



# The Purple Heart

Magazine  
March/April 2025



The Longest Road in America becomes  
The Medal of Honor Highway



Massachusetts  
Medal of Honor  
Highway



Sponsored by

Camaraderie Among  
Combat Wounded Veterans





## About the cover

Brian Willette shows off one of the state signs that will be posted around the nation along the National Medal of Honor Highway. Cover by Colleen Orfanello.

## Features

**14. [2025 National Convention](#):** Please help your National Convention Planning Committee to ask businesses and foundations you are familiar with to help defray the costs of our convention. California and Nevada will jointly Co-Host the 2025 National Convention. The convention dates are July 14 through 18, 2025, at the Nugget Hotel and Casino in Sparks, Nevada.

**19. [National Medal of Honor Highway](#):** The newly designated 3,365-mile highway honors all 3,526 Medal of Honor recipients from all 50 states and all future recipients of our nation’s highest award for Valor – for acting with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life during combat against an enemy of the United States of America. More at [Department of Massachusetts](#) and [Department of Idaho](#).

**32. [2024-25 Legislative Agenda](#):** Our legislative agenda focuses on four critical pieces of legislation that directly impact on our veteran community and the sanctity of our military honors.

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**The Purple Heart Magazine**

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- MOPHA Liaison: Colleen Orfanello

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 to publish.

Please note that content related to racism, politics, inappropriate subjects, and similar topics will not be published.



## Commander's Message

Robert Olivarez  
National Commander



It's hard to believe we are already five months away till we have our 92<sup>nd</sup> National Convention in Reno, Nevada. As we get closer

toward our National Convention, we have the link for the convention on our national website along with a shared link on all our social media platforms so please go and look and make your reservations for the upcoming 92<sup>nd</sup> National Convention.

On Feb 25, the National Leadership team along with some Region Commanders and Patriots out of the Dept of Virginia talked with Congress about our legislative issues and what we want to get done to help better the way of life for all veterans. We have also been working closely with the VVA (Vietnam Veterans of America), VFW, and other Veteran Service Organizations to push these efforts. We strongly believe working jointly together will be able to accomplish more and ensure the needs and well-being of all Veterans will be met and taken care of.

As you may have noticed the Senior & Junior Vice has sent out emails to the Region and Department Commanders to start and ensure all proper forms are submitted to include Chapter & Department election

forms and make sure you have them submitted to national. An email has also been sent out reminding departments to submit their convention dates so that a region or national officer can attend in person or via zoom / google meets. With that remember we will also be taking nomination submission for all positions within region and national for the upcoming year. We have job descriptions listed online to help give you a better idea of what the job tasks are for each position.

We are still moving forward and making progress with our Audits & 990's. We did have a small bump and had our Finance officer (Ernie Rivera) resign but we as the Order were able to get back up, elected a new finance officer (Jim Anderson), kept moving forward, and have daily operations continue. We still have a goal to get all Audits and 990's done and be back on track so please bear with us. As we move forward, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out so that we can answer and give you status updates. LMV payment will be going out shortly so please contact your department commander and finance officer to receive your rebate this year. As most of you know we voted on a 2<sup>nd</sup> rebate so make sure to continue to keep your communication line open with your department and region leadership.

We are looking to have more submissions for our digital magazine as we appreciate the current submissions we feel that we can change them a bit. We are not only looking for submissions from past events but also for submissions for future events. This way

it'll help our membership know about what is going on not only within their state but also across the region. With this we are hoping to get more patriots to be involved or to give patriots who may be vacationing or passing through a chance to participate or possibly get more involved with the local chapter.

Yours in Patriotism!

*Robert Olivarez Jr*

## Senior Vice Commander's Message

Tracey Brown Greene  
National Sr Vice Commander



**Working together works.**

We have come into this year juggling events and providing positive energy to all Veterans. It is important to provide knowledge and direction to as many people as possible. It is very important to have a group of people that are willing to work together for the common good or to complete the mission that is at hand. Teamwork makes the dream have been said a lot to motivate individuals to perform at their best. John Calipari said, "It's not just about working hard, it's about working together. You must care more about the team than you do about yourself." A long time ago there was a family that came together to harvest tobacco, soybeans, and corn. They were sharecroppers. This group of people would work together to complete the fields before the products became over ripe or burned by the sun. Some days they went out as teams two or four individuals. When they returned at the end of the day, they shared the information that they received during that workday this allowed any team to work in any field across the land.

**2025**  
**Military Order of the Purple Heart**  
**National Convention**

Purple Hearts are WILD in Reno!

July 14 thru 18, 2025 at the Nugget Hotel Casino in Sparks, Nevada

The Sparks Veterans Memorial park

Reno The National Auto Museum

Lake Tahoe

Virginia City A National Historical site "This all Happening Here!"

Here is a short story about a small village. In



a small village, a drought threatened the harvest. The farmers, once rivals, banded together, sharing resources and expertise. They pooled their water supplies, rotated crop duties, and crafted irrigation systems. As they worked side by side, not only did their fields flourish, but so did their friendships. The village thrived, proving that when unity prevails, challenges become opportunities, and together, they reaped a bountiful harvest. They show how people can work together in an area and accomplish many tasks.

When we work together, we can send information to the lowest level, call our members to check on them, communicate with each other without offending each other, and complete paperwork on time and ensure it is correct, and treat each other with dignity and respect in the same manner you would like to be treated. These are a few things that if done with a clean heart can change the way you are seen and understood.

We must work together to accomplish all our requirements on time and to show the recipients that are not members that we are able to work together, use new ideas, and to pour into them the knowledge from making mistakes and developing innovative methods to keep them engaged. A wise person once said: Be slow to anger and quick to enjoyment, when they call sometimes the answer can be given,

*Tracey Brown Greene*

## Junior Vice Commander's Message

Frances Figueroa-Lowe  
National Junior Vice Commander



As we approach the Chapter and Department Elections, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of submitting the election reports on time and electronically

through our website. We kindly request that all chapters also remember to submit the delegate list promptly. The election report is crucial as it is one of the necessary reports for Chapters and Departments to receive their LMR for 2025.

A significant announcement to all patriots is the upcoming deadline for the Patriot of the Year award. Chapter submissions are due to the department by March 1st, followed by the department's submission to the region by April 1st. Finally, the region's submission is due to National by May 1st. This prestigious program is designed to recognize and honor patriots from chapters and departments for their outstanding contributions to the organization in the previous year.

In addition, I urge all chapters to connect with schools in their area to secure JROTC orders, further strengthening our ties with the younger generation. Furthermore, the

scholarship program will open on March 1st, providing an opportunity for children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and spouses to apply.

Exciting news awaits our patriots as we gear up for the 2025 Reno Convention. Patriots can now conveniently book their reservations online. Information has been shared with all Regions to facilitate any chapter looking to donate to the convention or sponsor a hospitality night. If any Patriots are aware of organizations willing to contribute or sponsor activities for the 2025 Convention, this information has also been relayed to the Regions for dissemination to Departments and Chapters.

We are enthusiastic about the year ahead and look forward to advancing our mission. Remember always to utilize your chain of command for any issues, ensuring that matters can be addressed properly and assist us in serving you better.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, let's continue to uphold the pride and tradition of our organization.

Warm regards,

Yours in Patriotism,

*Frances Figueroa-Lowe*

## National Adjutant's Message

Keith Gray  
National Adjutant



This year is flying by; we are already entering March. I would like to remind all Chapters and Departments that election reports need to be completed ONLINE and by their respective dates.

These reports are essential for maintaining our organizational structure and ensuring efficient communication within our ranks.

I extend my sincere gratitude to each of you for your unwavering dedication to enhancing the lives of our members and fellow Patriots. Your tireless efforts exemplify the spirit of our Order and have a tangible impact on the veteran community.

While I may reiterate the importance of utilizing the proper chain of command, I emphasize its significance. When you have questions, please adhere to the following steps:

1. Consult your direct leadership team.
2. Proceed to the next level up if necessary.
3. Reserve calls to National Headquarters or the National Command Team for truly national-level issues.

By adhering to this chain of command, we



ensure efficient handling of national-level matters, freeing up our attention for strategic initiatives. This process fosters a knowledge base at each level, facilitating prompt responses to future inquiries. This aligns with the National Commanders' intent to open up communication channels at all levels, leading to a more informed Order.

### **New Resource for Members**

We have partnered with Moo to provide business cards and return address labels for our members. To access this resource, please visit our online portal and create an account. Upon account establishment, you can place your order, and all items will be shipped directly to your location.

<https://www.moo.com/m4b/account/signup/landing/7e7d46bb-de43-4f96-9fb4-5aa5a5927abd>

Your unwavering service to our Order and to your fellow veterans is not in vain.

With utmost respect and gratitude,

*Keith Gray*

## **MOPHA President's Message**

Fran Holtgreven  
National President



"Rise to the Challenge" is the theme for the 2024-2025 Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary this year. The Department, Units and all

officers and members have risen in many ways to help our Patriots, Veterans, and the organization. There is still time to complete those projects, ideas, and other ways to "Rise to the Challenge". Keep up the good work, Auxiliary Members.

But, yes, there is always a "but", the organizations Auxiliary Members need to start thinking about a challenge for themselves to step up and send in a letter of intent to fill an office this 2025-2026 year. Units, Departments and National need your help to keep the Auxiliary functioning and helping our Veterans.

Departments will be holding their Conventions soon; Units will be electing officers at their meetings and National will be holding elections at the Convention in Reno. "Rise to the Challenge" Auxiliary members. Yes, this challenge contains work, patience, etc. but the rewards of helping our Patriots,

Veterans, your community, the Order, and the Auxiliary much over ways the work, patience, etc. As you have heard this last year, our National Secretary, Judy Fiddler, 13+ years, is retiring. This is a very important position that needs to be filled, without this position we will not be able to function properly. Judy will help the new National Secretary with any questions that come up and will be their mentor. Contact Judy or the National President for questions.

For several years now, we have heard that to continue to support leadership and remain an organization, we need to raise funds for our National MOPHA organization. The time is now, and we have to stop talking and start doing it!

The General Fundraising Committee is asking for help in a FUN way to raise

money, and all funds collected will support the National MOPHA General Fund. Please fill out the "Tax Form" and send your donation by check made out to MOPHA at the address listed on the form. This can be a fun project, and you could possibly learn just how many ball caps and challenge coins the Patriot really does have!! But then again, it could show them how many shoes you have??!! Patriots, we would love to have your participation, too. Please share with friends and family and let them know how their donation can help the MOPHA help Veterans.

THE MOMENT WE STOP ACCEPTING  
CHALLENGES IS THE MOMENT WE STOP  
MOVING FORWARD.

*Fran Holtgreven*





**MOPHA Members and MOPH Patriots:** Tax time is here and we're going to get started early! Please play along. Thank you in advance for your participation!

This is a **FUN** way to help us raise money and all funds collected will support the National MOPHA general fund.

1. How many adults are in your household: \$2.00 each \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many pets are in your household: \$2.00 each \_\_\_\_\_
3. Count your purses and billfolds: \$0.20 each / \$0.15 if purple \_\_\_\_\_
4. Count your pairs of shoes: \$0.20 each / \$0.15 if purple \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many grandchildren: \$0.25 each \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many coffee/tea cups: \$0.10 each \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many doors are there in your home: \$0.10 each \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many open Kleenex boxes: \$0.20 each \_\_\_\_\_
9. How many Purple blouses or shirts: \$0.15 each \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many purple socks, scarves, hats, vests: \$0.15 each \_\_\_
11. How many MOPHA/MOPH leadership caps: \$0.25 each \_\_\_\_\_
12. How many Purple pieces of jewelry: \$0.15 each \_\_\_\_\_
13. How many military ball caps: \$0.20 each \_\_\_\_\_
14. How many challenge coins: \$0.05 each \_\_\_\_\_
15. How many keys on your keyring: \$0.10 each \_\_\_\_\_

	"Taxes" due	\$	o	_____
_____	Extra gift from your Heart	\$		_____
_____	<b>TOTAL DONATION</b>	\$		_____
				.....

Please send your donation **ASAP (no later than June 1st)** to:

Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary 320, S. Hughes Rd. Lot 107, Howell, MI 48843

## Chaplain's Messages

Carlton Cannon  
National Chaplain



February is a month with several days of recognition: National Freedom Day, Groundhog Day, Four Chaplains Day, Scouting America Day, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Valentine's

Day, Presidents' Day, and George Washington's Birthday. Also, February 9, 2025, marks the fortieth day of our "NOON DAY" PRAYER. (40 days x 10 minutes = 6.6 hours). Your prayerful support is greatly appreciated! Herman Melville may have said it best; "IT IS BETTER TO FAIL IN ORIGINALITY THAN TO SUCCEED IN IMITATION."

Yann Martel's novel *Life of Pi* tells of a teenager named Pi, the sole human survivor of a cargo ship that sinks in the Pacific Ocean. It had been transporting his family and the animals from his family's zoo in India to Canada, where they had hoped to start a new life. For 227 days, Pi drifts in a lifeboat with a 450-pound Bengal tiger that crawled into the lifeboat as the ship sank. It's not a cute, cuddly story about a boy and a kitten – no Disney buddy songs. No Calvin and Hobbes. It's an engaging, dangerous story about faith and survival!

As Pi adjusts to his grief and his terrifying situation; terror outside the boat and terror inside the boat – he plots to rid himself of

the tiger. But in time, PI DISCOVERS IT'S THE TIGER'S PRESENCE THAT GIVES HIM THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION TO SURVIVE HIS ORDEAL. The more he faces his fear, the better he is able to overcome it! We may need to live with what we fear, what we don't understand and what challenges us to survive a greater trial.

World War I flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker said, "Courage is being able to do what you are afraid to do." As someone who spent 22 days adrift in the Pacific on a raft after a plane crash, Rickenbacker knew what he was talking about. Sometimes we are faced with situations we didn't choose but in which we have to choose how we will act.

Our fears are real today, but rather than ignore or cower from them, we must tame them and even embrace them. We must recognize that only when we face our fears head-on do we have power over them.

1 John 4:18 tells us that there is NO FEAR in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. When JESUS "cast out" a demon, he called it by name. In those days, knowing someone's name was to have power over them. JESUS named the demons, faced them and away they went. When we can name our fears, understand them, and look beyond them in love, we have power over them! We have come to terms with our "tigers" and tame them with love.

This isn't a day to keep your grief and fears to yourself. It's time to name them, talk about them, and give them and your hopes



to GOD! We do know that GOD understands our fear. One of the most often-repeated phrases in Scripture is “DO NOT BE AFRAID.” But it seems there is always something to fear. What GOD might say to us is a little more realistic: you are going to be afraid but UNDERSTAND that it is PERFECT LOVE: love for GOD, your neighbor and yourself that casts out fear, tames it and helps you live past it.

I really appreciate your faithful camaraderie and dedicated commitment to serving as PRAYER WARRIORS. The Military Order Purple Heart, USA would not be able to survive without the prayers of the faithful Combat Wounded Veterans, MOPH Auxiliary, families, and friends. Let’s continue to get the word to our Patriots. America needs you and we need each other! TOGETHER WE WILL “GIT’er DONE” for HIS SAKE!

### “Noon Day” Prayer Virgil

In spite of the winds, fires, floods and snow, Almighty GOD has been good to us!  
**Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence (1Timothy 2:1-2).**

**February 19, 2025**, marks the **fiftieth day** of our **“NOON DAY” PRAYER** vigil. **(50 days x 10 minutes = 500 minutes = 8 hours and 20 minutes)**. Our commitment to join in intercessory prayer for the first 90 of days of this year has made a difference! Please

continue to pray for each other, our families, our homes, our military veterans and allies, our nation and our beloved Military Order Purple Heart, USA. **Thanks so much for your prayerful support!**

You may forward your prayer requests to: [CANCARL03@COMCAST.NET](mailto:CANCARL03@COMCAST.NET) email / or 302.448.0852 cell. I know that prayer changes things, and when two or three of us prayerfully join together, we will **“GIT’er DONE for the Glory of GOD!”**

### Monthly Chaplains Meeting

National Chaplain Carlton Cannon is inviting all MOPH Chaplains to a virtual Chaplains meeting, the first Thursday of each month @ 4pm PDT (7 PM Eastern).

Please contact me if you are with questions: [cancarl03@comcast.net](mailto:cancarl03@comcast.net) or 302-448-0852.

Join the Zoom meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81454630403?pwd=WmIzbThkb2JvY3lEV1NOWjJJYXE3QT09>



Meeting ID: 814 5463 0403  
Passcode: 426442

---One tap mobile  
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- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
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- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
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- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US

Meeting ID: 814 5463 0403

Passcode: 426442

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81454630403>

## Publications Committee Message

Larry Leighton, NPC Chair



### Let us hear from you

What do you like or dislike about the Magazine? Do you have suggestions for improving the Purple Heart Magazine? The NPC would like to hear

from you. Let us know what you think by taking a short five question survey. You will receive an acknowledgement, and your input may be included in the next issue. Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to take the survey.



### Campaign Letters

If you plan on running for any of the elected officer positions, submit your candidacy announcement (reason for wanting the office, a pertinent biography and qualifications, head, and shoulders photograph) to be published in the May-Jun issue of the PHM.

### Advertising in the PHM

Members receive a 20% discount and non-members receive a 15% when advertising in six consecutive issues. Our current advertising rates for a single issue of the Purple Heart Magazine are \$250 for a full page, \$125/half-page, \$75/one-third page

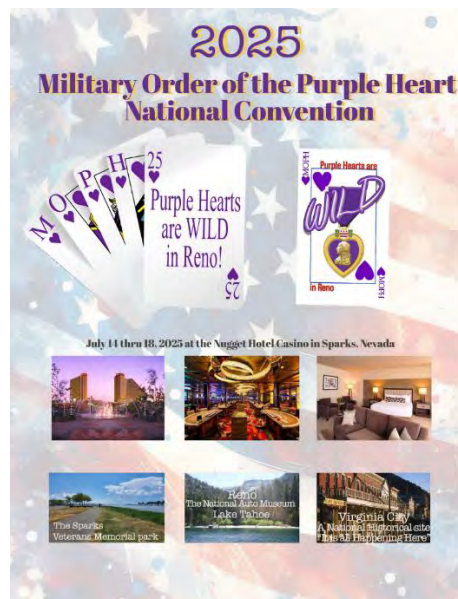
(vertical or horizontal), and \$50/one-eighth page (2" square"). Interested persons or business can submit inquiries to [publications@purpleheart.org](mailto:publications@purpleheart.org).

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## 2025 National Convention: Purple Hearts are WILD in Reno!



### Sponsorship Request Letter

Fellow Patriots, Associates, and Auxiliary Members,

Please help your National Convention Planning Committee to ask businesses and foundations you are familiar with to help defray the costs of our convention.

The Sponsorship Request Letter below can be personalized for your use. Click [here](#) or scan the QRC to download the letter.



We truly appreciate your support and look



forward to seeing you in Reno!

Respectfully yours in Patriotism,

*Jo Keller*

Jo Keller  
Commander  
Dept of California

*Andy LePeilbet*

Andy LePeilbet  
Commander  
Dept of Nevada



There are so many attractions and fun things to do. You can use the link below to help you plan.

[Downtown Reno | Reno Tahoe Carson](#)



### Downtown Reno

40 E 4th St, Pavilion A, Reno  
(775) 313-4080

[Email us](#) [Website](#)

### Downtown Reno

Downtown Reno is a high-energy entertainment district that's busy at all hours of the day and night. With the iconic Reno Arch as a focal point, Downtown is all about the hustle and bustle of dining, shopping, arts and culture, partying and playing in an urban center where you can walk everywhere you need to go. With everything from big-name casinos to minor league baseball, sleek nightclubs and sushi bars to casual coffee shops and burger joints, Downtown Reno has something for everyone. The nightlife scene is legendary, and the breweries are plentiful. The Truckee River runs through Downtown Reno, providing great views and recreational opportunities, including a Whitewater Center. Downtown is also a cultural center, home to Bruka Theatre, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Nevada Museum of Art, National Automobile Museum, Nevada Discovery Museum, Wingfield Park, concert venues and more. The Downtown Reno Partnership is dedicated to constant improvement of the area and has ambassadors on the streets seven days a week to assist visitors.

### THE CHANGING FACE OF DOWNTOWN RENO



### Downtown Reno's Riverwalk

The Downtown Reno Riverwalk is a lively district of the Downtown area, with plentiful shops, eateries, bars and live music venues. Easily walkable and featuring stunning river views, the Riverwalk runs from the western edge of Reno's Idlewild Park east into Wingfield Park with its own miniature island in the Truckee River. In addition to shopping, dining and cultural opportunities, the Riverwalk offers plentiful events and even outdoor recreational opportunities along the river.

## Hotel Registration

Group Code **GMOPH25**

Our Daily Group Rate for July 13, Sunday night through July 17, Thursday night is \$99, plus a \$20 Resort Fee, and a 13.5% room tax = **\$132.37** per night.

Friday and Saturday Rates are \$139 per night, plus \$20 Resort Fee and 13.5% room tax for those who wish to come early and/or wish to stay later.

There are two ways to register using our Group Code **GMOPH25** call 775-356-3272 or click [here](#).



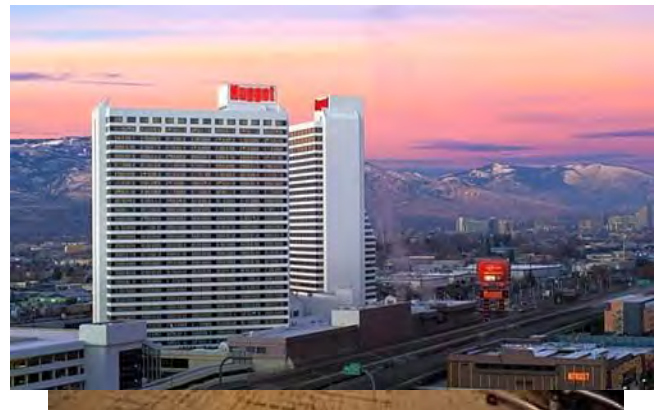
## About Nugget Casino Resort

This Sparks casino hotel is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This resort features a casino and 8 restaurants and bars. Free Wi-Fi is provided in each guest room at Nugget Casino Resort. Rooms include a cable TV with in-room movies. The spacious private bathrooms are equipped with hairdryers. The casino at Nugget Casino Resort offers 24-hour gaming, including blackjack, roulette, craps, specialty table games and a Poker Room, as well as Keno, a new Bingo Hall, a full-service Sports Book, slots, and video poker. Nugget Casino Resort offers guests an indoor pool, 8 individual bubble pools and a gym. The Skywalk Arcade, located in the hotel, provides a variety of games and a large gift shop is located on site. Reno-Tahoe International Airport is 10 minutes' drive from Nugget Casino Resort.

### Nugget Amenities

- 24-hour front desk Fitness Center
- Property is cleaned with disinfectant Restaurant
- Property confirms they are implementing guest safety measures
- Bed sheets and towels are washed at a temperature of at least 60°C/140°F
- Hot Tub or Spa Swimming Pool - Indoor
- Masks are available to guests
- Contactless check-in and check-out are available
- In room safe

- Internet Access - Free Public Access ATM Machine
- Currency Exchange Airport Transportation Business Center Lounge/Bar
- Where to eat in the Nugget:
  - Steak House
  - Oyster Bar
  - Game On
  - Tailgate Deli
  - The Rotisserie
  - Noode Nut & Sushi Bar
  - Rosie's Café
  - Starbuck's





## **MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART**

**Department of Nevada  
and  
Department of California**



Dear (Company or Person Name/ Title),

The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA Inc (MOPH) is a Congressionally Chartered Veterans Organization formed in 1932. MOPH is unique in that it is the only veteran organization exclusively for recipients of the Purple Heart Medal.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war and posthumously awarded to the next of kin in the name of the individual killed in action or dies of wounds received in action.

The organization has several departments and chapters throughout the country, in addition to Guam and Puerto Rico. The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat-wounded veterans, promote Patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and, most importantly, provide service and assistance to veterans and their families in their time of need.

National Conventions are the milestone of MOPH. The annual Convention allows members to meet and decide on the organization's future course. Not only are leaders chosen, but it's often the only time members from all over the country can socialize and exchange ideas that will assist in moving the organization forward and serving the veteran community. It is also one of the few opportunities for members to voice their issues and concerns to the national leadership directly.

In 2025, we are taking a different approach to our National Convention by having Departments Co-host the event. California and Nevada will jointly Co-Host the 2025 National Convention. The convention dates are July 14 through 18, 2025, at the Nugget Hotel and Casino in Sparks, Nevada.

