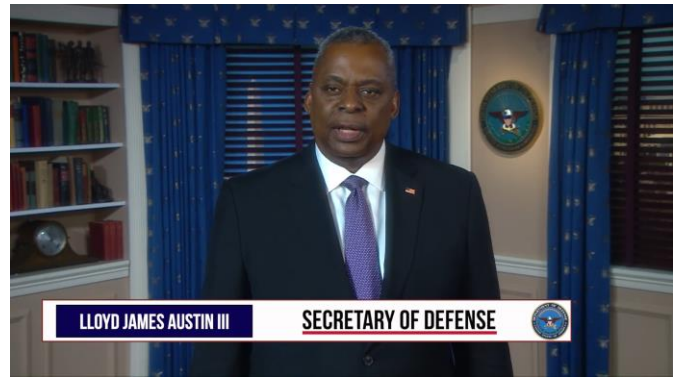
The Defense Department celebrates military children during the month of April. There are more than **1.6 million military children** who face many challenges and unique experiences as a result of their parents' service.



While military members serve around the world, we often forget the challenges faced by their children. **Military families move** on average **every two to three years**, impacting military children through changing schools and support networks.



Each year, the DOD joins national, state, and local government, schools, military serving organizations, companies, and private citizens in **celebrating military children** and the sacrifices they make.



Watch the video at

https://d34w7g4gy10iej.cloudfront.net/video/2304/DOD_109589755/DOD_109589755-1920x1080-6000k.mp4



<https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/Month-of-the-Military-Child/>



Father and Son Tomb Guards



ARLINGTON, Va. — When Bryan Campagna pinned the Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification badge onto the chest of his son, Staff Sgt. Isaiah Jasso-Campagna, it symbolized more than a father honoring his son. Campagna had earned his own Tomb badge as a Tomb Guard decades earlier, making the pair only the second father-son badge earners in the history of the Army's 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, nicknamed The Old Guard.

To earn his badge, Jasso-Campagna completed five phases of testing and demonstrated a high degree of proficiency in Army and Tomb Guard knowledge. Tomb Guards who earn the badge are called Sentinels.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Isaiah Jasso-Campagna, left, earns the Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge during a ceremony in the

Lower Memorial Amphitheater Chapel at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., Jan. 11, 2024. Jasso-Campagna's father, Bryan Campagna, right, is also a Tomb Badge holder, earning his in 2002. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser)

Jasso-Campagna received his badge at a ceremony in the chapel of Arlington National Cemetery on Jan. 11, 2024. As he stood at attention before a crowd of family, friends and his fellow Tomb Guards, Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Jay, who oversaw the ceremony, told him, "You have met the standard, and you are now charged with helping the next Soldiers grow into Sentinels."

Jay then invited Jasso-Campagna's father to pin the badge onto his son. Campagna needed no instruction as to where to pin the badge, having worn one himself when he served as a Tomb Guard from 2002 to 2004. Some of Jasso-Campagna's family members came to tears. Once he finished the task, Campagna patted his son on his abdomen and returned to his seat. Everyone applauded.

With his Tomb Badge firmly in place, Jasso-Campagna recited the Sentinel's creed. "My dedication to this sacred duty is total and wholehearted," he declared in a strong voice. His father immediately stood at attention and joined his son and the other Tomb Guards in reciting the rest of the creed in unison.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Isaiah Jasso-Campagna stands in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Permanent Badge Holder wall in the Tomb Quarters after earns the Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., Jan. 11, 2024.

Jasso-Campagna's father, Bryan Campagna, is also a Tomb Badge holder, earning his in 2002. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser) The ceremony also meant a lot to Campagna. "It was a special moment to see my son's achievement," he said, "and a privilege for our family." While Campagna did not directly help his son study for his tests, he helped in other ways. "I just gave him encouragement and direction and support."

"It was a very emotional experience," Jasso-Campagna said after the ceremony. "I came down to Arlington National Cemetery twenty years ago to watch my father do the same job," he added, "so to be here receiving the badge and doing the same thing he did was truly something else."

https://www.army.mil/article/272937/former_tomb_guard_pins_son_with_badge



PURPLE UP in APRIL



Month of the Military Child

April 15th has been dedicated “PURPLE UP” day. Purple Heart families may be familiar with wearing our favorite color in recognition of our Purple Heart affiliation; however, the color purple is also associated with military children. According to the Department of Defense, April 15, 2024, is the actual day that we recognize children by proudly wearing purple, but the entire month of April is celebrated as “Month of the Military Child”. The color purple was chosen because it is the result of the combination of all colors representing each branch of service.

The 1.6 million military children that face obstacles as a result of their parent’s service certainly deserve a month that raises awareness of their specific needs. As military families ourselves, we understand their hardships and applaud individuals and organizations that offer support and encouragement to these children.

As members of our Purple Heart family, you can make a difference in the lives of these children by showing your gratitude for their own sacrifice and service. Although April is the official month of the military child, we can show our support year-round.

Members of the MOPH and MOPHA can raise awareness through:

- Social media, local news outlets, and community or church bulletin boards.
- Asking schools for tutoring, after-school, or mentoring volunteer opportunities.
- Consider donating schoolbooks or classroom items on behalf of military children.
- Create a welcome basket for children who have recently changed schools due to reassignments.

- Offer snacks for a classroom party in honor of military children.
- Consider volunteering as an advisor for a Military Kids Club at schools and houses of worship.
- Write “Thank you” cards to military children in recognition of their strength and resilience.
- Grow a “Purple-Themed” community or school garden in honor of military children.
- Wear purple on April 15th and use the hashtag #PurpleUp in social media.
- Create a contest that allows kids to express themselves through poetry, writing, drawing, painting, photography, or any other form of art.

The above suggestions are only a few of the wonderful ways you can make a difference in the lives of these children. As you meet with your Chapters, Units, and Departments, address the issue, and challenge each other, either individually or as a group, to create a way to honor the kids.

For those who may not have the resources or support to contribute on a large scale, consider promoting or joining other initiatives that fellow military organizations have established. The Military Child Education Council (MCEC) (MilitaryChild.org) offers a creative arts contest that encourages military children to share their interpretation of what a military-connected child is. Bill and Terri Shattuck, PNP’s granddaughter Serenity won 2nd place in a T-shirt design contest in her home state of Michigan. This Patriotic young lady is a member of the MOPHA and is always offering ways to help military families like hers.



