



The Purple Heart

Magazine

September / October 2024

New Year,
New Goals.
"Semper Fi"

National Commander
Robert Olivarez, Jr.

Camaraderie Among Combat Wounded Veterans

About the Cover

Cover design by Colleen Orfanello, Past President MOPHA.

Features

15. [PTSD Screening Day](#) ***"Screening is an important first step, but it's just the beginning," says Schnurr. "Anyone can get PTSD. And everyone can get treatment for PTSD."***

17. [Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month](#) Our goal is ensuring that individuals, friends, and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

24. [Pvt. George Browning, WWII, NJ](#) Pvt. George Coe Browning is finally coming home. Missing for Nearly 80 Years at Iwo Jima, Marine from New Jersey to Be Laid to Rest.

25. [CPL Robert Bartlett, WWI, SD](#) Beginning in 1946, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) was tasked with investigating and recovering missing American personnel in Europe. On July 30, 1944, AGRC personnel recovered two sets of remains from an M5A1 destroyed in the vicinity of Saint-Germain-d'Elle.

31. [The Story of Dad's Purple Heart](#) His one and only medal was "*The Asian WWII Pacific Theater*" Medal, after **18 months of service in WWII**, and that's it. I kept asking myself "why doesn't he have more medals?" - he

should have a Purple Heart – "everybody else who was injured in the line of duty got one.

39. [Ralph's Purple Heart Story](#) The American soldiers were patrolling an orchard when a German mortar exploded with shrapnel. Ralph was knocked unconscious. When he regained consciousness, he looked around. He saw his comrades, some injured and some fatally wounded, but he was alive and had all his extremities and senses.

45. [Patriot of the Year Renamed](#) At the 91st National Convention, the Supreme Body unanimously approved the Department of California's motion to rename the National Patriot of the Year Award to the **"Tommy Tanaka National Patriot of the Year Award."**

64. [Vet the Vote](#) As veterans and military family members, we don't stop serving when we take off the uniform. We will always step forward to serve our country. Today that means answering a call to serve as the next generation of poll workers.

75. [Patriot Day Tribute in Light](#) *Tribute in Light* is a commemorative public art installation first presented six months after 9/11 and then every year thereafter, from dusk to dawn, on the night of September 11. It has become an iconic symbol that both honors those killed and celebrates the unbreakable spirit of New York.

Table of Contents

About the Cover	1	<i>The VAVS Mission:</i>	26
Features	1	<i>The MOPH VAVS Program:</i>	26
Table of Contents	2	<i>The MOPH VAVS Mission:</i>	27
Commander's Message	5	<i>MOPH VAVS GOALS FOR 2024-2025:</i>	28
<i>Commander's Radio Interview</i>	6	New ID Cards Required	29
Senior Vice Commander's Message	6	Character of Discharge Changes	29
Junior Vice Commander's Message	7	The Story of Dad's Purple Heart	31
Adjutant's Corner	8	Ralph's Purple Heart Story	39
MOPHA President's Message	9	Member Benefits	42
Chaplain's Messages	10	<i>MOPH</i>	42
<i>Chaplains Corps SOP (Proposed)</i>	10	<i>AUSA</i>	42
<i>Monthly Chaplains Meeting</i>	11	MyVetBENEFITS	42
Publications Committee Message	12	<i>Discount Hotel Rates</i>	43
<i>Magazine Paid Subscription Update</i>	12	Valor Medical Service Dogs (VMSD)	44
<i>Advertising in the PHM</i>	12	91st National Convention	45
Purple Heart Trail Program	13	<i>Opening Ceremony</i>	45
Suicide Prevention Program	14	<i>National Patriot of the Year</i>	45
<i>PTSD Screening Day</i>	15	Patriot of the Year Award Renamed	45
<i>Veterans Experience Office</i>	17	This Year's Recipient – Ken Teunissen	50
<i>Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	17	Honor Roll	52
<i>Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month (Sep)</i>	17	Region Patriots of the Year	52
Share Key Fast Facts	17	<i>AUSA Membership Introduction</i>	54
Individual Impact:	18	<i>PNC Carder Ferguson's Message</i>	54
Community Impact:	18	<i>Cutting the Cake</i>	57
Social Media Program	19	MOPH FUND	57
POW-MIA Program	20	<i>Help the Fund help the Order!</i>	57
<i>POW/MIA FLAG</i>	22	<i>The Fund is a 501.c.3.</i>	58
<i>Pvt. George Coe Browning, WWII, NJ</i>	24	<i>Fund Partners</i>	58
<i>CPL Robert A. Bartlett, WWII, SD</i>	25	For Freedom Prints	59
Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service (VAVS) Program	26	Vehicle Donation Program	59
		American Dream Program	60
		American Dream Promotional Video	60
		RaphaRub – 0.0% THC	61
		Politics and Political Endorsements	62
		<i>Independent Veterans for Office</i>	62
		<i>Nonpartisan Veteran Campaign</i>	63

<i>Vet The Vote</i>	64	Region III News	96
Become a Poll Worker	65	<i>Department of Idaho</i>	96
Register to Vote	65	Memorial Day at State Veterans Cemetery	96
<i>MOPH Bylaws</i>	65	Putts for Patriots	96
Scholarship Winners	66	<i>Department of the Dakotas</i>	97
Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day (Sep 2)	67	South Dakota Purple Heart Recognition Day	97
Labor Day (Sep 2)	70	Region IV News	99
V-J Day (Sep 2)	71	<i>Chapter 0465-GA-4</i>	99
The Treaty of Paris (Sep 3)	73	Nicholls, Georgia - a Purple Heart City	99
Patriot Day (Sep 11)	74	VFW Chapter 6449 Fairburn, GA Brunch	100
<i>Observe moments of silence:</i>	74	Calhoun, GA Dedicates PH Monument	100
<i>Tribute in Light</i>	75	<i>Chapter 0661-PR-4</i>	101
Hispanic Heritage Month (Sep 15 – Oct 15)	76	<i>Department of Florida</i>	101
Constitution Day (Sep 17)	77	Region V News	101
Air Force and Air National Guard (Sep 18)	78	<i>Chapter 0393-TX-5</i>	101
POW/MIA Recognition Day (Sep 20)	79	<i>Chapter 0402-SC-4</i>	103
Navy Birthday (Oct 13)	80	<i>Chapter 0460-AR-5</i>	103
Columbus Day (Oct 14)	81	Region VI News	104
Day of the Deployed (Oct 26)	82	<i>Chapter 0015-CA-6</i>	104
First Responders Day (Oct 28)	84	<i>Chapter 0210-CA-6</i>	105
Region I News	85	Reactivation	105
<i>Chapter 0003-NY-1</i>	85	Patriotic Hall Named Historic Landmark	105
<i>Chapter 0021-NY-1</i>	86	<i>Chapter 2929-CA-6</i>	107
<i>Chapter 0353-VA-1</i>	86	Graves stand at attention!	107
Region II News	90	Chapter Coins	107
<i>Department of Nebraska</i>	90	<i>Chapter 0385-CA-6</i>	108
<i>Department of Ohio</i>	92	<i>Chapter 0392-CA-6</i>	109
<i>Department of Minnesota</i>	94	<i>Chapter 0442-AZ-6</i>	110
Purple Heart Week Viola Handout	94	Monthly VA Home Bingo	110
1946 Viola History	94	Marana – Purple Heart Town – 10 years	111
<i>Department of Wisconsin</i>	96	Arizona State Veterans – Purple Heart Day	112
		<i>Chapter 0483-HI-6</i>	113
		Claim Sharks Are Illegal	114
		Legislation	115
		<i>Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment and Retirement</i>	115
		<i>Improving Menopause Care</i>	115
		<i>End Veteran Homelessness</i>	116
		<i>Clear Communication for Veterans</i>	117

<i>Rural Veterans Transportation to Care</i>	117
Reunions	118
<i>2nd Bn 3rd Marines (Vietnam War)</i>	118
<i>26th Marines Association Annual</i>	118
Million Veteran Program (MVP)	119
Career Opportunities	119
Membership Fees	121
MOPH Application for Membership	122
MOPHA Application for Membership	123
Past National Commanders and Past National Presidents	124
TAPS	127

The Purple Heart Magazine

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- Member (3-yr term): Larry Leighton (Chair)
- Member (2-yr term): Alan Gibson
- Member (1-yr term): Vacant
- MOPHA Liaison: Colleen Orfanello

The Purple Heart Magazine is in digital format only. 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



I am truly honored to stand before you today as your National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart

and will humbly lead this esteemed organization. It is a privilege to serve alongside such brave and selfless individuals who have sacrificed so much for our country.

The Purple Heart is a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to duty. It is a reminder of the countless men and women who have shed their blood in defense of our nation's freedom. As National Commander, I am committed to upholding the values and traditions of this prestigious organization and to ensuring that our Purple Heart recipients are honored and respected for their service.

I take great pride in representing the brave men and women who have earned the Purple Heart, and I am dedicated to serving their needs and advocating on their behalf. Together, we will continue to support and uplift our fellow veterans and ensure that their sacrifices are never forgotten. I look forward to working together with all of you to uphold the legacy of the Purple Heart and

honor the courageous men and women who have earned this prestigious award.

We have a great leadership team this year and are making great progress at moving the Order forward. We have great things coming our way; this will be a successful year. We plan on utilizing our programs more than ever and ensuring the success of each program. We have spoken with all program directors setting achievable goals for this year and years to come. The success of the Order relies on the programs, and our mission to take care of our Patriots and Veterans. We encourage our patriots to share their ideas on how to make our programs better and more successful. We implore you to take advantage of all the programs the Order has to offer and do what you can to assist in making them a success at all levels from the chapter up.

Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility and for standing alongside me in our shared commitment to serving our nation and supporting our fellow veterans.

Robert Olivarez Jr

Commander's Radio Interview

On Purple Heart Day, 2024, Commander Olivarez had an opportunity to talk about the Order during The Seth Leibsohn show on KKNT Radio (960AM).



KKNT's weekday lineup primarily consists of nationally syndicated conservative talk shows, many of them from the Salem Radio Network. The syndicated programs are distributed through approximately 2700 affiliates.



You can hear Commander Olivarez's interview [here](#).



Senior Vice Commander's Message

Tracey Brown Greene
National Sr Vice Commander



2024-2025 Year starting off with a Bang.

Thank you all for your time and support. This year we are looking to keep the momentum going. From our convention we enjoyed Florida and learned new things about each other and found new ways to communicate our goals and expectations. We are excited about the upcoming convention in Reno next year. As we move forward and create an image of Survivors serving others and their families, we will show America that Purple Heart recipients are the best part of America, and we are here to create the next generation of excellence for all to emulate.

There is a place for you all to let your gifts shine for all to see. As we shine our lights ensure that you shine your light so that other members have a chance to shine their light. We are here to support the order, and we shall accomplish that mission with everything thing in us. We are here to assist Veterans, and their family members, so continue to assist in only the ways that you can and never forget that we have bled for the freedom to be the best versions of

ourselves and we must share that version with the world. Let's make this year one of the best so the world will say the Military Order of the Purple Heart are out here doing big things for their communities and this nation.

Purple Heart Day celebrations started on the 2nd from churches to Cities to Sports Associations. America has said we salute you Purple Heart recipients and we are happy that you all have decided to come out and grace us with your presence. In many areas the celebration has not stopped, and the events continue through the 20th of August. Continue to enjoy the celebrations and thank you all for everything you do for the Order.

As always be good to yourself, love each other and pray for a better tomorrow.

Tracey Brown Greene

Junior Vice Commander's Message

Frances Figueroa
National Jr Vice Commander



Patriots, Associate Members and Auxiliary,

Thank you so much for selecting me as your National Junior Vice Commander, I hope to succeed in representing and

working for our membership. For those who do not know me, my name is Frances Figueroa-Lowe, I am of Puerto Rican decent born and raised in Queens, NY. I have been appointed as my local chapter's adjutant (Ft. Bragg Chapter 2226), served as the Department Jr. Vice and Sr. Vice and I was the Department Commander of North Carolina for 2 years. I was then voted to Region IV Commander for 2 years before being elected as National Jr. Vice. I have also served as the National Veteran Advocacy Officer. I enjoy helping our veterans and look forward to continuing to help our veterans and members alike. For my Military service I served 3 years in the U.S Army at Ft. Bragg, NC in the 118th MP company. I received my Purple heart in May 2004 serving in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom) on FOB Kalsu. I am married to my husband Dexter Lowe who is an associate member, and we have 2 kids. My 1st son Ricky is 18

years old and an associate member who attends the National Conventions with me, many of the members who attend the National Conventions have met him as well. I also recently had another son on April 17th, 2024, named Grayson (he will soon become an associate member as well). We currently live in Fayetteville, NC. I look forward to speaking and assisting our members.

Thank you,


Frances Figueroa-Lowe

Adjutant's Corner


Keith Gray
National Adjutant




As we usher in the new command team, I wanted to share with you some changes that will be taking place.

 Utilizing your chain of leadership will be a huge one as we try and streamline everything at the national headquarters and keep the momentum moving in the right direction. We need help from all Patriots to be successful. While everyone at HQ is more than willing to help, going directly to them takes them away from

operational tasks, please use your chain of leadership, as they have an abundance of knowledge. If your chain is unable to resolve your issue, then by all means, we are here to help.

 When sending out information, I will utilize the Region Command Teams to disseminate information. Should I need a response and don't get one, I will send out a follow-up email to the Region Command Team. The third request will go to the Region command teams and Department Command teams.

 Lastly, when sending or requesting information from anyone at National, please ensure your intent is clear so it gets addressed appropriately.

Just like we all learned in basic training, we have to work together as a team to accomplish the overall objective of making the Order the greatest Veterans Organization. While it may be a daunting task, I have no doubt that we can band together and accomplish it.

Respectfully yours in Patriotism,

Keith Gray

MOPHA President's Message

Fran Holtgreven
National President



Thank you for your vote of confidence for National President of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary for 2024-2025. I am excited and

honored to start this chapter of my life to help this great organization grow and prosper and help our Veterans.

My theme this year is "Rise to the Challenge." Rise to the Challenge means to confront and overcome difficult situations and obstacles with courage, determination, responsibility, availability, and hard work. The following challenges, I feel, are crucial:

1. Helping our Veterans
2. General Fundraising for operating costs
3. Membership
4. Improve Communications and Publicity
5. Resolutions and Bylaws updated.
6. Take time for ourselves and enjoy the coming year.

A General Fundraising Committee has been added this year along with a Communication Committee. The General Fundraising Committee will be exploring ways to raise

monies for operating costs to help support ourselves. The Communication Committee will be helping Departments and Units with ways to reach out to the local newspapers, television stations and social media to let them know what the MOPH Auxiliary is doing to help Veterans in their area. Let's get our name out there and hopefully it will help us with Membership.

We will need to embrace changes, try new things, take risks and even step outside of our comfort zones. We will have setbacks, but we need to keep moving forward and focus on solutions not problems. Feedback from all Auxiliary members will give the organization ideas where improvement is needed and even where we are excelling.

Communication and collaboration between ALL Auxiliary members are needed to keep this organization growing and prosper and to help our Veterans. Make yourself available to accept a challenge, volunteer, attend meetings, become an officer of your Department, Unit or National, join a committee, notify the media of what the MOPH Auxiliary is providing to their community.

THE YEAR OF CHALLENGE

Will Be the Time

Together We Can

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Chaplain's Messages

Carlton Cannon
National Chaplain



Our Nation, Government and Constitution have been under attack for some time. Obviously, many continue to be troubled from within and will continue to show their displeasure.

Let me remind you that our inheritance as believers can only be received fully by taking a stand on what God has said in the face of contradicting circumstances; sometimes even suffering and death. The stance of faith eliminates fear and worry and brings the freedom to "rejoice evermore." True faith never says, "I cannot!" Such an utterance betrays unbelief. Distrust and confusion are lurking everywhere! And, if we cannot find a way to support one another, we are on a path to certain destruction.

GOD's WORD says in 1Timothy 2: 1-2; First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for ALL PEOPLE - for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Petitions – Prayers – Intercessions – Thanksgivings create an effective combination when effectually used by GOD's people. Our purpose should not be

selfish, but we must show concern for the needs of all people everywhere. Our responsibility is to feel their needs and pray to Almighty GOD on their behalf. **WE MUST CONTINUE TO:**

- **PRAY** for the President of the United States of America
- **PRAY** for the United States Senators and Representatives.
- **PRAY** for the Governors / Mayors and Officials of each State.
- **PRAY** for our Military Veterans, Military Order Purple Heart, USA.
- **PRAY** for all Veteran Organizations, County and Local Leaders.
- **PRAY** for a Spiritual Awakening in America. GOD has mandated that **PRAYER** be offered for all those in authority and would never require HIS FOLLOWERS to engage in futile activity! Encourage each other to arm ourselves with the **WORD OF GOD!** TOGETHER WE WILL GIT'er Done for HIS SAKE!"

Carlton Cannon

Chaplains Corps SOP (Proposed)

The purpose of this manual is to provide procedural prayers for opening and closing meetings; to conduct initiations and installations; and to conduct funeral and

memorial ceremonies befitting our departed Military Order Purple Heart Patriots.

The **National Chaplain** is responsible to the **National Commander**; the **Regional Chaplain** is responsible to the **Regional Commander** and the **Department Chaplain** is responsible to the **Department Commander**.

Click [here](#) to download the SOP.

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 or 302-448-0852.

Join the Zoom meeting at:

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

Meeting ID: 814 5463 0403
Passcode: 426442

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Publications Committee Message

Larry Leighton, NPC Chair



The Publications Committee is always looking for ways to improve the content and invites all of you to submit something of interest to you which you feel may be of interest to the

other members of the Order. If you would like to be regular contributor, just let us know at publications@purpleheart.org.

Please remember input to the PHM is to be sent to publications@purpleheart.org by the 15th of the even numbered months (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec).

Magazine Paid Subscription Update

The proposal to develop a subscription based, printed copy of the Purple Heart Magazine was not approved by the National Convention's Supreme Body. The disapproval was based on not having sufficient cost estimates for an implementation plan.

The Publications Committee will continue to refine the subscription proposal based on the information gathered from the online and mailed surveys. We will finalize an implementation proposal and present it to the National Finance Committee for their review before the end of January 2025.