This event would not succeed without the support of patriotic organizations such as yours. Your sponsorship is needed to make this a successful convention. We have created the following levels of support for your consideration. Should the levels of support not fit your budget, please contribute any amount to show your support.



Badge of Merit Sponsor	Premier Seating, one table for 8*, Full Page Advertisement, Organization or Corporate Logo in all convention marketing material**	\$7,500+
Valor Sponsor	Preferred seating, one table for 8*, 1/2-page Advertisement, Organization or Corporate Logo in all convention marketing material**	\$5,000+
Silver Star Sponsor	Preferred seating, 1/2 table for 4*, 1/2-page Advertisement, Organization or Corporate Logo in all convention marketing material**	\$2,500+

The Convention Gala is held on the last evening of the Convention, which will be on Thursday evening.

Organization or Corporate logo will be placed in all advertising/ marketing, showing the sponsorship level where appropriate.

Respectfully yours in Patriotism,

*Jo Keller*

Jo Keller, Commander  
Department of California

*Andy LePeilbet*

Andy LePeilbet, Commander  
Department of Nevada

**\*Please make your sponsorship payable to the MOPH Fund.**

The MOPH FUND, Inc. (Fund) is the charitable non-profit fundraising arm of the MOPH and is managing registrations, donations, and sponsorships for the MOPH. When you become a sponsor or make a donation, you will receive a thank-you note and a tax receipt from the Fund. The Fund is a 501.c.3 non-profit organization (EIN: 87-3168304). Your donation is 100% tax deductible, but we recommend seeking the advice of your accountant. Please use the following link or QR Code for your sponsorship:

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/d3fdf9ba-c410-4c04-b768-4ef3b613281d>



If you prefer to use a check to become a sponsor or to make your donation, **please make your checks payable to MOPH FUND and send them to: MOPH FUND, ATTN: Treasurer, 22511 N. Galicia Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375.** If you have any questions regarding this transaction, please contact Larry Leighton at 623-776-5443.

# National Medal of Honor Highway

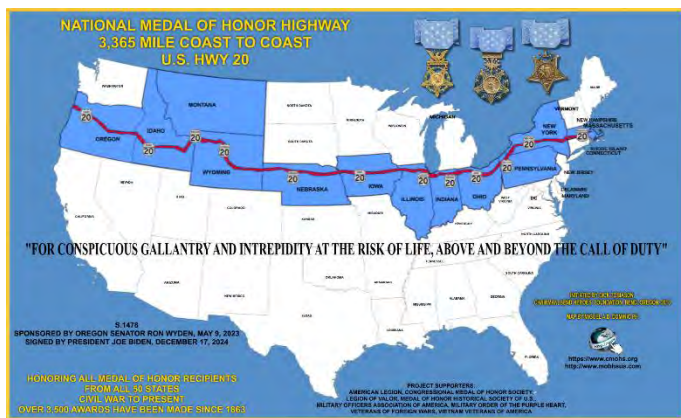
Dick Tobiason

## NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY ACROSS THE USA ON 3,365 MILE U.S. HWY 20:

With President Biden’s signature enacting the **National Medal of Honor Highway** on December 17, eight years of diligent and dedicated effort by many veterans across the USA were rewarded. The newly designated 3,365-mile highway honors all 3,526 Medal of Honor recipients from all 50 states and all future recipients of our nation’s highest award for Valor – *for acting with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life during combat against an enemy of the United States of America.*



The **National Medal of Honor Highway** stretches from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean crossing 12 states. It is the longest highway in our nation and the first of a kind tribute to Medal of Honor recipients.



*A map of the National Medal of Honor Highway created by Purple Heart recipients Dick Tobiason/OR and Miguel Dominic/ID.*

The 8-year project began with the designation of the 451-mile **Oregon Medal of Honor Highway** in 2016 and expanded eastward through 11 more states to Massachusetts in 2022 with each state’s Legislature and Governor designating its state Medal of Honor Highway. A veteran from each state was responsible for initiating the legislation and dedicating the highway. Collectively, the 12 state highways honor about 60% of all Medal of Honor recipients. To honor all recipients from all 50 states, Congress would have to pass legislation for a National Medal of Honor Highway and the President would have to sign it into law. Such a feat has never been accomplished in the past.

In order to prove there was widespread national support for the legislation, national leaders of Veterans Service Organizations chartered by Congress were requested to support the project: American Legion, Congressional Medal of Honor Society (CMOHS), Legion of Valor (LoV), Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), **Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)**,

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). The Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States (MOHHSUS) also signed on. Their 8 letters and resolutions were submitted to key members of Congress.

The bipartisan, bicameral legislative process began on May 9, 2023, and was completed on Dec. 9, 2024, with unanimous consent from the Senate and House of Representatives. Oregon Senator Ron Wyden and Pennsylvania Representative Mike Kelly introduced S.1478 and H.R. 3149, respectively. The path to completion by the House was not without challenges as time was running short. Members of our Project Team sent numerous letters to key representatives and met with them urging passage of legislation this session. We also met with key staff members. We mentioned 5 of the 65 then living MOH recipients had passed while waiting for the House to act. The House finally passed Senator Wyden's S.1478 with less than 2 weeks remaining for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress to act.

There are many veterans to thank for staying the course since 2018. I am particularly proud that MOPH members established 5 of the 12 state MOH Highways: Oregon/Dick Tobiason, Idaho/Ned Barker, Montana/Pete Oakander, Wyoming/Barry Gasdek, and Massachusetts/Brian Willette. They also stayed in contact with their delegation in Congress during the most critical period. MOPH, the smallest VSO did the most work!

Then National Commander Christopher Vedvick' support and thanks:

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

*While it took a great team effort to designate the twelve-state Medal of Honor Highways, I am particularly proud of our Purple Heart recipients in Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Massachusetts for their outstanding performance managing five of the twelve-state highways.*

*As the National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, I wholeheartedly support this initiative and urge all Americans to join us in honoring these heroes. My staff and I are eager to advocate the National Medal of Honor Highway with Congress."*

The next phases include installation of highway signs across the nation and dedication of the new **National Medal of Honor Highway**. Stay tuned for opportunities!



Brian Willets with one of the MA MOH Hwy signs.

It was a high honor for me to initiate and manage the National Medal of Honor Highway. I kept my promise to the late WWII Medal of Honor and Purple Heart (1 OLC) recipient Robert D. "Bob" Maxwell, a Director of the Bend Heroes Foundation to honor all Medal of Honor recipients from all 50 states.



Idaho MOPH Department Commander Ned Barker Standing Next to Idaho Governor Under Center of Dedicated Sign.

Purple Heart Recipient Dick Tobiason Standing Next to Idaho Governor



Purple Heart Recipient Pete Oakander Standing Under Dedicated Sign, 4th from Left.



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



Wyoming MOPH Department Commander Barry Gasdek Standing Under Dedicated Sign next to Wyoming Governor, 3rd from Right



## Endorsements and Thank-you Letters

Dick Tobiason

These VSOs chartered by Congress endorsed the legislation:

- American Legion
- Congressional Medal of Honor Society (CMOHS)
- Legion of Valor (LoV)
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
- Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
- The Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States

I sent all endorsements to key members of Congress to prove there was widespread national support for the National Medal of Honor Highway. Below is the content of the thank-you letters sent to the supporters.

*On behalf of our **National Medal of Honor Highway** project team, I want to thank you for supporting federal legislation designating the 3,365-mile **National Medal of Honor Highway** along U.S. Highway 20 the longest federal highway spanning our nation from coast to coast. I provided the MOPH letter and other letters of support from 6 national VSO commanders to key members of Congress proving widespread national support for honoring all of our nation's current 3,526 and future Medal of Honor recipients from all 50 states and territories. The VSO's support was vital to*

*causing Congress to vote unanimously in favor of the 3,365-mile honorific highway.*

*President Biden signed Oregon Senator Ron Wyden's S.1478 bill into law on December 17, 2024. I will send you a copy of the signed **National Medal of Honor Highway Act** when it becomes available.*

*I believe the National Medal of Honor Highway is the first coast to coast highway named by Congress and a President honoring veterans.*

*Thank you for reporting Congressional approval and President Biden's signing the Act in your national magazine and newsletters.*

*We will update you on opportunities to help dedicate the 3,365-mile National Medal of Honor Highway.*

*The scenic highway has become a venue for highlighting veterans' issues. Three retired Marines walked across the highway raising public awareness of our nation's 82,000 MIAs. A retired Army veteran drove a race car across the highway promoting the American Legion's "Be the One" veterans suicide prevention program.*

*I hope the VSOs will collaborate further on other coast to coast national highways honoring our nation's 625,000 Gold Star Families, 1.8 million Purple Heart recipients, and POWs and MIAs. We proved that*

*can be done with 5 MOPH members on my team initiating the National Medal of Honor Highway.*

*It was a high honor for me to initiate the Highway in Oregon and see its designation across our great nation signed into law 8 years later.*

*Alf the best for 2025!*

## Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway

**OREGON GOLD STAR FAMILIES' MEMORIAL HIGHWAY ACROSS OREGON ON 477 MILE U.S HWY 30:**

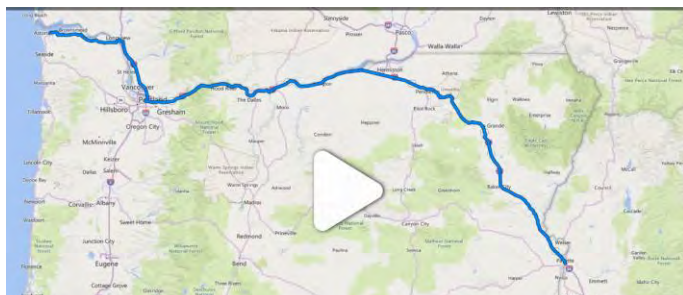
As Chairman, Bend Heroes Foundation, I initiated and implemented legislation for 8 borders to border highways across Oregon during 2008-2018. Five highways honor 480,000 wartime veterans: WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Persian Gulf/Afghanistan/Iraq Wars. Three special highways honoring Purple Heart and Medal of Honor recipients and veterans who became POWs and MIAs were also dedicated. Over 90 signs were dedicated to almost 3,000 miles of highways.



During those 5 major wars, about 6,000

veterans from Oregon made the ultimate sacrifice, about 15,000 were wounded, another 920 became POWs, and 999 veterans still remain MIA. Twenty – nine (29) Medal of Honor recipients are honored by the 451-mile **Oregon Medal of Honor Highway**. That highway was my inspiration for creating the **National Medal of Honor Highway** across our nation on the 3,365-mile U.S. Hwy 20. Congress passed legislation which was enacted into law by President Biden on Dec. 17, 2024.

For the 9<sup>th</sup> and last border to border highway in Oregon, I initiated legislation for the **Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway** on the 477-mile U.S. Hwy 30 between Astoria and the Oregon/Idaho border. That highway would honor Oregon's 6,000 Gold Star Families – perhaps 24,000 parents, siblings, spouses, sons, and daughters.



The Oregon Legislature and Governor approved my initiative after receiving testimony from 2 dozen patriots including Keith Wittnebel, Oregon MOPH Department Commander. We dedicated the **Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway** on Sept. 29 – National Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day with unveilings of 5 of 8 highway signs. The signs were funded by 22 generous donors including the Oregon MOPH Department which donated the most of any

veterans' groups – again the smallest VSO did the most. The 9 borders to border highways now total 3,447 miles with 101 signs installed at a replacement cost of nearly \$200,000 raised by Bend Heroes Foundation. On average, travelers will view a highway sign every 70 miles.



In cooperation with the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs and veterans I initiated dedication of Blue Star and Gold Star memorials provided by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. across Oregon. All 5 Oregon MOPH Chapters participated in that project.



Note how the **Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway** intersects with the war highways connecting Gold Star Families with their lost loved ones. The combined length of the 9 highways within Oregon exceeds the 3,365-mile **National Medal of Honor**

**Highway** by 82 miles.

Like the legislation for the Oregon Medal of Honor Highway, the Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway bill envisioned a **National Gold Star Families Memorial Highway** across our nation on the 3,073-mile coast to coast U.S. Hwy 30 (3<sup>rd</sup> longest highway in the USA). Hopefully, the American Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Wives of America and veterans will accept the challenge to honor 625,000 Gold Star Families – perhaps 2.5 million parents, siblings, spouses, sons, and daughters.

## Suicide Prevention Program

Anthony Hixon

National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Officer



## Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness month. Let's take March and April to look for local activities going on for May and get the word out about these events

and posted on our social media pages. We can also look forward to seeing if we could participate in any of these events. The events for Mental health awareness and Suicide prevention are great opportunities to get our faces out there in the community, as well as recruitment and information for our organization. One place to start looking at is our local VA web page. On their web



site on the left side of the screen is news and events, click on events to see if there are any. If you are not sure how to get the word out for these events you can contact me, and I will help get the word out. If your Chapter or Department is involved with an event let us know. We have funds available from National to help support these types of events, and we need to use these funds (contact me for more information).

Email: [anthonyhixon3440@yahoo.com](mailto:anthonyhixon3440@yahoo.com) or [suicideawareness@purpleheart.org](mailto:suicideawareness@purpleheart.org)

*Anthony "Tony" Hixon*

### **PTSD Bytes: Reducing suicide risk**

Limiting access to lethal means provides time to get support

February 10, 2025; Catherine Tang  
Virtual Student Federal Service Intern  
<https://news.va.gov/138194/ptsd-bytes-reducing-suicide-risk/>

### **Lethal means safety and PTSD**

Lethal means are objects or tools that someone might use to harm themselves, such as firearms, ropes, belts, sharp objects, or medications. Having easy access to these items can increase the risk of suicide particularly during times of emotional distress or crisis.

Suicide attempts often happen impulsively, so limiting access to lethal means can provide individuals with the time they need to get support and survive the crisis.

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental health condition that is relatively common among Veterans and is associated with increased suicide risk. PTSD symptoms such as heightened emotional distress, flashbacks, and the feeling of being constantly threatened or on guard can intensify suicidal thoughts.

It is recommended to secure lethal means at home, especially when someone is going through a difficult time managing PTSD.

### **Practical steps to reduce access to lethal means**

Medication safety: Medications, particularly opioids, can increase the risk of both suicide and unintentional overdose, making it important to dispose of expired or excess medications. Safe medication disposal helps reduce this risk. Veterans can return unused or expired medications using VA-provided mail-in envelopes.

Many local pharmacies and all VA pharmacies offer Naloxone (Narcan), a medication that reverses opioid overdoses, which can be prescribed and kept on hand. There are also medication disposal bins at nearly any pharmacy or VA clinic.

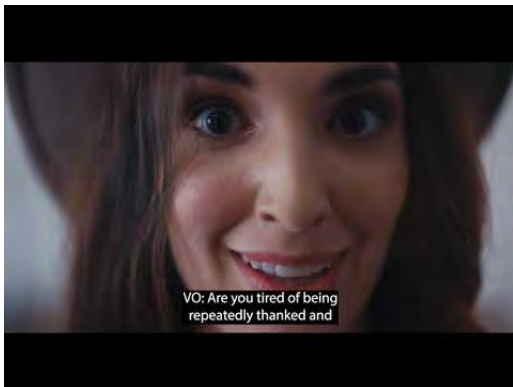
Securing firearms: The safest way to reduce the risk of firearm-related suicide is to temporarily store firearms outside the home. This can be done by storing firearms in a trusted location, such as a gun range, a friend or family member's home, or a retail setting that offers secure storage.

Websites such as [Pierce's Pledge](#) provide



information about law enforcement and firearm retail settings across the nation that can hold onto firearms for individuals. There are also options within the household that can reduce suicide risk, such as securing firearms in a locked gun safe, unloaded and separated from ammunition.

### **Video on the importance of safe firearm storage**



### **Addressing challenges to lethal means safety**

Securing firearms can be one of the most effective ways to reduce risk of Veteran suicides. However, many Americans own firearms for self-protection and attach emotional value to them. This means that even the idea of changing firearm storage practices or temporarily removing them from the home can feel uncomfortable. This discomfort may be especially challenging for individuals who have a history of trauma or PTSD because their heightened sense of threat may make them feel more generally unsafe.

If you're hesitant to reduce your access to firearms, have a conversation with your health care provider about situations in which you truly need firearms for

protection.

While legitimate self-defense situations do occur, the reality for most people is that their firearms may not be required in their everyday lives. Discussing the long-term benefits of securing firearms and focusing on alternatives for protection can help individuals make more informed and safer decisions.

### **Resources for support**

There are several digital tools and resources that can help both Veterans and non-Veterans reduce access to lethal means.

[Safety Plan Mobile app](#): This free app helps users develop a six-step safety plan to navigate suicidal thinking. The sixth step helps users identify ways to keep their environment safe by reducing access to lethal means, like firearms or medications.

[VA Lethal Means Safety Resources website](#): Veterans and their loved ones can visit this website for more information on firearm safety, medication disposal and crisis support.

Additional links are:

[Medication disposal tips from VA Center for Medication Safety \(VA MedSAFE\)](#).

[Nationwide prescription medication disposal location finder](#).

[Prescription Drug Take Back Day locations](#).

[Learn more about VA mental health apps](#).

[Find mental health treatment at VA](#).

[Find mental health treatment outside of VA.](#)

More [PTSD Bytes episodes.](#)

If you are a Veteran who is experiencing a crisis or supporting a loved one who is, call 988 and press 1 for immediate assistance

## Play HOOK-e from PTSD

Stitching the wounded hearts of veterans.  
Text and Photos by Greg Kucharewski.



*Lake Julianna Annual Disabled Veteran and "Kid's Wish'n to go Fish'n" Event*

The Vietnam Veterans of America Shore Area Chapter 12 "Play HOOK-e from PTSD" program is geared towards serving veterans struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) but other veterans are also welcome to attend our programs and events. This helps veteran men and women take time to heal by utilizing eco-therapy activities with other veterans. The goal is to connect veterans to Veteran Administration Service Offices and VA Outreach Centers, State Fish and Wildlife/Parks and Forestry Activities, Outdoor Sports Clubs, and Veteran

Organizations.

What is "Play HOOK-e from PTSD" ? It is a Veteran eco-therapy program established in October 2011, that promotes healthy outdoor activities for veterans and their families. Warfighters connect with warfighters and the "Play Hook-e" program is implemented by volunteers for all veterans and their families. The fishing program can help relieve PTSD symptoms, provide a supportive environment, and teach an individual sportfishing skills while also encouraging veterans to try other activities to manage their PTSD symptoms. The first step in the program is to have veterans register and participate in a free fishing program or workshop activity that they would like to try. The activity can be as simple as learning to tie fishing knots and setting up a rod and reel to learn how to cast. Participants are assisted by volunteer instructors to familiarize them with fishing. If space is available veterans can also sign up with their families to learn a new skill. Play HOOK-e instructors are familiar with teaching saltwater and freshwater fishing skills and most instructors have attended a "NJ Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs" or Future Fisherman Foundation online workshop.

Some veterans have never tried fishing to manage their PTSD and after a few fishing sessions we explain how their new skills will help them cope with PTSD and teach them about how relaxing outdoors improves their quality of life by reducing stress. Offering fishing opportunities and other activities in our bi-monthly Play HOOK-e newsletter

encourages veterans to get outside to begin the healing process. Winter months in the north can be challenging for veterans that have limited mobility, and we suggest other programs such as music and art therapy, yoga, and attending outdoor enthusiast sporting shows. Our Play HOOK-e instructors commented, “getting veterans to participate in eco-therapy programs with friends and family helps veterans find new hobbies that they might never have thought about exploring.” Writing this article and speaking to our volunteers about what they enjoyed most has made me look back on the many successes of the program and the veterans and families that benefited. At an annual Lake Julianna fishing day during the pandemic, we were asked to combine our disabled veteran fishing day with our annual disabled “Kids Wish’n to go Fish’n” day. As volunteers, we didn’t know how this was going to work with two user groups that were disabled and shared multiple health needs. Well, we took a chance to make it happen and we found out this was one of our best events and we will be celebrating the “9th Annual “PLAY HOOK- e” Veterans, Children with Disabilities and Active-Duty Military Fishing Day on Saturday, August 23, 2025. Veterans will help disabled children learn to fish and disabled children will provide our PTSD veterans purpose to help. I remember another memorable time; veterans were being honored at an airfield where volunteer pilots took veterans for rides in small helicopters and small planes. The smiles and camaraderie were unbelievable, and it sparked our first women veteran fly-in. Another memorable event I recall is when two veterans met at one of

our fishing events that had not seen one another since the Vietnam War and served together. This is the kind of stuff that keeps the fuel going for our volunteers for the next learning session. Nothing beats a thank you from a wife that is grateful that we take her husband fishing, and she has some free time to relax from caring for him or the veteran that reconnected with his son at a Troopers Assisting Troops Marine Police event. The veteran didn’t speak to his son for many years because of his PTSD and now they have found a connection through fishing, they are inseparable! Another event I recall is about Stanley Perlman, US Army Ret. First Sergeant. I met Stan at a Play HOOK-e 2012 fly-in event promoted by Rich Thomas at LZ 64 that was held to honor veterans. A few years later, I learned that Stan received five purple hearts over his 32 years of military service. We all have stories about our military service and hearing about these stories strengthens the bond between us. We nominated Stan for a “Quilt of Valor” that was presented at a Vietnam Veterans of America Shore Area Chapter 12 event. During 2017, Stan documented his service record at the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey, Center for US War Veterans Oral Histories. To learn more about Stanley Perlman’s five purple hearts and how you can participate in a veteran history project, view this link>>.







Rebecca's Reel Quilters Quilts of Valor

Over 100 Quilts of Valor were presented at Play HOOK-e events.

The program has been so successful I was asked to speak to Therapeutic Recreation Specialists at the 2016 Therapeutic Recreation Institute in Orlando, Florida and at the Ohio Association for Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance conference in Sandusky, Ohio to educate them about effective ways to work with veterans. While at the conference we discussed how to introduce PTSD/TBI veterans to fishing, along with how to partner with state fish and wildlife agencies and local veteran organizations. I also traveled to other states to provide guidance for initiating a Play HOOK-e fishing event or taking PTSD veterans fishing, but now my travel is limited due to other commitments.

PTSD is not a visible injury that others are able to see or understand the sensitivity of a

person's PTSD symptoms. I am sure many veterans awarded the Purple Heart have PTSD and struggle with the emotional triggers that take them back to the trauma they experienced. As one veteran explained his PTSD to me, "It's like having a frightening movie playing in your head over and over and you need to change the movie to feel better." The Play HOOK-e from PTSD fishing program is not a cure for PTSD but it is like taking a mini vacation from haunting thoughts and it teaches veterans mind awareness to reset their thoughts.

Over the years, we presented hundreds of fishing programs for veterans residing in Florida, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Ohio, and Maryland. A lot of thought went into the Play HOOK-e logo design to bring our message to the veteran community: 1. The fish image represents veterans traveling in schools, like fish and first responders, veterans are a brotherhood. Not all civilians understand our comradery and trust; 2. The word HOOK is to get veterans "Hooked" on the program to offer them help to learn a new lifetime leisure and coping skill; 3. The center of the logo represents the Vietnam service ribbon and reminder "never again will one generation of veterans abandon another;" 4. The letter (E) on the tail represents Escape from EMOTIONS. The "e" is in the shape of a circle hook because haunting thoughts return, and veterans are reminded to Play HOOK- e and ESCAPE to healthy outdoor activities and 5. The tail of a fish propels it forward and reminds PTSD veterans to keep marching forward. The "Play HOOK-e Go Fishing" logo does not



label a veteran with PTSD, but it is “the hook” to capture the attention of veterans that might want to explore fishing programs.

In summary, we offered veterans “one to one” and small group outdoor programs to teach them fishing skills, along with promoting services within and outside of the Veteran Administration. We also introduced veterans to accessible fishing locations in their state, such as fresh and saltwater fishing opportunities close to their hometown. PTSD veterans engage in fishing quickly because it is something they can experience by themselves, with family, or with another veteran. Veterans that suffer from hypervigilance and fear of large gatherings can participate because the fishing experience is designed to meet the health needs of the veteran. Sportfishing is also perfect for ageing veterans with limited mobility and our volunteer anglers lend support to teach veterans a variety of fishing skills to complement and enhance their abilities. Volunteers are the reason for the success of the Play HOOK-e from PTSD program. Volunteers include veterans that were struggling with their own PTSD and became mentors to veteran family members that help provide a supportive environment for other veterans. The picture portfolio below summarizes our accomplishments. We appreciate all the contributors and volunteers that spent time to heal the hearts of our veteran men and women.