Sesame Street, still adored by children after 55 years, is a great resource for military children. Topics including relocating, deployments, transitioning to civilian life, and much more can be found on their military-focused website (SesameStreetForMilitaryFamilies.org).

The Department of Defense, as well as many public and private day-care and after-school centers have reduced the fees for military families on base, and in traditional communities. To help them even out the difference, we challenge our Purple Heart family members to donate arts & crafts, supplies, treats, and especially your time and talents. YOU can be the difference in a military child's life. They, like their parents, are a valuable part of our Veteran community.



We want to hear from you! Send in your ideas, photos, and experiences to socialmedia@purpleheart.org.

Art created by 2nd grade student, Everleigh M.

2024 Veterans Day Application



VA and the Veterans Day National Committee (VDNC) encourage cities, towns, and non-profit groups to apply to hold VA-recognized regional Veterans Day observances. These regional observances are designated as officially supporting the annual National Veterans Day Observance activities.

In addition to supporting regional activities that pay tribute to Veterans of all eras and

military branches for their service and sacrifice, VA and VDNC plan the annual National Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery.

Representatives from almost 50 groups dedicated to assisting and defending the rights of American Veterans make up the VDNC. The regional celebrations—which include parades, concerts, ceremonies, and educational programs—recognize the noteworthy contributions that Veterans have made to American culture.

Sites are chosen based on their continuity, influence on the region and community involvement. If selected as an authorized regional site for an official Veterans Day event, regional site selectees receive official Veterans Day posters, a certificate of gratitude from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and military ceremonial support (if available) from the Department of Defense (DoD). Sixty-six regional sites held

observances in 2023—representing 34 states and the District of Columbia.

To apply for consideration, download the [regional site application](#) and return it to the address listed on the form, or submit your application to vetsday@va.gov no later than May 1, 2024. The selected regional sites will be notified in July 2024. Contact the National Veterans Outreach (NVO) office at vetsday@va.gov if you

POW/MIA Update

TSgt. Seifreid, WWII, Army Air Corps

TSgt. Seifreid was accounted for in November 2023, but his family only recently received their full briefing on his identification, which is why this release is going out now.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Harold L. Seifreid, 31, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, killed during World War II, was accounted for on Nov. 21, 2023.

In December 1943, Seifreid was a member of the 436th Bombardment Squadron, 7th Bombardment Group during World War II. On Dec. 1, he was serving as the radio operator onboard a B-24J Liberator bomber while on a bombing mission from Panagarh, India, to the Insein Railroad Yard north of Rangoon, Burma. After reaching the designated target, Seifreid's plane was reportedly hit by anti-aircraft fire, causing

have questions about the application process or the Veterans Day Regional Site Program.

<https://news.va.gov/127755/apply-host-2024-veterans-day-observance/>



the left wing to burst into flames. Witnesses from another aircraft noted seeing Seifreid's aircraft enter a steep dive while disappearing below the clouds. It was noted that 3 enemy aircraft were also seen following the crippled plane into the clouds, and no further contact was made with the Liberator. The remains of the crew were not recovered or identified after the war, and they were all later declared Missing In Action.

In 1947 the [American Grave Registration Service \(AGRS\)](#) recovered the remains of what they believed to be eight individuals involved in a potential B-24 Liberator crash near Yodayadet, Burma. According to local witnesses, there were no survivors from this aviation loss and Japanese forces had instructed local villagers to bury the remains in two large graves. The AGRS designated the remains recovered from these graves as Unknowns X-505A, X-505B, X-505C, X-505D, X-505E, X-505F, X-505G, and X-505H Barrackpore (X-505A-H). The remains could not be scientifically identified at the time and were interred as Unknowns in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

(NMCP), Honolulu, Hawaii, also known as the Punchbowl.

In early 2019, DPAA received a family disinterment request for Unknown X-505A-H based on past attempts to associate the remains with other unresolved losses from southern Burma. DPAA historians reviewing the associated files believed a more likely association for the remains was possible in X-505A-H. The Department of Defense approved the disinterment request, and in October 2020, DPAA personnel exhumed the remains from NMCP where they were accessioned into the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

To identify Seifreid's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence. Additionally, the [Armed Forces Medical Examiner System](#) used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

Seifreid's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, an [American Battle Monuments Commission](#) site in the Philippines, along with the others missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Seifreid will be buried in Marana, Arizona, on April 19th at noon.



SEIFREID_HAROLD_AAF_WWII-kneeling furthest left.



SEIFREID_HAROLD_L_WWII-AAF-top row second from left.

For family and funeral information, call the Army Casualty Office at (800) 892-2490.

Claim Sharks Are Illegal



Claim Shark companies have made statements that they aren't breaking the law because they don't charge fees for "preparing" veterans' claims. Claim Sharks state that they "assist" or "consult" for veterans' claims, and this is how they rationalize why they should be allowed to charge thousands of dollars for their services.

This is still illegal. Using creative semantics to skirt the law is not innovative, and it is not honest or transparent. There are no "good actors" or "bad actors." Every company that charges for initial claims assistance is doing it illegally.

Claim Sharks say veterans should have the "choice" to be fleeced out of thousands of dollars. No matter how much money these companies spend on Capitol Hill, the VFW will not allow them to dismantle consumer protections and normalize harming veterans.

Send your message:

<https://www.votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns/111733/Respond>



Membership Fees

It seems there are still many, many versions of the old \$50.00 Fee Membership Applications out there.

When conducting Membership Drives or having a by chance meeting with a Purple Heart Recipient, need to ensure when to have the \$200.00 Membership Application available to hand out (see attached). We are having too many instances of the old \$50.00 applications coming into the HQ and the individuals believe they are now members. It's very difficult when we have to reach out and inform them, they owe another \$150.00.

If at all possible, please have the potential applicant complete the online application and pay the \$200.00 fee. It's cleaner and faster.

Thanks, and have a great day!