The plan will include:

- Recommending a **detailed automated** subscription management program.
- Recommending a printing and distribution contractor based on a variety of different production quantity cost estimates.
- Recommending magazine content changes. (The current unlimited number of digital pages cannot be fiscally supported in a printed version.)
- Recommending a phased implementation plan.
 - The first phase will require notifying all members and associates that a **prepaid subscription** will be available and asking them to make an initial two-year commitment.
 - The decision to enter in to a production contract will only be made if the initial **paid** subscriptions are sufficient to cover the Order's first year costs.

Advertising in the PHM

We are actively seeking business to advertise in our magazine. Income from

advertising will offset the cost of our own advertising in other media to promote the Order and the Fund. If the Supreme Body approves publishing a printed copy, the income will help offset those costs as well.

Members receive a 20% discount when advertising their business in six consecutive issues.

We offer a 15% discount to advertisers committing to be published in six continuous issues. The actual ad may change without additional charge between issues if received prior to the submission deadline.

If you know other businesses that might be interested in advertising with us, 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").

Purple Heart Trail Program

Joe Sutton

National Purple Heart Legacy & Trail
Coordinator



The Purple Heart Trail, as I see it, is the embodiment of true military history and tradition which transcends the history of most other military traditions and inter-

service rivalry. Honoring that which is most sacred; those lost and those still among us, for their service and the high cost and sacrifice paid in defense of freedom.

George Washington, then Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, put it in his August 7, 1782, order from his headquarters on the Hudson in Newburgh, New York establishing the Badge of Military Merit, the predecessor of the modern Purple Heart medal,

"Let it be known that he who wears the military order of the purple heart has given of his blood in the defense of his homeland and shall forever be revered by his fellow countryman."

This order authorized an award to recognize unusually heroic acts or acts deemed essential to the success of the Continental Army, which was recognized to come at a price, which is now annotated in the annals of history by a piece of purple and white ribbon with a heart embellished by the bust of a founding father. Without history, context, and tradition this powerful symbol may be lost upon the uninitiated. It is up to us to endeavor to maintain the award in high stature and bolster public visibility of the honor we place upon those who have sacrificed greatly.

In keeping with the finest of traditions associated with American patriotic values we should all remember awardees of the Purple Heart are a part of a living history, and should endeavor to promote an

understanding of the uniqueness of our military service and aid in memorializing the efforts and sacrifices of such an elite group of patriotic Americans who paid the price for the freedoms we enjoy as a nation.

As such, the establishment of entities along the Purple Heart Trail should be a primary program within Departments and Chapters in support of a lofty purpose; to support the reverence ordered for medal recipients one summer some 242-years ago and maintain the most sacred of military tradition; honoring service and sacrifice.

As a newcomer to the National Purple Heart Legacy & Trail Coordinator position, I look forward to sustaining the operational tempo of those Departments with robust Purple Heart Trail efforts, and aid those looking to increase the public visibility of the award, their Department and local Chapter. In the coming months I hope to increase communication and synergy between Department Commanders, or their designees, regarding their efforts with the Purple Heart Trail and compile best practices and suggestions from “those in the field” as to how best to keep the award and our organization visible within our communities.

Respectfully and Patriotically Submitted,

Joe Sutton
National Purple Heart Legacy & Trail
Coordinator
PHTrail@purpleheart.org

Suicide Prevention Program

Anthony Hixon

National Suicide Prevention and Awareness
Officer



I am honored to appointed National Chairman of Suicide Awareness/ Prevention. I am Anthony “Tony” Hixon, I served in the Navy and Army for a combined 17 years before being medically retired.

I served in Desert Shield/ Storm and 2 tours in Iraq. I am currently Sr. Vice Commander and Chaplain for Chapter 147 Medford, Oregon, and Chaplain for Department of Oregon. I have a vested interest in this program because of personal reasons, first my father a Vietnam Veteran took his life in '99, my brother-in-law a Navy Veteran took his life in '15 and my cousin an Army Veteran took his life in '23, also my wife, a Navy Veteran is a suicide survivor.

I would like to invite anyone with an interest to contact me at:

anthonyhixon3440@yahoo.com as I will be having a zoom meeting the last Thursday of the month at 1600 pacific. I would like to have 1 person from each Department to help coordinate having S.A.V.E. training done throughout MOPH.

Thank you, Veterans Crisis Hotline 988 then

press 1 or Chat at
VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat • Text 838255.

PTSD Screening Day

VA News



On June 27, 2022, the National Center for PTSD launched National PTSD Screening Day, encouraging Veterans and others who experienced trauma to start the conversation about recovery. Learning whether you have symptoms that might be PTSD is an important step to getting the treatment you deserve.

What is PTSD?

PTSD is a mental health problem that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural disaster, a car accident, or sexual assault. While most people experience trauma, not all of them develop PTSD.

After a trauma, it's common to relive the traumatic event, avoid reminders of it, have more negative thoughts and feelings, or feel on edge or on the lookout for danger.

People who experience these symptoms for longer than a month may have PTSD. While the only way to know for sure is to talk to a professional, like a primary care doctor or mental health care provider, there are self-screen questionnaires for PTSD.

"The message we want to share about PTSD is one of hope," says Dr. Paula Schnurr, executive director of the National Center for PTSD. "PTSD is treatable and it's a normal response to trauma, not a sign of weakness. If you have PTSD, you can get help. Taking a PTSD self-screen is a step toward recovery."

What is a PTSD screen?

A PTSD screen, or screening questionnaire, is a short set of questions. The screen helps you understand if your feelings and behaviors are related to PTSD. One screening questionnaire is the [Primary Care PTSD Checklist, or PC-PTSD-5](#). The PC-PTSD-5 has only five questions. After confirming you experienced a serious trauma, it asks how that event may have affected the way you've felt or acted in the past month.

After taking the PC-PTSD-5, you add up your "yes" answers. If your score is three or more, you may have PTSD. The next step is to schedule an appointment to speak with a health care provider.

If you answered yes to one or two questions, and are bothered by your symptoms, you can still make an appointment. A health care provider can help you make a plan to manage the things that continue to bother

you since the trauma.

“Screening is an important first step, but it’s just the beginning,” says Schnurr.

“Anyone can get PTSD. And everyone can get treatment for PTSD.”

Next steps & helpful resources

While June 27th is PTSD Screening Day, the PTSD self-screen is always available, so you don’t need to wait. If the results of your screen suggest you may have PTSD, you’ll need [to find a mental health care provider](#). There are [Veteran-specific services](#) at every VA Medical Center. And if you’re not sure how to start the conversation with a provider, you can tell them you completed a PTSD screen or take a copy with you.

If you’re not ready to reach out to a provider, there are resources that can help you learn more. The [Understanding PTSD and PTSD Treatment booklet](#) is a good place to start. You can also hear from Veterans who turned their lives around with PTSD treatment at [AboutFace](#). The Veterans who share their stories on the site have been there.

Maybe you are concerned about a family member or friend. If you’ve noticed symptoms of PTSD or a change in behavior, you can encourage them to screen for PTSD or support them as they go through treatment for PTSD. The [Understanding PTSD: A Guide for Family and Friends](#) booklet may be helpful.

Family and friends are a great source of comfort and support.

“Oftentimes family and friends will notice a change in a trauma survivor, and they can be a great source of comfort and support,” says Schnurr. “It’s very common for Veterans to enter treatment because of their family.”

No matter what type of trauma you experienced or when you experienced that trauma, treatment can help. If you think you’re experiencing symptoms of PTSD, take the [self-screen](#) and reach out to a provider today.

As Army Veteran Penny Anderson notes, “Regardless of how you may have gotten PTSD, you have the ability to go and get help. And to do that, you’re going to set yourself free. You’re going to have the life that you deserve.”

Visit the National Center for PTSD’s [website](#) to learn more about PTSD treatment, [PTSD Awareness Month](#), and [PTSD Screening Day](#).

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to read more.



Veterans Experience Office Department of Veterans Affairs

Whether you're just getting out of the service or you've been a civilian for years, the VA Welcome Kit can help guide you to the benefits and services you've earned.

The Veterans Crisis Line provides free, confidential support for Veterans and their families and friends in crisis. Dial 988 (Press 1) or 1 (800) 273-8255 (Press 1), or text 838255 to receive confidential support 24/7 (System of Records Notice VA158VA10NC5). Visit <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net> for more information.

Additionally, the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV) provides free, confidential support for Veterans and their family members and friends who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Veterans can either call or chat online with the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans where trained counselors are ready to talk confidentially 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Dial 1 (877) 424-3838 or visit <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/> to receive confidential support.

Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month (Sep)



Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues.

September is Suicide Prevention Month — a time to raise awareness of this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. We use this month to shift public perception, spread hope and share vital information to people affected by suicide. Our goal is ensuring that individuals, friends, and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

Share Key Fast Facts

These are only a few of the reasons why it's important to take part in promoting Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Please use these facts and others, including the "[It's Okay to Talk About Suicide](#)" infographics on our website, to encourage discussions with your community through social media or other forms of outreach.

Individual Impact:

79% of all people who die by suicide are male.

Although more women than men attempt suicide, men are 4x more likely to die by suicide.

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-14, the 3rd leading cause of death among those aged 15-24 and the 12th leading cause of death overall in the U.S.

46% of people who die by suicide had a diagnosed mental health condition — but research suggests that 90% may have experienced symptoms of a mental health condition.

Community Impact:

Annual prevalence of serious thoughts of suicide, high risk populations:

- U.S. Adults: 4.8%
- Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander: 7.4%
- Mixed/Multiracial: 8.2%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 8.5%
- Young adults aged 18-25: 13%.
- High school students: 22%
- LGBTQ youth: 41%

The highest rates of suicide in the U.S. are among American Indian/Alaskan Natives, followed by non-Hispanic whites.

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are 4x more

likely to attempt suicide than straight youth.

Transgender adults are nearly 9x more likely to attempt suicide at some point in their life compared to the general population.

Suicide is the leading cause of death for people held in local jails.

Data from CDC, NIMH and other select sources.

You are not alone!

Reach out to help or to receive help!

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to read more.



Social Media Program

Beth Bucek
Social Media Director



Objective: To significantly increase MOPH's visibility, engagement, and follower base across all social media platforms, while effectively

communicating our mission and initiatives to both veterans and supporters.

What We Plan to Accomplish:

- **Boost Engagement:** Increase interaction with our posts through likes, shares, and comments.
- **Grow Our Audience:** Expand our follower base across platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and LinkedIn.
- **Raise Awareness:** Promote MOPH's programs, events, and initiatives to a broader audience.
- **Improve Communication:** Establish clear and consistent messaging across all social media platforms to keep our members and followers informed.

How We Plan to Accomplish It:

- **Content Creation:** Develop engaging and shareable content, including videos, infographics, and veteran stories, tailored to each platform.
- **Community Engagement:** Actively respond to comments and messages and encourage discussions within our posts.
- **Collaborations:** Partner with influencers, veterans, and relevant organizations to expand our reach.
- **Campaigns:** Run targeted social media campaigns around key dates (e.g., Veterans Day, Memorial Day) and MOPH events.
- **Analytics:** Regularly review performance data to refine our approach and optimize future content.

Resources Needed to Execute the Plan:

- **Team Support:** Additional social media managers or interns to assist with content creation and community management.
- **Software Tools:** Access to advanced social media management and analytics platforms.
- **Creative Assets:** High-quality images, videos, and design tools.

- **Training:** Workshops or courses for the team on the latest social media trends and strategies.

Communication to Department and Chapter Levels:

- **Direct Communication:** Regular emails and meetings with department and chapter leaders to ensure alignment and gather feedback.

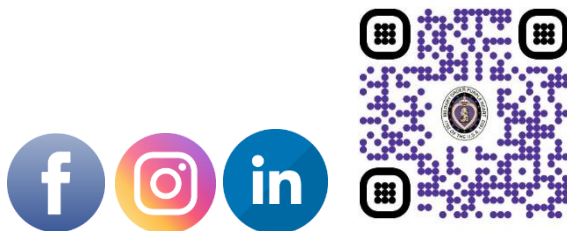
This plan will ensure that MOPH's social media presence is not only strong but also a powerful tool for connecting with our community and furthering our mission.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with Social Media/Marketing please send me an e-mail.

Respectfully,
Beth Bucek

Social Media Director
Military Order of the
Purple Heart

socialmedia@purpleheart.org



POW-MIA Program

Joe Tormala
Program Manager



NATIONAL POW – MIA PROGRAM FACT SHEET 2024

The purpose of the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action (POW – MIA) Program is to provide Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) information to MOPH Chapters, Departments and Regions in recovering service members and rendering honors to the families of those held as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action. We work with the media and other organizations to help promote POW-MIA awareness and share U.S. military history and the great cost of our freedoms. It is administered by the National POW-MIA Officer.

In World War II 72, 000 service members still remain missing in action and the recovery effort continues to this day through the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency.

During the Korean War more than 7,529 service members were missing in action or held as prisoners of war and the recovery effort continues to this day.

During the Vietnam War since 1973, the remains of more than 1,000 Americans killed in the Vietnam War have been identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

For more than two decades the U.S. has conducted joint field activities with the governments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to recover the remains of missing Americans. Throughout these countries, field teams continue to investigate crash and burial sites, as well as interview locals to gain additional knowledge. The U.S. also continues to obtain access to historical wartime records and archives that provide information relevant to the fates of missing Americans.

Today, more than 1,582 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam War and the recovery effort continues.

During the Cold War in addition to the thousands of service members who fought communist forces during wars in Korea, Vietnam, and other conflicts, many service members risked their lives off of the battlefield while collecting intelligence on the Soviet Bloc, the People's Republic of China, and North Korea during the Cold War. The sacrifice made by these Americans enabled the U.S. and our allies to contain the threat of communist expansion until the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Today, 126 service members remain unaccounted for from the Cold War.

Missing since 1986 to present in Iraq and

Libya are 6 service members.

The DPAA “Our Missing search” functionality allows family members to dynamically search the DPAA list of both unaccounted-for and accounted-for individuals can be found here: [Search Our Missing \(crmforce.mil\)](https://search.crmforce.mil)

Military Order of the Purple Heart officers and the public are reminded to check with the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency at [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency > News & Stories > Recent News & Stories \(dpaa.mil\)](https://dpaa.mil) to track press releases and services for those service members recovered in their State.

POW/MIA FLAG



The official U.S. POW/MIA flag resulted from the efforts of family members to display a suitable symbol that made the public aware of their loved ones who were being held prisoner or declared missing during the Vietnam War.

In 1970, Mrs. Michael Hoff, the wife of a service member declared MIA and a member of the National League of POW/MIA Families, recognized the need for a symbol honoring POW/MIAs. She convinced Norman Rives, Vice President of Annin & Co., and his employee, Newt Heisley, to design a flag to represent our missing men.

In January 1972, the League of Families Board of Directors approved the design of the flag and ordered some for distribution. Wanting the widest possible dissemination and use of this symbol to advocate for improved treatment for and answers on American POW/MIAs, no trademark or copyright was sought. As a result, widespread use of the League's POW/MIA flag is not restricted legally.

The flag was flown over the White House for

the first time in September 1982, making it the only flag other than the U.S. flag to be displayed there.

On March 9, 1989, an official League flag – flown over the White House on National POW/MIA Recognition Day 1988 – was installed in the US Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress.

On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed US Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it *"the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation."*

The 105th Congress passed Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act requiring that the POW/MIA flag fly six days each year over specific federal locations:

- Armed Forces Day, May 16
- Memorial Day, May 25
- Flag Day, June 14
- Independence Day, July 4
- POW/MIA Day, 3rd Friday of

September

- Veterans Day, November 11

The required federal locations include:

- All major military installations
- National cemeteries
- All post offices

- Veterans Administration medical facilities
- The World War II Memorial
- The Korean War Veterans Memorial
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- The official offices of the secretaries of state, defense, and veterans' affairs and the director of the selective service system.
- The White House

On November 7, 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed PL 116-67, amending Title 36, Section 2 (Days on Which the POW/MIA Flag is Displayed on Certain Federal Property), and Subsection 902(c) (Days for Flag Display). For the purposes of these sections, POW/MIA flag display days are all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed. The Federal property locations where the POW/MIA flag must be displayed in a manner visible to the public are: The US Capitol; the White House; the WWII Memorial; the Korean War Veterans Memorial; the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial; each national cemetery; buildings containing the offices of the Secretaries of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs; office of the Director of the Selective Service System; each major military installation as designated by the Secretary of Defense; each Veterans Affairs medical center; and each office of the US Postal Service. Most states have adopted similar laws as have local governments nationwide.

Public Law 116-67 designates the League's POW/MIA flag "as the symbol of the

Nation's concern and commitment to achieving the fullest possible accounting of Americans who, having been prisoners of war or missing in action, still remain unaccounted for; and... Americans who in the future may become prisoners of war, missing in action, or otherwise unaccounted for because of hostile action."

Most state and local governments across the nation have adopted similar laws.

Display Rules

When displayed from a single flagpole, the POW/MIA flag should fly directly below, and be no larger than, the United States flag.

If on separate poles, the U.S. flag should always be placed to the right of other flags. On the six national observances for which Congress has ordered display of the POW/MIA flag, it is generally flown immediately below or adjacent to the United States flag as second in order of precedence.



This POW / MIA Program Fact Sheet is provided by the Military Order of the Purple Heart in honor and remembrance of our

Patriots who have been held as Prisoners of War or are Missing in Action from our Nation's wars, conflicts, and military operations.

Joseph A. Tormala, USMC-USA (Ret) -
joetormalaret@gmail.com

Pvt. George Coe Browning, WWII, NJ

Pvt. George Coe Browning is finally coming home. Missing for Nearly 80 Years at Iwo Jima, Marine from New Jersey to Be Laid to Rest.

Military News; military.com; nj.com | By Richard Cohen; Published August 19, 2024, at 10:15 am.



Marines raise the American flag on Mount Suribachi during the battle for Iwo Jima in 1945. (Joe Rosenthal/AP, courtesy of the National Archives)

Nearly 80 years after the Marine went missing in action during the bloody invasion of Iwo Jima, the former Bergen County resident will be laid to rest Monday in Englewood's Brookside Cemetery alongside

his mother. A Marine Honor Guard and his lone surviving relatives will honor his memory at the grave.