In our free bi-monthly Play HOOK-e newsletter we promote other organizations and groups with eco-therapy options such as, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Art Therapy, Guitars4Vets, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Troopers Assisting Troops, Heroes on the Water Kayak Fishing and State Parks and Forestry Activities to name a few. To broaden the scope of the Play HOOK-e from PTSD program we encourage veterans to participate in other programs and let them know they can experience other activities to enhance their healing process.

We are here to support veteran men and women that want to put their big toe in the water and try to limit PTSD symptoms through utilizing healthy activities and a variety of eco-therapy options. If you would like to receive the bi-monthly Play HOOK-e Newsletter and view past issues of our accomplishments, [click here](#)>> subscribe in the upper left corner of the newsletter. We support our younger veterans, and we are proud to follow the VVA motto “Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another.”

This is the link to our latest Play HOOK-e [Newsletter](#).

## AMVETS Tour Across America

Jo Keller

The AMVETS ONE Tour across America is preparing to roll out and is seeking partners to support with resources for mental health, Suicide Awareness, your story of healing and overcoming.

Currently joining us are the V.A., Vet Centers, Behavioral Health professionals, TBI Warrior Foundation, Grand Canyon University, Army Grunt Museum and many more.

### May is Mental Health Awareness Month!



### Engaging all Veteran Service Organizations and our Community.

**Together we can save lives by protecting those who protected us.**

- May 5: Houston, TX**
- May 6: Tyler, TX**
- May 7: Tyler, TX**
- May 8: Austin, TX**
- May 9: San Antonio, TX**
- May 10: El Paso, TX**
- May 11: Tucson, AZ**
- May 12: Phoenix, AZ**

\*\*Stops are subject to change, please check the page for updates.

## [AMVETS ONE - AMVETS, Dept. of CA Service Foundation](#)

A dedicated team of AMVETS from the Department of California will head out across America to raise awareness and highlight local resources to reduce stigma and prevent Veteran suicide. **AMVETS ONE: "Tour Across America"** 2025 will be traveling to eight locations throughout Texas & Arizona to connect with other Veteran service organizations and the community to share our mission: **LEAVING NO VETERAN BEHIND**. Please join us in saving lives by protecting those who protect us..



Click [here](#) to find Links and Resources for Suicide Prevention.

Join our team at a press conference, host a resource table or come out and support your fellow veterans. To learn more about AMVETS ONE, the tour, sponsorship levels and benefits, please [click here](#) or contact us at [\(714\) 761-5811](tel:7147615811) or email us at [AMVETSONE@amvetscasf.org](mailto:AMVETSONE@amvetscasf.org).

## Social Media Program

Beth Bucek  
Social Media Director



**Let's Keep the Momentum Going!**  
Hey Purple Heart Family,

I just want to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who has

supported MOPH by engaging with us online, volunteering, and sharing your stories. It truly makes a difference in how we connect with veterans, supporters, and the public.

We're still looking for volunteers with social media, marketing, or content creation skills. If you enjoy making videos, reels, graphics, or just have creative ideas to share, we'd love your help! This is a flexible way to contribute—whether you have a few hours a week or just want to offer suggestions, every bit counts.

### **Chapters & Members – We Want to Feature You!**

If your chapter has hosted an event, honored a veteran, or participated in community outreach, send us your photos and videos! We love showcasing the amazing work of our members. Please remember to keep submissions non-political as we focus on celebrating and supporting our mission.

If you're interested in volunteering or

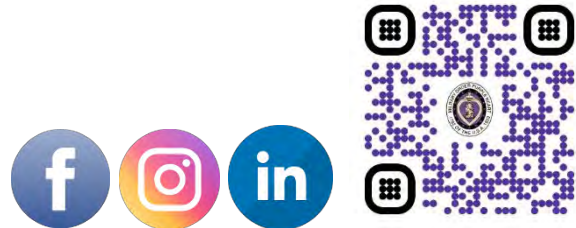
submitting content, reach out to me at [socialmediadirector@purpleheart.org](mailto:socialmediadirector@purpleheart.org). And don't forget to follow us on social media; scan the QR code or click the links below to stay connected.

Thank you for all that you do. Let's keep making 2025 a year of impact, remembrance, and support!

Respectfully,  
*Beth Bucek*

Social Media Director

Military Order of the Purple Heart  
[socialmedia@purpleheart.org](mailto:socialmedia@purpleheart.org)



## Legislative Program

Angelo Wilder  
National Legislative Director



### **2024-25 Legislative Agenda**

Our legislative agenda focuses on four critical pieces of legislation that directly impact on our veteran community and

the sanctity of our military honors. These initiatives represent our commitment to

protecting both our living veterans and the sacred symbols of their sacrifice. Every day of delay costs lives and diminishes the honors we've earned. Below are the key initiatives we are pursuing:

### 1. Military Medals Protection Act

- Establishes DOD exclusive trademark authority over military medals
- Protects Congressionally chartered veterans' organizations' rights
- Prevents unauthorized commercial exploitation of military honors
- Strengthens enforcement against unauthorized use
- Builds upon existing protections under 18 U.S. Code § 705 and § 704

### 2. National Green Alert Act (H.R.2797)

- Creates nationwide alert system for at-risk missing veterans
  - Leverages proven success of AMBER Alert (7% recovery rate) and Silver Alert (95% success rate)
  - Addresses critical need highlighted by Operation Deep Dive study showing veteran suicide rates may be as high as 44 per day
- Establishes standardized response protocols and VA service integration
- Builds upon successful Wisconsin model (SB 473, 2018)

### 3. Healthy Heroes Act

- Revolutionizes VA healthcare approach
- Integrates alternative and holistic

treatment options

- Establishes medical marijuana research programs
- Addresses veteran homelessness (33,000 veterans homeless nightly)
- Creates comprehensive mental health and substance abuse treatment programs

### 4. Fulfilling the Legacy Act

- Modernizes Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)
- Provides premium recapture when spouse predeceases retiree
- Establishes medical and funeral expense coverage
- Creates beneficiary flexibility for dependent adult children
- Addresses average losses of USD 30,000-50,000 in paid premiums

### Call To Action:

- Support needed for all four initiatives
- Emphasis on urgency given current veteran crisis statistics
- Focus on bipartisan appeal of protecting veterans and their families
- Mobilization of membership for grassroots support

### Legislation introduced to support veterans, increase transparency

By Sarah Roderick-Fitch | The Center Square, 2025-01-17

(The Center Square) – Four pieces of legislation aimed at supporting veterans



while increasing transparency and accountability in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs have been reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Virginia Rep. Rob Wittman hopes the legislation will streamline VA services and provide them with targeted care, including medical care and legal assistance.

“These bills make it easier for veterans to access services within the VA, improve the care they receive once they enter the VA system, and help connect veterans with mental health and counseling resources during times of crisis,” said the Republican congressman.

The Be Ready to Assist Veterans in Extremis, or [BRAVE Act](#), would create a notification system that would alert veterans of counseling and mental health options “in response to crises and prioritizes privacy concerns” impacting veterans. It would target veterans who have experienced a “traumatic or highly stressful event” by giving them the option to receive those notifications.

[The Veterans Choice Accountability Act](#) would expand veteran access to non-VA medical care. In addition, it would establish “a review of the VA’s implementation of the Veterans Choice Program.” It would direct the secretary of the VA to evaluate all programs that provide hospital care, medical services, and nursing care “to determine the most intensively used specialized care programs” within the department.

[The Veterans Collaboration Act](#) would

establish a VA two-year pilot program “to foster collaboration between qualified” non-profit veteran service organizations and educational institutions, specifically law schools, to assist veterans. The program is aimed at utilizing a relationship with law schools to help veterans file claims and appeals with the department for disability compensation and addressing additional legal needs while providing pro bono legal assistance.

[The Veterans Affairs Transfer of Information and Sharing of Disability Examination Procedures with DoD Doctors Act](#) would expedite medical care access while “not subjecting” veterans to additional medical screenings prior to issuing VA disability ratings. It would also require the VA and Department of Defense to share service and medical records electronically.

Wittman hopes the legislation will remove administrative roadblocks to VA services and ultimately improve the department's “customer experience.”

## **Veterans’ 2nd Amendment Rights** (Includes National Commander Olivarez’s comments which are highlighted.)

Chairmen Moran, Bost & Sen. Kennedy Introduce Legislation to Protect Veterans’ Second Amendment Rights

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and Rep. Mike Bost (R-Ill.) – chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans’ Affairs – and Sen.

John Kennedy (R-La.) introduced legislation to prevent veterans from losing their Second Amendment right to purchase or own firearms when they receive help managing their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits.

Under current law, when VA appoints a fiduciary to a veteran who needs assistance managing their finances and VA benefits because of a disability, that veteran is immediately reported to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) list and stripped of their Second Amendment right to legally purchase and own a firearm absent any due process, without any findings by a court of law that the veteran may be a danger to themselves or others.

"Veterans should never be forced to choose between receiving assistance from VA to manage their benefits and their fundamental Second Amendment rights," **said Sen. Moran**. "Our nation should be encouraging veterans to utilize VA services, not discouraging them by denying them due process. *The Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act* makes certain that the rights of those who have served are protected, and that veterans are not penalized for receiving support that they have earned and deserve. I thank Sen. Kennedy for his partnership in this effort."

"It should go without saying that veterans should not be treated like second-class citizens simply because they need help managing their books – but under current law they are," **said Rep. Bost**. "Without a

permanent fix in place, VA bureaucrats can continue to strip veterans with fiduciaries of their Second Amendment right with no court ruling in place that they are a danger to themselves or others. It's as simple as that. I have heard from too many veterans that VA's current NICS reporting measures prevent them from seeking mental health care at VA – we must change that. I want to thank Chairman Moran, Senator Kennedy, and my House colleagues for working with me last Congress to pass a temporary solution, but veterans need a permanent fix. House and Senate Republicans will fulfill the American people's mandate to get this bill to President Trump's desk to protect veterans' due process and constitutional rights for good."

"Our veterans should not receive less due process rights than other Americans just because they served our country and asked the federal government for a helping hand," **said Sen. Kennedy**. "Under the VA's interpretation of the law, however, unelected bureaucrats punish Louisiana and America's veterans by forcing them to choose between their Second Amendment rights and getting the help they need as they manage their financial affairs. I'm proud to introduce the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act to stand up for veterans' constitutional rights by ending this unfair practice."

The *Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act* is cosponsored by Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.), Mike Rounds (S.D.), Kevin Cramer (N.D.), Jim

Banks (R-Ind.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.).

Sens. Moran and Kennedy authored an amendment to the *Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act of 2024* that was signed into law by former President Biden that afforded veterans with fiduciaries their Second Amendment rights. However, the temporary policy will expire on March 14, 2025, without a permanent legislative fix in place.

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mike Bost (R-Ill.) introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives that was cosponsored by 40 members.

#### **Quotes of Support:**

"On behalf of 1.6 million Legionnaires across the country, I salute Senator Moran and his colleagues' quick efforts to end the ongoing injustice within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) fiduciary program," **said Mario A. Marquez, The American Legion Executive Director of Government Affairs.** "Our nation's veterans swore to support and defend the constitution, including the right to due process, and should not have their own rights to purchase and own firearms arbitrarily infringed by department bureaucrats. The Legion looks forward to working with the Senate and House Leadership in Congress to ensure this legislation is signed into law."

"The VFW supports the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act that would preserve veterans' Second Amendment rights by ending VA's practice of referring their names to the National Criminal Background Check System without judicial review," **said Nancy Springer, Veterans of Foreign Wars Associate Director of the National Legislative Service.** "Veterans would be able to obtain VA medical and mental health care, and employ a fiduciary if needed, without fear of inadvertently losing their constitutional rights. The VFW applauds Chairmen Moran and Bost, and Senator Kennedy for introducing this bill, and we call for its swift passage."

"It is an absolute tragedy to know that a system that is meant to assist veterans with a financial problem is being used as some back-door gun control measure that robs a veteran of their constitutional rights," **said Robert Olivarez Jr., Military Order of the Purple Heart National Commander.** "This unfair practice must stop now."

"All Americans are guaranteed the right to due process under the Constitution," **said John Commerford, Executive Director of NRA-ILA.** "Regrettably, veterans who have VA benefits administered through a fiduciary have been held to a different standard when it comes to their Second Amendment rights. The NRA thanks Chairman Moran and Senator Kennedy for their commitment to reversing this blatantly unconstitutional policy."

The bill is also supported by Paralyzed Veterans of America, the National Disability

Rights Network, Vietnam Veterans of America, the Black Veterans Empowerment Council, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Gun Owners of America, AMAC Action, the Firearms Regulatory Accountability Coalition, Turning Point Action, and National Association for Gun Rights.

**Here is a link to the Article:**

<https://www.veterans.senate.gov/2025/2/c-hairmen-moran-bost-sen-kennedy-introduce-legislation-to-protect-veterans-second-amendment-rights>

## **Saving TRICARE for Life**

**(Part of the March on the Hill Information)**

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF): The Military Order of the Purple Heart, USA, Inc. (MOPH) opposes any changes to the TRICARE for Life Program.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has once again targeted TRICARE for Life (TFL) in its biennial report outlining options for reducing the deficit.

In its Fiscal Year (FY) Report published in December 2024, once again, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has recommended changes to the TRICARE for Life (TFL) Program that could cost its beneficiaries thousands of dollars out of pocket costs. The CBO reports recommend savings that could be achieved by requiring a TFL enrollment fee or minimum out-of-pocket cost requirement.

Military Retirees already have fulfilled all the requirements to earn their health care benefit, and the MOPH opposes any CBO recommended changes to TFL, including fee increases designed to shift costs from the Department of Defense (DoD) to Retirees over 65 years of age who rely on TFL.

While there is no current legislation proposing TRICARE fee increases or copays, the MOPH takes these CBO recommendations seriously, given the pressures to reduce the DoD budget and past precedent for such advocacy. Some of the CBO recommendations options included in the CBO report are:

### **TFL Enrollment Fee:**

TFL enrollment for Military Retirees is automatic once a beneficiary starts paying Medicare Part B premiums. Currently, there is no enrollment fee or monthly premium for TFL coverage.

One of the two CBO proposals would require Medicare-eligible Military Retirees beneficiaries who choose to enroll in TFL to pay ***an annual enrollment fee of \$610 for individual coverage or \$1,220 for family coverage***. In addition, the enrollment fees would be indexed to increase at the same rate as average Medicare costs in later years.

### **TFL Copays and Cost Sharing:**

The second CBO recommendation affecting TFL would introduce minimum out-of-pocket requirements, including a \$850 deductible, meaning TFL would not cover any of the first



\$850 of a beneficiary's Medicare cost-sharing. For the first \$4,250 in total medical expenses each year, Medicare would pay its 80% (or \$3,400) while the TFL beneficiary would be responsible for the full \$850 not covered by Medicare.

After the initial deductible is satisfied, TFL will then cover only 50% of the next \$7,650 in Medicare cost-sharing. This means TFL beneficiaries could face **up to \$4,675 in cost-sharing per year**. As with the enrollment fee recommendation, the cost-sharing requirements will increase annually at the same rate as Medicare cost increases.

### **Protecting Earned Benefits:**

As in previous years, recommendations outlined in the CBO report come from past proposed legislation or budget proposals, congressional offices, federal agencies, and the private sector. "As a collection, the options are intended to reflect a range of possibilities, not a ranking of priorities or an exhaustive list," the report states. "Inclusion or exclusion of any particular option does not imply approval or disapproval by CBO, and the report makes no recommendations."

While the MOPH applauds Congress' efforts of addressing the deficit, it must first ensure obligations and promises made to those who are currently serving and who have served a full career in uniform are kept. MOPH seriously opposes all CBO recommendations, now and in the future that increase costs to Military Retirees and Veterans who rely on TFL for their health care. The TFL benefit is a crucial package

contained in the compensation and benefits package that has sustained the recruiting and retention efforts of our service members throughout several decades of combat. The MOPH will enlist the assistance of our fellow Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) to help protect the future of TFL for current working-age retirees and career service members who are counting on TFL as a critical part of their future retirement plans.

The MOPH will be looking for any indications that CBO's recommendations to change the TFL program are being considered for implementation. Annual budget requests are due in February but sometimes delayed during the first year of a new administration. Sometimes these delays give us our first glimpse at any potential proposals to increase TRICARE fees.

Lastly, the MOPH will enlist the assistance of our fellow Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) to help protect the future of TFL for current working-age retirees and career service members who are counting on TFL as a critical part of their future retirement plans.

### **Expansion of VA Dental Services (Part of the March on the Hill Information)**

Currently, Veterans may receive Veterans Affairs Dental Care only if they meet the current myriads of confusing number of qualifications listed in Part C below. However, there are thousands of Veterans

who need dental care but either do not qualify for VA provided Dental Care or cannot afford either VA or private Dental Care. This is an absolute travesty by denying much needed support to Veterans who have served this great nation. It is known and proven that by not taking care of one's dental needs, it can lead to 15 systemic health issues, thereby emphasizing the importance of maintaining good dental hygiene.

### **Understanding Oral Systemic Health:**

Oral systemic health refers to the growing body of research that demonstrates the link between oral health and overall body health. Numerous studies have shown that poor oral health can contribute to serious health conditions.

### **15 Key Health Conditions Linked to Oral Systemic Health:**

The mouth serves as a gateway to the rest of the body. Healthcare professionals continue to uncover evidence supporting the oral-systemic link. Symptoms of various health issues, such as diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease, can often be detected first in the mouth. Harmful bacteria originating in the mouth can enter the bloodstream, leading to the following severe systemic conditions:

1. Cardiovascular Disease
2. Alzheimer's Disease
3. Periodontal Disease
4. Diabetes
5. High-Risk Pregnancy
6. Cancer

7. Obstructive Sleep Apnea
8. Obesity
9. Respiratory Issues
10. Rheumatoid Arthritis
11. Osteoporosis
12. Kidney Disease
13. Prostate/Erectile Dysfunction
14. COVID-19
15. Infertility

The Military Order of the Purple Heart requests that Congress pass legislation directing the US Department of Veterans Affairs to change and simplify the Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA) Directive 1130(1) which establishes the policy for oral [Dental] health care services for eligible Veterans and the responsibilities of the oral [Dental] healthcare delivery personnel (Dentists to include Prosthodontists, Periodontists, Oral and Maxillary Surgeons and etc., Registered Dental Hygienists (RDA), Dental Assistants and/or Technicians, and other related Dental/Medical personnel) as needed. In addition, VHA Directive describes the essential components for implementing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Dental Program nationally to ensure eligible Veterans have access to seamless dental care through VA medical facilities or community care.

Veterans who qualify for no cost (free) healthcare at the 50% VA Disability Compensation rate should also qualify for no cost VA Dental Care. Veterans whose VA Disability Compensation rate is 40% or lower should have the opportunity/ability to purchase LOW-COST VA Dental Care or for

those who qualify for Medicare, have their Dental Care covered under Medicare Part C.

### A. VA Dental Benefits include:

1. Regularly scheduled cleaning and x-rays.
2. Restorative procedures such as fillings, crowns, and bridges.
3. Comfortable, well-fitting dentures.
4. Oral surgery, such as tooth extractions.
5. Dental implants.
6. Access to oral and facial reconstruction surgery resulting from trauma or serious illness.
7. Veterans enrolled in VA health care can also purchase dental insurance at a reduced cost through the VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP).

### B. How can I get VA Dental Care Benefits for some or all of my dental care?

It depends on a number of factors, like your military service history and your current health and living situation. Based on these factors, VA places you into a benefits class—and you get the specific benefits assigned to that class. See below for more information regarding current qualifications for VA Dental Care:

### C. What VA Dental Care Benefits do you qualify for?

1. I have a service-connected dental disability or condition for which I receive compensation (monthly payments).  
You're in: Class I.  
You may qualify for: Any needed dental care.
2. I'm a former prisoner of war.  
You're in: Class IIC.  
You may qualify for: Any needed dental care.
3. I have one or more service-connected disabilities rated 100% disability.  
You're in: Class IV.  
You may qualify for: Any needed dental care\*.

**\*Please note:** If you're being paid at the 100% disabling rate based on a temporary rating (for a reason such as a long stay in the hospital or rehab care), that doesn't qualify you for this benefit.

4. I'm unemployable (unable to work), and I get disability compensation at the 100% disabling rate due to service-connected conditions.  
You're in: Class IV  
You may qualify for: Any dental care needed\*

**\*Please note:** If you're being paid at the 100% disabling rate based on a temporary rating (for a reason such as a long stay in the hospital or rehab care), that doesn't qualify you for this benefit.

5. I served on active duty for 90 days or more during the Persian Gulf War era.

You're in: Class II.

You may qualify for: One-time dental care if you meet all of the requirements listed below:

All of these must be true for you:

- You didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, and
- You apply for dental care within 180 days of discharge or release, and
- Your DD214 certificate of discharge doesn't show that you had a complete dental exam, and all needed dental treatment before you were discharged\*.

**\*Please note:** If you got a dental award letter from VBA dated before 1955 stating that your dental conditions aren't compensable, then you are no longer eligible for Class II outpatient dental treatment. This is because of Public Law 83, which was enacted June 16, 1955, and which amended Veterans' eligibility for outpatient dental services.

6. I have a service-connected no compensable dental condition (a dental condition that you're not getting disability payments for) or a disability that's the result of combat wounds or service trauma.

**You're in:** Class IIA.

**You may qualify for:** Any dental care needed to make sure you have and can keep a functioning dentition (a working set of teeth).

**You should know:** A Dental Trauma Rating (VA Form 10-564-D) or VA Regional Office Rating Decision letter (VA Form 10-7131) will tell you the tooth/teeth/condition(s) that are

trauma rated.

7. A VA dental care provider has concluded that my dental condition is linked to a service-connected health condition and is making that condition worse.

You're in: Class III.

You may qualify for: Dental care to treat the oral conditions that a VA dental care provider concludes are directly making your service-connected health condition worse.

8. I'm active in a 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31 Veteran Readiness and Employment program.

You're in: Class V.

You may qualify for: Dental care that a VA dental care provider concludes is needed to achieve at least one of the goals listed below"

The dental care must be needed to:

- Make it possible for you to be in the employment program, or
- Make it possible for you to reach the goals of your Veteran Readiness and Employment program, or
- Prevent you from having to stop your employment program, or
- Help you get back to your employment program faster if you've had to stop (and are in "interrupted" or "leave" status), or
- Help you get back to your employment program faster if you've had to stop (and are in "discontinued" status) because of an illness, injury, or dental condition, or



- Make it possible for you to get and adjust to a job during the period of employment assistance, or
- Make it possible for you to be fully independent in your daily life.

9. I get VA care or am scheduled for inpatient care for a health condition—and I need dental care for a dental issue that’s making my health condition harder to treat.

You are in: Class VI.

You may qualify for: Dental care to treat the dental issue that a VA dental care provider finds is making the health condition you’re being treated for harder to treat.

10. I’m signed up to get care through the Homeless Veterans Dental Program (VHA Directive 2007-039).

You’re in: Class IIB

You may qualify for: A one-time course of dental care that a VA dental care provider concludes you need to achieve at least one of the goals listed below.

The dental care must be needed to:

- Relieve your pain, or
- Help you get a job, or
- Treat your moderate, severe, or complicated and severe gingival and periodontal conditions (gum infections that can lead to pain, swelling, and bone and tooth loss if not treated).

11. I currently get inpatient care in a hospital, nursing home, or other supervised homelike care setting (called domiciliary care).

You’re in: Inpatient status.

You may qualify for: Dental services that a VA dental care provider—working with your primary care provider—concludes you need to manage a health condition a doctor is currently treating you for.

#### **D. How do I apply for VA dental care benefits?**

You can apply online by filling out the 10-10EZ health care application.

#### **E. Where do I go for VA dental care?**

We provide dental care to qualified Veterans at over 200 dental clinics across the country, including Alaska and Puerto Rico.

#### **F. If I can’t get VA dental care benefits, can I get help buying dental insurance?**

You may be able to buy dental insurance at a reduced cost through the VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) if you meet at least one of the requirements listed below. At least one of these must be true:

- You’re signed up for VA health care or,
- You’re signed up for our Civilian Health and Medical Program (also called CHAMPVA, a health insurance program for dependents of Veterans)

## **Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)** **(Part of the March on the Hill Information)**

As most of us know Military Retired Pay stops upon the death of the Retiree resulting in a substantial decrease in income for the surviving spouse or other eligible family members.

For those Retirees who elected to enroll in the Department of Defense Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), the surviving spouse or other eligible family members will receive a continuous annuity for the lifetime of the beneficiary. The annuity is based on a percentage of the Retiree's retired pay and pays the survivors an inflation-adjusted monthly income.