Patriot Books and Films

Colors of War and Peace; Hues of Green

Buster Tiffany
Chapter 0535-FL-4

The following book(s) review was written by Jim Suber, brother of Randy Suber who went missing in action as a Recon Team leader with U.S. Army Special Forces STUDIES & OBSERVATION GROUP (MACV-SOG) in Laos November 13, 1969. Dan Thompson (D.M. Thompson), also a Recon leader, inserted and tracked Suber's RT's last action as its Covey Rider on that fateful day in 1969. Thompson has written a collection of creative non-fiction stories which, set in post-Vietnam America, are continuously immersed in the world of MACV-SOG, Laos and darkness. This collection is COLORS OF WAR & PEACE. The

second book is written by me, Edgar (Buzz) Tiffany, and is a critical history of Thompson's book bringing to light the creative and literary aspects of COLORS based on my service with Thompson and our friendship over the last 50 years.

Suber's review is a work from personal knowledge and an exercise in military archeology that is raw and refined at the same time.

Virginia Veterans' Literary Contributions to Vietnam Writing; Jim Suber

Book I.

Colors of War & Peace Author: D.M.

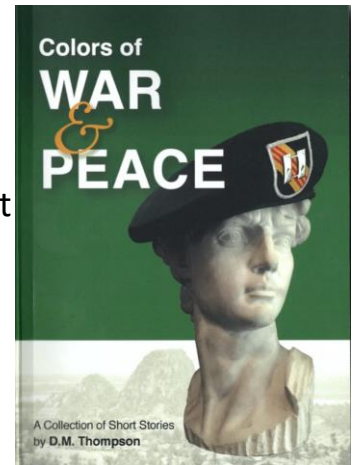
Thompson 190 pages: \$14.95 paperback

Thompson served two tours in the Vietnam War as a Green Beret in the highly secretive, unconventional, and elite "MACV-SOG" (Military Assistance Command Vietnam-Special Operations Group) from 1968 to 1970. His assignments included Hatchet Force platoon leader, Recon Team Leader (One-Zero), Covey Rider, along with Assistant S-2, and S-3 and finally Launch Site Commander. SOG ran missions behind enemy lines in Laos, Cambodia, and North Vietnam from 1965 to 1972. Adding to their mystique, SOG men were bound by 20-year non-disclosure agreements that prohibited communication with anyone (including themselves) about that group—with threat of prosecution, and perhaps federal imprisonment for breach or infraction.

Thompson's book is a collection of eight powerful short stories sharing his experience before, during, and after the

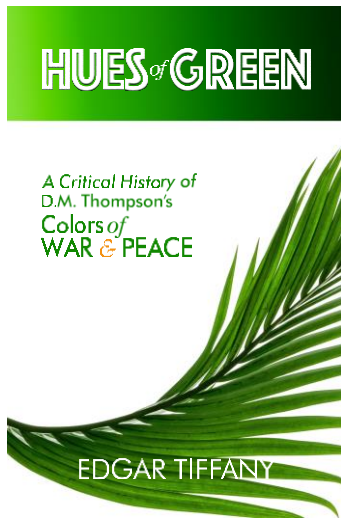
war. It includes a brief foray in the business world as a stockbroker, away from the war but not far enough from his recurring addiction to high-risk, high-reward—sadly compounded by inept leadership. The stories are beautifully written—authentic, transparent, intelligent, tragic, ironic, sarcastic, humorous, and, of course, "colorful." There are numerous magical literary moments—metaphors, imagery, symbolism—inducing the reader to pause, smile, or sigh.

Thompson courageously exposes his own deeply personal "Jacob at Peniel" story; like the Biblical figure Jacob, who wrestled with angels and himself throughout the night, Thompson's stories reveal his determination to find peace for himself and his fallen comrades. Thompson not only describes his poignant emotions, but also skillfully "leads" the reader to join his earnest search for answers.



Those that never served in combat (and most have not) cannot completely understand the depth of his experience and anguish, yet Colors of War & Peace artfully magnifies what warriors have said for thousands of years. Dwight D. Eisenhower, for one, said it to the Canadian Club in Ottawa in January 1946 (shortly after World War II):

"I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity."



Most of us cannot imagine the burdens a warrior carries long after the war.

Thompson's book often refers to the French and their war, the American precursor in Indochina. Perhaps that is a hint that the answer can be found in the French word for war, *guerre*. That word shares the same root as their word for healing, *guerir*—suggesting that finding peace often, surprisingly, requires combative resolve to obliterate our internal demons, doubts, and fears. Thompson's writing shows that resolve and a healing.

Book II.

Hues of Green: A Critical History of D.M. Thompson's Colors of War & Peace
Author: Edgar Tiffany 220 pages, \$17.95 paperback

Edgar Tiffany is a Vietnam Veteran. He served in the First Infantry Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 509th Airborne Infantry Regiment (8th Infantry Division's airborne arm in Europe) and U.S. Army

Special Forces. He also served in the post-Vietnam Special Forces Reserves which is where he met (then) Captain Thompson.

Tiffany connects to Thompson's "colors" with his interpretive "Hues," and explains his "book about a book" as,

"This critical history of the writing of *Colors of War & Peace* and 'a man like any other' was motivated by the respect I have developed for him, my long history in viewing experiences of this author and a realization, over the four years since its publication, that *Colors of War & Peace* was a far 'deeper' read than I allotted it on the first go-around."

Tiffany goes on to say,

"I have always carried Vietnam around in my head as GREEN."

It was (a) place that reverberated with hues of green and I have said as much in my own writing . . . It is safe to say that these same hues of green have drawn me to the deeper intentions and meanings of Thompson's *Colors of War & Peace*, to catch the flickering vision behind his metaphors and lead, as you will see, to answers fascinating, mysterious, and challenging."

"A book about a book," eh? Could two special operations guys devise a scheme to make us read both books—twice? Yes, they could. Sneaky bastards! If that was their intent, then it certainly worked on me! Without question, their "collaboration" makes both "reads" brilliantly richer.