"He's finally going to go back to where his mother is," said Peter Clay, Browning's 81-year-old nephew, who is flying in from Virginia with his wife and daughter for the funeral.

Clay grew up in Englewood but was just a baby when his uncle died on the battlefield. Clay says his mother, who was Browning's older sister, didn't talk much about the tragedy -- mainly because the family didn't know much.

"All these years, we really didn't know what happened," Clay said.

To read the complete article, please click [here](#) or scan the QR Code.



CPL Robert A. Bartlett, WWII, SD

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has announced that U.S. Army Corporal Robert A. Bartlett, 22, of Pierre, South Dakota, killed during World War II, was accounted for May 20, 2024.

In July 1944, Bartlett was assigned to Company A, 744th Tank Battalion, as a crew member of an M5A1 Stuart light tank. His unit was engaged in battle with German forces at Saint-Germain-d'Elle, France, on July 26 when his tank was struck by an enemy shoulder-fired rocket. Two crewmembers were able to escape the vehicle, but Bartlett and another soldier were never seen or heard from again. Due to strong enemy artillery fire and intense combat, surviving crewmembers were unable to examine the tank afterwards. Bartlett was declared missing in action, but the Germans never reported him as a prisoner of war. In September 1950, with no evidence Bartlett survived the fighting, the Army Quartermaster Corps determined his remains were non-recoverable.

Beginning in 1946, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) was tasked with investigating and recovering missing American personnel in Europe. On July 30, 1944, AGRC personnel recovered two sets of remains from an M5A1 destroyed in the vicinity of Saint-Germain-d'Elle. Ultimately, they could not identify the remains, designated X-141 and X-142 St. Laurent, and

they were interred in the Normandy American Cemetery, France.

While studying unresolved American losses in the Saint-Germain-d'Elle area, a DPAA historian determined that the M5A1 Stuart tank recovered from the area belonged to Company A, where Bartlett was assigned. This correlation led DPAA and American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) personnel to exhume the remains of X-141 and X-142 in April 2018 and sent them to the DPAA laboratory for analysis and identification.

Bartlett's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at Normandy American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, along with the others still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, August 10, at 1:00 pm at the Little Methodist Church in Blunt. More information can be found at Isburg Funeral Home in Pierre.

Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service (VAVS) Program

Chuck Adkins, MOPH VAVS Officer
& VAVS Certification Official



Welcome to the
Oldest Volunteer
System in America.

Founded in 1946,
the Veterans
Affairs Voluntary
Service (VAVS) is
one of the largest

and oldest formal volunteer systems for supporting wounded veterans and it is within the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) to not only participate in the program but to be a major contributor!

Your involvement with service to Veterans is critical, not only in a time of war but also in time of peace. You can make a difference by being a Volunteer and providing caring support to our Veteran population.

Many of you have asked we make this a simple system but that is not possible as we are dealing with government rules and regulations as we reach into military hospitals and military and civilian rehabilitation centers. They will have different rules and regulations for us to follow. The guidance in the MOPH VAVS Handbook will help you deliver practical and compassionate service to our wounded

warriors, both men and women, who went in harm's way for our country.

The VAVS Mission:

Provide a structured Volunteer Program under the management of Veterans Affairs Center for Development and Community Engagement (CDCE) personnel in cooperation with community resources to serve America's Veterans and their families with dignity and compassion.

VAVS supports the Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA) strategic goals by recruiting, supporting, and retraining a knowledgeable, diverse, and engaged supplemental workforce of Volunteers.

Volunteer programs throughout the country assist management in the delivery of healthcare by improving access to care, assisting with long-term care, improving patient satisfaction, and much more.

The MOPH VAVS Program:

The MOPH VAVS Program is in effect throughout the VA medical center system.

VAVS operates the largest volunteer program in the Federal Government, supplementing staff, and resources in all areas of patient care and support.

Volunteers supplement essential personnel, equipment, facilities and programs for the direct and indirect care, treatment, and welfare of veteran patients. MOPH VAVS Volunteers participate in the VA's program and provide an invaluable service to other veterans and their families. The official VAVS

Handbook is available for download below and on the MOPH website's downloads page to provide guidance to the Department and Chapter members involved in the program.

The MOPH VAVS Mission:

It is the purpose of the MOPH VAVS Program to provide assistance to the VA with care and concern for all veterans.

In honoring the VA Mission of "caring for he who has born the battle," we contribute to the betterment and improvement of all veterans being cared for by the VA and our State Veterans Homes, through volunteerism.

It is our stated purpose, through volunteerism, to provide increased visibility for the Order and our good works.



Why Volunteer?

- To gain work experience
- To Learn new skills
- To meet new people
- To give something back
- To Be of service
- Social Interaction

Types of Volunteers:

-Regularly Scheduled (RS) Volunteers –

work for the VA on a scheduled basis. RS Volunteers are considered employees who work on a "without compensation" basis. These volunteers go through a formal VA orientation and receive individual rewards for hours and service given.

-Occasional Volunteers (OV) – work with VA on an infrequent basis and do not have a regular schedule. The organization receives credit for volunteer service given rather than the individual.

-Youth Volunteers (YV) – At least 14 years old and can be given any VAVS project in concert with older RS and OV who can provide leadership.

-VA Special Event Volunteers – VA has many annual events where volunteer support is needed. Some of these include National Wheelchair Games, National Golden Age Games, National Creative Arts Festival, National Winter Sports Clinic, Homeless Stand Downs, Annual Red Cross Blood Drive and OEF/OIF Welcome Home Event Celebrations

Where to Volunteer:

- VA Medical Centers – www.va.gov/volunteer
- VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic
- VA Poly Trauma Center – www.polytrauma.va.gov
- Fisher House Foundation – www.fisherhouse.org
- State Veterans Homes – www.nasvh.org/home

- Vet Centers – www.vetcenter.va.gov
- VA Youth Volunteering – www1.va.gov/volunteer/studentprgm.cfm
- National and State Veterans Cemeteries

- **Volunteer Now:**

For Information concerning individual or chapter participation, contact the Chief of Center for Development and Community Engagement (CDCE) (formerly known as Volunteer Services) at your nearest VA Medical Center.

The Chief, CDCE will arrange an initial screening and help you in choosing the program that best fits your time and interests.

Information is also available on the Internet at: www.va.gov/volunteer.

If you have any organization Volunteer Questions, please contact Chuck Adkins, MOPH VAVS Officer and VAVAS Certification Official at mophvavs@purpleheart.org.

MOPH VAVS GOALS FOR 2024-2025:

VA Facilities:

- Increase the annual Volunteers hours expended by at least 10 percent at each VA Facility we service.

- At VA Facilities where we are currently represented, **have at least one** VAVS Representative and, depending on the need, one to three Deputies, all certified by the Order.
- At Facilities where we are not represented, **recruit, certify, and assign** at least one Representative and, depending on the need, and one to three Deputies this year.
- **Increase** Occasional Hours at each VA Facility by 100 hours this year. (This can easily be accomplished by Chapter member and family visitations.)
- **Establish** Deputy Representatives and volunteer positions at CBOCs, VAOPCs and OPCs in your Department.
- At a minimum, **sponsor** at least one Youth Program at a VA Facility in your Department.
- Get one percent (1%) of your Vietnam era membership involved with the VAVS Program as Regular scheduled Volunteers.
- Get two percent (2%) of your OIF/OEF membership involved with the VAVS Program as Regular Scheduled Volunteers.
- Increase nonmember volunteers by two (2) volunteers per facility.
- Increase the number of VAMC sites to 100 or more where we have National appointed VAVS Representatives serving on the local VAVS committees.

National Cemeteries, State Veterans Homes, or State Veterans Cemeteries:

- Provide MOPH Regular Scheduled Volunteers equal to one percent of your membership.
- Provide at a minimum, 100 hours of Occasional Volunteer Hours to a State Veterans Home or State Veterans Cemetery or National Cemetery.
- Have a Representative and Deputy Representative appointed to each State Home, State Cemetery or National Cemetery.

Yours In Patriotism,



New ID Cards Required



Beginning in 2026, the old-style, blue ID cards will no longer be accepted, regardless of the printed expiration date. This policy applies to retired military, retired guard/reserve, dependent ID cards, and 100% disabled rating ID cards of all colors (except the new white ones). To maintain

base access, please visit your nearest DEERS/ID card office to obtain a new ID. If you're unable to make it to a military installation, you can also request a new card through the RAPIDS ID Card Office online: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>

Character of Discharge Changes

[VA News](#)

VA expands access to care and benefits for some former service members who did not receive an honorable or general discharge.

For immediate release; April 25, 2024; 9:00 am.

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs [posted a final rule](#) amending its regulations regarding [character of discharge determinations](#), expanding access to VA care and benefits for some former service members discharged under other than honorable conditions or by special court-martial.

When former service members with other than honorable discharges and bad conduct discharges (adjudged at special court-martial) apply for VA benefits and services, we carefully review their records to determine if we can provide them the requested care and benefits. This process helps ensure that VA can provide services to deserving former service members –

including certain individuals who faced discrimination, survived sexual assault or harassment, struggled with their mental or physical health, or faced other challenges while serving in the military.

VA's new regulation will expand access to care and benefits for certain former service members by:

- **Eliminating the regulatory bar for “homosexual acts involving aggravating circumstances or other factors affecting the performance of duty” as a bar to benefits.** While VA had already [taken steps to ensure full and fair access to benefits](#) for former service members discharged based on homosexual conduct, gender identity, or HIV status, this move further solidifies VA's commitment to reducing disparity for these groups in the adjudication process.
- **Creating a “compelling circumstances exception” for certain former service members:** For certain former service members discharged for “willful and persistent misconduct” or an “offense involving moral turpitude,” VA will now consider and determine if a compelling circumstances exception will permit VA to nonetheless provide care and services. Under this exception, VA will consider the former service member's length and character of service, mental and cognitive impairment, physical health, combat-related hardship, whether the

person was the survivor of sexual abuse/assault or discrimination, and more. This new exception creates a new path for VA to provide benefits and services to deserving former service members.

- **Opening the door for previously denied service members to reapply:** Because of these changes, former service members previously found ineligible for VA services may now be eligible for benefits and are encouraged to re-apply.

VA encourages former service members with other than honorable discharges and bad conduct discharges (adjudged at special court-martial) to [apply](#) for VA care and benefits today. Over the past 10 years, VA's eligibility determination rate for these former service members has been 75% – meaning that VA provided care or benefits to 75% of them (57,000+ former service members).

“We encourage former service members with other than honorable discharges to apply for VA care and benefits today,” said **VA Secretary Denis**

McDonough. “Although VA cannot change your discharge status, we want to provide you with any health care or benefits we can – and we will work with you every step of the way to do exactly that.”

“Too often, former service members believe that they cannot come to VA due to their discharge status – but the truth is that many

former service members who were not discharged honorably can get health care or benefits from VA,” said **Under Secretary for Benefits, Josh Jacobs**. “When you apply – as with all VA benefits – we will do everything in our power to get to yes.”

VA has conducted extensive outreach to service members with other than honorable and bad conduct discharges adjudged at special court-martial in recent years, increasing the number who applied for VA care or benefits from approximately 1,700 in 2012 to more than 10,000 in 2023.

The VA character of discharge determination does not change the Armed Forces’ characterization of service and has no effect on the former Service member’s military discharge status. VA’s determination is for VA benefits and services eligibility purposes only.

Any discharge characterized as “honorable” or “general – under honorable conditions” satisfies the character of discharge requirement for basic eligibility for most VA benefits. Former service members who did not receive those discharges are not automatically disqualified from receiving VA care or benefits. However, barring a ruling of insanity, VA does not provide benefits to service members who are discharged with a “dishonorable discharge;” service members who were discharged for desertion, mutiny, going AWOL for 180 continuous days, or espionage; or service members discharged by sentence of a general court martial, discharged in lieu of trial, discharged as a

“resignation by an officer for the good of the service,” or discharged as a conscientious objector. VA does apply compelling circumstances exception for AWOL when appropriate.

Learn more about former service members [applying](#) for benefits and character of discharge.



The Story of Dad’s Purple Heart

Frank Allen Westgate

Chapter 0115-MO-2

My Dad for years only had 1 Medal - Noted on his WWII discharge 24 years later that all changed. After I kept reviewing my dad’s medical records over and over, later talking to other Veterans. They finally convinced me to present the evidence to the Navy liaison personnel records - and there reply and Official Upgrade for my Dads Discharge is in this story, which my dad could never tell.

My Dad was a resident of Baldwin KS his whole life. He served in WWII. - He never paid much attention to his Military service in WWII, After the war was over, he just wanted to get it behind him and move on. He was wounded and crippled while serving

aboard the ship **LST 470 during WWII**. Through the years I kept looking at Dad's discharge, he only had 1 medal awarded and he could never really recall how he got injured so badly. His one and only medal was "**The Asian WWII Pacific Theater**" Medal, after **18 months of service in WWII**, and that's it.

I kept asking myself "why doesn't he have more medals" He should have a Purple Heart – "everybody else who was injured in the line of duty got one. **Dad passed in 1990 without ever knowing any difference in this change you're about to read about.** I finally got his Medical Records in 2006 and kept reviewing the record. He served on **LST470 in New Guinea**. The huge front door became dislodged "possibly under fire while beached". **I remember my Dad telling me he was found on the beach** unconscious – he didn't remember the huge crank handle that spun quickly and hit Dad in the head, open up his skull, knocking him out for a long time, leaving him in a coma for about 30 days, and a long rehabilitation - **forever crippling him** before the age of 21.



Discharge Official Record of his Medals where reviewed and changed by the NAVY Board of Corrections

NOMINEE'S NAME AND/OR AFFILIATION TO AWARD		REMARKS CODE	DATE		
WESTGATE, ELLSWORTH A		P3128T15	April 9, 2014		
SERVICE NO./SERIAL		5575	USN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A REVIEW OF THE AWARD INDICATES AFFILIATION TO THE FOLLOWING AWARD: <input type="checkbox"/> AWARDING AWARD AND ENDORSEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> PREVIOUSLY LISTED AWARD AND INDICATED BY A # <input type="checkbox"/> REPLACEMENT OF PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED (***** ONLY)		RECORD SHOW			
<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> Medal of Honor <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Cross <input type="checkbox"/> Defense Distinguished Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Distinguished Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Star <input type="checkbox"/> Defense Superior Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Legion of Merit <input type="checkbox"/> Distinguished Flying Cross <input type="checkbox"/> Navy and Marine Corps Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Star Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Heart Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Air Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Commendation Medal (NAVY/USCG) <input type="checkbox"/> Achievement Medal (NAVY/USCG) <input type="checkbox"/> Meritorious Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Good Conduct Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> World War II Victory Medal <input type="checkbox"/> American Defense Service Medal (Seafarer or Fleet Class) 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Navy "E" Ribbon <input type="checkbox"/> Combat Action Ribbon <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Expert Rifle/Pistol Medal </td> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> Antarctic Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Prisoner of War Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Naval Reserve Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces Reserve Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Naval Reserve Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Republic of Korea War Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Korean Liberation Medal (KLNWAT) </td> </tr> </table>				<input type="checkbox"/> Medal of Honor <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Cross <input type="checkbox"/> Defense Distinguished Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Distinguished Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Star <input type="checkbox"/> Defense Superior Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> 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FOREIGN AWARDS <input type="checkbox"/> Philippine Defense Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Philippine Liberation Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Philippine Independence Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (Navy) <input type="checkbox"/> Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam Campaign Medal w/1955 Device <input type="checkbox"/> Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam Campaign Medal w/1955 Device <input type="checkbox"/> Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation <input type="checkbox"/> 50th Action Color w/1955 and France 1 Ribbon bar <input type="checkbox"/> Kuwait Liberation Medal (SAUD)					
<small>COMMENT: If medal is "back ordered", it will be sent to you when received by this office. Foreign Awards, Badges, and some Ribbons are not stockpiled by the Department of the Navy, but may be obtained from the list of manufacturers/suppliers certified by the Institute of Heraldry located at this website: http://www.ichh.hqda.pentagon.mil/etd/etdmainframe.aspx</small>					
REQUESTOR: FRANK A. WESTGATE 829 S ALHAMBRA AVE YONK, AL 35344		NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND RETIRED RECORDS SECTION PERG 3128, ROOM 354 1 ABBOTTS DRIVE ST LOUIS, MO 63138			

His Discharge Only had 1 Medal awarded on it which is Called "Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal "which doesn't exist any longer it specifically a **Period Medal of WWII**. I have been thinking about this for years, then I would forget it, think about it, then forget it. Since I live in a military town for fourteen years, there's a lot of military servicemen / women inspiration and stories. I thought about dads' stuff more often and began to ask questions and do a little more research. After **I got the medical records in 2006** - I showed a female Army officer, while she was giving me some treatment at the clinic in TX. I said, "Colonel ma'am, can you look at my dad's records from WWII?" She viewed them and told me what everything meant "**in short Dad was seriously injured in WWII.**" She was from the Korean War area and glad to see the records. I kept thinking about the Purple Heart – or why didn't he even get a Victory Medal, and I thought

about other people who got – the Purple Heart, why didn't Dad? **He was injured way worse than that person**, and then I would forget it for a while. Dad never looked into the reason his discharge from military was the way it was, he just wanted to get the **"War over with"**. Eventually I kept at it "like a Hobby" Asking question **I mentioned Dad's story at the American Legion** while pursuing my own paper work for corrections. I briefly told the American Legion - the story and he gave me an address, said write to this address – **present your case and they'll make a final decision** and I quote his exact words **(Its real difficult to get a Postmortem - Purple Heart – don't get your hopes up)** And that's what I did in April of 2014 and by my own surprise they changed the result and upgraded Dad's Medals "including the Purple Heart"



LST-470

LST - 470 was laid down on 26 October 1942 at Vancouver, Wash., by Kaiser, Inc.; launched on 30 November 1942; and commissioned on 9 March 1943, Lt. Richard McMahon, USNR, in command. During

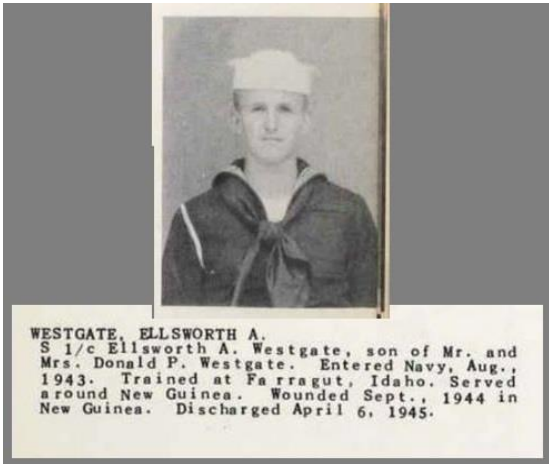
World War II, LST-470 was assigned to the Asiatic- Pacific theater and participated in the following operations: Eastern New Guinea operations: (a) Lae occupation-September 1943 (b) Sailor occupation-January 1944 Bismarck Archipelago Operation: (a) Cape Gloucester, New Britain-December 1943 (b) Admiralty Islands landing-March 1944 Hollandia operation-April 1944 Western New Guinea operations: (a) Biak Island operation-May and June 1944 (b) Cape Sansa Por operation-July and August 1944.