Eligible beneficiaries are defined as Spouse Only, Spouse and Children (children under 18 unless enrolled full-time in school, then age 22), Former Spouse, Children Only (under 18 unless enrolled full-time in school, then age 22), or Natural Interest Person.

A Military Retiree pays premiums for SBP coverage upon retiring. Premiums are paid from gross retired pay, so they don't count as income. This means less tax and less out-of-pocket costs for SBP. The premiums are partially funded by the government and the costs of operating the program are absorbed by the government, so the average premiums are well below the cost of a conventional insurance policy. For most Retirees, SBP is a good choice, but the government contribution is based on assumptions in average cases and may not apply equally to every situation. The

maximum SBP annuity for a Spouse is based on 55 percent of the member's retired pay (or in the case of a member who retires under REDUX, the retired pay the member would have received if under the high-three retirement system). However, a smaller amount may be elected.

Sadly, many covered Spouses pass away before the Military Retiree. If the covered Spouse dies before the Retiree, SBP premiums are suspended. By law SBP Spouse premiums cannot be refunded for any period that the Military Retiree had an eligible Spouse beneficiary.

Survivor Benefit Plan coverage may resume only if the Retiree remarries and is automatic on the first anniversary of the marriage or at the birth of a child, whichever comes first. However, in many cases due to age, disability, or out of love and loyalty to the deceased Spouse, the Retiree chooses not to remarry. In many cases, the Military Retiree is on a fixed income and may not have adequate medical or life insurance plans, if any, leaving the Retiree without means to cover costs associated with the health, death, and funeral of the covered Spouse. This hardly seems fair to a Military Retiree who wanted to ensure his/her Spouse had income after his/her death and now loses any rights, use, or benefit from the premiums he/she has paid over several years should the covered Spouse die before the Retiree.

Recently, the wife of one of the Military Order of the Purple Heart's Patriot's (member) in Arkansas passed away. The

Patriot was enrolled in the DOD Survivor's Benefit Program (SBP) to ensure his wife had income after his death as he had always fully expected to die before her. However sadly, this turned out not to be the case.

Now that his wife is deceased, my Patriot asked if there is a mechanism to recover the money he paid into the SPB. We had to inform him that unfortunately 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 medical, hospice and/or funeral expenses. Again, the answer is no. He asked if the beneficiary could be changed, i.e., leave the SBP benefits to one of his [adult] children or grandchildren going to college. Again, no. We told him the only way any SBP money would be paid out was 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 do not doubt that your office has received similar complaints or inquiries from many Veterans who have or are now facing the same dilemma regarding this type of situation. I have to agree that this 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 over several years should the covered spouse die before the Veteran.

Request that your office explore and sponsor legislation to change the SBP so that

in the event the covered spouse dies first, the Survivors Benefit Program will either:

- Return the premiums paid to the Veteran, until the death of the Veteran, at the same monthly rate that the covered spouse would have received.
- Allow the Veteran to apply for reimbursement of Medical, Hospice, and/or Funeral Expenses for the covered spouse and allow the Veteran's survivors to apply for reimbursement of his/her funeral upon his/her death.



## Veterans' Benefits Rumors

<https://news.va.gov/138540/va-secretary-addresses-benefits-rumors-video/>

VA Secretary Doug Collins released a video from his office today addressing misinformation circulating about Veterans' benefits and VA health care. In a direct and candid message, Collins refuted several rumors he described as "whoppers."



Collins began by reaffirming VA's commitment to prioritizing Veterans.

"We're putting Veterans number one back at the VA," he said. He acknowledged that changes could generate friction but emphasized that these reforms are aimed at strengthening VA services for Veterans.

Among the rumors he challenged was the claim that VA health care would suffer. Collins categorically denied this, stating that the department has reinforced health care and benefits by safeguarding 300,000 mission-critical positions to ensure uninterrupted services.

Another rumor he addressed was that Veterans' benefits were being cut.

"They're not," he said, explaining that VA had redirected nearly \$98 million toward Veterans' care and services rather than reducing them.

Finally, Collins addressed the rumor that VA was laying off Veterans Crisis Line responders.

"We did not lay off any Veteran Crisis Line responders," he stated firmly, assuring that those answering crisis calls remain in place

to support Veterans in need.

Collins concluded by urging Veterans to seek information directly from VA rather than relying on misinformation circulating in political discourse. "When you want the truth, come to me, not the Whopper line up on Capitol Hill."

Veterans are encouraged to visit [news.va.gov](https://news.va.gov) or contact their local VA offices.

## **Tax season guidance for Veterans Maximizing benefits, accessing free assistance, and avoiding scams**

February 6, 2025; VBA Benefits Delivery  
Protection & Remediation

<https://news.va.gov/138085/tax-season-guidance-for-veterans/>

As tax season approaches, many Veterans begin gathering their necessary financial documents and consulting with tax professionals. VA wants Veterans to know they may qualify for special tax breaks and [free assistance programs](#) to help them navigate the filing process and maximize their returns.

Whether a Veteran files their taxes independently or uses a tax professional, VA encourages Veterans and their loved ones to review the following tips and resources to both help them navigate the tax season with confidence and to avoid [tax season scams](#).

- Tax benefits as a Veteran: Disability benefits received from VA should not be



counted as part of a Veteran's gross income. Payments from compensation, pension, Veteran Readiness & Employment (VR&E), and [education](#)—including the [G.I. Bill](#)—are exempt from taxation. Always review the Internal Revenue Service's webpage on [Veterans tax information and services](#) before submitting a tax return.

- For Veterans who receive disability benefits from VA, refer to [Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\) Publication 525](#) under “Military and Government Disability Pensions” for more information.
- Veterans may be eligible to claim a federal tax refund based on an increase in their VA disability percentage (which may include a retroactive determination).
- Combat-disabled Veterans who are granted Combat-Related Special Compensation after an award for Concurrent Retirement and Disability may be eligible to claim a federal tax refund.
- Free tax assistance programs: Veterans have access to several free tax assistance programs.
  - IRS Free File: If a Veteran's adjusted gross income is \$79,000 or less, they can file electronically with an IRS Free File software provider. If their income is higher, they can use Free File fillable forms.
  - IRS Direct File: If a Veteran lives in a participating state, they can use the free IRS Direct File service to e-file their federal tax return directly with IRS.
  - In-person help: If a Veteran's adjusted income is \$64,000 or less, if they have a disability and/or need language support, or if they are 60-years old or older, they can receive free in-person help from an IRS-certified volunteer.
  - Military OneSource: Use the MilTax software to file federal and state returns for free for up to 365 days after military separation or retirement. For information on other topics, visit [MilitaryOneSource.mil](#) or call 800-342-9647.
- Always verify communications: With the increasing sophistication of scams targeting Veterans, it's important to distinguish between legitimate and fraudulent communications from VA.
  - VA will never send text messages to confirm or request personally identifiable information (PII) for benefits or federal payments.
  - Do not provide personal banking or credit card information to anyone alleging affiliation with VA or other federal entities.
  - Do not share your VA National Call Center (NCC) personal identification number (PIN) with anyone, including family, friends or any entity who

makes contact via mobile communication. The VA NCC PIN is a unique identifier which helps protect personal information when communicating with VA.

- Get an IRS Identify Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN). IP PINs are assigned to taxpayers to prevent Social Security Number (SSN) fraud on federal income tax returns. Scammers can use SSNs to commit tax fraud by filing a fraudulent return or claiming a refund; obtaining an IP PIN will keep these scammers from filing a tax return using Veterans' SSNs.
- Protect your personal information: The tax filing season has increasingly become a prime opportunity for scammers to exploit unsuspecting taxpayers through various communication methods.
  - Refrain from sharing PII, including VA.gov logins, VA NCC personal PINs, dates of birth, military entrance/discharge details, branches of service or SSNs.
  - Limit posting PII online, and don't share residence addresses, dates of birth, workplace locations or kinship details.
  - Delete old social media accounts, limit online presences, and minimize or remove available biographical information.
  - Never send bank information or

payments to "online friends" or others. Scammers may threaten to destroy your files or data if you do not send payment or banking information. If you are a victim of ransomware, do not respond to these threats and do report the incident immediately.

- Protect against identity theft scams. All three credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion) offer Veterans the ability to freeze their credit file for free. A credit freeze allows Veterans to control access to credit reports; requires approvals for applications for credit cards, mortgages, or loans; and helps protect against identity theft.

Tax season can be stressful, but Veterans can avoid scams and protect their finances by increasing their knowledge and taking precautions. Understanding Veterans' tax benefits, choosing a trusted professional or service, [recognizing scams](#) and safeguarding PII are all steps to ensure a safe and secure tax filing experience.

If Veterans encounter a tax scam, they should report it to the appropriate authorities. Reporting scams help protect others from becoming victims and assists in the investigation and prosecution of bad actors. For more information and to report an abusive tax scheme or a tax return preparer, visit [Report a tax scam or fraud | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#).

If Veterans miss a VA benefits payment, identify a discrepancy in payments or find suspicious activity with their direct deposit

account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000. Veterans who suspect they are victims of fraud can find resources to file a report to the appropriate agency by visiting [www.vsafe.gov](http://www.vsafe.gov) or calling 833-38V-SAFE.

## Staying independent and connected

<https://news.va.gov/138340/staying-independent-connected-with-community/>

### With a little help, you can be independent as you age.

For many Veterans, growing older may mean having a harder time getting around, needing more support in your daily life and requiring more frequent trips to the doctor for care. These changes might affect what makes you happy, like being independent, exercising, traveling, and spending time with family.

This is why it is important to take advantage of VA resources so you can age in place in your home. In recognition of Senior Independence Awareness Month this February, VA is highlighting a variety of resources to help senior Veterans live independently and live well.

### Resources for older Veterans

VA offers a variety of resources and programs for older Veterans that can help you build a routine and support system to remain independent.

- [Veteran Decision Aid](#) provides a

checklist to help you narrow down which VA resources and what kind of care is best for you, with help creating a personalized health plan by and for Veterans like you.

- [Veteran Directed Care](#) allows you and your caregiver(s) to create an individualized plan for assistance and personal care that fits your needs and lifestyle. Through this program, you can get help developing a spending and care plan to help you live independently in your own home or community.
- [Palliative Care](#) focuses on keeping symptoms in check so that you can carry out day-to-day activities. Palliative care aims to improve your overall quality of life, whether that's physical, mental, or emotional well-being.
- [Adult Day Health Care](#) is a VA support program designed to help with personal care tasks while also providing opportunities for you to socialize with others and engage in your community. These activities are flexible and can be adjusted to best fit your schedule and needs.

### Community resources

VHA also provides a wide range of community resources online, over the phone and in-person to help you find support and address specific needs:

- [Benefits Checkup](#) is a free service that

helps you identify what programs and care you qualify for.

- [Elder Care Locator](#) and [Family Care Navigator](#) provides resources for older adults and their families as well as state-specific resources on legal issues, benefits, living arrangements and education for caregivers.
- The [National Aging and Disability Transportation Center](#) promotes transportation options for older adults and caregivers, allowing more flexibility and freedom for senior Veterans.

Speak with your primary care provider to find out if you are eligible for geriatric and extended care services. For more information on VA services for older Veterans, visit the [VA Geriatrics and Extended Care](#) website.

## Nourishing your heart

### Accessing healthy foods in your community

February 17, 2025; Erin Vaillancourt  
Registered Dietitian, Saginaw VA  
<https://news.va.gov/138299/nourishing-your-heart/>



[Recent research](#) shows that factors like your housing situation, environment and access to resources can influence your heart health. Access to health care, stress levels, availability of grocery stores with healthy options and local attitudes toward healthy behaviors all play a role in your ability to maintain a heart-healthy lifestyle.

While it's not always possible to control where you live, VA can help identify and implement changes you can make in your daily habits to support your heart health.

### Key lifestyle adjustments

Here are some key lifestyle adjustments to focus on:

- Follow a [healthy eating plan](#). Include plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy, and lean proteins in your diet. Heart-healthy fats, like those found in avocados, nuts and olive oil can help lower unhealthy cholesterol levels.
- [Increase your movement](#). Regular physical activity improves heart function and helps maintain a healthy weight.
- [Avoid tobacco products](#). Smoking is a major risk factor for heart disease and can damage your blood vessels over time.
- Prioritize [sleep](#). Aim for 7-9 hours each night, as quality sleep helps regulate stress hormones and blood pressure.



- Speak to your health care provider about [checking your blood pressure](#), [blood glucose](#) and cholesterol levels regularly.

### Improving options

If access to healthy food is a challenge, there are ways to improve your options

- Consider shopping at local farmers' markets for fresh, affordable produce. The [Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) is designed to provide low-income seniors with access to locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey and herbs.
- Many communities have programs that bring healthy foods directly to underserved areas, such as mobile food markets or community-supported agriculture subscriptions.
- Online grocery services or delivery programs can be another way to get fresh and healthy ingredients if transportation is limited.

[VA can help connect Veterans](#) with resources to access nutritious and affordable food. VA facilities across the country also offer Healthy Teaching Kitchen programs which teach Veterans about food, nutrition, and how to make healthy and delicious foods.

Visit the [Healthy Teaching Kitchen YouTube Channel](#) to watch video recipes.

If you're interested in learning about a heart-healthy diet or any other nutrition

related topic, contact your local VA to speak with a registered dietitian.

## AMD: Low vision awareness for Veterans

Age-related macular degeneration; February 3, 2025

Here's how AMD can affect your life.

Picture the best moments of your life: family celebrations, dinner with friends or vacations at the beach. Imagine reading your favorite books, watching a beloved show, or driving to a special place.

All these experiences rely on the gift of sight. Unfortunately for many Veterans, especially those 50 and older, risks for [age-related macular degeneration](#) (AMD) increase with age and can contribute to declining vision and the inability to rely on your eyesight.

### What is AMD?

AMD is a progressive eye condition and is the leading cause of [low vision](#). Low vision is a general term for a range of vision problems that cannot be corrected with glasses, contact lenses, surgery, or medications. It can make everyday activities like reading, cooking, and driving difficult. Understanding and addressing AMD and low vision is crucial to maintaining your independence and quality of life.

### Recognizing symptoms

There are two types of AMD: dry and wet. Depending on the type of

AMD, [symptoms](#) can vary. Either dry or wet AMD may show the following vision changes:

- Blurred vision.
- Straight lines appearing wavy.
- Colors seeming less bright.
- Difficulty seeing in low lighting.

If you notice any of these symptoms, it's important to schedule an appointment with your eye doctor as soon as possible. A dilated eye exam can identify if you have either type of AMD. Timely care makes a big difference in managing these conditions.

### Health conditions and risk factors

AMD is not the only condition that can cause low vision: Cataracts, diabetic retinopathy (leading cause of low vision in working age adults) and glaucoma, and many others are also known contributors. Prevention and early detection are key to managing low vision, so it's essential to get regular eye exams.

Annual visits to an eye doctor can help detect vision problems before they become more severe and catching these conditions early can help slow the progression of diseases impacting your ability to see.

### VA support and resources


For Veterans diagnosed with conditions causing low vision, VA offers [visual rehabilitation](#) services, [ocular telehealth](#) services and optical and non-optical aids to improve quality of life and help you learn strategies to make daily

activities easier.

Early action is key. Get tested, stay informed and seek help if you notice any changes in your vision. Your sight is valuable, and, with the right support, you can keep enjoying the moments that matter most.

## 1 in 5 U.S. Women Will Have a Stroke

**Stroke is the third most common cause of death in women.** Surprised? You're not alone. Women Veterans may not know that unique factors related to military experience that put them at greater risk. While it's easy to let your health fall to the bottom of your to-do list, knowing and managing your risk for stroke may save your life.



**1 IN 5 U.S. WOMEN WILL HAVE A STROKE**  
4 Out of 5 Strokes Are Preventable

WOMEN VETERAN RISK FACTORS	SYMPTOMS OF STROKE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>High blood pressure/cholesterol</li><li>Diabetes</li><li>Obesity</li><li>Substance use</li><li>Poor diet and exercise</li><li>Family history and race</li><li>History of preeclampsia</li><li>Mental health (PTSD, depression)</li></ul>	<p>If you experience these symptoms, call 911.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Face drooping</li><li>Numbness or weakness of limbs</li><li>Difficulty speaking and confusion</li><li>Sudden trouble seeing</li><li>Dizziness and trouble walking</li><li>Severe headache</li></ul>

Speak to your VA health care provider about your risks.

855.VA.WOMEN | www.womenhealth.va.gov/topics/heart-health.asp | VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

### Understanding Stroke

A [stroke](#) occurs when an artery carrying blood from the heart to the brain is either blocked or bursts, depriving part of the brain of oxygen and causing brain cells to die. This can lead to death or serious [health issues or disability](#), like paralysis, memory loss, vision

and language problems, or behavior changes.

Stroke is an emergency and every minute counts! Quick treatment may minimize long-term conditions and even prevent death, so knowing how to recognize it as it's happening is important. Signs of stroke in women may include:

- Face drooping
- Numbness or weakness in limbs
- Difficulty speaking and confusion
- Sudden trouble seeing
- Sudden severe headache
- Dizziness and trouble walking
- Fatigue
- Nausea and vomiting

**If you notice these sudden symptoms, call 911 immediately.** Use the B.E.F.A.S.T. method to remember: Balance, Eyes, Face, Arms, Speech, Time to act.

### **Higher Risk for Women Veterans**

You may face unique risk factors due to your military experience that increase your chance of stroke compared to civilian women, such as mental health concerns, unhealthy lifestyle habits you may have developed, and your increased risk for certain health conditions like high blood pressure. The risk factors for stroke include:

- Post-traumatic stress disorder or depression
- High blood pressure or cholesterol
- Diabetes
- Obesity

- Substance use
- Poor diet and exercise
- Family medical history and race
- History of preeclampsia
- Birth control or hormone therapy

For [black women](#) in particular, stroke is the leading cause of death. Black women are nearly twice as likely as white women to have a stroke and often experience it earlier.

### **Prevention and VA Support**

The good news? Four in five strokes are preventable! Managing blood pressure is key, along with [lifestyle habits](#) like staying active, eating well, reducing stress, and limiting smoking or alcohol. Even focusing on just one or two of these changes at a time can make a big difference for your heart health.

Your VA health care team can provide lifelong risk reduction, risk assessments and screenings, blood pressure management, diagnosis and treatment, and healthy lifestyle support through resources for nutrition, exercise, mental health care, smoking/alcohol cessation, and more.

Don't skip a beat on your heart or brain health! Give yourself one less thing to worry about and schedule your next checkup with your VA health care provider to discuss your risk of heart disease and stroke. Focusing on the [American Heart Association's Essential 8](#) can keep you healthier and reduce your risk for stroke and other heart conditions. This includes eating better, being more active, quitting tobacco, getting healthy sleep, managing weight, controlling

cholesterol, managing blood sugar, and managing blood pressure.

Visit the [Women Veterans Heart Health page](#) or the [American Stroke Association](#) to learn more. Call, text, and chat with the [Women Veterans Call Center](#) (1-855-VA-WOMEN) to speak to a real person who can help you enroll, schedule an appointment, and connect you to care you can trust.

## Key Dates and Military Activities

Mar 1 <sup>st</sup> – 31	Women’s History Month
Mar 3rd	Navy Reserve Birthday - 1915
Mar 13th	National K9 Veterans Day
Mar 25th	National Medal of Honor Day
Mar 29th	National Vietnam War Veterans Day
Apr	Month of the Military Child
Apr	Military Sexual Trauma Awareness Month
Apr 5	Gold Star Spouses Day
Apr 9th	National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day
Apr 11th	National Submarine Day
Apr 14th	US Air Force Reserve Birthday - 1947
Apr 23rd	Army Reserve Birthday – 1908
May	National Military Appreciation Month
May	Month of the Military Caregiver
May 1st	Silver Star Banner Day
May 8th	Military Spouse Appreciation Day
May 13th	Children of Fallen Patriots Day
May 15	Peace Officer Memorial Day
May 16th	Armed Forces Day

May 22nd	NOAA Commissioned Corps Birthday – 1917
May 25th	Memorial Day

## Mar: Women’s History Month



### Why Do We Celebrate Women’s History Month?

<https://nationaltoday.com/national-womens-history-month/>

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>



During the month of March, we give a little extra attention to all of the amazing accomplishments of strong, determined women. Since 1987, the United States has formally recognized March as National Women’s History Month. Every woman has a story to tell and gifts to share with the



world. So, get ready, because this month is about honoring magnificent ladies, and we are ready to celebrate it to the fullest. Celebrating this women's month by supporting women chase her dreams and [fulfilling her educational needs](#) by finding her right scholarships from around the world.

## History of National Women's History Month

Women's History Month celebrates the often-overlooked contributions of women in history, society, and culture. It has been annually observed in the United States and other countries, including the United Kingdom and Australia, every March since 1987. The month is observed in October in Canada. March is selected as the month for observing Women's History Month to correspond with International Women's Day on March 8, and Canada observes it in October in correspondence with Persons Day on October 18.

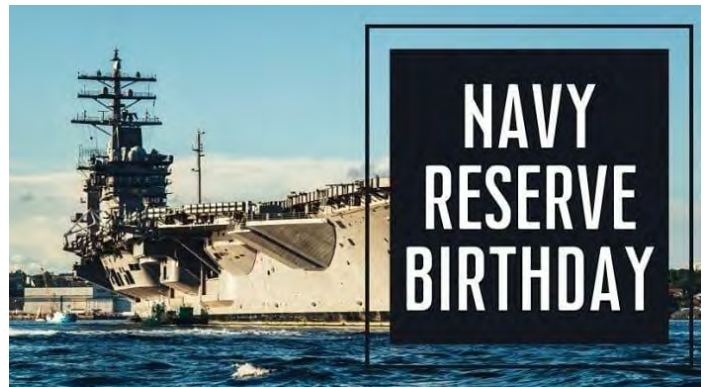
The month-long commemoration started with Women's History Day in 1978, organized by the school district of Sonoma, California. Hundreds of students participated in the essay competitions, many presentations were given, and a parade was held in Santa Rosa. The idea caught on and, a few years later, school districts, communities, and organizations all over the country were celebrating the day. In 1980, the National Women's History Alliance championed for the holiday to be observed as a national week, and this was backed by President Jimmy Carter, who issued the first

proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The following year, Congress forwarded a resolution establishing a national observance. Six years later, the expansion of the event to the whole month of March was successfully petitioned by the National Women's History Project.

## Mar 3: Navy Reserve Birthday

Courtesy Veteran.com Team

<https://veteran.com/navy-reserve-birthday/>



Since its founding on March 3, 1915, the Navy Reserve has been a cornerstone of America's naval strength, providing critical support in times of war and peace. From the battlefields of World War I to modern global conflicts, Navy Reservists have served alongside their active-duty counterparts, ensuring the U.S. Navy remains ready to defend the nation at a moment's notice. During World War II, over 90% of all U.S. Navy personnel were Reservists, proving their invaluable role in national defense. In Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf, they reinforced naval operations with skill and dedication. After 9/11, Navy Reservists mobilized for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond, demonstrating

their adaptability and unwavering commitment to service.

Today, the Navy Reserve continues to evolve, integrating cutting-edge technology and training to support missions worldwide. With expertise spanning cyber warfare, logistics, medical support, and special operations, Reservists remain a vital force multiplier for the Navy and the nation. On this Navy Reserve birthday, we salute the men and women who balance civilian careers with military duty, embodying the highest ideals of service and sacrifice. Their dedication ensures that the Navy Reserve remains, as its motto states, "Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere."

Happy Birthday, Navy Reserve!

## Mar 13: K9 VETERANS DAY



March 13th recognizes National K9 Veterans Day and the dedicated K9 units who've served since World War II.

A lot of things changed after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. We rationed oil, leather, and rubber. The military draft men into service. Women rolled up their sleeves and built war supplies.

And dogs were called to duty. During the

first world war, the United States took notice of the European use of canines as sentries, message carriers, and several other functions.

A private citizen, Mrs. Alene Erlanger initiated a program called Dogs for Defense. Along with the American Kennel Club and a handful of breeders, the group aimed to train the dogs for military use.

By November of 1942, the military prepared the first Dogs for Defense for duty in North Africa. While they were gun shy at first, they proved to be well trained.

As the war progressed, Dogs for Defense was unable to keep up with the demand, and the Remount Branch, Service Installations Divisions took over the training of the dogs.

Over the years, the military, police, and rescue have developed a variety of training methods for K9 units. Their training is tailored to meet the demands of the job, and each animal and handler carries out his or her duties to the fullest.