Like his Special Forces captain, Edgar Tiffany is a fabulous writer and provides extraordinary insight into each of Thompson's eight short stories. As a bonus, Buzz weaves in observations about an



RANDOLPH BOTHWELL SUBER
Rank/Branch: E5/US Army Special Forces
Unit: CCN – MACV-SOG, 5th Special Forces Group
Date of Birth: 22 May 1947
Home City of Record: Ballwin MO
Date of Loss: 13 November 1969
Country of Loss: Laos
Status (in 1973): Missing In Action



RONALD EARL RAY
Rank/Branch: E6/US Army Special Forces
Unit: CCN – MACV-SOG, 5th Special Forces Group
Date of Birth: 11 August 1947
Home City of Record: Port Arthur TX
Date of Loss: 13 November 1969
Country of Loss: Laos
Status (in 1973): Missing In Action

John Stryker Meyer's story "11-13-1969 — SSGT Ron Ray and SFC Randy Suber MIA: Decades Later a Chance Meeting Leads to Answers for Family" provides details about the incident on 11/13/1969. Read it on our website at <https://www.specialforces78.com/11-13-1969-ssgt-ron-ray-and-sfc-randy-suber-mia>

earlier writing from Thompson in 1994 (suspiciously released just after the 20-year non-disclosure moratorium required from all that served in SOG) titled "In Search of My Rune." Tiffany spotlights Thompson's numerous (albeit sometimes camouflaged) references to Alfred Lloyd Tennyson, Edgar Allan Poe, the chorus in classic Greek tragedy, and a hundredfold other. Tiffany also provides absolutely hilarious and virtuosic illustrations of how Thompson's "real, but ludicrous situations are informed by snatches of Marx Brothers-like dialogue reminiscent of Duck Soup, A Night at the

Opera, Horse Feathers, and Monkey Business, among others."

Dan Thompson means the world to me—especially his love, respect, and devotion for his fallen comrades in MACV-SOG. He was the Covey Rider that oversaw the last insertion of Recon Team Oregon (two Americans and four indigenous teammates) behind enemy lines in Laos. That team included my oldest brother who was listed as Missing-In-Action (MIA) on November 13, 1969. The two Americans, Ron Ray ("One-Zero") and Randy Suber ("One-One"), remain Missing-In-Action to this day. My wish for Dan Thompson is that he continues wrestling for answers and shares his journey with the rest of us in his magnificent writing.

These two men are talented writers whom, I believe, are finding some solace and peace in their artful writing. The reader is richly rewarded. Both books are mesmerizing reads—especially if you read them twice or more!

Combined Action Units (CAP)



August 6-10, 2024: Marines and Corpsmen sought who served in Combined Action Units in Republic of Viet Nam (1965-71). A

Reunion will be held in Washington D. C., August 6-10, 2024. Also, a Dedication of a CAP Monument celebration will be held on August 8, 2024. **CONTACT:** Dan Roberts, 479 276 9122/ dfroberts555@gmail.com. We do not want any Marine or Corpsmen who served to be **“forgotten”!**

unloaded weapon and ammo in a separate when not in use. The practice of gun safety is one more way to help prevent suicides.

Nearly 7 out of every 10 Veteran deaths by suicide are the result of firearm injuries.

- Department of Veterans Affairs (2021)

Check out the links and video below for more tips on gun safety:

Though it may seem like a small barrier, securing your guns with a simple lock puts space between the thought and the trigger.

Watch the videos to learn more.

<https://www.va.gov/reach/lethal-means/>



<https://www.nssf.org/safety/>



Suicide Prevention & Gun Safety

Jo Keller

National Suicide Prevention Program Officer

Securing a weapon with a cable lock and lock box may give you or a loved one extra time to get through a crisis. Secure your

MOPH Application For Membership



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) _____

See left side for Dues schedule.

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

MOPH use only

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.)

MOPHA Application For Membership



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

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

The information on the following pages is taken directly from the Deceased Member Roster downloaded from the National website. For this issue, deceased members who were **REPORTED** between Jan 1 – Feb 29, 2024, regardless of the actual date of death. The listing has been sorted by last name, first name, date posted, and date of death.



Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Posted	Date Of Death
0705-FL-4	William	ALLEN		2024-02-14	2014-12-27
0745-MN-2	Earl E	AMES		2024-02-13	2016-11-17
0383-CA-6	Myron	ANDERSON	Lamar	2024-02-13	2022-05-28
0705-FL-4	Earl	ANGEL	H	2024-02-14	2024-01-26
0393-TX-5	AUGUSTO	AQUINO	IRIARTE	2024-01-26	2024-01-07
0745-MN-2	Darwin	BABST		2024-02-13	2018-12-22
0056-MN-2	Gary L	BAILEY		2024-02-06	Not Reported
DML-CA-6	Roque M	BARRERA		2024-01-23	2022-11-04
0268-MN-2	Stephen D	BATTIN		2024-02-07	Not Reported
0509-ID-3	Teddy E	BEACH		2024-01-19	2023-07-27
0820-OK-5	Ronald	BEAR		2024-02-07	2023-09-30
0642-NC-4	Grant C	BECK		2024-02-02	2024-01-31
0001-CT-1	Thomas S	BEDNARZ		2024-02-02	2023-06-15
1955-LA-5	Jimmie C	BERGERON		2024-02-05	Not Reported
DML-CA-6	Michael	BERNAL		2024-01-23	2013-05-21
1919-TX-5	John B	BEST		2024-01-25	2013-06-22
DML-CA-6	Howard E	BJERKE		2024-01-23	2017-10-04
DML-CA-6	James K	BLACKBURN		2024-01-23	1999-12-01
0159-IL-2	Terry	BLANKENSHIP		2024-02-02	2023-09-25
0758-FL-4	Edward R	BOLTON		2024-02-26	2021-05-16
1867-TX-5	Richard	BONSALL	T	2024-02-21	2023-02-26
0008-MN-2	Gary N	BORCHARDT		2024-02-01	2022-07-05
0703-MD-1	Samuel H	BOULDEN		2024-01-16	Not Reported
0767-KY-2	Conrad G	BOWEN		2024-02-07	Not Reported
0758-FL-4	Gene W	BOWERS		2024-02-26	2022-12-03
0758-FL-4	John S E	BOWLING		2024-02-26	2021-03-12
0699-OH-2	Garry A	BOWMAN		2024-02-08	2018-05-27
0758-FL-4	Emmett T	BOYD		2024-02-26	2015-05-04
1965-VA-1	Dennis P	BRADLEY		2024-02-15	Not Reported
0509-ID-3	J Pat	BRANCH		2024-01-19	2021-10-29
1919-TX-5	John H	BRAND		2024-01-25	2018-06-28
0001-CT-1	Linwood T	BRASWELL		2024-02-23	2017-10-17
0705-FL-4	Jack E	BRIDGE		2024-02-14	2019-07-27
2004-NM-5	Raymond D	BRINDLEY		2024-02-01	2019-11-06
0705-FL-4	Ronald W	BROWN		2024-02-14	2022-02-16
2005-SC-4	Willie L	BROWN		2024-02-05	Not Reported
1919-TX-5	Eddie A	BROZ		2024-01-25	2019-05-03
1919-TX-5	John M	BRYANT		2024-01-25	2019-04-07
0705-FL-4	John	BURKE		2024-02-14	2017-09-24
DML-WV-2	Francis S	BURKLE		2024-02-05	Not Reported
0612-TX-5	Robert A	BURNS		2024-02-05	Not Reported