(c) Morotai landings-September 1944 * (Right here is where Dad got Injured)** is my best guess. Leyte landings-October and November 1944 Lingayen Gulf landing-January 1945 Consolidation of the southern Philippines: (a) Palawan Island landings February and March 1945 (b) Mindanao Island landings-April 1945 Balikpapan operation-June and July 1945 Following the war, LST-470 returned to the United States and was decommissioned on 4 March 1946 and struck from the Navy list on 5 June that same year. On 4 November 1947, the tank landing ship was sold to Dulien Steel Products, Inc., Seattle, Wash., and subsequently scrapped. LST-470 earned eight battle stars and the Navy Unit Commendation for World War II service.

LST 470 Landing Ship - The Ship Dad Served on and got injured on - He very well could be on the Ship.



LST 470



Form H-8 866 55 75 Page 1
MEDICAL HISTORY

WESTGATE
Ellsworth Allen
Born Canada Date 9-3-24
NRS, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
Date: 8-10-43

I certify that I have never suffered from or had asthma, hay fever, fits or fainting spells, venereal disease, wet the bed in last five years; and that I am not concealing any disease or injury.

X-ray examination of chest at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, reported essentially negative. Kahn blood test reported negative.

Winch Handle Story
LST470

Dad would have been injured Sept 1944 when they hit landed on the beach	Hollandia operation, 21 to 26 April 1944 Western New Guinea operation Biak Island operation, 27 to 29 May and 31 May to 4 June 1944 Cape Sansapor operation, 31 July, 6, 8 to 14 August 1944 Morotai landings, 15 September 1944
---	--

Dad was injured Sept 1944 - it would have been at One these 4 landings in New Guinea

New Guinea Landings -

LST-1 Class Tank Landing Ship:

- Laid down, 26 October 1942, at Kaiser, Inc., Vancouver, WA.
- Launched, 30 November 1942
- Commissioned USS LST-470, 9 March 1943
- During World War II USS LST-470 was assigned to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater: LST Flotilla Seven, CAPT. R. M. Seruaga, USN; LST Group Nineteen, CDR. James E. Van Zandt, USNR and participated in the following campaigns:

Campaign and Dates	Campaign and Dates
Eastern New Guinea operation Lae occupation, 4 to 5 and 9 to 11 September 1943 Saidor occupation, 6 to 9, 19 to 19 to 22 and 28 to 30 January 1944	Leyte operation Leyte landings, 13 to 27 October and 5 to 18 November 1944
Bismarck Archipelago operation Cape Gloucester, New Britain, 26 to 29 December 1943 Admiralty Islands landings, 14 to 18 March 1944	Luzon operation Luzon Gold landings, 4 to 15 January 1945
Hollandia operation, 21 to 26 April 1944	Consolidation and capture of Southern Philippines Palawan Island landings, 28 February to 1 March 1945 Mindanao Island landings, 17 to 23 April 1945
Western New Guinea operation Biak Island operation, 27 to 29 May and 31 May to 4 June 1944 Cape Sansapor operation, 31 July, 6, 8 to 14 August 1944 Morotai landings, 15 September 1944	Borneo operation Balikpapan operation, 28 June to 7 July 1945

Decommissioned, 4 March 1946
Struck from the Naval Register, 5 June 1946
Final Disposition, sold for scrapping, 4 November 1947, to Dulien Steel Products, Inc., Seattle, WA.
USS LST-470 received the Navy Unit Commendation and earned eight battle stars for World War II service

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

To be completely made up by medical officer at time of enlistment, extension of enlistment, reenlistment, enrollment, appointment, commission, or promotion.

WESTGATE, Ellsworth A. 866-557-5

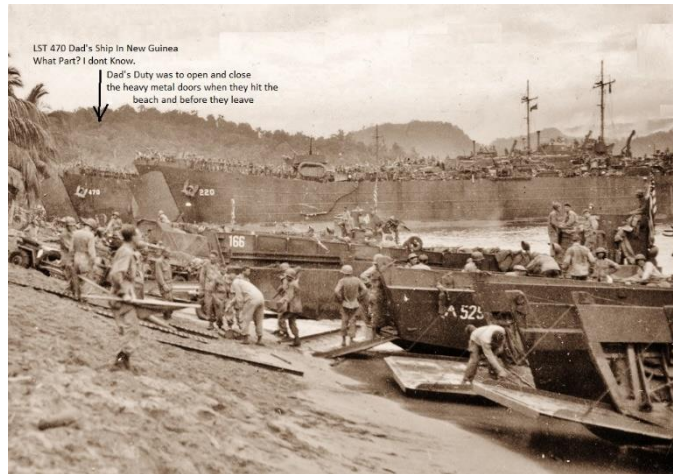
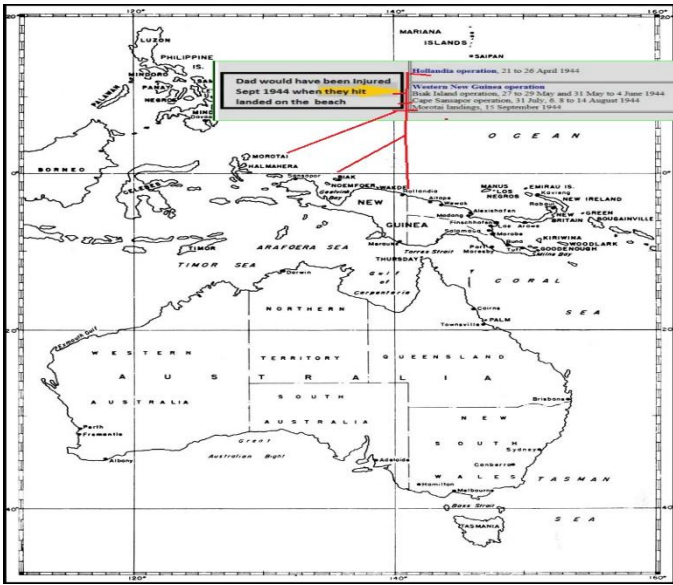
Enlisted: Kansas City, Mo. Date: 9, Aug. 1943
Assigned: A/S
Rank: A/S
Name: Phon: Canada
Nationality: Fr. Ir. English
Religion: Protestant
Next of kin or friend: Mrs. M.R. Westgate
Route 2, Lawrence, Kansas

Complexion: Fair Hair: Dark General appearance: Good
Head and face: Normal
Eyes: Brown normal
Ears: Right: 20, Left: 20, corrected to: 20
Nose: Right: 15, Left: 15, corrected to: 15
Mouth, nose, throat: Tonsils in Normal
Height: 5'10" Weight: 162 Temperature: 98.6
Chest at expiration: 35 at inspiration: 38
Skin and glands: Normal
Neck (thyroid, trachea, larynx): Normal
Spine and extremities: Normal except for mild paralysis (thorax and spine, muscles, tendons, ligaments, and cartilage, etc.)
Thorax (shape, movement, etc.): Normal
Respiratory system: Normal
Heart and blood vessels: Normal
Pulse before exercise: 100 after exercise: 124 after rest: 92
Blood pressure: Systolic: 146 Diastolic: 84
Abdomen and pelvis: Normal
Genito-urinary system: Normal
Dietary habits: Regular
Nervous system: Normal

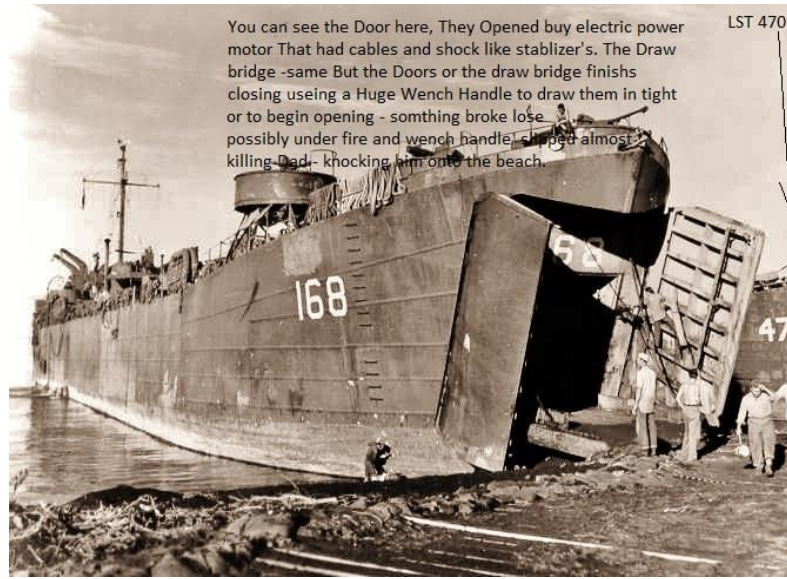
Picture of his Injury Noted by Medical Staff

DATE and nature of any wound, and details not noted above

MARKS, SCARS, ETC.



From far to near; USS LST-470, USS LST-220 and LCT-166 beached at Tanamerah Bay, New Guinea, 22 April 1944. *US National Archives Record Group 111, Photo #SC 259967.* A US Army Signal Corps photo now in the collections of the US National Archives



USS LST-470 and USS LST-168 beached, date and location unknown. US Navy photo

REPORT OF MEDICAL SURVEY 29 MAR 1945

Place **U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL, San Diego, California** Date _____
(Name of hospital, ship, or station)

From: Board of Medical Survey. MEDICINE AND SURGERY

To: Commanding Officer. For Transmission to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Name **WESTGATE, Ellsworth Allen** 866-56-75 Rank or rate **Sic USNR**
(In full, surname first)

Born: Place **Saskatchewan, Canada** Date **September 3, 1924**
(Place of birth and date of birth)

Enlisted or appointed: Date **August 3, 1944** Place **Kansas City, Missouri**
(Date of enlistment or appointment and place)

Total service: Navy **1 year** Marine Corps **6 months** Army _____

PRESENT HISTORY OF CASE

Admitted from **U.S. Naval Base Hospital #14 Navy 722** Date **December 14, 1944**
(Name of hospital, ship, or station)

Diagnosis **INTRACRANIAL INJURY #2543** Key letter **H** Specialty letter _____
(From navy memorandum, under which carried on sick list)

Disability **was not** the result of his own misconduct and **was** **not** the result of his own misconduct
(If "Yes," specify date and place of incident)

Existed prior to enlistment **No** If "Yes," was condition aggravated by service? **Yes**
(Yes or No)

Present condition **Unfit for service** Probable future duration **Permanent**
(Yes or No)

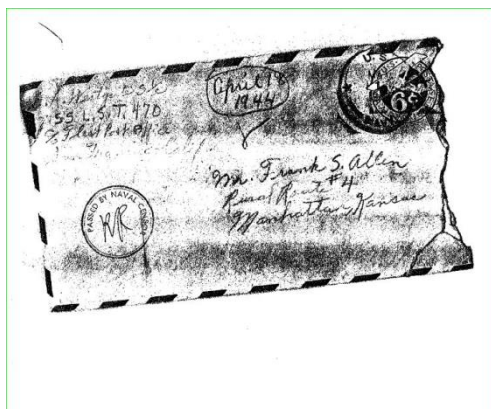
Recommendation **That he be discharged from the U.S. Naval Reserve.**

FACTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: This man has not been previously surveyed.
He was first admitted to the sick list at U.S. Naval Base Hospital #14 Navy 722 on September 2, 1944 after sustaining a severe head injury, the circumstances of which were as follows:
1. Within command. 2. Work. 3. Negligence not apparent. 4. Winch handle slipped striking him on the head on September 3, 1944 aboard LST 470. He was transferred to the Thirtieth Evacuation Hospital (Army) APO 705, Lae, New Guinea, in an unconscious condition. The scalp wound was explored disclosing a depressed fracture of the skull, but was considered so slight that elevation was not deemed advisable. On September 9, 1944 he was transferred to 233 Station Hospital (Army) APO 713, in New Guinea, where on second day after admission he developed right-sided Jacksonian seizure. On the following day a left parietal bone flap was turned down with evacuation of an extra-dural clot.
Upon admission to this hospital, general physical examination was essentially normal. Neurological examination revealed a healed left parietal operative incision, a residual right hemiparesis with spasticity and sensory impairment. With rest and physiotherapy there has been improvement to a degree that the man is now fully ambulatory and uses his right arm and hand in a manner satisfactory for a useful civil occupation.
He is unfit for further military service.
It is recommended that disciplinary action pending against this man be discontinued.
SIGNED: _____
BY: Surgeon Major

EMPLOYMENT AND NON-SERVICE EDUCATIONAL DATA		DATE SENT
21. LAST EMPLOYER BEFORE ENTRY INTO SERVICE (Give firm name and address) John Callister, Bldg, Manhattan, Kan.		7-43
22. USUAL CIVILIAN OCCUPATION Farmer.		
23. JOB FIELD PREFERENCE Farmer.		
24. (FOR ALL SERVICES) 25. LOYALTY PREFERENCE (Give grounds if any) YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/>		
26. HIGHER SERVICE EDUCATION	ENTER NUMBER OF YEARS COMPLETED GRADES 8 0 HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE none	
27. MAJOR COURSE OR FIELD none		
28. VOCATIONAL OR TRADE COURSES (Indicate nature and length of courses) none		
29. REMARKS Entitled to wear Asiatic-Pacific ribbon. Will return to former job.		
I certify that all information on this form pertaining to the Naval Service of the above named individual is in accordance with the records of the Navy Department and that a copy of this form has been delivered to him in person.		
S. S. HANKEY, Chief Pharmacist, USN (Type in name and rank of commanding officer) By direction of the Commanding Officer.		
IMPORTANT: IF PRESENTED IN NEW YORK WHEN AND ON WHICH SERVICE OR DAYS OF SERVICE INSURANCE WILL BE PAID. MAKE CHECKS IN MONTHS CHARGED PAYABLE TO THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE U. S. NAVY, 1000 BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, WASHINGTON, D. C.		
30. MONTHS OF INSURANCE YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	31. MONTHS NEXT PAYABLE YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	32. AMOUNT OF PAYABLE YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
33. MONTHS OF INSURANCE YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	34. MONTHS NEXT PAYABLE YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	35. AMOUNT OF PAYABLE YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
36. MONTHS OF INSURANCE YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	37. MONTHS NEXT PAYABLE YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	38. AMOUNT OF PAYABLE YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
39. MONTHS OF INSURANCE YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	40. MONTHS NEXT PAYABLE YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	41. AMOUNT OF PAYABLE YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
A. F. NICHOLS, (Type in name and rank of commanding officer) By direction of the Commanding Officer.		
TO: BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL		

Ellsworth "Toby" A. Westgate Aug 1943 - Wounded Sept 1944, on Ship LST470 - WWII-P.T.O. Discharged April 1945

I call this Letter "A" In between Letter "A" to Letter "B" Dad life changed forever in WWII.



In between the time of these **two letters** were sent, Dad was seriously injured - almost took his life to soon, but he made it and made a good life for himself.



Letter "B" - Now letters are from the Hospital Rehab facility.

I wrote to Navy Personnel for a review of Dads records – after collecting everything. **Twenty-four years** after his passing away, the injury he got in **"the war"** developed into **Lou Gehrig's disease** - Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)—also referred to as motor neuron disease – Because Dads Brain was badly injured – worse than he ever realized.

Navy Personnel Liaison

I'm Ellsworth Westgate only son Frank Westgate. I'm sending Dads DD214. Dad or Ellsworth is a deceased WWII Veteran passed in 1990.

I want the records, to be review on what medals Dad earned and awarded any medals or awards he should have got, that might have been over looked.

I would like to request the following or help with obtaining or you forwarding my request to who can get me.

1. Any Awards, and Medals Dad earned
2. What was his Disability rating the last year of his life

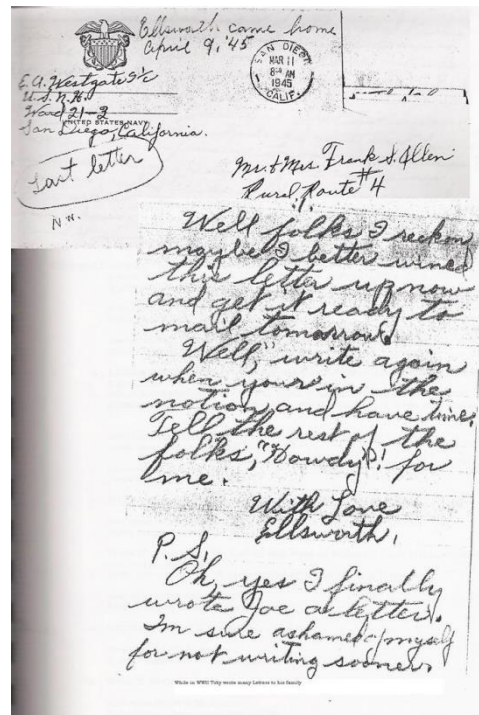
Respectfully Frank A. Westgate

Totally Surprise they gave Dad what was well over due, and **dad never even thought about it**. It's a mixed feeling – (I feel good about it – and I feel "why didn't they get it

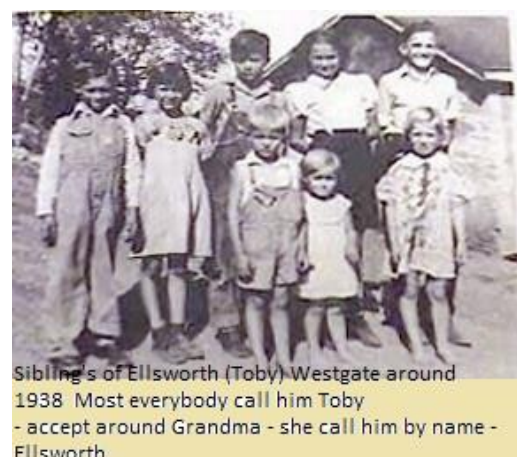
right to begin with” kind bitterness. But for the history of the family and the history of where Dad lived – and the people who used to know him – I’m happy about that part anyway. I only wish he knew about it. **“He would been surprised about it – but Dad was happy anyway with no medals.” He was grateful that he just came out alive though WWII.**



well as our mother did too.