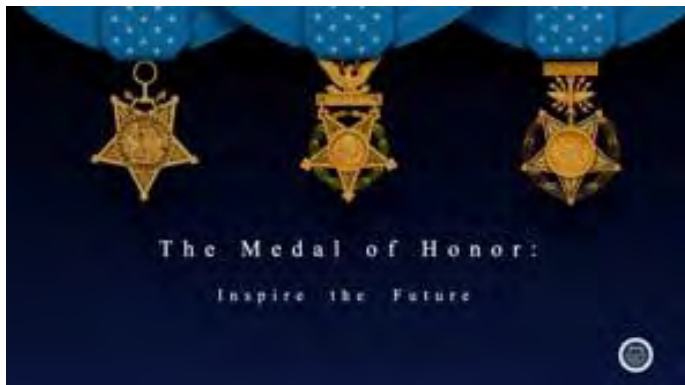
### HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY

- Recognize a K9 veteran.
- Learn more about their service, history, and training.
- Attend a ceremony honoring the working dogs in military units and working dogs across the country.
- Use #NationalK9VeteransDay to post

on social media.

### Mar 25: Medal of Honor Day

<https://www.cmohs.org/medal/medal-of-honor-day-information>



National Medal of Honor Day was established by Congress to “foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor Recipients.” The first National Medal of Honor Day was celebrated on March 25, 1991. March 25th was chosen because it was on that date in 1863 that the first Medals of Honor were presented to six members of [Andrews’ Raiders](#).

To its Recipients, the Medal of Honor represents more than recognition of combat actions. Instead, it symbolizes the sacrifices of those we served alongside and those who came before. To honor those sacrifices, each year on National Medal of Honor Day, the Recipients lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. The “unknowns” buried here are each Medal of Honor Recipients.

The Medal of Honor Recipients do not believe it is necessary to wear a uniform to serve or sacrifice for others. The principles behind the Medal are relevant to all

Americans—courage, sacrifice, integrity, commitment, patriotism, and citizenship.

On National Medal of Honor Day, the Recipients put this belief into action through the Society’s annual Citizen Honors Awards. This program was created to allow Medal of Honor Recipients to shine a spotlight on fellow citizens in recognition of the sacrifices they have made and the service they have carried out on behalf of others. Every year, the Society accepts submissions from across the country, and a panel including Medal of Honor Recipients select the honorees.

A special National Medal of Honor Day ceremony is held yearly at the USS Yorktown, home of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society Headquarters and [The Medal of Honor Museum at Patriots Point](#). Visitors to Patriots Point are able to learn more about Medal of Honor Recipients through custom tours and Medal of Honor information checkpoints.

### Mar 29: National Vietnam War Veterans Day

<https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/about/national-vietnam-war-veterans-day/>



*Join us on 29 March, National Vietnam War*



***Veterans Day, as Americans unite to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.***

[The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017](#) was signed into law by U.S. President Donald J. Trump, designating every March 29 as ***National Vietnam War Veterans Day***.



**NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY, 29 MARCH**

*Join us on 29 March, National Vietnam War Veterans Day, as Americans unite to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.*

The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 was signed into law by 45th U.S. President Donald J. Trump, designating every 29 March as ***National Vietnam War Veterans Day***.

This special day joins six other military-centric annual observances codified in [Title 4 of the United States Code 86](#), among them Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

29 March is a fitting choice for a day honoring Vietnam veterans. It was chosen to be observed in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam was disestablished and also the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. In addition, on and around this same day Hanoi released the last of its acknowledged prisoners of war.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration honors all veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time from [November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location](#), and their families.

**November 1, 1955** was selected to coincide with the official designation of Military Assistance Advisory Group-Vietnam (MAAG-V); **May 15, 1975** marks the end of the battle precipitated by the seizure of the SS Mayaguez.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that today there are more than **6 million U.S. Vietnam veterans living in America and abroad**, along with **9 million families of those who served** during this timeframe.

We make no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve and none could self-determine where they would serve.



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where they would serve.

**Additional Background:** U.S. involvement in Vietnam started slowly with an initial deployment of advisors in the early 1950s, grew incrementally through the early 1960s and expanded with the deployment of full combat units in July 1965. The last U.S. personnel were evacuated from Vietnam in April 1975.

This national commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by the President to thank and honor our Nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

In 2007, the 110th Congress incorporated language in House of Representatives (H.R.) 4986 authorizing the secretary of defense to conduct a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

H.R. 4986 was signed into law as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2008 by U.S. President George W. Bush on January 28, 2008.

U.S. President Barack Obama officially inaugurated this Commemoration at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012.

Section 598 ([Public Law 110-181](#)) of the 2008 NDAA specifically addresses Commemoration activities.

Congress outlined a total of [five objectives](#) for The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, with the primary objective being to thank and honor

Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation, with distinct recognition of former prisoners of war and families of those still listed as missing in action.

The four remaining objectives highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war; pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens; highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war; and recognize contributions by our Allies.

By [Presidential Proclamation](#), The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration will continue through Veterans Day, November 11, 2025.

## Apr 9: Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day

<https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/national-pow-mia-recognition-day-2025/>



*National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, also known as National Former POW Recognition Day, is observed next on Wednesday, April 9th, 2025. It is observed annually on April 9th.*

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is an

annual observance in the United States dedicated to honoring and remembering the sacrifices of American service members who were prisoners of war (POWs) and those who are still missing in action (MIA). This day serves as a reminder of the nation's commitment to accounting for every service member who has not returned home and to recognizing the courage and resilience of those who endured captivity. It is a time to reflect on the cost of war and to express gratitude for the bravery and dedication of those who have served and continue to serve the country.

### **What is National POW/MIA Recognition Day?**

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is a solemn day of remembrance for American military personnel who were held as prisoners of war and for those who are still unaccounted for. The day underscores the importance of bringing home those who remain missing and ensuring that the stories of POWs and MIAs are not forgotten. Observances often include ceremonies, moments of silence, and the display of the POW/MIA flag, which symbolizes the nation's commitment to recovering those who are missing.

### **When is National POW/MIA Recognition Day?**

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed annually on the third Friday in September. In 2025, it will be observed on September 20th. On this day, ceremonies are held at military installations, veterans' organizations, and national landmarks,

including the Pentagon and the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to honor POWs and MIAs.

### **How to Get Involved**

There are several ways to observe National POW/MIA Recognition Day and show your support for this important cause:

- **Attend a Ceremony:** Participate in or attend a local or national ceremony dedicated to honoring POWs and MIAs. These events often include wreath-laying ceremonies, moments of silence, and speeches from military leaders and veterans.
- **Fly the POW/MIA Flag:** Display the POW/MIA flag at your home, workplace, or community center. The flag is a powerful symbol of the nation's commitment to accounting for those who have not returned from war.
- **Learn and Educate:** Take time to learn more about the history and experiences of POWs and MIAs. Share this knowledge with others to help keep their stories alive and to raise awareness about the importance of this day.
- **Support POW/MIA Organizations:** Consider donating to or volunteering with organizations that work to locate, identify, and bring home missing service members. Your support can help continue the mission of accounting for every American who has not returned from war.
- **Write a Letter:** Write a letter of support

or thanks to the families of POWs and MIAs, or to veterans who endured captivity. A gesture of appreciation can mean a great deal to those who

## History of the Event

National POW/MIA Recognition Day was first observed in 1979, following a proclamation by President Jimmy Carter. The day was established to ensure that the sacrifices of America's POWs and MIAs would never be forgotten. Over the years, it has become a significant national observance, with ceremonies held across the country to honor the men and women who were captured during war or remain missing. The POW/MIA flag, which was created by the National League of Families in 1972, is a central symbol of the day, representing the nation's pledge to bring home its missing service members.

## Relevant Hashtags

Join the conversation and help raise awareness using these hashtags:

- #POWMIARecognitionDay
- #NeverForget
- #HonorOurHeroes
- #POWMIA
- #BringThemHome

## Apr 11: Submarine Day

<https://nationaltoday.com/national-submarine-day/#:~:text=National%20Submarine%20Day%20is%20on,the%20first%20modern%20commissioned%20submarine>



National Submarine Day is on April 11, and it celebrates the purchase of the USS Holland, the first modern commissioned submarine. This day is important to the submarine community as it honors the US Navy's purchase of their first modern submarine, but life underwater isn't all that glamorous. Often, crews are out at sea for months at a time and return when food supplies run low. Subs can be cramped with tedious tasks to complete daily, and some might not always be the best of friends with everybody on board. It's not just enemies and the sea they have to contend with.

## History of National Submarine Day

National Submarine Day celebrates the United States government's purchase of the Holland VI, but it actually wasn't the first submarine the US had. The USS Alligator was the first known submarine owned by the United States. On August 10, 1832, Brutus Villeroi completed work on his submarine, possibly called the Nautilus, and showcased his invention off the coast of France.

At that time, the submarine was known as a “fish boat” that measured 10 feet 6 inches in length and 3 feet 7 inches at the widest diameter. The fish boat submerged, reaching depths of 20 feet and it was an impressive display. In 1861, Villeroy designed the USS Alligator that the United States sank in the ocean on April 2, 1863, after losing a battle with a brutal storm.

On April 11, 1900, the US government purchased the Holland VI for \$150,000 designed by Irish-American inventor John Phillip Holland and commissioned on October 12, 1900. It was commanded by Lieutenant H.H. Caldwell and deemed the first modern submarine with a host of impressive components all in one vessel.

It had dual propulsion systems, a fixed longitudinal center of gravity, separate main and auxiliary ballast systems, a hydrodynamically advanced shape, and a modern weapon system. It’s reported that the Holland VI was decommissioned on November 21, 1910, and marked an important breakthrough for the US Navy.

Senator Thomas J. Dodd introduced a bill to the US Senate in 1969 that would make April 11 National Submarine Day. President Richard Nixon was in office at that time and there were no records of his proclamation. It might have passed the Senate and introduced it to the house in 1970, but the exact date is unclear. All the same, the US Navy and other organizations celebrated the day that commemorated the Holland VI and the contributions to modern warfare it made.

## Apr 14: US Air Force Reserve Birthday

Courtesy Veteran.com Team;

<https://veteran.com/air-force-reserve-birthday/>



The United States Air Force Reserve celebrates its birthday every year on April 14, but according to the Air Force official site, Air Force Reservists can trace their heritage all the way back to the National Defense Act of 1916.

The Air Force Reserve Birthday will be on Friday, April 14th, 2024.

Reservists in every branch are an important part of the Department of Defense’s strategy for manpower, global reach, and military flexibility. The Air Force Reserve has approximately 450 aircraft, with a great deal of additional aircraft options thanks to the practice of the “associate wing” organization that allows active duty and Reserve components to co-locate flying operations.

According to several sources, a typical response time for the Air Force Reserve to become mission ready and fully deployable is approximately 72 hours.

The Air Force Reserve is not specifically focused solely on flying missions. Reserve forces include (but are not limited to)



medical, civil engineering, intel, space force-type operations, and security.

### **A Brief History Of The Air Force Reserve**

The Air Force Reserve was created on April 14, 1948 soon after the establishment of the [Air Force](#) as a separate branch of service. But this history would be incomplete without recognition of events just prior to and the establishment of the National Defense Act of 1916 which authorized the creation of reserve forces as an ongoing part of American military organization.

At the time leading up to the passage of the act in 1916, military air power was in its infancy with the Army Signal Corps responsible for working in the air, including commissioning the first Army aircraft design in partnership with the Wright Brothers.

That occurred in 1907. Nine years later, the National Defense Act of 1916 established America's reserve forces; U.S. military airpower would be under the jurisdiction of the Army Air Corps 10 years later. When the U.S. Air Force was created as its own branch of service just after World War Two, an Air Force Reserve was not far behind.

Before the creation of a separate Air Force, the Army Air Corps flew America's combat missions, and that organization had its own Reservists. They were transferred wholesale to the Air Force on April 14, 1948.

After the end of World War Two, the Defense Department had some reorganizing to do; a variety of military bases shifted their missions to out processing the large number

of American troops coming home.

Reservists moved out of active duty and back into Reserve status, but Vietnam, the Cold War, and other historic milestones conspired to bring the Reserve into a different light. 1970 brought something called the Total Force Concept, which meant changes in the mission and use of the Air Force Reserve. Concept became a policy in 1973; the Air Force Reserve became a multiple mission force flying the same aircraft as active-duty forces.

Around this time, Reservists distinguished themselves in the Israeli Airlift of 1973, when more than 600 reservists volunteered to perform Middle East missions; some 1,500 more were involved in missions worldwide to give active-duty crew members more opportunities to perform airlift missions.

In the 1980s, there was a push to modernize and expand the Air Force Reserve program. Reservists began flying KC-10 tanker aircraft mid-air refueling missions, plus fighter jet missions in the F-16. The Reserve force would be an important part of both Gulf War missions, and that era marked a new chapter in the Reserve force as it became utilized more and more as a way to extend the effectiveness of the total force.

In the aftermath of Sept. 11, Air Force Reserve crews were instrumental in air combat patrol missions in American airspace; those missions included both fighter jet operations and tanker air refueling missions. The present-day Air Force Reserve force includes more than

70,000 Americans serving worldwide.

## **The Structure Of The Modern Air Force Reserve**

Today's Air Force Reserve is not viewed as a stand-by-and-wait-to-be-deployed mission; Air Force Reserve Command is an official Major Command headquartered at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. The Air Force Reserve force is comprised of:

- 4th Air Force
- 10th Air Force
- 22nd Air Force
- 35 wings
- 10 independent groups
- Mission support units

There are nine Air Force Reserve bases, plus Reserve operations at more than 50 active duty, Joint Reserve and Air National Guard bases.

The Air Force Reserve is made primarily of what are considered "traditional" Reservists who serve part-time and typically at installations close to the Reserve member's residence. A smaller number of troops in the traditional reserve are known as "Individual Mobilization Augmentees" or IMAs; these are part-time members assigned to active-duty units.

There is another category of Air Force Reservists known as [Air Reserve Technicians \(ART\)](#) who serve in two capacities at once. They are part-time Reservists and also serve as federal employees. ARTs are, according to the Air Force Reserve official site, responsible for "day-to-day management,

operations and administration for traditional Reserve units."

A small number of Reserve members are considered Active Guard Reserve and provide "full-time support to Reserve Component organizations for the purpose of leading, organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training." These Reserve members are not part-timers; they have full-time positions that are not related to federal civilian jobs.

## **Celebrating The Air Force Reserve Birthday**

Like many similar observations for the Navy, Army, and Coast Guard, the Air Force Reserve Birthday on April 14th is celebrated at the command and unit level. Air Force Reserve Headquarters had a special event in 2018 to celebrate its 70th birthday; many units and Reserve bases will hold their own observations.

Celebrating the birthday of the Air Force Reserve can include taking part in such celebrations but it can also include [volunteering](#) at Air Force and Reserve-specific Veteran Service Organizations, charities, aid societies, volunteering with the [Red Cross](#) or working with the Air Force Aid Society.

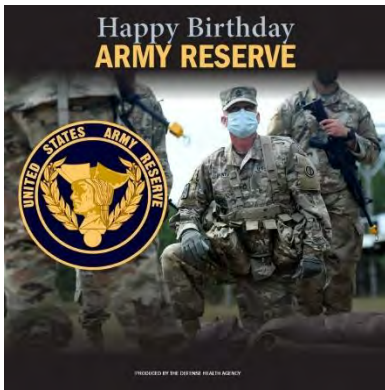
There are also support groups such as the Air Force Sergeants' Association and the Reserve Officers Association, which accept any service member who served as a Reservist whether officer or enlisted. You may find that these organizations may organize their own celebrations or recognition of Reserve crews during the

month of April.

Some will be interested in taking a more direct route to helping the Air Force Reserve honor its decades of service; those interested in talking to an Air Force Reserve recruiter should [visit the AF Reserve official site](#) and click “How To Join” in the toolbar.

### **Apr 23: Army Reserve Birthday**

<https://nationaltoday.com/army-reserve-birthday/>



The U.S. Army Reserve Birthday is marked on April 23 every year to commemorate its contributions to the Cold War, the World Wars,

Vietnam, Korea, the Persian Gulf, and many other similar wars and crises around the globe. This more-than-a-century-old federal reserve force has played a very vital role in U.S. military history. There are [army reserve units](#) in all 50 U.S. states, 20 different time zones across the world, and five U.S. territories.

### **History of Army Reserve Birthday**

On April 23, 1908, Congress organized a group of 160 doctors to form the Medical Reserve Corps. Its goal was to equip the nation with a team of professionally trained medical practitioners in times of national emergencies. A month later, President

Theodore Roosevelt, one of the greatest citizen-soldiers of the Army Reserve, signed the bill to be law. After that through the National Defense Act of 1920, the Organized Reserves for officers was created by Congress. That reserve force today is known as the U.S. Army Reserve.

It has specialized, trained, and skillful professional soldiers for use in times of war. The Army Reserve provides trained men to support leaders of the world at times of battle as well as support civil authorities in the U.S. Army Reserve has played a very important role during both World Wars, the Cold War, Vietnam, Korea, Persian Gulf War, and during conflicts with the Middle East concerning 9/11.

The Organized Reserve was formed immediately after World War I. At the time the military mobilized about 90,000 Army Reserve officers of whom one-third were doctors. This accelerated the cure for the sick and wounded. More than 70 units of the Army Reserve served during the Korean War. Similarly, combat support was provided for Vietnam, the Persian Gulf wars, and post-9/11 missions.

Army Reservists are not full-time members of the U.S. military and can pursue some civilian career while still serving their country. They have advanced professional skills, expertise, and education which adds fundamentally to the value of the force.

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Please spread the word and encourage others to support the Order by making donations to the Fund. Donations made to the Fund are 100% tax-deductible. Whenever you donate to the Fund, you have the option to leave your donation “unrestricted” (greatest need) or to restrict them to one of the Order’s programs. All donor requests/restrictions will be honored.

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Every donation, large or small, helps support the Order’s programs. You can make a difference [here](#).



### Disaster Relief

We encourage you to contribute to the Disaster Relief Fund, which provides vital assistance to those in need. Every donation, no matter the size, will make a difference. Please consider donating at <https://www.mophfund.org/donate> or scan the QR code below:



or mail check donations made **payable to MOPH FUND** to:

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Thank you for your continued support and service to our country.

**Thank-you Donors!**

## Fund Partners

The MOPH Fund partners with companies that share a mission of supporting veterans. Here's a glimpse at each of these partners and how you can make an impact by supporting them. By choosing these products or donating, you're actively helping the MOPH Fund support combat-wounded veterans. Check out more details on our website [here](#).



Proceeds from the products offered by our Partners result in corporate donations to the Fund to support the Order's programs.

When you purchase from them and refer them to others, the Order (National and Chapters) benefits.

## American Dream Programs

Offering discounts on home renovation services, a portion of registration fees goes directly to the Chapters and the Fund, helping veterans while saving on home projects. When ready to start a project or make a purchase, the Ambassador can submit order forms or request assistance by emailing [support@americandreamprograms.com](mailto:support@americandreamprograms.com). The support team will help process orders and provide guidance on maximizing the benefits offered through the program.



## RaphaRub

CBD products are known for their quality and purity. Every purchase supports MOPH, providing natural relief to veterans. RaphaRub products **contain 0.00% THC**, ensuring that users experience the therapeutic benefits of CBD without any psychoactive effects. The "Extra Intense Solution! Extra Ordinary Deal!" is available now. Extra savings still support the Chapter and the Fund.



### Testimonial:

Rapharub.shop – After concluding a thirty-five-year career in the fire service, primarily in high-demand engine and ladder companies, I began to experience some discomfort in my joints. Consequently, I decided to try the Rapha Rub product. By utilizing both the rubs and oils, I have achieved a state of being pain-free and am now able to enjoy life to the fullest. It is essential for first responders to exercise caution when using CBD products; however, this particular product is specifically designed for first responders, as it contains no THC whatsoever. I encourage you to explore it. It is effective. Visit [www.Rapharub.shop](http://www.Rapharub.shop). Martin Grube, Virginia Beach Fire Department (VA), CEO – FireRescueTV.

## Vapor Apparel

High-quality, sun-protective clothing with a dedicated MOPH collection. A portion of each purchase benefits veterans. Vapor Apparel is known for its commitment to sustainability and high-quality, durable products designed for comfort and performance. Their clothing is made with innovative fabrics that offer UPF 50+ sun protection and are ideal for a variety of activities, from everyday wear to outdoor adventures. By choosing Vapor Apparel through the MOPH Fund partnership, customers not only enjoy top-quality apparel but also make a meaningful impact on the lives of those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.



## NCS Vehicle Donations

Donate a vehicle for a tax deduction and directly fund MOPH's vital programs. Through this partnership, donors can turn their unused or unwanted vehicles into valuable contributions that directly fund the essential programs of the MOPH Fund. Whether it's an old car, truck, boat, or RV, every donation helps make a difference in the lives of those who have sacrificed so much for our country. Donating a vehicle is a powerful way to support veterans while also benefiting from a tax deduction.



## NCS Vehicle Donations

When you purchase (or donate your vehicles) from our partners, they donate to the Fund (and ultimately the Order).

Click on the link or scan the QR Code to see our partners on our website.

<https://www.mophfund.org/partners>



## Region I News

### Chapter 0027-NJ-1

Joe Piazza

### 2024 Year in Review

#### Donations

- 1,000 VFW post 2290 roof funds
- 1,000 D.A.V. Chapter 16's R&R party at Lyons VAHCS
- 300 Wreaths Across America
- 1,000 NJMOPH
- 200 Basilone Parade Committee
- 100 Horses for Forces
- 2,042.72 Winter coats for veterans at Community Hope Lyons VAHCS



- 250 American Legion Post 12
- 250 Central Jersey Military Motor Pool
- 537.50 Children of Fallen Patriots
- Total \$6,680

### Activities

- Gave winter coats to veterans at Community Hope, Lyons VAHCS
- Attended Ray Wenstrom’s viewing, funeral, and Celebration of Life
- Clean up and placement of memorial bricks at Purple Heart monument, Lyons VAHCS
- Visted member Ken Meany in nursing home, Brandy Wine, Warren
- Participated in the following:
- Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremonies at Hillsborough’s Garden of Honor and Manville VFW Post 2290
- Hillsborough’s Salute to Military Service breakfast
- Memorial Day parade in Somerville
- Berkley Heights street fair
- National Purple Heart Day ceremony at Hillsborough’s Garden of Honor
- Global War on Terrorism ceremony at VFW Post 2290, Manville
- Purple Heart Recognition dinner at VFW Post5119, Glen Gardner
- Basilone Parade
- Hillsborough VFW Post 8371 Veterans Day Ceremony
- Somerville Veterans Day Ceremony
- Honoring Veterans program at Roosevelt Elementary school, South Plainfield
- New Jersey MOPH Banquet
- Wreaths Across America, Sacred Heart Cemetery, Manville
- Rock & Roll party at Lyons VAHCS

## Department of Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart is coordinating Rt20 community by community to conduct MOH Sign Dedication ceremonies. There are smaller signs that a city or town will have no problem dedicating and placing them in the most appropriate local location. The goal is to have a minimum of 2 signs per community, and to conduct ceremonies with the local VFW, American Legion, and AMVETS Posts. Here are a few pictures. This is where they are: Boston in the east, Pittsfield in the west. Then West Springfield, Westfield, and Palmer.



*Brian Willets with one of the MA MOH Hwy signs*



## Region II News

### Chapter 0733-WV-2

David Duffer, Commander



#### Trail Ride

We are preparing for our annual trail ride in Gilbert, WV May 9 and 10 2025. Veterans ride for free and \$50.00 for non-vets. Breakfast and dinner will be provided.

If interested, please contact David Duffer at (304-840-4585; [david.duffer@yahoo.com](mailto:david.duffer@yahoo.com)) or Charles Baisden at 304-784-6330.

### Department of Missouri

Nelson Colon-Acevedo (Two Purple Hearts)  
Department Historian

#### TO BE WOUNDED IN COMBAT

A popular adage says, “Blood is thicker than water.” The meaning of the saying is that the bond that unites families is stronger than any other bond out there. There is no doubt that in many cases that meaning is correct and as such, it is honored. There is, however, a different meaning to this common proverb, a meaning that applies to many of the brothers and sisters who have shed their blood for this nation of ours. From the many battlefields of Europe, the sands of Southwest Asia, and the many hills and valleys of the Far East, it is not hard to find American blood, willingly given to

fighting for our rights or the rights of the people oppressed by despots, dictators, and enemies of freedom. To those who fought and were wounded in action, a new meaning is often used. Yes, blood is thicker than water. The blood shed by the Soldier, Airman, Seaman, or Marine next to you. The struggle to survive the wounds of a broken body, or the pain of losing a brother or sister in arms can create that bond among warriors. Blood is thicker than water when considering that your life depends on the person next to you, and vice versa. That bond kept you alive in the difficult moments and gave hope in the darkest hours.