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Posted	Date Of Death
0125-MO-2	Dennis K	CABANTING		2024-02-02	Not Reported
0682-MS-4	Wilfred V	CAILLAVET		2024-01-26	2021-10-25
0177-LA-5	Billy	CAMPBELL	E	2024-02-08	2020-09-11
0705-FL-4	Rafael	CANDELARIO	Angel	2024-02-14	2019-06-03
0776-FL-4	Mark L	CANIFF		2024-02-12	2021-11-29
0867-TX-5	Lamar Ross	CANTRIL		2024-01-25	2020-05-24
1919-TX-5	George C	CARRUTHERS		2024-01-25	2023-10-10
2004-NM-5	Michael D	CARTER		2024-02-01	2013-11-29
0721-IN-2	Eliseo	CASTANEDA		2024-02-22	2014-02-08
DML-CA-6	Vincent P.	CATENA		2024-01-23	1989-07-01
0509-ID-3	Richard	CESLER	H	2024-01-19	2023-07-27
DML-CA-6	Harris	CHANDLER		2024-01-23	2018-01-08
DML-IL-2	William J	CHARIS		2024-01-16	2020-02-01
2226-NC-4	Thomas	CIESLAK	Jan	2024-02-05	Not Reported
0010-NJ-1	John W	CLARK		2024-02-06	Not Reported
1981-OH-2	Claude C.	CLIXBY		2024-02-19	1989-09-12
0705-FL-4	Philip J	CONDON		2024-02-14	2018-12-05
0551-OR-3	Richard P	CONTRERAS		2024-02-14	Not Reported
0103-CT-1	Michael C	COPPOLA		2024-02-06	2019-05-22
DML-CA-6	Steve T.	CORTEZ		2024-01-23	Not Reported
0509-ID-3	Philip A	CRAVENS		2024-01-19	2023-08-31
DML-ID-3	Harry L	CUMMINGS		2024-01-19	2016-11-24
1955-LA-5	Manuel R	CURRY		2024-01-25	2009-06-04
1945-TN-4	Peter E	CZELUSNIAK		2024-02-12	2019-06-30
DML-CA-6	Alonzo	DANA	P	2024-01-23	Not Reported
0181-NJ-1	Daniel	DANTON		2024-02-06	2019-06-19
0602-OK-5	Harold M	DAVENPORT		2024-01-31	Not Reported
0717-FL-4	Geoffrey	DAVIS	R	2024-01-09	2022-11-29
1919-TX-5	Edward A	DAY		2024-01-25	2015-07-02
1836-TX-5	Vicente	DE JESUS		2024-02-08	Not Reported
0705-FL-4	Edward L	DEMENT		2024-02-14	2022-09-13
1919-TX-5	Franklin W	DENIUS		2024-01-25	2018-07-29
DML-CA-6	Edgar J	DENNING		2024-01-23	2016-04-19
0177-LA-5	Riley M	DIAMOND		2024-01-07	2023-11-30
0011-PA-1	Bruce E	DONALDSON		2024-02-13	Not Reported
0758-FL-4	Dale W	DOSS		2024-02-26	2019-12-11
0031-OH-2	Jero L	DOWNEY		2024-02-09	Not Reported
0509-ID-3	Garrett	DOYLE	R	2024-01-19	2023-09-24
0717-FL-4	Martin	DOYLE	D	2024-01-26	2019-03-29
0641-OK-5	William T	DRAPER		2024-02-03	2024-01-25
0705-FL-4	Robert W.	DUDLEY		2024-02-14	2011-11-04

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Posted	Date Of Death
0705-FL-4	George T	DWYRE		2024-02-14	2010-06-20
DML-CA-6	Edwin A	EDWARDS		2024-01-23	2011-01-11
0041-MI-2	Farrell P	EMERSON		2024-02-09	Not Reported
0514-MI-2	Gerald W	ENGELHARDT		2024-02-06	Not Reported
0031-OH-2	Clifford C	FAETH		2024-02-04	2018-08-27
0705-FL-4	Forest	FARLEY		2024-02-14	2020-05-05
0705-FL-4	James R	FENTON		2024-02-14	2014-05-03
0705-FL-4	Cecil	FERNANDEZ		2024-02-14	2002-01-23
DML-ID-3	Raymond	FERREIRA	P	2024-01-19	2022-08-28
0705-FL-4	Joseph	FLOWERS		2024-02-14	2002-03-01
0542-TX-5	Virgil F	FLOWERS		2024-01-30	Not Reported
DML-ID-3	Gary D	FORSEY		2024-01-19	2020-05-23
DML-NY-1	Leland	FOSTER	W	2024-01-07	2023-11-18
0705-FL-4	Larry	FRALIEX		2024-02-14	2023-10-22
DML-CA-6	Robert W	FRANKLIN		2024-01-23	2001-09-13
0431-AR-5	Robert William	FREY		2024-02-23	Not Reported
DML-OH-2	Leo J	FRIEMOTH		2024-02-16	2013-09-08
0807-MN-2	Ronald D	FUCHS		2024-01-25	2023-04-23
DML-CA-6	George E.	FULLER		2024-01-23	1989-04-22
1544-TX-5	Ignacio	GARCIA	Leal	2024-02-02	Not Reported
DML-CA-6	Carmello F	GERACI		2024-01-23	2020-07-24
0125-MO-2	Eugene G	GOLDBACKER		2024-02-01	2023-01-24
DML-CA-6	Thomas L	GONZALEZ		2024-01-23	2020-03-08
DML-CA-6	Jack T	GRAINGER		2024-01-23	2008-09-05
0049-CA-6	John J	GRAY		2024-01-31	Not Reported
0656-PA-1	Emil C	GREGG		2024-02-09	2023-12-31
0724-WV-2	Everett G	GRIFFIN		2024-02-23	Not Reported
DML-CA-6	Donald B	GUSTAFSON		2024-01-23	2017-05-01
0529-PA-1	David	HADESTY	H	2024-01-24	2024-01-22
0530-SC-4	Michael E	HALL		2024-01-31	2023-04-10
0525-GA-4	R V	HALL		2024-01-31	2022-12-19
0705-FL-4	Vance C	HALL		2024-02-14	2003-08-18
DML-CA-6	William M	HALL		2024-01-23	2014-12-14
0509-ID-3	Daniel Wayne	HAMRE		2024-01-19	2022-08-06
0705-FL-4	Al	HAMRICK		2024-02-14	2021-03-23
DML-CA-6	Hollis H	HANCOCK		2024-01-23	2006-05-02
2004-NM-5	Kenneth R	HARBISON		2024-02-01	2023-07-12
0703-MD-1	Charles	HARRIS	H G	2024-01-16	Not Reported
0705-FL-4	Roy E	HASTINGS		2024-02-14	2011-01-15