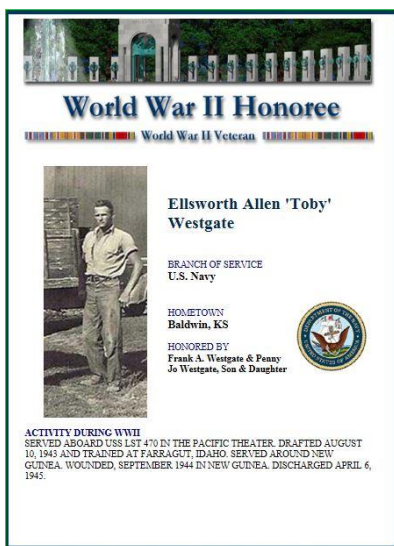
Dads last letter before being Discharged and sent Home for good. Every time I read a few words; I can almost remember the sound of his voice. Death took the Little One's Life the same day Dad got injured overseas - in an accident.



My dad has a daughter older than me **Penny Jo. Westgate.** She misses Dad dearly – I miss both my parents – Our parents got divorced when we were at an early age – I was 5 years old, my sister 12 – to avoid a lot of drama in this story - it did more damage to her than I think it did to me. Although divorced our parents’ remained friends after – Dad mostly raised us in the younger years, he didn’t ask for anything from Mom – Dad truly worked and earned everything – as



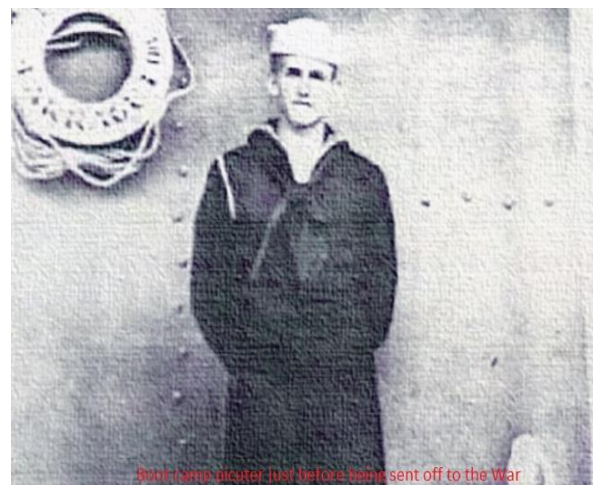
Everybody's all grown up. Dad, **Ellsworth A Westgate; Drafted WWII; served 18 months – Myron sitting in the chair is Dads Brother – fought in Korea War and Willie standing behind his wife next to the painting fought in Korea War and Danny in the far back standing behind Grandma “Nellie” didn't have to go** – because the Military law leaves one son home when all the older one get drafted. Most of them are gone now days – **only their memory lives on in their sons and Daughters**, we had a lot of good times as kids being raised up by these folks – a lot of good times, and turkey dinners.



Washington DC contacted me in the mid 1990's wanted information about Dad so they could add him to the WWII Memorial. I still havent been there since the information was added. You can view it on this link www.wwiimemorial.com. There is also anouther link -www.findagrave.com /westgate.



Pleasant Hill Cemetery- Also known as: Flory Cemetery - Pleasant Grove, 12 miles outside of Lawrence, Ks. Douglas County, Kansas Hwy 59



Rest in Peace Dad – Till we meet again.

The Purple Heart

The US had expected the American casualties in World War II to be much greater than they were. In preparation for the invasion of Japan, Operation Downfall, some 1,506,000 Purple Hearts were made. Though Operation Downfall was abandoned when Japan surrendered after the bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Purple Hearts made for it are still being used today. Most of these Purple Hearts have been issued.

As of June 5, 2010, a staggering 1,910,162 have been issued. Interestingly, around 120,000 more are circulated through the present armed forces, so that they can be awarded without delay. Everything else from World War II (tanks, bullets, k rations), has since been used, sold, or scrapped, but the Purple Hearts made for our Great Grandfathers are still being pinned on our soldiers today.

Ralph's Purple Heart Story

Anita Lundy, Ralph's stepdaughter

As a keepsake (and due to my being a retired English/writing teacher), *I interviewed and wrote his own WWII Purple Heart story for my stepfather Ralph. He is 98 years old, twice widowed, and a very fine gentleman who lives about 50 miles south of Portland, Oregon, and just north of Salem, Oregon. Each Thursday Ralph drives a delivery route for Meals on Wheels.*

His Purple Heart story:



Ralph was an Oregon farm boy, with an excursion to Portland being a very major event. He was the fourth of five siblings. His 18th birthday was in November 1943. His older brother was stationed in The Philippines, serving in the South Pacific. Soon after he was 18, Ralph traveled to Portland for his military physical. He was declared 1A. He waited. In March 1944, due to graduate from high school, Ralph was drafted, had to leave school, and become a

Private First Class in the United States Army. (He picked up his high school diploma after military discharge.)

In August 1944, he completed all his training. Farm life had prepared him well for working with artillery. Upon his 19th birthday, Ralph received his orders for overseas assignment. He was assigned to the 76th Division. On the ship with many other young soldiers, he sailed from Boston Harbor to South Hampton, England, zigzagging through the North Atlantic to avoid the enemy's U-Boats. Eventually, his ship joined a convoy of ships.



From England, Ralph was sent to France. It was cold January 1945. Ralph's division was assigned to a battlefield where there was much evidence of the Battle of the Bulge,

which occurred there one month prior. Since there was no geographic signage, it was difficult for the young soldiers to determine their paths.

Fox holes remained from the very recent battle and even some from WWI. Ralph's unit was on one side of the River Seine. The German army was on the opposite side.

Each American soldier was given 6-8 clips and a shoulder bandoleer with extra clip. Each also had a first aid kit containing morphine.

Ralph's squad had grenades, but the handling of grenades was dependent on position in the squad. Each squad had seven men; seven squads made a platoon. Sleeping was in two-person pup tents. Every day or two, the U.S. Army gave them boxes of rations.

The enemy shot tracer bullets at night. The American soldiers had to move very low and lie low. They positioned themselves in the fox holes covered with dirt, logs, and snow. Their mission was to learn what the enemy was doing. Night patrol duty was chilling. They had to watch the enemy located on the opposite side of the River Seine, avoiding the enemy's troops on the ground. On patrol, the soldiers could not make any noise, no rattle of gear, no talking.



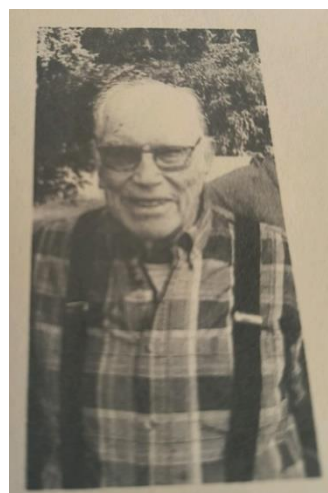
The American soldiers were patrolling an orchard when a German mortar exploded with shrapnel. Ralph was knocked unconscious. When he regained consciousness, he looked around. He saw his comrades, some injured and some fatally wounded, but he was alive and had all his

extremities and senses. Those soldiers who could went for cover. As he lay there, it was eerily quiet and profoundly scary.

The medics came for the injured Ralph, taking him to a nearby village where his dried blood was washed away. Due to his shrapnel wounds, he underwent surgery in Luxembourg City, followed by six weeks in a hospital in England.

When Ralph was discharged from the hospital, the war in Europe was over. Then his military assignment was transferring by train displaced and enslaved persons back to their countries, including Czechoslovakia and Poland. He witnessed that German civilians had been much deprived during the war and were very hungry.

Ralph was sent back to the United States to prepare to go to the South Pacific. While he was preparing for his new assignment, the war in the South Pacific ended. In April 1946, he was discharged when at Ft. Lewis in Tacoma, Washington. He was 20 years old.



Twice widowed, Ralph is a retired mechanic and an active volunteer, driving each Thursday to deliver for Meals on Wheels. The recipients do not realize he is 98 (age 99 in November). They do not know

about the Purple Heart, nor that Ralph still

receives a monthly government check for being wounded on that WWII battlefield 79 years ago at age 19.

Member Benefits

MOPH

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



AUSA

MyVetBENEFITS

At AUSA, we understand your frustrations when navigating the complex maze of Veteran and military benefits. That's why we're excited to introduce our newest

partner, MyVetBENEFITS.

MyVetBENEFITS is a mobile app and website that matches service members, Veterans, and their families to the service-connected benefits they've earned in a matter of minutes. The app includes 2,500+ benefits from the VA, state Veteran departments, service organizations, and more. Wondering where to settle down? Compare state benefits before you decide where to live.

Get your own personalized list of benefits by downloading the app in the App Store or Google Play. Or you can access the app online at MyVetBENEFITS.com.



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Over 300 highly trained medical service dogs, like Brody and Xena, have been provided to Veterans, disabled children, and Kids with Autism.



91st National Convention

Opening Ceremony

Video Courtesy MOPHA



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTA2o9cR6Fg&authuser=2>



National Patriot of the Year

Patriot of the Year Award Renamed

The Program

The Patriot of the Year (POTY) program is designed to recognize and reward Patriots for Outstanding contributions in the preceding year. It is not intended to be a life-time achievement award.

Chapter Commanders recognize their Patriots of the Year for their contributions which further the Order's programs, membership development, service to

Veterans, and their communities.

Department commanders select the most outstanding Chapter Patriot of the Year and nominate them to represent their Department as Region Patriot of the Year.

The National Patriot of the Year is selected by a ballot vote of the five most recent past National Patriots of the Year. The Patriot selected for this honor is announced at the National Convention Awards Dinner/Gala.

The Motion

At the 91st National Convention, the Supreme Body unanimously approved the Department of California's motion to rename the National Patriot of the Year Award to the **"Tommy Tanaka National Patriot of the Year Award."** This change was approved in recognition and honor of Patriot Tommy Tanaka's life-long significant and continual contributions to Veterans, Veteran families, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart's mission, values, programs, and our members at all levels.

The Presentation



National Commander Fergusson surprised Patriot Tanaka during the Gala by asking him to assist in presenting this year's National Patriot of the Year. Once Tommy was seated, he announced the renaming of the award. Although caught by surprise since he was out of the room when the motion was passed, Tommy accepted the honor with his usual grace and demeanor, sharing a few words of gratitude and encouragement with all.



Patriot Tanaka exemplifies the true meaning of the award with integrity, excellence, and continued contributions to the Order. He is a Korean war veteran and at 96 years old continues to mentor our future leaders. He is a life member of Rainbow Chapter 483, Hawaii.

Historically organizations tend to name awards after an individual has passed and then it is presented to the family. This proposal came about due to the admiration for the magnificent work and continued

efforts that at the age of 96 Patriot Tanaka continues to do. He is an example of true grit, resilience, and commitment to us all.

As part of Region VI many of us from the Department of California have had the opportunity to collaborate with Patriot Tanaka during conventions. Furthermore, he continually invites members to look him up while visiting Hawaii. For those of you that take him up on his offer you know you are in for the experience of a lifetime. Before visiting Hawaii, I contacted Tommy to let him know we'd be in town and to schedule to meet with him. Much to my surprise he was in the lobby of the Hale Koa at 0800 the next morning with a handwritten agenda for the week. He is very well known and connected. We were VIPs for the week visiting various parts of the Island where he grew up, many memorials such as Pearl Harbor, The Punch Bowl "National Cemetery of the Pacific," Ft Shafter, Ft DeRussy, General Flynn's home and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency just to name a few. He also included us in the Ceremonies, Festivities and Parade on the 80th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl harbor. An unforgettable experience. He made sure we visited these treasures explaining the timeframe and history. He spoke about how he wants the younger generations to know what happened there and to mentor them for future leadership roles withing the Order. **He stated, "it is time for the younger Patriots to take on the leadership role."**

Road to the 91st Convention

This past year Tommy was involved in a serious rollover accident. While he suffered some painful injuries to include a few broken bones, it never broke his spirit.



While on a call to check on him he stated, “I will be at convention in Orlando, make sure you go.” He prioritized his physical therapy and rehabilitation with one goal in mind which was not to miss the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) convention so he could be with his friends. He overcame all obstacles and challenges to be there. He has been going to MOPH conventions since 1988.

Purple Heart Patriot Project

Honolulu Army Veteran Chosen to Represent Hawaii’s Purple Heart Veterans as Part of the 2021 Purple Heart Patriot Project

(NEWBURGH, NY) – A local Purple Heart recipient has been chosen to be one of the nation’s 2021 Purple Heart Patriot Project

honorees. U.S. Army Private First Class (PFC) Thomas “Tommy” Tanaka of Honolulu, a Korean War veteran, will represent his fellow Purple Heart heroes as Hawaii’s representative at a multi-day tribute to the courage and sacrifice of American’s combat wounded. The Purple Heart Patriot Project is a program of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission. The all-expense-paid trip includes visits to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, historic Washington’s Headquarters, a special tour of the newly renovated National Purple Heart Hall of Honor and other tributes to service.

“Tommy and his fellow Patriot Project honorees are true American heroes,” said Richie Lay, a Purple Heart recipient and chairman of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission. “America’s Purple Heart veterans have given so much to defend freedom and that sacrifice must always be remembered. We are privileged to be able to provide this unique salute to service for our Purple Heart heroes.”

“Our Purple Heart recipients have made enormous sacrifices for America, and this is our opportunity to say ‘thank you’ on behalf of a grateful nation. For some, this will be like the homecoming they never had. We received hundreds of nominations from across the country and we look forward to honoring Tommy for his lifelong sacrifice and service to his community,” said Col. Russ Vernon (Ret.), executive director for the National Purple Heart Honor Mission.

When asked what his service meant to him, Mr. Tanaka said, "Service is about being a better person, understanding those around you, and doing your best to ensure everyone succeeds."

Mr. Tanaka was drafted into the U.S. Army in November 1950 and was assigned to the 24th Division, 19th Regiment. In October 1951, PFC Tanaka was wounded-in-action by a North Korean mortar in Kumsong, North Korea. Along with his Purple Heart, PFC Tanaka was awarded the Korean Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, and the United Nations Service medal.

After leaving the Army, Tanaka worked for the U.S. Postal Service and became involved in veterans causes. He is a former commander for the Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Hawaii Chapter 483. Tanaka was nominated for the Patriot Project by fellow Purple Heart recipient Robert Cox, Hawaii's honoree during the 2019 Purple Heart Patriot Project.

During a POW/MIA ceremony in Hawaii he made the following comments:

"I left a lot of my buddies back there. I don't know when they're going to come back home. I don't know if they found them. I miss them." He is comforted in knowing that the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) continues to search by sending small recovery teams made up of investigators, a photographer, linguist, medic, and explosive tech. The search continues.

In 2022 he was invited to re-visit Korea. The trip was sponsored by the government to express their gratitude and honor the soldiers who helped defend Korea.

Friends and Family



General Charles A. Flynn & his wife Kathleen at the 80th Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony at Ft DeRussy Hawaii.



Tommy Tanaka speaks at the Punch Bowl, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.



Jo Keller, Tommy Tanaka, MOH recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams, and Jo’s husband Richard.



Honolulu has become Purple Heart City.

The following pictures are from the 89th Convention in Rapid City, SD.



Tommy’s daughter Tracey and son in law Bill who always accompany him to conventions.





With his Department of California Family.

This Year's Recipient – Ken Teunissen

Patriot Kenneth Teunissen, Region III Patriot of the Year (5355-DK-3), was selected as the 2023 National Patriot of the Year at this year's convention.



(L to R): National Commander Fergusson, Patriot Tommy Tanaka, and 2024 Patriot of the Year Kenneth Teunissen.



Patriot Teunissen has been working with the National American Indian Veterans in securing their Federal Charter. South Dakota Governor disbanded the South Dakota Veterans Commission, thus leaving the Native American Veterans without any representation. They have been requesting a Federal Charter for

over twenty plus years.

Patriot Teunissen has since then been advocating for them to receive a Federal Charter. At the National Convention in Branson, Arkansas a Resolution was submitted, introduced, and passed unanimously, Past National Commander Ernie Rivera, graciously sent a letter of support.

Patriot Teunissen sent it to Senator Thune, Senator Rounds and Congressman Johnson requesting a Federal Charter for the National American Indian Veterans, which at that time Congress was not awarding any more Charters, after several years and the age of the National Commander Donald Loudner was not getting younger, Senator Rounds with the assistance of many other Senators and Congressmen and women was able to get it included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NOAA).

When the NOAA was passed in the Senate, then it went to Congress and it passed and the during the second week of December 14, 2023, it was signed by the President of the United States of America.

Patriot Teunissen was able to incorporate the Department a 501C 3, Dakota Wounded Warrior. By accomplishing this the Chapter and Department were able to be part of the Give Back program at Grand Falls Casino, Larchwood, Iowa. Thus-generating funds to donate to other organizations.

Patriot Teunissen has been involved in getting a Property Tax Exemption bill passed and signed by South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem. Patriot Teunissen has-also introduced a House Concurrent Resolution to bring awareness to Agent Orange and the many Veterans that have died from cancers and the other diseases connected with it.