There is a biblical reinforcement to all this. According to the Scriptures, John 15:13 states, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” The core meaning is the same, a willing sacrifice to give one’s life is the epitome of a warrior. It is a great honor to know that the warrior to your left or right knows that he can depend on you, no matter what the situation. And should the day come when a fighter is bleeding, comfort will come to his or her mind that it was for a worthy cause. The Bible is full of anecdotes that highlight those who sacrifice themselves, not for self-interest, but for others. Our country and its combatants know this all too well and it has been demonstrated since the early days of the birth of our nation.

In Islamic law, the *Qital fi sabilillah* (fighting in the way of Allah) a similar entry is acknowledged. The Prophet Muhammad forbade further attacks and protected those who were wounded in action. The law

dictates that “Fairness is prescribed by Allah in every matter, so if you kill, kill in a fair way.” The implications are clear: a wounded warrior has gained a place of honor, and it should be recognized, even if he or she is an enemy combatant. *Kitab Al-Jihad Wa’l-Siyar* (The book of Jihad and expedition), Chapter 46, number 4454 states, “It has been narrated on the authority of Anas b. Malik who said that the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) allowed Umm Sulaim and some other women of the Ansar to accompany him when he went to war; they would give water (to the soldiers) and would treat the wounded.” As a recipient of a Military Order of the Purple Heart, you have that right, it was not given, it was earned.

The connection to the Military Order of the Purple Heart is easy to establish. The back of the medal reads the inscription “FOR MILITARY MERIT.” At the same time, the certificate denotes, “FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION.” Both assertions are true. Historically, they may have a different meaning, as the Purple Heart was not bestowed solely to those wounded in armed conflict, but within the context of this article, it means the merit and honor for the bravery shown in combat. More than a medal, it is a statement of pride and the right to stand tall with the head up high as someone who has walked and crossed a line where others feared to go. Sadly, some did not live, but their spirits refused to die. Their stories are kept alive by those brothers and sisters who were there and saw it all.

Whether you are a Soldier, an Airman, a Seaman, or a Marine, know that the medal

bestowed to you in the name of the President of the United States of America is a symbol of your willingness to endure any hardships in the defense of the values that makes our nation the greatest place on this Earth. We salute you.

## Region III News

Larry Rupp, Commander

Here we are into the second month of 2025, and so far, Mother Nature hasn’t treated us too kindly. There have been devastating fires with the resulting mud slides in Southern California, and the collapse of a high school gymnasium roof in Southern Oregon caused by the weight of snow. And traveling east across the country, snow in areas where most residents don’t remember seeing snow. This all leads to one thing, we need to keep in touch with family, friends, and our fellow veterans to ensure they are okay and that you can be counted on if they need help.

One of the hardest challenges found by our organization is the recruitment of new members. The first challenge we have, that other veteran organizations don’t have to contend with is that our members have to be Purple Heart recipients. Chapter 147, Department of Oregon, has come up with the following program. They set up information and recruitment tables four to six times a year at local businesses. Information is provided about what the Order does, how to get lost/missing records and medals, how to get in touch with local

Veteran Service Officers and how to become a member. In addition, the Chapter participates in five Sportsman's Shows around the state. In addition to the services already mentioned, the Chapter hands out materials and items such as gun locks and stress balls and materials about mental health, all provided by Veteran Services. At these shows there is a free drawing for veterans. At the end of each show, two entry forms are drawn, and those two veterans receive a \$25.00 gift card. The entry form requests the veteran's information, such as address, phone number and branch of service. The form also has an area where they can mark whether or not they are a Purple Heart recipient. Those who mark yes are contacted while at the table and given more information about the order, given an application and told that their Lifetime Membership fee will be paid for by the Chapter and Department. This program has resulted in contacting a large number of potential members and a large number of unsolicited donations.

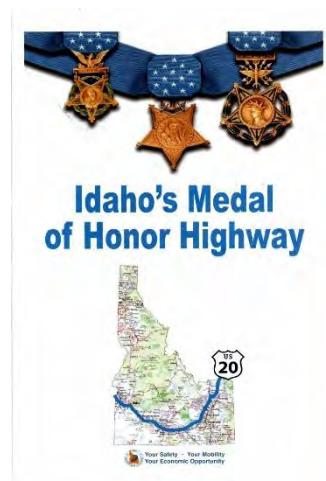
Lastly, I would like to remind the membership that we are all responsible when it comes to helping the MOH Fund get funding to support the Order and the Order's programs. You don't have to hold an office. Maybe you know someone who is looking for a tax-deductible program such as ours to donate to. Maybe you might know of a business that would be interested in becoming an ongoing sponsor of the Fund. If you know of individuals or businesses that might be interested in donating, get the information to your Chapter, Department, or Regional Commanders.

Stay safe, stay well, and don't forget your fellow veterans.

## Department of Idaho

Ned Barker, Commander  
and Chapters 509 & 511

The involvement of the Military Order of the Purple Heart—Idaho Department and Chapters 509 & 511—was crucial in advancing the recognition project to becoming U.S. law for several reasons.



## Symbolic Leadership:

- As the second state to endorse the project, Idaho lent momentum to the cause. Early adopters often play a vital role in demonstrating the feasibility and importance of such initiatives. This recognition underscored the nationwide significance of honoring America's heroes.
- Legitimacy and Advocacy: The Military Order of the Purple Heart is a respected organization representing



veterans wounded in combat. Their sponsorship added credibility to the project and amplified the voices of those directly impacted, making it harder for policymakers to ignore.



**Grassroots Momentum:**

- Local chapters like 509 and 511 engaged in advocacy, bringing the project to the attention of their communities and state legislators. Such grassroots support is often instrumental in building a coalition of support at the state and federal levels.



*Idaho MOH HWY Signing Ceremony with Governor Brad Little*



*Julie DeLorenzo Trans. Board, Gale Alvarez MOH Society, Commander Ned Barker, Dick Tobiason MOH Project Manager, Senator Abby, Lee, Past Commander William Hamilton, Representative Scott Syme, and Governor Brad Little*

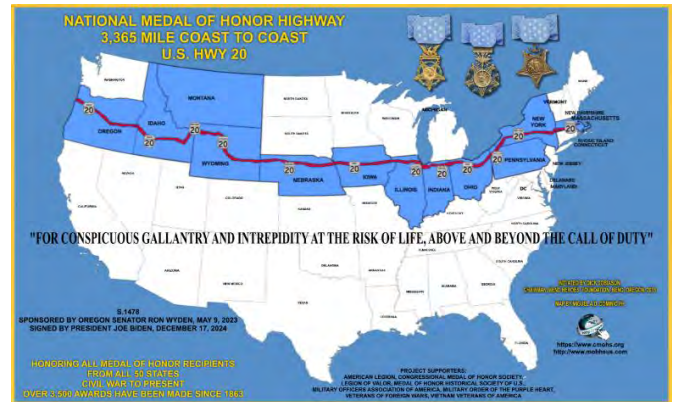
## Model for Other States:

Idaho's early participation set a precedent for other states to follow. Demonstrating that states were willing to sign on likely encouraged others to do the same, creating a ripple effect across the country.



## Impact on Federal Legislation:

- State-level recognition often serves as a catalyst for national action. When multiple states endorse a cause, it signals broad support to Congress, increasing the likelihood of the initiative gaining traction at the federal level.
- By sponsoring and supporting this recognition early on, Idaho, through the Military Order of the Purple Heart, helped lay the groundwork for the eventual adoption of the project as U.S. law, ensuring that America's heroes received the honor they deserved. 🇺🇸💜



## Region IV News

### Conflict Codes: Meaning and Dates

Ed Abbey, Region IV Adjutant

Too many times, as I was growing into my position I didn't know what all the codes

used in the membership data base went. Or for that matter how I could use it to better understand the Order itself.

In North Carolina I am able to count amongst our number a Chapter that recognizes the attack on the Beirut Barracks, but just up the road is a cluster of survivors of the Khobar Towers.

I am sure in every Department and State there are small numbers of members from the unique conflicts that followed after World War 2, Korea, and Viet Nam.

This is offered to you as a tool to identify

those few that recipients of the Purple Heart that came in small numbers and were never really recognized by the Nation at large.

Sadly, it may be true that we haven't done any better in recognizing them either.

I hope this may be of use to you, but at least now you have the dates to go with the codes and the conflicts.

Y I P,

*Ed Abbey*



## Sorted by Conflict Date

<u>CODE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>UNTIL</u>	<u>NAME OF CONFLICT</u>
W2	7-Dec-41	2-Sep-45	World War 2
KR	25-Jun-50	27-Jul-53	Korean War
LN	15-Jul-58	25-Oct-58	Lebanon Crisis
VN	1-Nov-55	30-Apr-75	Viet Nam War
	17-Apr-61	20-Apr-61	Bay of Pigs Invasion
DR	24-Apr-65	3-Sep-65	Dominican Civil War
UL	8-Jun-67		USS Liberty Incident
SN	3-Aug-81	5-Apr-12	Sinai Peacekeeping Mission
LN	23-Oct-83		Beirut Barracks Bombing
GN	25-Oct-83	2-Nov-83	Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada)
BN	5-Apr-86		Berlin Discotheque Bombing
PM	20-Dec-89	31-Jan-90	Operation Just Cause (Panama)
DS	2-Aug-90	28-Feb-91	Gulf War
SO	5-Dec-92	4-May-93	Operation Restore Hope (Somalia)
	19-Sep-94	31-Mar-95	Operation Uphold Democracy (Haiti)
	30-Aug-95	20-Sep-95	Operation Deliberate Force (Bosnia)
KT	25-Jun-96		Khobar Towers Bombing
	11-Jun-99	Ongoing	Kosovo Peacekeeping Force
UC	12-Oct-00		USS Cole Bombing
PN	11-Sep-01		September 11 Attacks (Pentagon)
AF	7-Oct-01	28-Dec-14	Opn Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan)
IF	20-Mar-03	18-Dec-11	Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq)
TI	1-Sep-10		Operation New Dawn
	2-May-11		Operation Neptune Spear
	15-Jun-14	Ongoing	Operation Inherent Resolve
	1-Jan-15	Ongoing	Operation Freedom Sentinel
OT			Other / Sometimes Used for Foreign Allies
IP			Provisional Annual / No Longer in Use



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## Region V News

### Chapter 0177-LA-5

Jason Sedotal, Commander

### Feb 22 is George Washington Day in Louisiana



VA Secretary Charlton Meginley reads a proclamation issued by Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry stating February 22nd is George Washington Day in Louisiana.



Chapter 177

commander Jason Sedotal is wearing the cowboy hat, LA commander Deron Santiny is wearing a baseball cap, and LA vice commander William "Mac" McInnis is in a purple shirt.

### Chapter 0393-TX-5

Robert Garza, Commander

### El Paso Community College

On Jan 30, 2025, the El Paso Community College (EPCC) proclaimed itself a Purple Heart college. The college in El Paso, TX serves a large veteran population to include active duty and families. Not only did all

campuses proclaim but the Student Veterans Association at EPCC became the first SVA in the nation to proclaim as a Purple Heart Organization. Thank you to Director Veteran Resource Center Carl Dwyer and to Lone Star Ch 393 Purple Heart Trail coordinator James DiNola for working together to create this successful event.



## Great Southwest-Yucca Council

On Feb 15th, 2025, the Yucca-Council (Great Southwest-Yucca Council as the first Purple Heart scouting council in the Nation. This organization has supported both youth and adults in West Texas and Southern New Mexico for over 100 years. We would like to thank Scout Executive/CEO Jeff Duer, Council President James Libbin, and Council Commissioner Nathaniel Jones for representing the council on this historic event. Special thanks to the Chapter Purple Heart Trail Coordinator James DiNola.



## Combat Veterans Motorcycle

On Feb 1, 2025, the Lone Star Ch 393 conducted its monthly meeting with a group of very special guests. The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter in El Paso attended the meeting to present the Chapter with a donation check for \$7,000 thousand dollars. The CVMA has contacted Commander Garza and requested to attend the meeting to present the check in front of its membership. This donation will help the chapter continue its efforts in supporting efforts to improve in the areas of homelessness and mental health as well as supporting its Americanism efforts. Lone Star Ch 393 was selected by the CVMA through its voting process and was selected from all the Veteran organizations in El Paso, TX. The Lone Star Ch 393 would like to extend its deepest gratitude and thanks to the CVMA for this very generous donation.





## Chapter 0602-OK-5

### Sage West (WY) becomes a Purple Heart Hospital



Guest speaker Master Sergeant (Ret.) Matthew W. Sims, U.S. Army. Sims.

[Sage West Health Care](#) became the first hospital in Wyoming to receive the Military Order of the Purple Heart Hospital designation, recognizing its commitment to honoring and supporting Purple Heart recipients within the community. This designation reflects the hospitals' dedication

to acknowledging the sacrifices of military personnel who have been wounded in combat.

Purple Heart Hospital Recognition Receptions was held at Sage West Riverton and Sage West Lander to commemorate this honor, featuring guest speaker Master Sergeant (Ret.) Matthew W. Sims, U.S. Army. Sims, a highly decorated combat medic and recipient of three Purple Hearts will share his experiences and insights. His book, [Why My Heart Is Purple](#), recounts his own journey of being wounded three times in combat and honors 219 military medical personnel who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Sims was also invited by Warner Brothers Music Studios to write a song about his military career. He partnered with a music artist named Tyler Filmore. To listen, [click here](#).



## Chapter 1836-TX-5

Tony Roman, Commander

Saturday January 18, 2025, MOPH Chapter 1836 was invited to join Captain Lawrence B. Whittle "Buzzard" to lunch after a hunt sponsored by Combat Marine Outdoors. Chapter Commander Tony Roman accompanied by three other Patriots of the Chapter to DK Farms . DK Farms donates the property to hunt and have fellowship for combat vets.

### DK Farms "Trophy Whitetail Hunt" January 17 - 19, 2025 Yancey, TX



Captain  
Lawrence B. Whittle "Buzzard"  
US Army  
Distinguished Flying Cross  
Silver Star Medal  
Bronze Star Medal w/Valor  
Purple Heart x 2  
Vietnam Combat Veteran

### CMO Team Leader



SFC  
Javier Zuniga  
US Army  
Combat Veteran  
CMO  
Team Leader

[www.CombatMarineOutdoors.org](http://www.CombatMarineOutdoors.org)  
a non profit 501(c)(3) corporation



## MOPHA Alamo Unit 1836

Anita Hunt-Trevino, President

### Christmas Goodie Bags

MOPHA Alamo Unit 1836, San Antonio, TX used HOV project funds to hold two veterans' appreciation events at the Walzem Rd VA Clinic in San Antonio. On November 6th, the unit's VAVS/CDCE representative Trish Rosie and Patriot Peter Rosie welcomed veterans and handed out breakfast tacos, assorted snacks, water bottles, t-shirts, and other small items as a token of appreciation. On December 16th, veterans received goodie bags containing tooth brushes, tooth paste, tissues, holiday bead necklaces, and Christmas candies. The Walzem Rd VA Clinic is an outpatient facility that provides primary care and specialty health services, including mental health care, telehealth, and more to veterans in the San Antonio area.



VAVS/CDCE representative Trish Rosie.

## Department of Arkansas

### AVC Change of Leadership



On Friday, 17 January 2025, PNC (and PDC-AR) Carder Ferguson, President, Arkansas Veterans Coalition (AVC) (left), presented outgoing AVC President Mark Diggs (PDC-AR) (center) with a plaque to commemorate Mark's outstanding accomplishments during his two-year term.

### AVC Meets AR State Legislators



(L-R): Patriots Carder Ferguson (PNC/Chapter 587); Paul Garrett (Chapter 431/MCL); Chuck Adkins (National VAVS Program Director/Chapter 460); & Mark Diggs (PDC-ARK/Chapter 431)

AVC at the Meet Your Legislators event held at the Arkansas State Capitol Building on 29 January 2025. PNC Ferguson testified during

a state Senate public hearing on behalf of the Arkansas Veterans Coalition on issues important to Arkansas Veterans.

## Region VI News

### Chapter 442-AZ-6

#### Donation to Tucson VA Hospital

On January 8th Ft Lowell chapter 442 presented \$15,435 for the HEM/ONC wing to the Tucson VA Hospital that was raised by the Charlie Skuhr Memorial Golf Tournament that was held on Veterans Day. Patriot Bob Asbell, Patriot John Grand, Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, & Susan-Lea Skuhr (friend of the Military Order of the Purple Heart) participated in the presentation. Susan-Lea plans and hosts the golf tournament. Pictured with hospital staff after presentation.



#### Bingo at the Tucson VA hospital

Fort Lowell Chapter 442 hosted bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA hospital on



December 28<sup>th</sup> & January 21<sup>st</sup>. Patriot Dave Bertagnoli & Patriot Danny Lemon conducted bingo. Their wives, Cherie & Yolanda, assisted the patients.



Home. Each of the 120 residents and 70 staff members were provided with a Christmas gift bag. Patriots Dave Bertagnoli, John Grand, John Moore, Jim Zimmerman & Joey Zimmerman, Frances Johnson, Cody Phipps & Sam Phipps, and Danny Lemon passed out the gifts and visited with residents.

Residents have served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, & the Global War on Terror. The oldest is 100 years old and the youngest is 31. Thank you to the ladies of Bridge Church Tucson for assembling and providing gift bags.

The grand prize was a beautiful quilt donated by the ladies from Canyon Del Oro Bible church. Thank you, Dave, Danny, Cherie, and Yolanda.



### Christmas Eve at AZ State Veterans Home



Ft Lowell Chapter 442 made our annual Christmas Eve visit to the AZ State Veterans'





**Johnson** were at Evergreen Cemetery. **Patriot Dyer** gave the innovation and benediction at Evergreen.



Patriot Mike Dyer, Chapter 442 Commander



### AHA Heart Ball

**Patriot John Grand, Patriot Dave Bertagnoli** and their spouses represented the chapter at the 2025 Tucson AHA Heart Ball. The ball was held on Jan 29th at the Tucson Convention Center and is sponsored by the Edwards family and Tucson Appliance Company. Tucson Appliance has been a supporter of Chapter 442 for a number of years.



### Wreaths Across America

**Chapter 442** participated in **Wreaths Across America** ceremonies at Evergreen, South Lawn, & Marana Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries on December 14th. **Patriot Gilbert** represented the Order at Marana Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. **Patriot Grand** was at Funeraria del Angel South Lawn Cemetery. **Patriot Dyer & Patriot**



*Patriot Grand and Patriot Bertagnoli*



*Patriot Grand*



### Four Chaplains Ceremony

**Ft. Lowell Chapter 442** participated in the Four Chaplains ceremony on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Patriot **John Grand** read the biography of one of the Four Chaplains. He also gave remarks on the history and significance of the Purple Heart. A Purple Heart wreath was placed in honor of the Four Chaplains by Patriot **Danny Lemon** and Patriot **Jim Zimmerman**. Patriot **Frances Johnson**, and Patriot **Cody Phipps**. Special guest was Patriot **Walter Ram** who is 101 years old. Music was provided by the 4th Cavalry Band (reenactors).



## Chapter 0691-AZ-6

Larry Leighton, Commander

### Ruptured Duck for Richard Ruthenbeck



*Patriot Larry Leighton (r) presents the ceremonial 'Ruptured Duck' Lapel Pin to Richard Ruthenbeck, a Navy WWII Veteran at the American Legion Post 94 Membership Meeting. Post Commander Jack Coyle (holding a patriotic-themed quilt) looks on.*

### Glendale Stand-Up for Veterans



*(L-R) Junior Vice Commander John Ballenger and Senior Vice Commander Jim Starkman provide visitors to the Glendale Standup for Veterans with information about available services and the MOPH.*

### Wickenburg Gold Rush Days

Feb 14 thru 16, we had at booth at the Wickenburg Gold Rush Days. Although we did not sign up any new members, the team (Jim and Karen Starkman, Keith and Kristi Gray, Ron and Cindi Capek, John Ballenger, and myself) raised \$2,987 for MOPH Programs. The 50/50 raffle winner won



\$1,597 and donated \$397 back to the Chapter.

*John Ballenger is shown "holding down the fort."*

### George Washington Birthday

Our annual George Washington Birthday celebration was a great success despite the low turn out. The food was great and comraderie GREAT. Almost everyone danced to at least one song and several managed more, Karen Starkman called all Members up to the dance floor and recognized each of us for the guests. The donated raffle gifts and silent auction items enable the Chapter to not only keep the meal cost down, but also raised \$877. 25 for the Chapter.



*Keith Fowler (DJ and Emcee) and Sherry Hayes; Sharon and Roger Kleinschmidt.*



*(L-R) Larry and Kay Leighton; Jim and Karen Starkman*





Linda Wright is shown riding the trike she bought during the auction. Sal Salinas is in the foreground.

## Chapter 2560-AZ-6

**R.E.D. .... Remember Everyone Deployed.**

Please know you are always welcome  
on **RED Friday**.



Wow!! It just can't get any better!! Or can it? A splendid turnout of 131 patriots (photos) this morning with a host of first-time guests to include: Howard Smith (USA), Dylan Wood, Monika Perry (USAF), Benjamin Jeffrey (USN), Bud Whittenhall (USMC), Metalynn Mohr, Gary Mohr, Tina Hale (USA Retired), Keith Gemmill, Joe Thornell (USAF Retired), Jim Hubred (USAF), Michael Flowers (USMC), Ron Baxter (ARNG), Pam Baxter, Kay Kohlhepp, Steve Singlar (USN Retired), Steve Breuker (USAF), Patrick McDonald (USMC), Mike Hegberg (USN), Pat

Upah (USA Retired), David Upah, and Walter "Chip" Wilson (USAF Retired).

Thanks to each of you for joining us today, for sharing in our camaraderie, and supporting the mission of **R.E.D. .... Remember Everyone Deployed**. Please know you are always welcome on **RED Friday**.



(L-R) Ronald West, Mike Overmeyer Chapter 2560 Commander

As most veterans know, the administration of our beloved armed forces occasionally slips up and does not follow through on important details. Such is the case with **Ronald West**, a Vietnam combat veteran (1968 – 1969) who was wounded while serving with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Americal Division. Ron's Form DD 214 clearly states that he was a recipient of the Purple Heart Medal. However, the medal was never presented to Ron either in a formal or informal ceremony. Thanks to the efforts of the *Military Order of the Purple Heart*, Apache Junction chapter 2560 led by Chapter Commander Mike Overmeyer, a long-awaited Purple Heart Medal was presented to Ron today with a resounding ovation and appreciation for his sacrifice.



We were extraordinarily pleased to have as our guest speaker **CPT Brian Udell**, (photo) a 10-year USAF veteran who logged nearly 2,000 hours and 100 combat missions flying the F-

15E Strike Eagle fighter airplane in Southwest Asia on multiple deployments.

While flying a night training mission over the Atlantic Ocean, 65 miles from the shore of Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C., a malfunction occurred requiring Brian and the co-pilot to eject. He made the decision to bail out at 10,000 feet, got into good position and pulled the handles at 6,000 feet, left the aircraft at 3,000 feet, and the parachute opened at just under 1,000 feet. All that happened in a matter of a few seconds.

Brian holds the record for surviving the highest speed ejection from a U.S. Fighter Aircraft at nearly 800 M.P.H.

Unfortunately, the co-pilot did not survive. Brian was severely injured and suffered fractures from head to feet drastically minimizing the use of his arms and legs and his chance of survival in the treacherous ocean. After four hours afloat in a partially inflated life raft, Brian was miraculously rescued by the US Coast Guard.

After his eventual rehab and decision to leave the USAF in 1999, Brian secured a position as a pilot for Southwest Airlines and continues to fly with the airlines today. He has accumulated over 21,000 hours in a

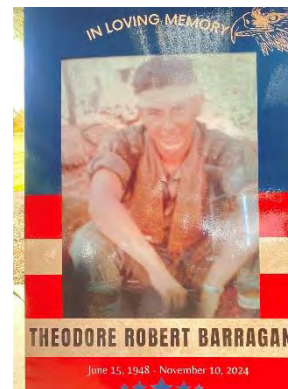
variety of both civil and military aircraft. His story is a compelling example of perseverance, faith, and a sheer will to survive. Thank you, Brian, for sharing your story.

If it has been a while since you last joined us for a **RED Friday** assembly, we encourage you to pay us a visit. You won't be disappointed, and we will be grateful for your support. The group meets each Friday at the American Legion Post 27, 1018 S. Meridian Road, Apache Junction. A buffet breakfast is served beginning at 7:30am (\$12pp), and the program starts promptly at 8:15am. Join us. Wear **RED**. Bring a friend. **Remember Everyone Deployed (R.E.D.)**.