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Posted	Date Of Death
0244-TN-4	Lynn R	HAWKINS		2024-01-25	2023-12-19
0758-FL-4	John L	HAYNES		2024-01-10	2023-11-14
0696-FL-4	George	HAZEL	E	2024-01-26	2019-05-26
0181-NJ-1	Francis J	HEALEY		2024-01-30	Not Reported
DML-MA-1	John Paul	HEARSON		2024-02-12	Not Reported
0607-VA-1	Larry P	HEBERT		2024-01-30	2020-10-24
DML-WV-2	Robert D	HILL		2024-02-05	2020-10-16
0402-SC-4	Freddie F	HODGES		2024-01-31	Not Reported
0727-LA-5	Percy LEE	HODGES		2024-02-12	2022-11-12
DML-CA-6	Robert L	HOLIFIELD		2024-01-23	Not Reported
0705-FL-4	Corbly Leroy	HOLT		2024-02-14	2019-01-05
1919-TX-5	Johnnie	HOLUB		2024-01-25	2017-12-04
DML-WV-2	Douglas	HOOD		2024-02-12	Not Reported
DML-IA-2	Steven B	HOOK		2024-02-06	Not Reported
DML-CA-6	John D	HOPPER		2024-01-23	2004-05-18
0049-CA-6	Peter	Houben		2024-02-14	2022-07-24
0818-WI-2	Leon	HOUSE	D	2024-02-23	Not Reported
DML-CA-6	Joe L	HOUSEWRIGHT		2024-01-23	2021-01-12
0470-WA-3	Randolph M	HOWARD		2024-01-07	2023-08-03
0758-FL-4	William H	HUFFCUT		2024-01-10	2023-01-25
1836-TX-5	Robert L	HUGHLETTE		2024-02-02	2022-09-04
0177-LA-5	Walter E	HUTCHINS		2024-01-30	Not Reported
0431-AR-5	Thomas E	INEBNIT		2024-02-09	2011-06-23
0705-FL-4	Seldon D	IRVINE		2024-02-14	2021-04-02
1879-MI-2	Neil D	ISAACSON		2024-02-19	2019-04-11
0525-GA-4	Calvin R	JACKSON		2024-02-07	Not Reported
0577-MD-1	Bernard	JOHNSON	L	2024-02-08	Not Reported
0745-MN-2	Orville C	JOHNSON		2024-02-13	2017-09-30
0705-FL-4	James C	JOINER		2024-02-14	2011-12-29
0758-FL-4	Clarence E	JORDAN		2024-02-27	2012-04-17
0308-MN-2	Virgil	KALPIN	D	2024-02-13	2022-09-14
0705-FL-4	Michael	KAVOUKLIS	N	2024-02-14	2021-01-12
0705-FL-4	Charles H	KEATEN		2024-02-14	2012-04-17
0177-LA-5	Bonnie	KELLUM	Roy	2024-01-07	2023-12-03
0446-NY-1	John F	KENNEDY		2024-02-15	2019-10-25
0125-MO-2	Calvin C	KOELLING		2024-02-02	2022-06-28
DML-CA-6	Bill	KONIG	E	2024-01-23	2001-05-19
1919-TX-5	Alvin	LANGHAMER	J	2024-01-25	2020-04-24
DML-ID-3	Donald C	LAWSON		2024-01-19	2022-08-23
DML-AR-5	Joseph F.	LAWSON		2024-02-09	Not Reported
DML-ID-3	Larry R	LEHTOLA		2024-01-19	2021-06-20