Patriot Teunissen has been involved in recruiting activities in South Dakota, and on two Purple Heart pickup trips through the Western United States. Setting up at Ford Dealers and Harley Davidson Dealers. He volunteers 30-40 hours to VAVA annually participating in in

packing of Christmas supplies for Veterans confined to the Sioux-Falls Veterans Administration Hospital at Christmas time.



Kenneth Teunissen Patriot of the Year - 2024

Honor Roll

2002	Kip Monroe (Region IV)
2003	None
2004	Frank Simko (Region I – deceased)
2005	Jack Ott (Region IV– deceased)
2006	Jim Logsdon (Region II)
2007	Dallas Lynch (Region V)
2008	William E. Everett (Region IV)
2009	Jerry Houston (Region VI)
2010	Thomas P. “Pat” Maney (Region IV)
2011	Bruce Dwyer (Region V)
2012	William Nazario (Region I)
2013	James R. Schaller (Region IV)
2014	Mike Stubbs (Region IV)
2015	Cyril “Cy” Kammeier (Region II)
2016	Richard Hunt (IV)
2017	Peter Rosie (Region V)
2018	Larry Leighton (Region VI)
2019	Rob Shalvoy (Region VI)
2020	Washington Sanchez (Region IV)
2021	Allan Tobiason (Region III)
2022	Joseph Garrido (Region IV)
2023	Joshua Dale (Region VI)
2024	Kenneth Teunissen (Region III)

Region Patriots of the Year

Region I: No nomination this year.

Region II: No nomination this year.

Region III: Kenneth Teunissen

Region IV: Patriot Figueroa

Region V: No nomination this year.

Region VI: James Starkman

Region IV Patriot of the Year:

Patriot Figueroa



Patriot Figueroa continues to keep our chapter up and running, purchases food for meetings and hosts numerous department meetings. She ensures that our

chapter and members are up to date on all MOPH information. Patriot Figueroa also assists with setting up fundraiser and community events.

Patriot Figueroa participates in all Chapter and Department projects, activities, and events. She assists with the Purple Heart dinners that are put on throughout the state. Patriot Figueroa speaks with many veterans throughout the Fayetteville area. She tries to get connected with Purple Heart recipients to get them to attend our meetings and join our organization.

Patriot participates in all chapter VAVS activities including fundraisers and community events. Due to being so involved with the MOPH, her work at the VA and her family, she does not have much more time to additional Civic duties.

Patriot Figueroa holds many positions within the MOPH org. including Secretary of the Bylaws Committee, Region Commander and being a part of the MOPH Fund board of

directors.

Patriot Figueroa is the Workhorse of the Chapter, Her dedication to the MOPH is a shining example for others. She is active at multiple levels within the MOPH Family and does an amazing job at each level.

She is active at multiple levels within the MOPH Family and does an amazing job at each level.

The Region IV Commander had to recuse herself from the process as she was a named candidate for the position. She has advanced faster than any other member of the Order in Region 4. Many times, she could have turned down a position but seeing others not stepping up she added more to her list of duties. She has been an asset to her Chapter, her Department, the Region, and the Order.

Region VI Patriot of the Year James Starkman



Patriot Starkman has organized and managed multiple fundraising events which raised over \$5,000 for Chapter programs. As Chapter Senior Vice Commander, Jim

assisted in planning and managing the Annual George Washington Luncheon and arranging for multiple guest speakers for chapter meetings.

Patriot Starkman has established relationships with the Wickenburg Merchants Association and the Sun City West Sun Dome Plaza Merchants Association to ensure we are included in their annual programs.

Patriot Starkman is always on the “look out” for new members and actively attempts to recruit new members at fundraising events and community events.

Patriot Starkman is the Chapter and the Corte Bella Vets club representative to the North West Valley Veterans Association and actively supports their mission recognizing Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and unserviceable flag retirement. He visits the Veterans Home Memory Care Unit monthly with the Veterans Affinity organization.

Patriot Starkman took over the Sun City West Sun Dome Plaza’s “Angels for Veterans” Christmas Tree program when it was failing due to lack of participation. He and his wife, Karen, have grown the program from three trees to seven over the last three years. Jim personally organizes the printing and hanging of the “want cards,” collects and boxes the presents donated by the Community and delivers them to four different Veterans Transition Housing and VA Homes in Phoenix and Flagstaff. The

program has grown from approximately \$30,000 of donated presents and gift cards to over \$80,000 in 2023.

Patriot Starkman is an outstanding Patriot, and I heartily support his nomination to be the Department's 2023 Patriot of the Year.

AUSA Membership Introduction

If you do not already have an application to play MP4 videos, a free one is available at <https://www.videolan.org/>.



Click on the icons to open and play the videos.



AUSA #1.MP4



BG (Ret) Haley.MP4

PNC Carder Ferguson's Message

As we approach the close of another year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we have accomplished together and to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment and service that each one has given to the ORDER.

Through the past year, we have faced challenges and celebrated victories from working on the audits and discovering that we need to keep our records in better shape

and have the same way to file our information, so it is easier to locate.

Working on the Order finances we have streamlined a few areas and working on improving the rest. We are still working on the membership roster, but we still need more help. Each Chapter needs to go through its members, and get the members correct information such as (Email, Address, Phone Number, and so on) and then update them. The more accurate this is the more we can get out current and correct Information to our members.

We need to improve the programs we have with the order. Each program director, they will need to take the current budget that is approved for this year, and let the National Commander know what and how they are going to accomplish the mission in their program for this year. Next, they will need to show how we can get more funding and build a budget for next year (Ideas). Setting the goals for next year and the Order can push out to the MOPH FUND so they can gather the funds for support the program.



We will need to organize events that support our patriots and families in advocating for policies that support our members, and just for getting the plain simple help they may need for education, job support, and homelessness or to promote Americanism. By doing this we are improving who we are and where we are going.

This will be one of the dedications that is the driving force behind our success in the Order. Each of you has contributed in your unique way, and it is appreciated but we need to work collectively with our efforts so that we continue to make a meaningful impact in our community and in the nation.

Our mission is to support and uplift each other, and I am continually inspired by the strength and camaraderie that define our group. Whether through volunteer work (VAVS), attending meetings, or simply offering a kind word, your engagement has made a difference. It is this spirit of unity and service that truly exemplifies the essence of the MOPH. And let us not forget our Auxiliary is our Strongest Supporter!!

As we look forward to the New Year, let us carry forward the lessons learned and the bonds we have strengthened in the Order. Together, we will continue to honor our

past, support our present, and build a brighter future for all our Patriots and their Families.

May the coming year bring you and your families joy, health, and prosperity. I am grateful for your service to our country, to the Order, and to the community in which you live. I am honored to have served as your National Commander for 2023-2024. Thank you for all that you do. Here's to a successful and fulfilling year ahead!

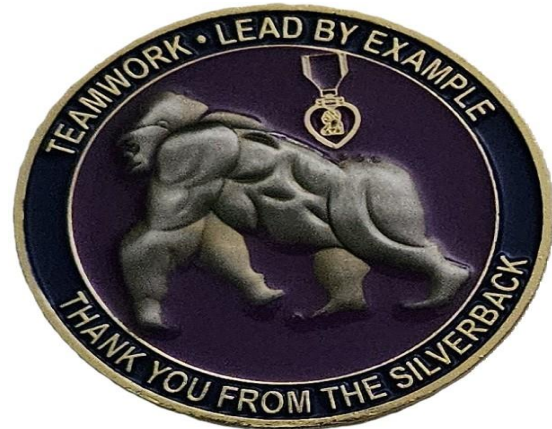


Passing the Order symbol of a Command to the next National Commander Robert Olivarez.



The leadership team for 2024-2025.

One of the best parts of the Convention was the presentation of the Tommy Tanaka POTY Award to Ken Teunissen. Tommy said I must look up to you Ken, and Ken said, "No Tommy I will always look up to you!"



I could not have done it without a great team.
Thank you all for your support.

Carder Ferguson

PNC Carder Ferguson

Cutting the Cake



MOPH FUND



Help the Fund help the Order!

Anyone who has done any fundraising, whether it be at Chapter, Department, or with another organization knows, the first questions we get asked are usually “What are you raising money for?” or “Where does my money go?” There are lots of variations to these questions, but the bottom line is that any successful fundraising effort must have good responses for the potential donors. Some refer to it as having “an elevator speech,” something that can be given – with feeling – in a short time.

Currently, the Fund’s “elevator speech” consists of our mission and goal statements.

“The MOPH Fund Inc. is the official fundraising arm of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. We bring patriotic donors together with combat-wounded veterans who spilled their blood in the name of our nation’s freedom to promote their recovery. Our sole purpose is to raise funds for programs executed by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Our goal is to help make sure their programs receive robust support



Tommy Tanaka – 96 (the oldest) and Keith Gray – 37 (the youngest)

so more Purple Heart recipients and their families can be provided the necessary assistance.”

As members and associate members, you can help the MOPH Fund by making sure the National Program Directors know what your Chapter or Department is doing to implement the National programs. Let them know the kinds of events and activities you are already doing at the local level. Include the amount of funds you are spending and the audience you are reaching. Let them know, through the chain of command of course, what you’d like to do but can’t because of a lack of resources.

The Program Directors, armed with the consolidated information, will be able to improve program budgets and clearly articulate the need for additional funding. The National Commander can then submit that as supporting documentation to a funding request to the Fund and the Fund can use this detailed information to submit grant requests to outside organizations and donors.

The Fund is a 501.c.3.

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

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.

Fund Partners

When you purchase 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://mophfund.org/partners>



For Freedom Prints

Buy one for yourself, a family member, or a friend. These are also good for fundraisers.



"MOPH FUND"

EXCLUSIVE MOPH
FUND RAISER



"FOR FREEDOM"

framed 30"X24" canvas print
\$189.00 each

\$35.00 from each sale will be donated to
the designated base of your choice.
free shipping within US
frames come in black or brown

Of the \$35.00 from each sale, \$15.00 will go to the MOPH Fund and
the remaining \$20.00 to the Chapter using assigned code, otherwise
the full amount of \$35.00 will go to the FUND

Click on the link or scan the QR
Code to order.

<https://joelleeart.com/product/for-freedom-2/>



Vehicle Donation Program

Thank you for responding to our email blast, donating your unwanted vehicles, and letting your friends know about this program. To date, we have received over \$6,374 from the program (14 vehicles).



THE MOPH FUND WANTS UNWANTED VEHICLES REGARDLESS OF CONDITION



Have you
"outgrown" or
"out-aged" your
recreational
vehicle?



Are you tired of
registering old
non-operational
heaps just to
avoid a ticket?



Do you have more
vehicles than
drivers?

Old or New, Operational or Not Cars, Trucks, Boats, RV's, Motorcycles

Just three (3) simple steps and you can reduce your taxes, help the MOPH FUND support Military Order of the Purple Heart programs, and eliminate one of your "Challenges".





DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

Scan the QR Coder or click on the button to start the quick and painless process to donate ANY type of vehicle. If you prefer, simply call 866-829-2918 (24/7) and the team will assist you.

[MOPH FUND Vehicle Donations](#)

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

MOPH FUND, INC. | [Website](#)

Remember, 75% of the net proceeds from unwanted vehicles are donated directly to the Fund and the Order's programs.

Click [here](#), on the flier, the link, or scan the QR Code to visit our donation page.



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American Dream Promotional Video

View the video on the MOPH FUND Facebook page:

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



You can also view, download, and share the video from this link:



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YY6GyleBRg0jBolh5ZKKy9XsCv9ZkESa/view?usp=sharing>



A \$100 tax deductible donation helps make Order programs real at **both the National level (\$50) and the Chapter level (\$25)**. Individual donors receive access to many

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"This stuff is amazing and it is the only way I continue to walk and work every day."



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"I've tried many pain relievers and have never had one work as instantly as this did!"



*Use your Discount Code as often as you'd like, get 10% off all orders.
Plus, each order earns added funds for your local chapter and national organization of the MOPH or Auxiliary.*

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"I HAVE NEVER USED THIS FOR PAIN ACTUALLY, I HAVE USED IT FOR THE PAST 4 YEARS FOR MY ECZEMA AND ANY OTHER SKIN IRRITATION MY FAMILY HAS SUFFERED FROM. IT HAS BEEN FANTASTIC! I PICKED SOME OF THIS UP RANDOMLY AT A FAIR IN ORANGE, VA ABOUT 4 YEARS AGO, AND HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY ORDERING IT EVER SINCE. IT WORKS. IT LASTS."

"MY HUSBAND HAS HAD SOME PAINFUL

RADIATION TREATMENTS AND HIS SKIN BECOMES BLISTERED AND IT HELPS HIM. EVEN THE BURN CREAM FROM THE DOCTOR DIDN'T HELP. THAT RAPHA RUB IS LIKE MAGIC. NOTHING ELSE HELPS."

"I LOVE THIS STUFF! I HAVE ROSACEA AND RED VEINS. AFTER ONE NIGHT OF APPLYING, I SAW A DIFFERENCE IN THE MORNING, EVENS OUT MY SKIN TONE AND REDUCES THE REDNESS."

Black Seed Oil Spotlight

A microbiology journal stated that traditional herbal medicine is gaining attention worldwide. Black Seed Oil is one that is getting the spotlight, and it comes from a plant called *Nigella sativa*. This plant has been described as the Miracle Herb of the Century.

Black Seed Oil has been used to improve lung function, blood sugar and cholesterol levels, and it helps to regulate blood pressure. But this might be of particular interest to many of us now. In 2021, a panel of scientists was paid to study and review all available data on all known natural cures for the Bird Flu. Their findings pointed to 3 natural substances that were shown to have cured the Bird Flu. The number 1 most potent killer of the Bird Flu virus was Black Seed Oil. (#2 and #3 were green tea and virgin coconut oil). In actual trials, 90% of

those infected were cured with Black Seed Oil.

While we can't use the word, "cure," it appears that 100% pure, organic, cold-pressed CBD Oil is shown to magnify the benefits of Black Seed Oil. And it could be an effective aid toward the prevention and remediation of Avian Flu (bird flu) projected to be an upcoming major health risk to our population.

Shop for RaphaRub products [here](#) (scroll down), type in this link or scan the QR Code. A portion of all purchases will be donated to the Fund and Order programs.

<https://mophfund.org/partners>



Politics and Political Endorsements

Independent Veterans for Office

New Group Aims to Galvanize Unaffiliated or Independent Veterans to Run for Office

The founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the first veterans' organization for post-9/11 troops, has a new

mission: recruiting politically independent former service members to run for public office.

Paul Rieckhoff, a former [Army](#) infantry officer and veterans activist who established IAVA in 2004, announced the creation Tuesday of Independent Veterans of America, or IVA, a nonprofit aimed at recruiting veterans who are registered as independents or are unaffiliated with an established political party and getting them elected.

In a release, Rieckhoff said the push is needed as Americans grow weary of a system that has generated the "same, old, partisan candidates."

"America is hungry for new leadership with independence, integrity and experience," Rieckhoff said in a statement. "Independent Veterans of America will provide a new generation of political leaders who are ready to challenge the duopoly, put country over party, and meet this incredibly challenging moment."

Click [here](#) or scan the QR Code to read the complete article published by Military.com.



Nonpartisan Veteran Campaign

Meet the man working to get more veterans in public office.

Seth Lynn wants to see more former service members in Congress.

A founder of the nonpartisan Veterans Campaign, which trains veterans interested in running for office or similar public service, Lynn, 44, has spent the past 15 years making sure that goal comes to fruition.

"I think most people across the political spectrum agree that we aren't getting the

best people where they need to be in office," he told The Hill. "For a while, there's been this untapped resource of leadership, people that would make great leaders who don't really know how to start. That's the guiding philosophy of it."

Today there are 97 lawmakers who served in the military — 80 in the House and 17 in the Senate — fewer than 1 in 5 members. The total hasn't broken 100 since 2013.

In comparison, in the early 1970s, three-quarters of congressional members had a military background.

Veteran advocates such as Lynn worry that decline means Congress is lacking in valuable insight when putting together defense budget proposals and crafting legislation that touches on national security policy and veterans support.

"There had been this pretty precipitous drop in the number of veterans in Congress," he said, a trend that could be expected given the end of the draft meant fewer Americans serve in the armed forces than ever before.

"We tend to have people who have pretty impressive credentials in our political system, but it doesn't always seem to encourage selflessness, putting your country first and working together," Lynn added. "However, we have a group of people in young military veterans that do embody those values, and that's the idea here, if we can get some of those people."

A Naval Academy graduate, Lynn served for six years as an active-duty Marine Corps officer, deploying to Japan, Kuwait, and Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After leaving active duty for the Reserve, he had an interaction with a fellow officer that planted the seeds for what would become Veterans Campaign

“I had a boss who had been around for 26 years, a ‘back-in-the-day guy.’ He would talk occasionally about how there used to be a lot more veterans in Congress, and how much better things were back then. It’s kind of stuck with me,” Lynn said.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR Code to read the rest of the story.



Vet The Vote



<https://vetthe.vote/>

About Vet the Vote

As veterans and military family members, we don’t stop serving when we take off the uniform. We will always step forward to serve our country. Today that means answering a call to serve as the next generation of poll workers.

We’re proud that America’s elections are run by “we the people.” Every election, thousands of counties and towns across America recruit and train hundreds of thousands of poll workers. These are our neighbors, who learn how to set up and safely run the over 115,000 voting locations across our country according to their state’s rules. Over time, it’s gotten harder to recruit volunteers to do this essential work for our nation, so we’re stepping up to meet this challenge.

Vet the Vote is a national campaign to recruit veterans and military family members to be the next generation of poll workers. Our community is leading the way in supporting safe and secure elections and

ensuring we know the nuts and bolts about how elections are run. We also want to make sure our fellow Americans know we're on the job, to show that it's still possible for Americans to work together in patriotic service.

In 2022, more than 63,500 of us raised our hands to serve through Vet the Vote alone. So, join us. Sign up. Vote, volunteer, and support those who do.

Become a Poll Worker

Veterans and military families are ready to serve again.