## Chapter 2929-CA-6

Commander Raymond Wetzel

### Honors - RIP



**Cpl. Theodore Barragan** was laid to rest at Riverside National Cemetery in November 2024. Cpl. Barragan was a Purple Heart recipient. Chapter 2929 member Daniel Perez was a close friend to

Patriot Barragan for over 30 years, Patriot Perez requested members of Chapter 2929 be present to honor one of our own.



Commander Keller presented the family with a Certificate from the Department of California In Memory of Cpl. Barragan.



(L-R) Chapter 2929 Commander Raymond Wetzel, Chapter 2929 member David "DOC" Hooper also a member of the Semper Fi1 Honor Guard, Dept. of CA Commander Jo Keller, Chapter 2929 member Daniel Perez.

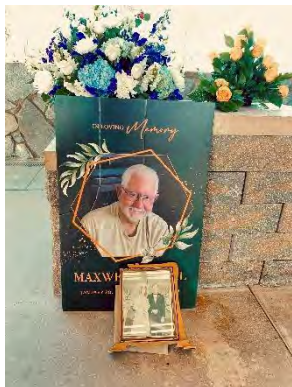


CA Dept. Commander Jo Keller presenting certificate to the family.

(F-B) Chapter 2929 Sr. Vice Commander Glenn Coplin, Chapter 2929 Commander Raymond Wetzel, Chapter 2929 member David "DOC" Hooper and Semper Fi1 Honor detail member.



**Sgt. Maxwell Terral** was laid to rest at Riverside National Cemetery in January 2025. Sgt. Terral was a Purple Heart



recipient. Chapter 2929 Sr. Vice Commander Glenn Coplin was a close friend for over 20 years and use to swap stories with Max at the local Vet Center in San Bernardino, CA. To

Honor his friend and also a fellow Patriot Sr. Vice Coplin requested the chapters attendance.

## City of Beaumont, CA Annual Veteran Expo

This event draws a lot of attention from the veteran community. The Expo provides a lot of needed resources for the veterans. We had a great time meeting and talking with a lot of veterans who only needed simple advice and to interact with their own kind.



(L-R) Chapter 2929 member Richard Gauthier, AMVETS Post 77 Commander and Associate member of Chapter 2929 Richard Keller, Chapter 2929 Commander Raymond Wetzel.



*Dept. of CA Commander Jo Keller and member of AMVET Post 77 Jo Keller, Chapter 2929 member Richard Gauthier, AMVETS Post 77 Commander Richard Keller, Chapter 2929 Commander Raymond Wetzel.*



*Dept. of CA Commander Jo Keller, Chapter 2929 member John Gordon, Chapter 2929 Commander Raymond Wetzel, Chapter 2929 Sr. Vice Commander Glenn Coplin.*

## National Salute to Veteran Patients

National Salute to Veteran Patients at Loma Linda VA Ambulatory Care Center (ACC), Redlands, CA. Chapter 2929 collaborated with AMVETS Post 77 at this event, it was really great interacting with all the veterans, we laughed, cried, and just talked and listen to them. It was a privilege to be amongst so many heroes. I had the opportunity to meet an OIE/OEF Purple Heart recipient who was thrilled to learn about MOPH. Patriot Anthony Randle Sr. is now the newest member of the Order and Chapter 2929.

*Chapter 2929 Sr. Vice Commander Glenn Coplin interacting with a fellow veteran.*



*Patriot Anthony Randle Sr.*



*( L-R) Chapter 2929 member John Gordon, Chapter 2929 Commander Raymond Wetzel, Chapter 2929 Sr. Vice Commander Glenn Coplin.*

## Department of California

Jo Keller, Commander

### Department Makeup



The state of California is the third largest state in the United States and measures 560 miles from west to east and 1040 miles from north to south at its widest and longest.

The state of California is known for its sun, sand, surf, and mountains as well as its many attractions. Our famous attractions include the Golden gate bridge, Yosemite national park, Sequoia National Park, Disneyland, Santa Monica Pier, Hollywood, the Griffith Observatory and Silicone Valley just to name a few.

California has more than 30 military bases which is more than double any other state. We are home to Camp Pendelton Marine Corps Base, Edwards Air Force Base, Presidio of Monterrey, Travis Air Force Base (largest Air Mobility organization), Sand Diego (Home of the largest naval complex in the Pacific), Beale AFB, China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, Naval Air Station Lemoore, Naval Air Station North Island and Naval Amphibious Coronado just to name a few.

California's military bases are strategically located and contribute to national security and are also a gateway to Asia and the Pacific, which is an increasingly important area for the U.S.

The number of Purple Heart recipients in

this state is unknown. The awarding of Purple Hearts was a decentralized process and there is no single collection of records for purple hearts award files. You can currently search for a recipient by name at the Purple Heart Hall of Honor (<https://www.thepurpleheart.com/>) - if they

have enrolled. You can also search and request a veteran's records on: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records> if needed.

We welcome you to plan a visit to our beautiful state where you can enjoy a variety of adventures.

We have 11 Chapters with a Membership of over 4100 strong. We invite you to contact one of our MOPH Chapters near you when visiting. You can find Chapter locations and POC's on our website at: <https://www.capurpleheart.org/about-us/chapters-poc-s>



## Department Convention

### MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Department of California Convention  
May 19-21, 2025

at  
EMBASSY SUITES (by Hilton)  
Temecula Valley Wine Country  
29345 Rancho California Drive  
Temecula CA 92591



We contracted a room block @ \$119 with breakfast to order, Free parking and 2 drink tickets pp each day for happy hour

Service Dogs are Welcome

Pets will require a \$75.00 non-refundable fee for up to 3 nights (add'l nights \$125.00.  
Max 1 Dog/Cat only)  
Convention registration

We're in wine country

The 1st one of many wineries is 4 miles  
Old Town Temecula is 1.3 Miles  
Pechanga Casino is 4.5 Miles

The casino offers free self-parking at the North and East garage  
\*\*The casino offers free valet parking for guests with disabilities

Booking and registration details can be found on our website:

2025 Department Convention | mo-ph-california

Any questions Call or email Raymond Wetzol @ (909) 701-9886 commmandor.mo-ph2929@yahoo.com

## Reunions

### May 6-10, 2025

#### Branson Veterans Task Force Purple Heart Reunion

Hotel: Westgate Branson Woods, 2201 Roak Valley Rd., Branson, MO

Click here for [Details](#).

### June 4th – 8th, 2025

#### US Army Vietnam – Dusters, Quads, Searchlights, Vulcans, and HAWK.

42nd Annual Reunion – San Antonio, TX-  
Holiday Inn Riverwalk Hotel

Contact: Bruce Geiger (914)5761050,

[bmgeiger@aol.com](mailto:bmgeiger@aol.com)

website: [NDQSA – Air Defense Artillery service during the Vietnam War](#)

## Career Opportunities



### Veterans Experience Office

Editor's note: This post contains links to jobs that are active at the time of publishing.

Most job listings close 7-30 days after publishing. The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products and services on the part of VA. Veterans should verify the information with the organization offering.

Each week, we receive job announcements from employers and employment websites—

including [RallyPoint](#), [RecruitMilitary](#), [VetJobs](#) and [HireMilitary](#)—looking to hire Veterans. Each week, we'll continue to post relevant and timely listings as we receive them, and for the locations listed.

By recognizing the skills, discipline, leadership and problem-solving abilities that Veterans possess, employers can benefit greatly from hiring them. Veterans bring a diverse perspective, adaptability, and a strong work ethic to the workplace, enriching the company culture and fostering innovation.



## Check out the latest job listings:

<https://news.va.gov/138112/hiring-veterans-jobs-week-feb-3-2025/>

<https://news.va.gov/138283/hiring-veterans-jobs-week-feb-10-2025/>

<https://news.va.gov/138357/hiring-veterans-jobs-week-feb-17-2025/>

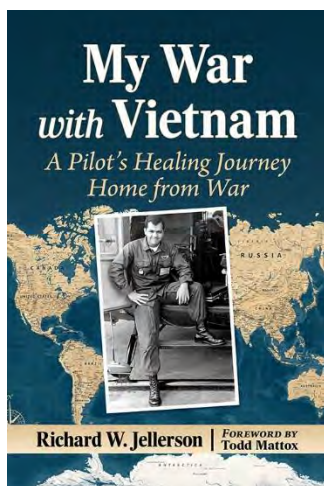
## Building America: Stepping into a career in construction

February 12, 2025; Zoe Nembhard and Jonathan Arnholz; National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)

<https://news.va.gov/138272/building-america-stepping-career-construction/>

## Books and Films

### My War With Vietnam



### My War with Vietnam: A Pilot's Healing Journey Home from War

by Richard W. Jellerson released on 1/17/25.

The expression, "Fog of War" perfectly encapsulates what it

was like to experience the Vietnam War firsthand. This is an account of what it was like to be there, an account of what the war demanded of young American boys fighting,

flying, and dying in it. And life afterwards for the author.

As an Army helicopter pilot there, he learned to become numb to all the carnage in combat, to stop feeling anything at all, to bury his own humanity and find a dark place in his heart to fly the missions required in that war. His second tour saw even more haunting revelations about that war as he became Aircraft Commander on Four Star General Abrams' helicopter. Abrams was Commanding Officer all Forces Vietnam.

This book is a gripping memoir of a harrowing tour of duty and the healing that followed. The last few chapters tell of the unsolicited healing the author received from strangers in countries he visited before going home. Their warmth, outstretched hands and open hearts reacquainted him with the wonderful gift of being human. So many gracious strangers helped him see he couldn't, shouldn't stay numb. his healing began.

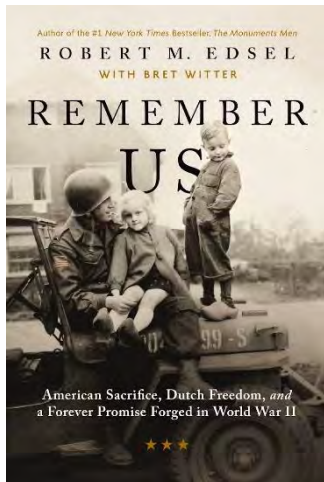
This book on the Amazon site offers the first chapter to read and witness the author's clarity of vision and writing talent.

Former advertising writer/director, Richard W. Jellerson is a documentary filmmaker. He lives in the mountains above Los Angeles, California.

The book is available for purchase directly from the publisher at [My War with Vietnam - McFarland](#). Booksellers interested in ordering may contact Adam Phillips ([aphillips@mcfarlandpub.com](mailto:aphillips@mcfarlandpub.com)) for discount and ordering information.

## Remember Us

By Robert Edsel—#1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Monuments Men*



“An intimate, moving look at the war that extracts deep meaning from the carnage and loss.” — Publishers Weekly

What happens when you lose your freedom and the people who

eventually get it back for you are no longer alive to thank?

*Remember Us*, by Robert Edsel—#1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Monuments Men*—begins in the pre-dawn hours of Hitler’s invasion of Western Europe on May 10, 1940, when his forces rolled into the small rural province of Limburg in the Netherlands shattering more than 100 years of peace. Their freedom gone, the Dutch lived through four-and-a-half years of occupation until American forces reached Limburg in September 1944, the last portion of Western Europe liberated by the Allies before their advance on Nazi Germany slammed to a halt.

Like *The Monuments Men*, *Remember Us* is an ensemble piece that follows twelve main characters over a six-year span, zeroing in on ordinary people including Frieda van Schäik, a teenager who falls in love with an American soldier; Lieutenant Colonel Robert

Cole, the first member of the 101st Airborne to receive the Medal of Honor; and Sergeant Jeff Wiggins of the 960th Quartermaster Service Company, who escaped the poverty and racism of Alabama for yet another indignity—digging graves.

Drawing on never-before-seen letters, diaries, and other historical records, Edsel shows the painful price of freedom, on the battlefields and inside American homes. In this rich, dramatic, and suspenseful story, he captures both the horrors of war and the transcendent power of gratitude, showing the extraordinary measures the Dutch have taken to thank their liberators. *Remember Us* is exactly the book we need—a reminder that grief is universal, that humanity knows no national or racial boundaries, and that we all want to be remembered, somehow, someday, by somebody.

*Remember Us* is dedicated “To the men and women in uniform who defend freedom.” The book left me stunned, with its story of an entire town adopting the graves of more than 8,200 American war dead outside Margraten, just east of Maastricht, where some of us served in the Cold War. The narrative flows compellingly, drawing the reader from page to page and chapter to chapter.

There is the mother of a U.S. Army Air Forces pilot, who was shot down and aided by the Dutch Resistance but tragically executed by a German officer during his escape. Upon visiting her son’s fresh grave in 1946, intent on bringing his body home, the mother finds 1,200 Dutch mourners there in

the rain, waiting for her visit. I will stop there because what follows will move you to tears.

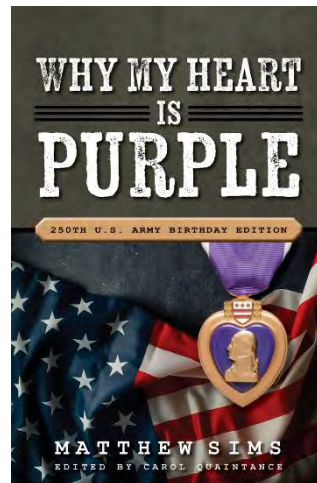
I found searing the story of African American soldiers who with pick, shovel, and bare hands in the rain and mud, ice and snow, dug the graves for the dead of Operation Market Garden, the battles of Aachen and the Hurtgen Forest, the Battle of the Bulge, and those who fell up to the war's closing days. This is a story all-but-untold; it offers an unforgettable and important historic contribution.

Another story within *Remember Us* is that of the doctrinaire bureaucrats, uniformed and civilian, who tried to keep the faithful Dutch from watching over the graves of their liberators.

And there is the Dutch woman who wrote the mother of a fallen soldier in 1945, "He is buried at the large U.S. Military Cemetery in Margraten, Holland, a place 6 miles from where I live. I am taking care of his grave."

That cemetery is now the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial, and its graves are watched over to this day by the Dutch, who remember.

## Why My Heart is Purple



By Matthew Sims  
(Chapter 0602-OK-5);  
edited by Carol  
Quaintance

This book brings to life the firsthand account of Matthew Sims who earned three Purple Hearts while serving as

Combat Medic "Doc Sims." He lived through the Iraq and Afghanistan battlefields answering cries that few have ever heard, the call that rings out when a Soldier, Marine, Sailor, or Airman is hit—"MEDIC!" It also tells the story of a unique group of Americans whose job it is to save others' lives while risking their own. They often have to make a split-second decision to either leave their protected position and scramble to the side of the casualty or wait until the small-arms fire subsides. The 219 medical personnel profiled in this book all paid the ultimate price in the performance of their duty from 2001 to 2008 in Iraq and Afghanistan. We must not allow ourselves to forget the sacrifices these American heroes made in supporting their fellow service members. (178pp. full-color illus. Masthof Press, 2024.)

## Legislation (Take Action)

### Dental Care for Veterans Act

Please add your support for H.R. 210, 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.

Currently, the VA only provides full dental care services to a limited number of veterans enrolled in its health care system, which includes those who have a service-connected dental disability, are 100% service disabled and those receiving Total Disability for Individual Unemployability (TDIU). In total, only about 500,000 of the 9 million veteran enrollees in the VA health care system have eligibility for dental care.

Studies show that poor dental hygiene can lead to a number of chronic health conditions, including infections from decaying and dying teeth, which can be life-threatening if not treated. Dental care has been proven to be an important part of overall health care. VA is considered a comprehensive health care system for veterans and the lack of basic dental care is a major gap in the whole health model VA care subscribes to.

This legislation is consistent with DAV Resolution No. 41, which calls for the provision of comprehensive dental care to all service-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. 210, the Dental Care for Veterans Act.

[Take Action](#)



### Lead by Example Act

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration operates the nation's largest integrated health care system, offering comprehensive high-quality health care services to meet the needs of our nation's wounded, ill and injured veterans. The VA has done this by bringing together system-wide clinical expertise regarding service-connected conditions and disorders, utilizing a team approach to primary care that is veteran-centric and has a holistic view of veterans' needs to include, physical, psychosocial and economic determinants of health, and providing critical support services for veterans, family members and caregivers.



H.R. 149, the Lead by Example Act of 2025, would require that members of Congress and congressional staff receive health care from the VA, rather than through plans currently available to them as federal employees. Requiring the leadership and lawmakers of our nation to receive health care from the VA will help members of Congress to appropriately assess the resource needs of the department to deliver timely, high quality health care to our nation's veterans.

Consistent with DAV Resolution No. 40, DAV strongly supports H.R. 149.

We call on all DAV members and supporters to contact their representatives and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 149. Thank you for all you do for America's veterans and their families.

[Take Action](#)



## **Retired Pay Restoration Act**

Under current law disabled veterans with longevity retirement from active military service who are also in receipt of a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation of 50% or higher may receive both military retirements pay and their VA disability compensation, while

excluding those with disabilities rated of 40% or less—creating financial inequities over time.

H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act, extends the authority for concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation to retirees with service-connected disabilities rated 40% or less.

DAV strongly supports H.R. 303, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 1, which calls to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for all longevity retired veterans, which would correct a longstanding injustice faced by many disabled military retirees.

We call on all DAV members and supporters to contact their representative and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 303. As always, we appreciate your support for DAV and thank you for participating in DAV's Commander's Action Network (DAV CAN).

[Take Action!](#)



## Veterans Foreign Medical Coverage Equality and Modernization

H.R. 439, the Veterans Foreign Medical Coverage Equality and Modernization Act of 2025, would mandate the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide hospital care and medical services to veterans with service-connected disabilities rated as permanent and total, regardless of their location outside the United States. This bill would require the VA to guarantee that the medical care provided to veterans living abroad is consistent with the standards of medical practice in the United States, and requires that any prescription medication furnished, be approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Additionally, the bill aims to expedite reimbursements, improve efficiency, and reduce administrative costs by enabling direct deposit payments and enhancing VA mobile applications for digital submissions and real-time tracking of forms and documentation.

The DAV supports H.R. 439, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 405, which calls for expanded quality health care services to meet the needs of the growing population of service-disabled veterans who travel to or reside in foreign countries.

We call on DAV members and supporters to contact their representative and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 439. As always, we appreciate your support for DAV's legislative priorities and thank you for

participating in DAV CAN.

[Take Action!](#)



## Member Benefits

**AUSA SCHOLARSHIPS NOW OPEN**  
**DEADLINE 5 MAY 2025**



Your [MOPH] AUSA membership unlocks an incredible opportunity—access to over \$300,000 in exclusive scholarships for you and your family.

Applications are open until 5 May 2025, with awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$48,000. These scholarships can help cover tuition, books, certifications, or even reduce college debt.

Make the most of your membership and invest in your future. Apply today.

Thank You,  
*The AUSA Team*

## Membership Fees

When recruiting, If possible, please have the potential applicant complete the **online application** and pay the \$200.00 fee. Remember fees can be paid in four equal payments of \$50 within one year.

There are still many versions of the old \$50.00 Fee Membership Applications out there and too many instances old applications are being submitted with only \$50. The individuals, believing they are already members are confused and upset when we tell them they are only temporary members until they pay the remaining \$150.

Again, use the online application and avoid all the misunderstandings and processing delays.

Thanks, and have a great day!

## Wanted Past PH Magazines

Patriot Guadalupe Vasquez, Chapter 0793-AZ-6, is looking for a copy of the Jan-Feb 2009 issue of The Purple Heart Magazine to give to his children. We were not able to find a copy at the headquarters and are asking anyone who may have a copy to contact Larry Leighton at [lleight@gmail.com](mailto:lleight@gmail.com) or 623-776-5443.

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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)

See left side for Dues schedule.

MOPH use only

All applicants must complete the appropriate section below and send with payment to: MOPH National Headquarters 5413-G Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151 www.purpleheart.org membership@purpleheart.org 703-642-5380

**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 53-85  
**Service**  Army  Navy  Air Force  Marines  Coast Guard  
**War Wounded**  WW2  Korea  Vietnam  OEF  OIF  OOND  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's 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 53-85

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

INTERNAL USE ONLY:  
Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Member Type \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

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

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Requested \_\_\_\_\_

I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Relation to Recipient Name of Purple Heart Recipient  
[ ] He/she is a member of MOPH Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member Number \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] He/she is not a member of MOPH. Attached is the DD214 for certification of Purple Heart award.

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

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
Auxiliary member name & ID number signing you up

**Membership eligibility must be certified by Chapter or Department MOPH Officer or DD214.**  
I certify that the MOPH Member & ID Number is known to me & the Applicant is eligible for membership in MOPHA.  
Certified by \_\_\_\_\_ MOPH Officer Position \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter# \_\_\_\_\_

INTERNAL USE ONLY:  
Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Member Type \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

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

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Requested \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
Auxiliary Member & ID number signing you up

**Membership eligibility must be certified by Chapter or Department MOPH Officer or DD214.**  
I certify that the MOPHA Member & ID Number is known to me & the Applicant is eligible for membership in MOPHA.  
Certified by \_\_\_\_\_ MOPH Officer Position \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter# \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Dues Schedule: Life Membership—\$50.00

Associate Life Membership—\$50.00

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

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



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



## 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 Dec 31, 2024, and Feb 28, 2025, 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	Middle Name	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
NML-XX-7	George W.	ABERCROMBIE		None	2025-02-14
7110-MN-2	John	AHMANN	L	2021-02-10	2025-02-19
0529-PA-1	Arthur	ALBERTSON	D	None	2025-01-08
0455-PA-1	John H	ALDEN		None	2025-02-17
0745-MN-2	Bob	ANDERSEN		2006-10-26	2025-01-28
0268-MN-2	Richard	ANDERSON	M	2019-11-27	2025-02-10
DML-MO-2	Albert	ARCHULETA	J	2025-02-14	2025-02-18
DML-CO-5	Baxter	ARNOLD	W	None	2025-01-05
0717-FL-4	Thomas	ASHFORD		2025-01-12	2025-01-13
0194-MN-2	Glenn	BAKEBERG	D	2021-01-04	2025-01-27
0260-NE-2	Charles R	BARNETT		2007-05-13	2025-01-14
0268-MN-2	Robert E	BAXTER		2014-06-12	2025-02-02
0140-MO-2	John W	BAYNES		None	2025-02-17
5555-MN-2	John S	BEACH		2018-02-08	2025-02-01
1732-VA-1	William W	BECKWITH		None	2025-02-12
0005-MN-2	Kenneth D	BELLANGER		2019-07-28	2025-01-05
0268-MN-2	Bernerd	BENOIT	Peter	2022-03-27	2025-02-10
0008-MN-2	Mario	BERKLEY		2015-12-13	2025-01-26
0005-MN-2	Michael E.	BERRY		2015-07-25	2025-01-28
0268-MN-2	David J	BLUM		None	2025-02-24
0260-NE-2	Joseph A	BOHNENKAMP		2015-04-15	2025-01-14
0483-HI-6	James R.	BOREN		None	2025-01-07
DML-CO-5	Ernest R	BOURGEOIS		None	2025-01-04
NML-XX-7	Wayland G.	BOWEN		None	2025-02-14
0056-MN-2	Ernest O	BOWERS		2018-03-18	2025-02-07
0056-MN-2	Eugene J	BRENNHOFER		2018-08-12	2025-01-31
0162-WI-2	William L	BRILL		2025-02-02	2025-02-24
0194-MN-2	James N	BROEKEMEIER		2020-10-10	2025-01-23
DML-CO-5	Guy	BROONER		None	2025-01-04
0008-MN-2	J Silas	BROWN		2004-06-26	2025-02-05
0807-MN-2	Robert M	BROWNE		2015-10-20	2025-02-16
0455-PA-1	Peter	BUCHAN		None	2025-01-03
NML-XX-7	Kenneth G.	BURKS		None	2025-02-14
0008-MN-2	Harold R.	BURROUGHS		2008-10-30	2025-01-26
0821-MO-2	Carl L	BURROW		None	2025-02-17
1974-OH-2	David D	BUSHEY		2025-02-03	2025-02-10
NML-XX-7	Robert A.	BYE		2004-01-27	2025-02-16
0455-PA-1	Joseph T	CAPONE		None	2025-01-05
0260-NE-2	Richard R.	CAREY		2001-11-30	2025-01-14
NML-XX-7	Alvin B.	CARLISLE		2021-08-02	2025-02-16
0103-CT-1	Harold E	CARLSON		None	2025-02-18