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Posted	Date Of Death
DML-CA-6	Donald D	LEISTER		2024-01-23	2010-11-19
0705-FL-4	Gerard A	LEMOYNE		2024-02-14	2023-09-12
1876-TX-5	Charlie	LEWELLEN	R	2024-01-02	2021-07-07
2206-AL-4	Seymour L	LICHTENFELD		2024-01-07	2023-11-03
DML-WV-2	Kenn D	LILLY		2024-02-05	Not Reported
0264-NY-1	Malcolm L	LITTLE		2024-02-02	2021-05-16
0036-NJ-1	Joseph	LIVINGSTON		2024-02-07	2020-11-27
DML-CA-6	Robert I.	LOCKS		2024-01-23	1988-08-17
1836-TX-5	Albert	LOPEZ		2024-02-13	2020-03-17
0705-FL-4	Manuel Gregory	LOPEZ		2024-02-14	1997-03-31
DML-CA-6	Michael E.	LOWRIE		2024-01-23	1997-04-30
1919-TX-5	Joe B	LUTTRELL		2024-01-25	2015-05-15
1981-OH-2	Stanley	LYKOWSKI		2024-02-19	2011-06-02
0524-FL-4	Stephen K	MACDONALD		2024-01-31	2023-03-02
0705-FL-4	James	MACLACHLAN		2024-02-14	2015-08-15
0705-FL-4	John H	MACPHEE		2024-02-14	2020-12-25
1919-TX-5	Clifford E	MACQUEEN		2024-01-25	2023-09-11
0509-ID-3	Ray G	MAESTAS		2024-01-19	2006-05-27
0010-NJ-1	George A	MAIER		2024-02-05	2020-01-09
0375-CO-5	Michelle	MALLIN		2024-02-02	2021-10-04
0524-FL-4	Ronald W	MARLEY		2024-02-02	2019-06-26
0470-WA-3	David Larry	MARRS		2024-01-02	2023-12-06
1919-TX-5	Curtis A	MARTELL		2024-01-25	2019-06-27
DML-CA-6	Gordon S	MASON		2024-01-23	2020-10-30
0621-MO-2	James N	MAULDIN		2024-01-24	2021-12-13
DML-CA-6	Patrick H.	MCCANN		2024-01-23	2006-10-19
0453-FL-4	Robert S	MCCARTHY		2024-02-23	Not Reported
0705-FL-4	Ronald H	MCCARTHY		2024-02-14	2016-12-27
0423-CO-5	Arthur	MCKAY	R	2024-01-14	2021-11-27
0431-AR-5	Gary W	MCKENZIE		2024-01-19	2024-01-14
0010-NJ-1	Marcel S	MCKNIGHT		2024-02-06	2000-11-28
2004-NM-5	Charles	MCTMAHAN	W	2024-02-01	2024-01-22
DML-CA-6	James H	MCTMAHON		2024-01-23	2008-08-21
0705-FL-4	George H	MCTMASTER		2024-02-14	2022-06-02
0472-AZ-6	Jose B	MEDEGUARI		2024-01-07	2023-09-26
DML-CA-6	Artie	MEEK	E	2024-01-23	2014-09-14
0125-MO-2	Eddie	MELTON	Eugene	2024-02-05	2023-11-18
0705-FL-4	Charles E	MIDLAM		2024-02-14	2019-07-04
0759-FL-4	Glenn A	MILLER		2024-01-07	2023-10-09
0072-OR-3	Michael C	MILLER		2024-01-31	Not Reported

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Posted	Date Of Death
1836-TX-5	Antonio	MIRANDA		2024-02-12	Not Reported
1981-OH-2	John D	MOCKENSTURM		2024-02-19	2023-01-04
1981-OH-2	Don J	MOONEY		2024-02-19	2018-12-30
0767-KY-2	William E	MOORE		2024-02-12	2020-08-18
0705-FL-4	Albert	NAYMICK	P	2024-02-14	2016-01-28
0612-TX-5	Larry W	NELSON		2024-02-02	2023-07-26
0745-MN-2	James	NETLAND		2024-02-13	2022-05-21
DML-ID-3	Ronald	NORFLEET	B	2024-01-19	2020-05-11
0607-VA-1	William A	NUNN		2024-01-30	Not Reported
DML-CA-6	John V	OVERLAND		2024-01-23	1999-08-31
0356-TN-4	William C	PAGE		2024-02-08	Not Reported
0607-VA-1	Leo D	PARDE		2024-02-05	Not Reported
0509-ID-3	William E	PARKE		2024-01-19	2019-04-12
0407-WA-3	Curtis	PARKER		2024-01-31	Not Reported
1919-TX-5	Edgar J	PARRY		2024-01-25	2017-02-21
DML-OH-2	Stephen H	PARRY		2024-02-16	1988-12-25
0705-FL-4	Robert E	PARSONS		2024-02-14	2011-01-07
0811-FL-4	William B	PATTERSON		2024-02-06	Not Reported
0705-FL-4	Frank L	PECK		2024-02-14	2021-10-27
0745-MN-2	George L	PETERS		2024-02-13	2023-07-02
0606-OH-2	Neal I	PINSON		2024-02-09	2007-01-15
DML-OH-2	Everett L.	PITTENGER		2024-02-16	1995-01-10
2004-NM-5	John R	PITTSENBARGAR		2024-01-10	2024-01-05
0010-NJ-1	Louis J	POLISE		2024-01-30	Not Reported
0705-FL-4	Earl M	PRATT		2024-02-14	2013-01-17
DML-NC-4	Garland B	PRESSLEY		2024-02-21	2023-12-29
0703-MD-1	Marshall L	PURNER		2024-01-16	Not Reported
0524-FL-4	Francis A	PURPURA		2024-01-07	2023-12-26
0699-OH-2	PATRICK	QUIGLEY	T	2024-01-07	2023-11-30
DML-CA-6	Alex	QUINONES	Leo	2024-01-23	2020-02-16
0602-OK-5	Kenneth	RANDOLPH	L	2024-01-11	2023-12-30
DML-AR-5	Joe S	RAY		2024-02-09	1996-05-02
DML-NC-4	Lawrence H	RICE		2024-02-21	2018-04-17
DML-CA-6	Theodore	RICHARDSON		2024-01-23	2000-01-09
1937-TX-5	Samuel L	ROBISON		2024-02-09	2022-04-09
1919-TX-5	Benito L	RODRIGUEZ		2024-01-25	2020-07-29
DML-NC-4	William E	ROGERS		2024-02-21	2002-01-20
DML-NC-4	Ira	RUBIN		2024-02-21	2018-02-02
DML-CA-6	William R	RUSSELL		2024-01-23	2012-10-06
2004-NM-5	Domingo E	SAPIEN		2024-02-01	2021-08-21