- 17+ million veterans and millions more military family members with a proven commitment and service to country
- Representatives of the most trusted institution in our country
- Respected leaders, public servants, and citizens in their local communities
- One of the most diverse populations in America, spread across all 50 states

BECOME A POLL WORKER

<https://app.vetthe.vote/become-poll-worker/>

Register to Vote

Make your voice heard in our democracy.

- Actively contribute to the democratic

process, ensuring that your views and concerns are represented in the decisions that shape your community, region, or country.

- Expressing your opinions helps shape policies and laws.
- By participating in the democratic process, you can advocate for issues that matter to you and work towards creating a more just and equitable society.

REGISTER TO VOTE

<https://app.vetthe.vote/register-to-vote/>

MOPH Bylaws

ARTICLE XV To Preserve the Integrity of the Corporation Section 6-POLITICS

A. The Corporation's National, Region, Department, or Chapter officers shall not contribute to, otherwise support, or assist any political party or candidate for public office as a representative of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

B. No discussion of partisan questions shall be allowed at any meeting of the Corporation.

C. No nominations, recommendations, or endorsements for political office shall be made by a member as a representative of

the Military Order of the Purple Heart. No lobbying as a representative of the Military Order of Purple Heart will be done before the US Congress without the recommendation of the National Legislative Officer and concurrence of the National Commander.

In addition to the Bylaws information above, Members of the Order:

(1) shall refrain from wearing his/her MOPH Uniform, to include any item of clothing containing the MOPH logo or containing the words Military Order of the Purple Heart to a political event or on any printed material supporting a candidate, as this can be construed as a political endorsement.

(2) who is/are the political candidate(s) themselves shall refrain from wearing his/her MOPH Uniform, to include any item of clothing containing the MOPH logo or containing the words Military Order of the Purple Heart to a political event or on any printed material supporting his/her campaign. That can also be construed as a political endorsement.

This does NOT prohibit you from wearing the Purple Heart Medal itself – if it is not on something that also has the words Military Order of the Purple Heart or the Order's logo.

Should you have any questions regarding the Political Endorsements, please do not hesitate to contact the National Adjutant, the National Judge Advocate, or the National Commander.

Scholarship Winners



Sophia Bilotta

"I am honored to have been selected for the MOPH award this year. Thank you very much for your time and consideration of my application. With the help of the Military

Order of the Purple Heart, I will be studying Marine Science and Biology at the College of William and Mary. This scholarship will help me achieve lifelong academic goals and allow me to explore my interests across disciplines." Sophia Bilotta



Nobli Roberts

“Thank you so much for this scholarship! I am incredibly grateful! This scholarship will help me in many ways as I attend Appalachian State university in the fall. This money will help further my higher education goals and provide me with a little more ease as a transition from high

school to college. I am incredibly grateful to the MOPH for what I have been given and cannot wait to use it to create more good in the world!” Nobli Roberts

Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day (Sep 2)



Military Connection; contributed by Liz Zaczek, senior staff writer.

Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day, observed on the last Sunday in September each year, recognizes and honors mothers and families who have lost a child in the service of the U.S. military. In 1936, the 74th Congress declared, “the last Sunday in September shall hereafter be designated and known as ‘Gold Star Mother’s Day,’ and it shall be the duty of the President to request its observance as provided for in this resolution.” Continuing the long-held tradition, in 2016, President Barack Obama proclaimed that September 25, 2016, was to be known as Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day, “I call upon all Government officials to display the flag of the United States over Government buildings on this

special day. I also encourage the American people to display the flag and hold appropriate ceremonies as a public expression of our Nation's gratitude and respect for our Gold Star Mothers and Families."

The Gold Star



Gold Star Lapel Pin

The Gold Star Lapel Button, also referred to as the Gold Star pin, is distributed to members of the immediate family of a fallen service member by the Department of Defense. The pin is distributed according to strict Department of Defense guidelines for service members who have lost their lives in a conflict or in support of certain military operations.

The Gold Star first made an appearance during World War I after being placed over a service flag's blue star when a service member was killed in combat. The Gold Star signified the family's pride in the loved one's sacrifice rather than the mourning of their personal loss. The lapel pin displays a Gold Star with a purple background surrounded by a gold wreath.



*American Gold Star Mothers Inc. // Copyright
<https://www.goldstarmoms.com/>*

Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day History

Shortly after World War I, the [Gold Star Mothers Club](#) was formed to provide support for mothers who lost sons or daughters in the war. The name came from the custom of families of service members hanging a Service Flag in their windows. The Service Flag had a star for each family member in the military embroidered on it. Living service members were represented by a blue star and those who were killed in action were represented by a gold star.

Gold Star Mother's Day has been observed each year since 1936 by presidential proclamation, beginning with Franklin D. Roosevelt and continuing through to the present day. Beginning in 2009, the last Sunday in September, originally designated as "Gold Star Mother's Day", is now designated as "Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day" by an annual presidential proclamation.

Gold Star Registry

The [National Gold Star Family Registry](#) is the first comprehensive database of the United States' fallen Heroes ever developed. The Registry not only affords family members the opportunity to publicly remember their loved one but serves as a historical log of the country's true heroes. By providing educational resources and personal accounts, the Registry ensures that future generations may know who these brave Americans were, not only how they died, but, more importantly, how they lived.

The information in the Registry is compiled from several different public sources including the Department of Defense and the National Archives. Adhering to Department of Defense guidelines for families who receive the 'Gold Star Pin,' the Registry only includes the names of heroes who have given their lives on the battlefield.

First launched in 2010, the Registry has been continually upgraded with the latest in technology and resources. This 21st Century memorial ensures that anyone anywhere can honor and remember the Heroes who have laid down their lives in defense of freedom. Whether they gave their life in Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Korea, WWII, or another conflict, the Registry is a place to ensure their memory will live on.

The surviving families of our fallen service members deserve the respect and honor that this day commemorates. Much like Memorial Day and Veterans Day, Gold Star Family Day is a chance to pay tribute and remember the sacrifices made by these courageous individuals and their families.

Labor Day (Sep 2)

Labor Day's history is as colorful as it is long.

Labor Day has been a national holiday in the United States since 1894.¹ To many, it may signify picnics, parades, a day off from work, or the end of summer and beginning of fall. But the day celebrates a long history of U.S. workers and their immense contributions, at various periods of time under extremely difficult conditions, to the country's might, abundance, and success.¹

Key Takeaways

The first Labor Day parade took place in New York City in 1882.

Labor Day was declared a national holiday in 1894 and is observed on the first Monday in September.

The roots of Labor Day grew out of violent clashes between labor and police during the Haymarket Riot in 1886, when thousands of workers in Chicago took to the streets to demand an eight-hour workday.

Today, Labor Day weekend marks the unofficial end of summer, but worker-oriented Labor Day parades and festivities are still part of the federal holiday.

The First Labor Day

Having the first Monday in September off from work was remarkable for American workers in 1894, when Labor Day was

declared a national holiday.

Working conditions in the country's factories, railroads, mills, and mines were grim. Employees, including children, were often required to work 12 or more hours a day, six days a week, in crowded, poorly ventilated spaces.

Calls for shorter workdays and better conditions came from worker strikes and rallies in the decades after the Civil War. On September 5, 1882, union leaders in New York City organized what's thought to be the first Labor Day parade.¹

Tens of thousands of labor union members—bricklayers, jewelers, typographers, dress and cloak makers, and many other tradespeople—took unpaid leave and marched with their locals. The day culminated in picnics, speeches, fireworks, and dancing.

Labor Day had been an official holiday in 24 states by the time it became a federal holiday.¹ Labor Day parades and other festivities demonstrate the strength and esprit de corps of trade and labor organizations.

Labor Day vs. May Day

Both Labor Day and May Day, the two worker holidays, grew out of violent clashes between labor and police in the American Midwest.

What is known as the Haymarket Riot (or Haymarket Incident) began on May 1, 1886. Thousands of workers took to the streets of Chicago to demand an eight-hour workday. The demonstration lasted for days. On May 4, a bomb was set off, killing seven police officers and eight civilians. The perpetrator was never identified.³

A few years later, the event inspired an international gathering of socialists in Paris to declare the 1st of May, May Day, a holiday honoring workers' rights. Now known as International Workers' Day, the holiday is celebrated in many countries around the world.⁴

Eight years later, in May 1894, workers went on strike to protest 16-hour workdays and low wages at the Pullman Palace Car Company, which manufactured railroad cars in a plant near Chicago.

Members of the powerful American Railway Union (ARU) joined in, refusing to move Pullman cars. Rail traffic across the country was crippled.

Days after the ARU joined the Pullman strike, a languishing bill to make Labor Day a national holiday was signed into law by President Grover Cleveland. Cleveland also ordered federal troops to Chicago to end the boycott. Angry strikers began to riot, and National Guard troops fired into the mob, killing dozens of people.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to read the

entire article with active links.



V-J Day (Sep 2)



V-J Day, celebrated every September 2 in the U.S., stands for Victory over Japan Day, commemorating a shift in the Second World War in favor of the Allies (the U.S., Great Britain, France, and other nations) that spelled the end of the massive conflict. It is commonly accepted knowledge that what precipitated the Japanese Empire's ultimate surrender was the U.S. having bombed two major Japanese cities (Nagasaki and Hiroshima) with atomic warheads, causing

such a concentrated and gigantic loss of Japanese lives that there really was no hope of a victory for the island nation thereafter.

In much the same way as a statement like, “I’m not a hero, I just did what anyone would have done,” has come to sound trite, we’re sure that in the mid-20th century, the phrase “ultimate sacrifice” held a power that was more raw and personal than it may hold now. Americans had seen nothing like it. The First World War was, until that point, considered “the war to end all wars,” but in terms of death tolls, WWII saw the demise of around three times more than its predecessor (50-80 million souls lost in WWII, around three percent of the world population).

This is to say that the average Joe or Jane back then was indeed spontaneously overcome with joy and emotion on the day of declared victory, even to the point where some of the V-J Day celebrations around the world resembled riots, and cost lives. However, the nation and the western world were united. Good had triumphed over evil.

Today, the History Channel and other popular TV broadcasting, plus many Hollywood films, and a ton of printed fiction and nonfiction popular literature, all still frequently feature the events of the European and Pacific Theaters of WWII as story material. We think it’s a safe assumption that our readers have a basic working knowledge of the United States’

entry into the war following the kamikaze Japanese (conventional explosive) bombing of Pearl Harbor, forward in time through the American landing on the beaches of Europe, sacrificing life and limb to fetter the Nazi animal and gradually gaining more ground, on through to the bitter end.

The iconic images, too, are unforgettable. The famous scene of a sailor sweeping a Navy nurse into his arms and kissing her during the Times Square public celebration of V-J Day, as it happens, is two very similar photographs taken of the same couple by two different photographers who had their work published in two different national periodicals. More on that shortly. For now, though, let us all agree that the celebration of V-J Day every September 2 is not a thing to be taken lightly, considering the true costs of war, and yet it should be a source of positive pride and the relief brought by the end of a trying labor, passed down through generations.



But as welcome as victory over Japan was, the day was bittersweet considering the war’s destructiveness. More than 400,000

Americans—and an estimated 65 million people worldwide—had died in the conflict. As historian Donald L. Miller, PhD, wrote in his book *The Story of World War II*, “It was too much death to contemplate, too much savagery and suffering; and in August 1945 no one was counting. For those who had seen the face of battle and been in the camps and under the bombs—and had lived—there was a sense of immense relief.” The war was over.

The Treaty of Paris (Sep 3)

This treaty, signed on September 3, 1783, between the American colonies and Great Britain, ended the American Revolution and formally recognized the United States as an independent nation.

The American War for Independence (1775-1783) was a world conflict, involving not only the United States and Great Britain, but also France, Spain, and the Netherlands. The peace process brought a nascent United States into the arena of international diplomacy, playing against the largest and most established powers on earth.

The three American negotiators – John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay – proved themselves ready for the world stage, achieving many of the objectives sought by the new United States. Two crucial provisions of the treaty were British

recognition of U.S. independence and the delineation of boundaries that would allow for American western expansion.

The treaty is named for the city in which it was negotiated and signed. The last page bears the signatures of David Hartley, who represented Great Britain, and the three American negotiators, who signed their names in alphabetical order.

Multiple treaty documents, however, can be considered as originals. In this case, the United States and British representatives signed at least three originals, two of which are in the holdings of the National Archives. On one of the signed originals the signatures and wax seals are arranged horizontally; on the other they are arranged vertically. In addition, handwritten certified copies were made for the use of Congress. Some online transcriptions of the treaty omit Delaware from the list of former colonies, but the original text does list Delaware.

A part of the opening sentence of the treaty transcript might be good for our political parties to adopt “... *to forget all past Misunderstandings and Differences that have unhappily interrupted the good Correspondence and Friendship which they mutually wish to restore; and to establish such a beneficial and satisfactory Intercourse between ... upon the ground of reciprocal Advantages and mutual Convenience as may promote and secure to both perpetual Peace and Harmony; ...*”

The complete transcript is available in the National Archives. Click [here](#) or scan the QR Code.



9:59 AM EDT – World Trade Center South Tower Collapses

10:03 AM EDT – United Airlines Flight #93 crashes in Shanksville, PA

10:28 AM EDT – World Trade Center North Tower Collapses

Patriot Day (Sep 11)

September 11th is Patriot Day and a **National Day of Service and Remembrance**. On this day Americans across the country are called to volunteer in their local communities in tribute to the individuals lost and injured in the attacks, first responders, and the many who have risen in service to defend freedom.

#PatriotDay #NeverForget

Observe moments of silence:

8:46 AM EDT – American Airlines Flight #11 collides into the World Trade Center

9:03 AM EDT – United Airlines Flight #175 collides into the World Trade Center South Tower

9:37 AM EDT – American Airlines Flight #77 crashes into the Pentagon

Tribute in Light

Tribute in Light is a commemorative public art installation that both honors those killed and celebrates the unbreakable spirit of New York.

Tribute in Light is a commemorative public art installation first presented six months after 9/11 and then every year thereafter, from dusk to dawn, on the night of September 11. It has become an iconic symbol that both honors those killed and celebrates the unbreakable spirit of New York.



About the Tribute

Assembled on the roof of the Battery Parking Garage south of the 9/11 Memorial, the twin beams reach up to four miles into the sky and are comprised of eighty-eight 7,000-watt xenon lightbulbs positioned into two 48-foot squares, echoing the shape and orientation of the Twin Towers. The installation can also be viewed from a 60-mile radius around lower Manhattan.

Tribute in Light was conceived by several artists and designers who were then brought together under the auspices of the Municipal Art Society and Creative Time: John Bennett, Gustavo Boneverdi, Richard Nash Gould, Julian LaVerdiere, and Paul Myoda, with lighting consultant Paul Marantz.

Tribute in Light is produced by Michael Ahern Production Services.

Hispanic Heritage Month (Sep 15 – Oct 15)



For over 50 years, Hispanic Heritage Month has been celebrated in the United States from September 15 - October 15.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating our Hispanic and Latin cultures by joining an event in your own community!

Every year from September 15 to October 15, Americans celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month by appreciating the community's history, heritage, and contributions of the ancestors of American citizens who came from Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, and South- and Central America.

Hispanic Heritage Month originally started with one week of commemoration when it was first introduced by Congressman George E. Brown in June 1968. With the civil rights movement, the need to recognize the contributions of the Latin community gained traction in the 1960s. Awareness of the multicultural groups living in the United

States was also gradually growing.

Two heavily Latinx and Hispanic populated areas, the San Gabriel Valley, and East Los Angeles, were represented by Brown. His aim was to recognize the integral roles of these communities in American history. Observation of Hispanic Heritage Week started in 1968 under President Lyndon B. Johnson and was later extended to a 30-day celebration by President Ronald Reagan, starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law via approval of Public Law 100-402 on August 17, 1988.

September 15 is set as the starting date for the month as it is important for many reasons. It is the independence anniversary for Latin American countries El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras. From here onwards, the independence days of Mexico and Chile fall on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Dia de la Raza or Columbus Day also falls within this month, on October 12.

[Hispanic population](#) have been integral to the prosperity of the U.S. Their contributions to the nation are immeasurable, and they embody the best of American values. The Hispanic American community has left an indelible mark on the U.S. culture and economy.

Constitution Day (Sep 17)

Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave men on September 17, 1787, recognizing all who are born in the U.S. or by naturalization, have become citizens.



On September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document they had created. We encourage all Americans to observe this important day in our nation's history by attending local events in your area. Celebrate Constitution Day through activities, learning, parades, and demonstrations of our Love for the United State of America and the Blessings of Freedom Our Founding Fathers secured for us.

[9 brilliant quotes for Constitution Day](#) September 17, 2020, by [Ray Nothstine](#)

1) "The President is a servant of the Constitution and not its master. There is nothing explicit or implicit in that instrument which exempts him from a duty the law imposes on all competent human beings in our land."

—[U.S. Senator Sam Ervin](#) (1896 – 1985) during the Watergate hearings. (D-NC)

2) "The problem is whether the American people have loyalty enough, honor enough, patriotism enough, to live up to their own Constitution."

—[Frederick Douglass](#)

3) "The Constitution has sheltered us from those who would destroy freedom, but the fortress is incredibly fragile because it is only as strong as our devotion and allegiance."

—[Janice Rogers Brown](#)

4) "Conceived in Grecian thought, strengthened by Christian morality, and stamped indelibly into American political philosophy, the right of the individual against the State is the keystone of our Constitution."

— [John F. Kennedy](#)

5) "The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined."

— [James Madison](#)

6) "In questions of power, let no more be said of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution."

—[Thomas Jefferson](#)

7) “The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were based on the premise that government was the great threat to freedom, and the purpose of a constitution was to limit the power of government.”

—[Alfred S. Regnery](#)

8) “Our Constitution—like the Declaration of Independence before it—was predicated on a simple truth: One’s liberty, not to mention one’s dignity, was something to be shielded from—not provided by—the State.”

—[Clarence Thomas](#)

9) “A society in which men and women are morally adrift, ignorant of norms, and intent chiefly upon gratification of appetites, will be a bad society—no matter how many people vote and no matter how liberal its formal constitution may be.”

—[Russell Kirk](#)

Air Force and Air National Guard (Sep 18)

[Veteran.com](#)



September 18, 2024, marks the 77th birthday of both the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard.