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0260-NE-2	Joseph P.	CARSON		1993-10-26	2025-01-14
0103-CT-1	Everett F	CASSAGNERES		None	2025-02-18
0455-PA-1	Dominic A	CERSOSIMO		None	2025-01-03
0260-NE-2	Calvin V	CHRISTENSEN		2003-07-25	2025-01-14
0807-MN-2	Freddie L	CLARK		2024-03-01	2025-01-28
0260-NE-2	John K	CLEVELAND		2003-09-18	2025-01-14
0260-NE-2	Donald R.	COLLIGAN		2016-03-04	2025-01-14
0056-MN-2	Lyle F	CONAWAY		2021-10-09	2025-01-26
0697-WV-2	Eugene V	CONRAD		None	2025-02-17
NML-XX-7	Michael A.	CORCORAN		2008-07-16	2025-02-16
0465-GA-4	Thomas J	COURTNEY		2024-12-16	2025-01-13
NML-XX-7	Terry L	CRAIN		1998-09-13	2025-02-16
0531-GA-4	William S	CRAWFORD		2024-07-16	2025-02-06
0607-VA-1	Dennis L	CROUCH		2020-12-10	2025-01-28
1513-TX-5	Harold B	CULVER		2025-01-06	2025-02-10
0830-AK-3	Amanuel	DABNEY	C	None	2025-02-17
0745-MN-2	John Loren	DANIELSON		2014-02-26	2025-02-16
0455-PA-1	George	DAUGHERTY	E	None	2025-01-03
0705-FL-4	Lamont P	DAVIS		None	2025-01-26
0316-FL-4	John J.	DETFLEFS		1995-05-30	2025-01-25
0987-MN-2	Nello Anthony	DIGIVANNI		2011-05-17	2025-01-28
7110-MN-2	Kenneth	DOBSON	A	2019-07-19	2025-02-02
0455-PA-1	Joe	DONA		None	2025-01-03
1732-VA-1	Francis A.	DOWDLE		None	2025-02-12
2201-AL-4	James F	DRAKE		None	2025-02-11
0455-PA-1	Albert	DREISTADT	C	None	2025-01-05
0005-MN-2	Cornelius M.	DRISCOLL		2006-02-15	2025-02-02
0260-NE-2	Bob C.	DUDLEY		2023-10-23	2025-01-14
0056-MN-2	Raymond L	DUMS		2024-09-15	2025-01-26
2211-AL-4	Alvin	DUPONT	Paul	None	2025-02-11
0268-MN-2	Jerry A	DURHEIM		2013-12-24	2025-02-24
0056-MN-2	Walter A	EGELAND		2016-11-14	2025-01-26
0056-MN-2	Robert M	ELIASON		2019-05-24	2025-02-23
NML-XX-7	Celso C	ENRIQUEZ		None	2025-02-14
0268-MN-2	Roy C.	ENROTH		1993-08-02	2025-02-11
NML-XX-7	Gerard C.	ERDAHL		None	2025-02-14
0056-MN-2	Dale A	ERICKSON		2022-11-26	2025-02-07
0056-MN-2	Richard P	ESTRADA		2002-04-30	2025-01-26
0531-GA-4	Bruce C	EVANS		2024-03-20	2025-02-06



Chapter	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0008-MN-2	Earl C	FAULHABER		None	2025-01-17
0005-MN-2	John J.	FISCHER		1998-03-12	2025-02-02
0531-GA-4	Joseph A	FISHER		2023-09-14	2025-02-06
0260-NE-2	Timothy A.	FISHER		2015-01-01	2025-01-14
0316-FL-4	Paul C	FITZGERALD		2016-07-16	2025-01-13
NML-XX-7	John Lewis	FLINT		None	2025-02-14
0252-IL-2	Joseph	FRANCO	R	2024-10-08	2025-02-23
0260-NE-2	Edward M	FROHNER		2007-11-18	2025-01-14
1782-NY-1	John L	GABBERT		None	2025-01-13
1732-VA-1	James	GALLAHAN	Hunter	None	2025-02-12
0455-PA-1	Louis	GAMBOGI		None	2025-02-14
0268-MN-2	James S	GARBERG		2022-05-21	2025-02-13
0200-NE-2	Charles P	GEFFEN		2025-01-14	2025-02-05
0194-MN-2	Clyde M	GENTRY		2009-12-06	2025-01-27
0455-PA-1	John J	GEORGICK		None	2025-02-14
1977-MN-2	Frederic J.	GIFFORD		1992-03-02	2025-01-29
0530-SC-4	Jacob W.	GILSTRAP		None	2025-02-11
0531-GA-4	Danny	GODFREY	Joe	2021-03-23	2025-02-01
0268-MN-2	Charles H	GOFF		2017-09-01	2025-02-24
NML-XX-7	Felipe S.	GONZALEZ		None	2025-02-14
0056-MN-2	Kae K	GOODWIN		2020-10-10	2025-02-23
5555-MN-2	Clifford J	GRAJCZYK		2022-09-01	2025-02-01
0682-MS-4	Carth S	GREEN		None	2025-02-10
0005-MN-2	Gordon J.	GRENGS		2002-08-12	2025-02-07
NML-XX-7	Harry L	GROVER		None	2025-02-14
0194-MN-2	Robert A	GUIDI		2014-05-11	2025-02-07
0807-MN-2	Gerald C	GUSTAFSON		2024-03-21	2025-02-16
0268-MN-2	Dick A	HAAN		2020-03-11	2025-02-11
0008-MN-2	Leslie	HAAR	Jerome	2019-09-10	2025-02-23
1974-OH-2	Harold B	HALKER		2009-11-11	2025-02-22
0455-PA-1	William E	HANDSHUE		None	2025-01-03
0268-MN-2	Jerome H	HANKE		2012-12-09	2025-02-11
0268-MN-2	Jerry D	HANSEN		2008-07-01	2025-02-11
0268-MN-2	Raymond A	HANSEN		2018-11-28	2025-02-11
0268-MN-2	Robert	HANSON		2023-01-08	2025-02-11
0260-NE-2	Harold J.	HARRIS		2016-01-06	2025-01-14
0260-NE-2	Larry	HARRIS	Ray	2022-05-02	2025-01-14
0524-FL-4	Eddie L	HARRISON		2024-08-30	2025-01-27
0268-MN-2	Frederick K	HAUSER		2015-02-02	2025-02-11
DML-CA-6	Nelson	HAWKINS		None	2025-01-07
0550-WI-2	Joseph L	HEIL		None	2025-01-17

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
NML-XX-7	John F.	HEILMAN		2020-09-28	2025-02-16
5555-MN-2	Neil A	HINKLEY		2024-08-08	2025-02-18
0455-PA-1	Charles A	HINTERLITER		None	2025-01-03
0268-MN-2	Paul R	HJELDEN		2014-09-26	2025-02-24
0260-NE-2	John E.	HOLCOMB		2020-09-28	2025-01-14
0194-MN-2	Wilfred A	HOLM		2016-12-19	2025-02-09
0103-CT-1	Kurt	HOPFER		None	2025-02-18
0260-NE-2	George	HOTCHKISS		2000-04-12	2025-01-14
0268-MN-2	Donald H	HOWEY		1997-04-25	2025-02-11
DML-MI-2	Richard T	HUGGLER		None	2025-02-19
NML-XX-7	Willie A.	HUGHES		None	2025-02-14
NML-XX-7	James W.	HUNT		None	2025-02-14
1977-MN-2	Naurice G.	HUSBYN		1992-05-17	2025-01-29
NML-XX-7	Josef D	HUTCHINGS		None	2025-02-14
0308-MN-2	Frank	HYLLA		2002-06-25	2025-01-28
0056-MN-2	Edward M	HYNES		2024-02-26	2025-02-07
0260-NE-2	Donald L.	JACKSON		2004-08-29	2025-01-14
DML-CO-5	William E.	JACKSON		None	2025-01-04
0194-MN-2	Lloyd M	JARSON		2015-10-19	2025-02-09
0056-MN-2	Joseph E	JEANETTE		2022-10-21	2025-01-26
0656-PA-1	Michael E	JOHNS		2025-01-15	2025-02-18
0194-MN-2	Dwayne M	JOHNSON		2023-03-12	2025-02-24
0260-NE-2	Johnie N.	JOHNSON		1985-07-07	2025-01-14
0194-MN-2	Lester E	JOHNSON		2016-01-09	2025-02-09
0455-PA-1	Melvin	JOHNSON		None	2025-01-05
1977-MN-2	Richard J	JOHNSON		2024-06-13	2025-02-18
1977-MN-2	Robert G	JOHNSON		2006-10-27	2025-01-29
NML-XX-7	Arthur P.	JONES		1990-05-07	2025-02-16
NML-XX-7	Robert J.	JONES		2020-12-27	2025-02-16
0745-MN-2	Roy A	JORGENSON		2020-03-17	2025-01-28
0268-MN-2	George	KALLEMEYN		2009-12-06	2025-02-11
0511-ID-3	Abner	KAMA	M	2025-01-25	2025-01-29
0260-NE-2	Eugene F.	KARNISH		1995-01-06	2025-01-14
0005-MN-2	Eino John	KAVONIUS		2006-11-29	2025-02-07
0268-MN-2	Michael J.	KEEGAN		2009-03-08	2025-02-11
0005-MN-2	Richard J.	KELLY		2008-12-04	2025-02-07
NML-XX-7	Jerry T.	KENDALL		None	2025-02-14
7110-MN-2	Lucinda	KERR	A	2025-01-11	2025-02-05
0455-PA-1	Earl	KESLAR		None	2025-01-05
0194-MN-2	Vernon E	KILDE		2010-11-02	2025-02-09
NML-XX-7	Kenneth A	KLEYPAS		2015-10-14	2025-02-16

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0056-MN-2	Warren B	KREGNESS		1985-11-11	2025-02-07
0008-MN-2	Walton G	KUNTZ		2012-09-30	2025-01-17
NML-XX-7	Louis G	LA PLANTE		None	2025-02-14
0140-MO-2	Paul W	LANE		None	2025-02-17
1977-MN-2	Edward D.	LARKIN		2001-08-02	2025-01-29
0194-MN-2	Gerald W.	LARSON		1995-11-30	2025-02-09
0268-MN-2	Sam W	LARSON		2004-10-17	2025-02-11
0268-MN-2	Quentin	LAUER		1995-02-17	2025-02-12
0194-MN-2	Kenneth J	LE VASSEUR		2019-03-31	2025-02-09
0056-MN-2	Charles H	LEMBKE		2022-01-29	2025-02-07
0194-MN-2	Raymond W	LENZ		2002-09-01	2025-01-27
0194-MN-2	Michael J.	LESTER		1998-02-19	2025-02-09
5555-MN-2	John L	LILLIE		2023-08-15	2025-02-01
0260-NE-2	Antonio C.	LOPEZ		1996-07-15	2025-01-14
0260-NE-2	Wyman E.	LOREY		2018-09-02	2025-01-14
0268-MN-2	Albert L	LUGER		2005-01-12	2025-02-11
0550-WI-2	Morris	LUND	Harold	None	2025-01-16
0268-MN-2	Harold E	LUNDIN		2021-10-25	2025-02-11
0531-GA-4	Robert Lee	LUNSFORD		2023-12-07	2025-02-06
0268-MN-2	Don J	MACDONALD		2006-06-04	2025-02-11
DML-CO-5	Ralph J	MAESTAS		None	2025-01-05
0260-NE-2	Marvin	MAI		2017-04-26	2025-01-14
0260-NE-2	James M	MARTIN		1997-05-26	2025-01-14
NML-XX-7	Paul H.	MATRANGA		None	2025-02-14
0056-MN-2	Wilho S	MATTILA		2012-04-02	2025-01-26
2205-AL-4	Willie	MAXWELL	Lee	None	2025-02-11
0316-FL-4	Marion	MC COMBS		2022-12-27	2025-01-13
7110-MN-2	Kenneth	MCDONALD		2024-01-20	2025-02-19
2212-AL-4	Bertis	MCGRUFF	E	None	2025-02-11
0987-MN-2	Robert L.	MCGUIRE		1994-01-13	2025-01-28
0194-MN-2	Loren D.	MCLAUGHLIN		1988-03-09	2025-02-09
0056-MN-2	James L	MCMANN		2022-06-15	2025-02-07
2201-AL-4	Harold	MCMILLAN	F	None	2025-02-11
1977-MN-2	Ellsworth	MELZER		2007-10-29	2025-01-29
0268-MN-2	Bryce W.	MENARD		2004-11-21	2025-02-12
1965-VA-1	Maurice	MENEFEE	F	2024-11-11	2025-02-17
0308-MN-2	Donald J	MEYER		2024-03-08	2025-01-28
1977-MN-2	Leo J	MEYER		2020-11-25	2025-02-18
0260-NE-2	Robert M.	MILLER		1988-12-09	2025-01-14
0745-MN-2	Ed	MILLIGAN		2014-03-22	2025-02-16
0987-MN-2	William H	MOORE		2018-01-08	2025-02-17

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0316-FL-4	Willie	MOORE		2017-04-21	2025-01-01
0455-PA-1	Norman W	MORGAN		None	2025-01-06
0268-MN-2	Irving C.	MORRISSETTE		2013-03-22	2025-01-27
0268-MN-2	Elmer R.	MORTENSEN		1988-09-24	2025-01-27
0103-CT-1	Randolph B	MOTT		None	2025-02-18
0005-MN-2	Jerome N	MOTZKO		2015-01-22	2025-02-07
0268-MN-2	Raymond F.	MROZEK		2013-07-25	2025-01-27
0987-MN-2	Maurice P	MURPHY		2019-08-04	2025-01-28
NML-XX-7	John N.	NASSAR		None	2025-02-14
0717-FL-4	Miguel	NAVARRO		2007-11-18	2025-01-28
0268-MN-2	Earl H.	NELMS		1989-10-23	2025-01-27
0268-MN-2	Thomas	NELSON		2016-06-16	2025-01-27
0400-FL-4	John	NEWELL		None	2025-02-11
0056-MN-2	Leonard C.	NOWAK		1995-04-12	2025-01-26
NML-XX-7	John D.	NOYCE		None	2025-02-14
DML-MI-2	George W	OKINS		None	2025-02-19
0005-MN-2	Robert F.	O'NEILL		2018-05-03	2025-02-07
0268-MN-2	Roger	OPPEGARD	C	2022-08-26	2025-01-27
0194-MN-2	Lawrence A	OSTROWSKI		2024-12-04	2025-02-10
5555-MN-2	Richard	OTTO	H	2023-04-01	2025-02-19
7110-MN-2	Paul	OVERGAARD	P	2022-02-04	2025-02-19
1977-MN-2	Amos A.	OWEN		1990-06-04	2025-02-18
0639-NC-4	Maurice R	PARENT		2024-12-07	2025-01-21
0260-NE-2	Daniel	PATTERSON		2022-03-23	2025-01-14
0987-MN-2	Merrill S.	PAULSON		2000-03-06	2025-02-18
0987-MN-2	Clifford A	PEET		2020-03-27	2025-02-18
0455-PA-1	John A	PETERS		None	2025-02-05
0987-MN-2	Ordeen A	PETERSEN		2021-03-20	2025-01-28
0987-MN-2	Eugene J	PETERSON		2023-04-21	2025-01-28
0268-MN-2	Wendell S.	PETERSON		2001-02-10	2025-01-27
0455-PA-1	Angelo	PIETROPAOLI		None	2025-01-05
0550-WI-2	Willard N	PLUMMER		None	2025-01-16
0056-MN-2	Robert M	PLUSKWIK		2021-12-12	2025-01-27
0268-MN-2	Joseph A	POLUNC		2006-12-31	2025-01-27
0316-FL-4	James V	PON		2005-12-16	2025-01-01
1732-VA-1	Harry	PORTER		None	2025-02-12
1876-TX-5	Joslyn V	PORTMANN		2025-01-27	2025-02-18
0316-FL-4	James	POWERS		1992-02-07	2025-01-25
0194-MN-2	Franklin E	PRIEM		2009-04-17	2025-02-10
0987-MN-2	Raymond J	PROZINSKI		2014-11-03	2025-01-28
NML-XX-7	James W	PUTNAM		None	2025-02-14



Chapter	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0268-MN-2	Floyd S.	RASMUSSEN		2010-09-01	2025-02-12
0140-MO-2	James R	RENICK		None	2025-02-17
5555-MN-2	Ronald K	RESSIE		2021-04-05	2025-02-02
0056-MN-2	Paul F	REUTER		2009-09-30	2025-01-27
0056-MN-2	Michael H	RITCHIE		2021-08-02	2025-01-27
0268-MN-2	Don M.	ROBERTS		2017-01-11	2025-02-12
5555-MN-2	Howard W	ROCKWELL		2022-11-13	2025-02-19
NML-XX-7	Eduardo L.	RODRIGUEZ		2016-12-29	2025-02-16
0268-MN-2	John W.	ROGERS		2018-02-28	2025-01-27
0260-NE-2	Steve Ross	ROGERS		2001-07-26	2025-01-14
NML-XX-7	Antonio	ROSADO	Aguirre	None	2025-02-14
NML-XX-7	Paul	ROSENBLATT		None	2025-02-14
NML-XX-7	Emanuel C.	RUBIN		None	2025-02-14
0268-MN-2	Ernest	RUIZ		2020-11-05	2025-02-12
0987-MN-2	Walter O	RUKKE		None	2025-02-21
0005-MN-2	Earl M.	RUNK		1991-09-26	2025-02-07
0308-MN-2	George E.	RUTH		2000-09-11	2025-01-28
0455-PA-1	Edward M	RYAN		None	2025-01-05
0103-CT-1	James S	SALAFIA		None	2025-02-18
NML-XX-7	Donald P.	SAMUELS		None	2025-02-14
NML-XX-7	Adolph	SANDERS		2005-06-24	2025-02-16
0194-MN-2	George E	SANDS		2005-12-05	2025-02-10
0005-MN-2	Clarence E	SAUERS		2016-08-11	2025-01-30
NML-XX-7	Orval O.	SAUNDERS		1993-11-05	2025-02-06
0056-MN-2	Stanley E	SAWYER		2006-11-03	2025-01-27
7110-MN-2	James	SCHINKE	John	2022-03-13	2025-02-19
0462-IA-2	Curt	SCHLEUSENER		None	2025-02-17
NML-XX-7	Grove A.	SCHOOLCRAFT		2017-12-16	2025-02-16
7110-MN-2	Kenneth L	SCHROEDER		2020-12-01	2025-02-19
0987-MN-2	Robert A	SCHUTTA		2015-02-13	2025-01-28
7110-MN-2	LaVerne	SEBERSON		2023-05-06	2025-02-19
0308-MN-2	Raymond H.	SEIMS		2009-11-21	2025-02-16
0194-MN-2	Eugene J	SELL		2020-12-08	2025-02-10
0531-GA-4	Billy	SELLERS	J	2024-03-14	2025-02-06
1977-MN-2	Arnie	SEVERTSON	Truman	2013-09-13	2025-02-01
DML-MN-2	Henry L.	SHARP		1998-10-11	2025-02-02
0260-NE-2	John E	SHAW		1999-11-02	2025-01-14
DML-CO-5	John M	SHOCKEY		None	2025-01-05
NML-XX-7	Keith R.	SIEWERT		2023-07-11	2025-02-16
1670-SC-4	John P	SILVEY		None	2025-02-11
0008-MN-2	John V.	SIMMONS		2000-11-12	2025-01-17

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0260-NE-2	John A	SKOOG		2020-02-24	2025-01-14
0717-FL-4	Albert	SLUGOCKI		2023-12-09	2025-01-28
NML-XX-7	John B.	SMITH		2021-06-01	2025-02-16
1777-PA-1	Leroy	SMITH		None	2025-02-12
0316-FL-4	Robert	SMITH	Claire	1966-03-06	2025-01-01
0260-NE-2	Ira L.	SNETHEN		2006-05-21	2025-01-14
0455-PA-1	William R	SOBONA		None	2025-02-14
0005-MN-2	Loren W	SOICE		2023-12-08	2025-01-30
0005-MN-2	Jerome C	SOMMERHAUSER		2001-07-05	2025-02-21
0260-NE-2	G. Cole	SPARKMAN		2009-11-08	2025-01-14
0268-MN-2	John C.	SPEARS		1990-03-04	2025-01-27
5555-MN-2	William R	STAHL		2021-09-11	2025-02-02
0268-MN-2	August F	STECK		2003-03-29	2025-01-27
0455-PA-1	James F	STEIGHNER		None	2025-01-05
0551-OR-3	Stuart A	STEINBERG		None	2025-01-05
0260-NE-2	Elmer	STILTNER		2023-09-18	2025-01-14
0268-MN-2	Arnold	STORM	R	2006-02-20	2025-02-13
0987-MN-2	Walter O	STREICH		2016-09-24	2025-01-29
0531-GA-4	Kenneth M	SULLIVAN		1997-03-10	2025-02-01
0268-MN-2	Louis J	SULLIVAN		2006-08-01	2025-01-27
0103-CT-1	Russell T	SULLIVAN		None	2025-02-18
0049-CA-6	Martin	SWANK		2024-11-23	2025-01-22
0005-MN-2	John F.	SWANSON		2000-07-17	2025-01-30
0260-NE-2	Kenneth R.	SWANSON		2005-08-23	2025-01-14
0316-FL-4	Orville	SWETT	T	2007-04-19	2025-01-25
0316-FL-4	George J	SZABO		2021-03-11	2025-01-01
0005-MN-2	Orlando	TALARICO		None	2025-01-30
0987-MN-2	Wayne A.	TEALE		2004-08-16	2025-02-18
0005-MN-2	Melvin G.	THERRIEN		1997-08-09	2025-02-07
0531-GA-4	Alvin	THOMPCKINS		2024-02-06	2025-02-06
0830-AK-3	Dennis E	THOMPSON		None	2025-02-17
0268-MN-2	Donald O	THOMPSON		2024-09-12	2025-02-16
DML-CA-6	Roland F.	THOMPSON		None	2025-01-07
0776-FL-4	Edward J	TINNEY		2018-10-12	2025-02-04
0455-PA-1	Nick	TISAK		None	2025-01-03
5555-MN-2	William R	TOMASHEK		2021-08-29	2025-02-02
DML-CO-5	Joe M	TORREZ		None	2025-01-04
0353-VA-1	Bertalan	TOTH	J	None	2025-02-05
0260-NE-2	Duane L	TUNNYHILL		2025-01-22	2025-02-05
0268-MN-2	Ivar	TVETER		2023-08-30	2025-01-28
0194-MN-2	Lawrence E	URBANSKI		2019-08-14	2025-02-10

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0194-MN-2	Verl	VAN HOLLINGSWORTH		2009-01-27	2025-02-10
0005-MN-2	Joseph T.	VESELY		2005-07-29	2025-02-07
0987-MN-2	Wesley F	WAGNER		2014-03-23	2025-01-29
0316-FL-4	Gerald	WALL		2014-02-12	2025-01-13
1974-OH-2	Elton E	WALLIS		2003-01-01	2025-02-22
0308-MN-2	Howard A	WALLMOW		2022-12-01	2025-01-28
1754-VA-1	Carl E	WALRATH		2025-02-16	2025-02-24
0140-MO-2	Rholand M	WALTERS		None	2025-02-17
DML-MI-2	Calvin B	WATSON		None	2025-02-19
0455-PA-1	Wayne M	WEAVER		None	2025-02-14
NML-XX-7	Frank W	WEBB		None	2025-02-14
1732-VA-1	James L	WEISENBURGER		None	2025-02-14
0807-MN-2	Marvin H	WENDLAND		2018-03-31	2025-02-16
NML-XX-7	Charles D.	WHITEHEAD		None	2025-02-14
1977-MN-2	Peter N.	WHITNEY		1993-09-22	2025-02-01
NML-XX-7	Wayne A	WICKERT		None	2025-02-14
0194-MN-2	Charles A	WITHAM		2017-10-03	2025-02-10
0005-MN-2	Murven J	WITHEREL		2013-01-13	2025-01-20
0717-FL-4	Solomon	WOLFSON		2021-05-19	2025-01-28
0268-MN-2	Frederick S	WOLINS		2013-10-30	2025-01-28
0268-MN-2	Gordon O.	YOUNG		2006-05-03	2025-01-28
0268-MN-2	William	YOUNG		2021-12-02	2025-01-28
0103-CT-1	Robert J	ZETTERGREN		None	2025-02-18
NML-XX-7	Arnold F.	ZIMMERMAN		2006-12-10	2025-02-16
0268-MN-2	Roman	ZWASCHKA	G	2019-11-24	2025-01-28