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Posted	Date Of Death
	Epifanio				
DML-CA-6	Mateo	SAWI		2024-01-23	2020-08-08
0268-MN-2	Milton	SCHMIDT	Farley	2024-02-13	Not Reported
0705-FL-4	Melvin T	SCHNOOR		2024-02-14	2012-10-01
DML-OH-2	Sammy W	SCHREIBER		2024-02-16	2013-08-25
1919-TX-5	Archie	SCOTT	W	2024-01-25	2022-12-09
0770-WI-2	David I	SCOTT		2024-02-08	Not Reported
1754-VA-1	Arthur	SHIELDS	E	2024-01-07	2023-12-17
2202-AL-4	Lonnie T	SHOULTZ		2024-02-20	Not Reported
DML-CA-6	Stuart D	SIGAFOOS		2024-01-23	2015-06-19
0146-KY-2	Charles	SIMPSON		2024-02-14	Not Reported
0442-AZ-6	Robert	SKIPWORTH	Owen	2024-01-31	Not Reported
DML-CA-6	Richard M.	SMALLEY		2024-01-23	1995-05-18
0617-OK-5	Alvin	SMITH	C	2024-02-14	2012-08-14
0705-FL-4	Lawrence P.	SOLAN		2024-02-14	1991-03-11
DML-CA-6	Fred D	SORIANO		2024-01-23	1989-08-15
1919-TX-5	Carlos V	SOZA		2024-01-25	2017-05-23
0646-WV-2	Bernard	SPIELMAN	L	2024-02-06	Not Reported
0705-FL-4	Adrien	ST AMAND	C	2024-02-14	2010-11-25
	Gary				
0705-FL-4	Edward	STANLEY		2024-02-14	2012-08-31
DML-IL-2	Franklin L	STONEBURNER		2024-02-09	Not Reported
0705-FL-4	Albert	STOTTS	A	2024-02-14	2022-09-05
1041-CO-5	William R	SUHRE		2024-01-05	Not Reported
1919-TX-5	Gabriel J	TAMAYO		2024-01-25	2022-06-01
0705-FL-4	William T.	TAPP		2024-02-14	2012-01-11
0175-IL-2	James F	TAYLOR		2024-01-07	2023-10-11
0705-FL-4	David W	TEMPLE		2024-02-14	2016-07-23
0818-WI-2	Lyle S	TENNIS		2024-01-07	2023-10-10
0392-CA-6	Wallace R	THAYER		2024-01-31	Not Reported
0442-AZ-6	Johnny R	THOMPSON		2024-02-18	2024-02-17
0708-AR-5	Roger D	THOMPSON		2024-02-21	Not Reported
DML-CA-6	Julian D.	TORBETT		2024-01-23	1988-06-24
DML-CA-6	Nimrod	TORKOMIAN		2024-01-23	2011-07-28
0705-FL-4	Mason N	TOTZ		2024-02-14	2017-12-24
	Richard				
0162-WI-2	James	TOWNE		2024-02-27	2024-02-17
1919-TX-5	W D	TOWNSLEY		2024-01-25	2004-04-10
0875-MA-1	James J	TRACY		2024-02-06	Not Reported
DML-CA-6	Evelyn	TREFTS	T	2024-01-23	2015-09-09
DML-CA-6	John C	TREFTS		2024-01-23	2017-12-30

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Posted	Date Of Death
2004-NM-5	Henry M	TRUJILLO		2024-02-01	2014-03-11
0455-PA-1	CARL	TRUSS	A	2024-01-07	2023-10-31
0012-WA-3	John E	TURMAN		2024-01-19	Not Reported
0576-GA-4	Dennis C	TURNER		2024-02-29	2024-02-21
0758-FL-4	Frank A	TUROSIK		2024-02-26	2016-01-09
DML-OH-2	Wally	TWEEDLE		2024-02-16	2008-06-15
1966-NM-5	Adolfo	URBINA		2024-02-23	2023-02-24
	Richard				
0159-IL-2	Wayne	WAGERS		2024-01-19	2024-01-15
0656-PA-1	Nevin E	WALK		2024-02-08	Not Reported
0576-GA-4	Phillip N	WALKER		2024-02-02	Not Reported
0308-MN-2	Blaine	WALLIN	B	2024-02-13	2016-10-17
0509-ID-3	Stephen Efil	WANAKA		2024-01-19	2015-04-15
0473-OH-2	Jimmie J	WATKINS		2024-01-07	2023-09-02
0493-CA-6	Robert L	WATSON		2024-02-06	2024-01-22
0750-CA-6	Donald S	WAUNCH		2024-02-29	2022-09-18
0598-TX-5	Robert	WEED	C	2024-01-31	Not Reported
0705-FL-4	George W	WEEMS		2024-02-14	2017-07-17
0705-FL-4	Donald H	WEIK		2024-02-14	2018-04-03
0308-MN-2	Maurice J	WENKER		2024-02-13	2021-01-12
0027-NJ-1	Raymond E	WENSTROM		2024-01-02	2023-12-28
DML-CA-6	Harry W	WHITE		2024-01-23	2019-01-03
0705-FL-4	Donald Lee	WHITLOCK		2024-02-14	2017-11-14
1988-MI-2	Gordon	WIITANEN	Robert	2024-01-25	2020-12-03
0705-FL-4	Doug	WILDENHAUS		2024-02-14	2015-08-06
0244-TN-4	WILLIAM	WILDER	BRUCE	2024-02-07	2021-09-15
DML-ID-3	Charles	WILLIAMS	A	2024-01-19	2020-04-09
	Emerson				
0570-MD-1	Scott	WILLIAMSON		2024-02-03	2024-01-20
0015-CA-6	Richard W	WILLIAMSON		2024-02-02	Not Reported
DML-UT-6	Lynn	WILSON		2024-02-23	Not Reported
1889-WA-3	Paul E	WILSON		2024-02-13	Not Reported
0190-PA-1	Bert	WINZER	S	2024-01-07	2023-10-24
0509-ID-3	William	WISENOR	W	2024-01-19	2020-11-14
	Robert				
0705-FL-4	Carlyle	WORRELL		2024-02-14	2019-11-01
0010-NJ-1	Robert T	WOZNAK		2024-02-01	2020-07-30
0148-OH-2	Elmer R	WRIGHT		2024-01-31	2022-11-29
DML-CA-6	Marshall T	WRIGHT		2024-01-23	2004-02-08
0621-MO-2	Jimmy L	YOUNG		2024-01-07	2024-01-03
0509-ID-3	Richard F	YOUNG		2024-01-19	2022-05-30

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Posted	Date Of Death
DML-NC-4	Charles W	ZEEB		2024-02-21	2017-03-07
0705-FL-4	Aaron	ZEITLEN	D	2024-02-14	2011-05-06
0011-PA-1	Allen	ZIEGLER	R	2024-01-07	2023-12-16



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