“The official birth date of the Air National Guard as a reserve component of the Air Force is September 18, 1947. On this date, the first Secretary of the Air Force was sworn in to office per provisions of the National Security Act of 1947, the authorizing legislation for the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard. Soon afterwards, National Guard Army Air Forces units began to be transferred to the Air National Guard as a reserve component of the Air Force.”

The official Air Force Birthday is recognized as Sept. 18, 1947, the date of the passage of the National Security Act of 1947. That legislation created what would later become to known as the United States Department of Defense. This established the United States Air Force as a separate branch of military service.

The 77th Air Force Day will be celebrated on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024.

Before the creation of the Air Force, the military’s flying operations were handled by the U.S. Army on land and the Navy by sea. The history of this branch of service is an important part of the history of air power in the United States. Naturally, the Air Force birthday owes a great deal to Orville and Wilbur Wright who pioneered mechanized

flight with their successful mission in 1903.

But the Air Force also owes a great deal to Army pioneers who, four years after the Wright Brothers' triumph at Kitty Hawk, began experimenting with using air superiority to gain tactical advantages in combat.

The rest of the article, including

- Humble Beginnings
- The Wright Brothers and Kitty Hawk
- Enter the U.S. Army Signal Corps
- World War One and The Court-Martial of General Billy Mitchell
- Air Superiority in World War Two
- The United States Air Force Today
- The Air Force Birthday
- Celebrating the Air Force Birthday

can be read [here](#).



POW/MIA Recognition Day (Sep 20)



Since the American Revolution, people fighting to secure the freedom of the United States have, at some points in time, been held as prisoners of war (POWs).

But it took more than 200 years for our country to officially recognize the sacrifices of those Americans who spent time in enemy hands or who were declared missing in action (MIA) from U.S.-involved conflicts around the globe.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established in 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter. Since then, each subsequent president has issued an annual proclamation commemorating the **third Friday in September** as **National POW/MIA Recognition Day**. In 1997, President Bill Clinton further strengthened the importance of the day by officially designating it as one of the six days per year that the POW/MIA flag is required to be flown at designated federal government locations.

A national-level ceremony occurs on every National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Traditionally held at the Pentagon, it features members from each branch of military service and participation from high-ranking officials.

In addition to the national-level ceremony, observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day take place across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools, and veterans' facilities.

No matter where they transpire, these National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned, as well as those who remain missing.

Navy Birthday (Oct 13)

Happy Birthday to the United States Navy



In an effort to curb British Sea Control, the Continental Congress established the Continental Navy, which later, on October 13, 1775, became the United States Navy. When the infant Navy was first formed, it consisted of just two armed vessels – tasked with disrupting munition ships supplying the British Army in America. Yet over the past nearly two and one-half centuries, our Navy has grown to become the largest, most advanced, and most lethal fighting force the world has ever known.

In 1972, the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, designated October 13 as the Navy's official birthday, and directed that it be commemorated so as to “enhance [the] appreciation of our Navy heritage” and reinforce “pride and professionalism in the Naval Service.”

In addition to this year marking the Navy's 243rd birthday, the year ahead will mark several other historic milestones for the Navy. Throughout the year, Navy will celebrate the 25th anniversary of women's first assignment aboard a combat ship, the 50th anniversary of Navy's Fighter Weapons

school -- Top Gun, the 75th anniversary of Navy's success during Operation Overlord (D-Day) and the Battle of Leyte Gulf and the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to read the complete article.

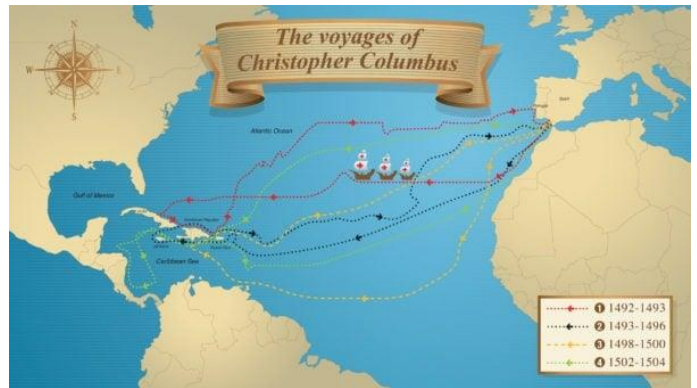


Columbus Day (Oct 14)



Columbus Day was declared a national holiday in 1937 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Since 1971, Columbus Day has been observed annually as a federal government holiday on the second Monday of October. All federal offices are closed in recognition of the day.

This holiday is not only celebrated in the United States, but also in Italy, Spain, and other countries in South America. However, the celebrations in these countries center around Hispanic culture and indigenous peoples.



As early as 1420, Portuguese explorers were sailing south along the West African coast and around the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, transporting riches of the land: gold, spices, and other goods from Africa and Asia to Europe. Instead of sailing around the huge continent of Africa as the Portuguese were doing, Columbus thought he could find a more direct route by sailing west instead.

Understanding that the world was round and not flat, Columbus had no fear of venturing in uncharted waters. Securing

financial support from King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, Columbus set sail in August of 1492. He sailed across the “Ocean Blue”—the Atlantic Ocean. Thinking he had reached Asia on October 12, 1492, Columbus actually landed at an island in the Bahamas. Continuing the voyage, he spotted Cuba, assuming it was China. For the next few months, Columbus sailed and explored the Caribbean islands in search of riches to bring back to Spain.

He founded a colony for Spain in the Americas on the island of Hispaniola, (present day Dominican Republic and Haiti) with 39 of his men before returning to Spain in January 1493. Columbus sailed across the Atlantic three more times. On his third voyage, Columbus finally realized that he had never reached Asia, but landed on a continent he hadn’t previously known existed.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to read the rest of the article.



Day of the Deployed (Oct 26)

National Day of the Deployed: Honoring America’s Deployed Servicemembers

Courtesy The National World War II Museum



The USNS Aiken Victory (T-AP-188), a converted Victory ship, arriving in Boston harbor on July 26, 1945, with 1,958 troops returning to the United States from deployment to Europe. Nearly 73 percent of the Americans serving in the Armed Forces in World War II deployed overseas.

October 26 marks the National Day of the Deployed. The day honors all servicemembers who have been deployed in the service of the United States. It also honors the sacrifices their families have made during deployments.

More Americans deployed to combat zones overseas during World War II than any other war in American history.

According to the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), during the World War II period, from September 16, 1940, through July 25,

1947, some 16.5 million men and women served in the US Armed Forces. This equates to about one-third of the American male population 15 years and older. Of those serving in uniform during World War II, approximately 73 percent, or more than 12 million Americans, served overseas.



In July 1941, US Marines occupied Iceland. In all, more than 12 million Americans served overseas during the wartime period between 1940 and 1947. (Department of Defense Photo (US Marine Corps) 185054)

At first glance, the dates used by the VA to mark the World War II period may seem unusual, since they do not denote either Pearl Harbor or V-J Day, the dates Americans typically use for the beginning and end of the war. The draft, or the Selective Service and Training Act, became law on September 16, 1940. The first peacetime draft in American history, the law required all American men between the ages of 21 (and later 18) and 45 to register for the draft. The period came to a close on July 25, 1947, when President Harry S. Truman signed a

law ending 60 wartime emergency laws.

The strategic and tactical requirements of the Allied war effort to defeat the Axis powers required American forces to be deployed around the world. Some deployed by air, thanks to the Air Transport Command.



In 1942 the War Department ordered the development of a formal training program for flight nurses and other service personnel for aeromedical evacuation duties. By the end of the war, over 70 percent of the Air Transport Command was serving overseas. (Department of Defense)

Most American servicemen and women deployed by sea, and the majority of those in troopships. With the end of the war, the United States executed Operation MAGIC CARPET to bring more than 8 million servicemen and women home between June 1945 and September 1946. The operation used a range of vessels, from Army Transports to Liberty and Victory ships and even US Navy warships such as the carrier USS Saratoga (CV-3).



The USS Saratoga (CV-3) enroute to the United States during her last run as a troop transport during Operation MAGIC CARPET. By the end of the operation, Saratoga had redeployed 29,204 veterans of the Pacific war, more than any other single ship.



Contributor

[Michael S. Bell, PhD](#)

Mike Bell is the Executive Director of the Institute for the Study of War and Democracy.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to read more.



First Responders Day (Oct 28)



October 28th sets aside National First Responders Day to honor the men and women who act quickly when an emergency is at hand.

#NationalFirstRespondersDay

First responders dedicate their lives to saving lives. They are the people who run toward a crisis while the rest of the world flees. According to the Department of Homeland Security, 4.6 million career and volunteer first responders support the communities where they live. They are firefighters, police, emergency medical technicians (EMT), paramedics, and 911 operators. In an emergency, they're the first on the scene. These dedicated professionals answer the call when a crisis arises, often putting their own lives on the line.

Serving as a National Day of Gratitude, we pay tribute to their endless hours and

around-the-clock service provided to their communities. As one of the most dangerous jobs in the country, the day also pays tribute to the fallen first responders. According to the CDC, 97 firefighters and 155 police officers die each year in the line of duty. Additionally, their rate of occupational injury is higher than the national average. Often, the very people saving lives are our neighbors, friends, and family members. And their families know the price they pay for their dedication to the job.

And even though they are an integral part of our communities, their sacrifices go beyond the hours they work. They face high stress, often daily. The trauma they see wears on them both mentally and physically. Many experience Post Traumatic Stress. Long periods away from family add stress to their relationships, too.

National First Responders Day is also a call for action. First responders deserve our support. Through resources and awareness, first responders can live healthier more productive lives and pass their knowledge and skills on to the next generation of first responders, too.

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY

The day provides you with an opportunity to recognize a first responder in your life. You might be surprised at how many you know. If their service is voluntary, you may only

know about their day job. Offer to treat them to their favorite beverage or buy their next meal. Be supportive of their family, too. More importantly, support programs that improve services to first responders. Connect with a first responder who came to your rescue and thank them. Let them know you appreciate their dedication and sacrifice.

Share your appreciation on social media using #NationalFirstRespondersDay.

NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS' DAY HISTORY

In 2019, the United States Senate passed a resolution designating October 28th as National First Responders Day to honor the men and women putting their lives on the line. Additionally, many states have proclaimed October 28th as National First Responders Day and others recognize the observance on different dates throughout the year.

Region I News

Chapter 0003-NY-1

Purple Heart awarded to Korea Vet

Randy Jurgensen

My name is Randy Jurgensen. From [1951-1953](#) I was a United States Paratrooper with

the 187th Airborne paratroopers. While fighting in the battle of Pork Chop Hill in 1952, I was wounded and received a Bronze Star. However, I never officially received my Purple Heart until 56 years later. This only happened as a result of my daughter petitioning both President Bush and President Obama. Ultimately, in a ceremony held at West Point Military Museum (where my military uniform is on display) I was officially awarded my medal.



Chapter 0021-NY-1

Eugene Lang

Today, August 7th, is National Purple Heart Day, and the local recipients of this medal were honored by New York State with a breakfast at the Purple Heart Veterans Memorial Bear Mountain Bridge.



(L to R) NEILL GROSS, JOHN FRATANGELO, (the man in the middle is not a PH recipient), WILLIAM NAZARIO, EUGENE LANG.

Chapter 0353-VA-1

A Celebration of the PH Medal

Gordon Sumner; Photos by Tyrone Carelock



Badge of Military Merit

AUGUST 2 & 3, 2024 A CELEBRATION OF THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Department of Virginia and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association celebrated the establishment of America's

oldest military award, The Purple Heart Medal, during various ceremonies to be held 2 & 3 August 2024 at Mount Vernon, Virginia, the home of General and Mrs. George Washington.

This year's events were enjoyed by all of the participants.

Friday, August 2, 2023:

1:00pm: Visit the National Museum of the US Army.

4:30pm – 5:30pm: Mount Vernon Inn. Gathered in the Mount Vernon Inn bar for drinks prior to the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Purple Heart Monument.

6:00pm: Traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the Purple Heart Memorial located next to the Main Gate (Texas Gate) in Mount Vernon. After the wreath-laying ceremony, we enjoyed a private tour of Mount Vernon's Library Special Collections and Vault by the Library Staff. Within the Library collections are books that belonged to Washington himself and over 2,000 rare books documenting Washington and early America. Additionally, Steve Bashore, Mount Vernon's Master Distiller, offered his whiskey tastings in the Reception Hall at the Library.

Saturday, August 3, 2022:

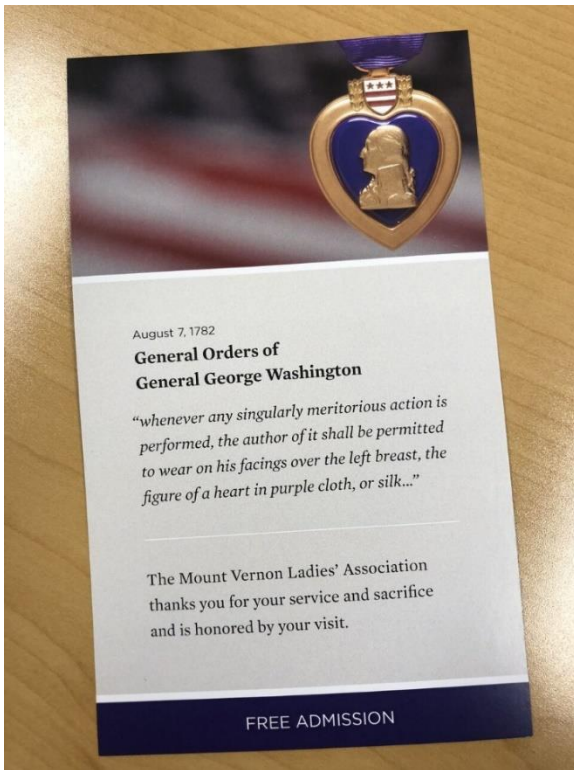
10:30am: Pre and Post ceremony music was provided by the Army's Pershing's Own

Brass Quintet. The major ceremony for Mount Vernon's official National Purple Heart Day Ceremony was held in the Visitors Center inside the Smith Auditorium. Afterwards a Reception was held for Purple Heart recipients and their guests in the Mount Vernon Inn restaurant starting at 12:00pm. Visitors will also be able to tour the Mansion and other facilities on the Mount Vernon Estate during the day.

This year we were excited to have the 17th Sergeant Major of the Army, SMA Michael R. Weimer. As the Sergeant Major of the Army, SMA Weimer is the Army chief of staff's personal adviser on matters affecting the enlisted force. He devotes the majority of his time traveling throughout the Army to observe training and interact with Soldiers and their Families.

Among his many awards and decorations, SMA Weimer's awards and decorations includes the Defense Superior Service Medal (2nd award) with Combat device (1st award), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Valor (2nd award), Bronze Star Medal (5th award), and Purple Heart (OLC).

The Grounds of Mount Vernon opens at 9am and closes at 5pm. All Purple Heart Medal recipients and guests were able to enjoy the grounds before and/or after the day's events. Also remember, Purple Heart Medal recipients have Free Admission to Mount Vernon all year.



Please "Save the Date" on your calendar for next year's celebrations, 1 & 2 August. Make plans to attend this outstanding weekend of celebration, comradery, and fellowship with our fellow Purple Heart Medal recipients as we will also celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States Army.



US Army Pershing's Own Brass Quintet.



Dr. Allison Wickens, VP for Education, Mount Vernon. Angelo Wider, Commander, Chapter 353, MOPH and Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Weimer, USA.



SMA Weimer, Commander Wider, VP Wickens.



Reception: Mark Ortiz, Bernedette Ortiz, SMA Weimer, Past Chpt 353 Commander, Gordon Sumner, PhD., Val Ortiz.



Jim Hatch, Purple Heart Foundation, SMA Weimer, Gordon Sumner.



Senior Vice Commander, Dept of Virginia, MOPH Dom Dionne, Gordon Sumner.



Past National Commander, MOPH, 1988-1989, Frank A. Athanason (COL, US Army (Ret)) at 98 years old!!



Jr. Vice Commander, Dave Fletcher, and the Reception Buffet Line.

Region II News

Department of Nebraska State Capital Lit Purple



Nebraska State Capital lit purple August 7th for Purple Heart Day.

(LINCOLN, NEB.) — In honor of Purple Heart Day, the Nebraska State Capitol will be illuminated in purple light on August 7, weather permitting. In addition, a proclamation recognizing Purple Heart Day in Nebraska will be signed by Governor Pillen on August 19.

“Everyone who answers the call to protect our nation sacrifices something, but for some that sacrifice is a physical, perhaps even mortal, wound,” said Nebraska Department of Veterans’ Affairs (NDVA) Director John Hilgert. “Purple Heart Day reminds us all of the very real, very serious dangers our servicemembers face. Today is about honoring their sacrifices and cherishing what we have because of it.”

First observed in 2014, Purple Heart Day is



Commander Angelo Wider, Past National Adjutant Jack Leonard at the reception.



Past National Adjutant Jack Leonard, Sheila Leonard, and Patriot Katherine Meadows, Chpt 353.



SFC (R) Don Francisco with his Purple Flute.

meant to honor and recognize the more than 1.8 million service members who have been awarded the Purple Heart. Originally created by George Washington as the Badge of Military Merit, the Purple Heart is the United States' oldest military award. It is awarded to service members who are wounded or killed while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

NDVA's mission is to honor Nebraska veterans and their families by providing excellent service, assistance, and care. Its state service office helps veterans identify and access federal benefits, such as disability compensation and healthcare through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and state benefits, such as Nebraska Veterans Aid funds, tuition waivers, and more. Its four state veterans' homes offer high quality assisted living and skilled nursing care to veterans and eligible family members across the state. And its cemetery system ensures eligible veterans receive an honorable final resting place maintained to the highest national standards. To learn more about NDVA and how it serves Nebraska's veterans and their families, please visit veterans.nebraska.gov.



Jim Cada (0200-NE-2), Dwain Holmes (0260-NE-2), Mike Sheets (0200-NE-2), and Governor Jim Pillen. Mr. Cada, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Sheets are all Purple Heart recipients.



Department of Ohio

USS Glennon Sailor Accounted for from WWII (Alexander, H.)

PRESS RELEASE | May 10, 2024, Washington –

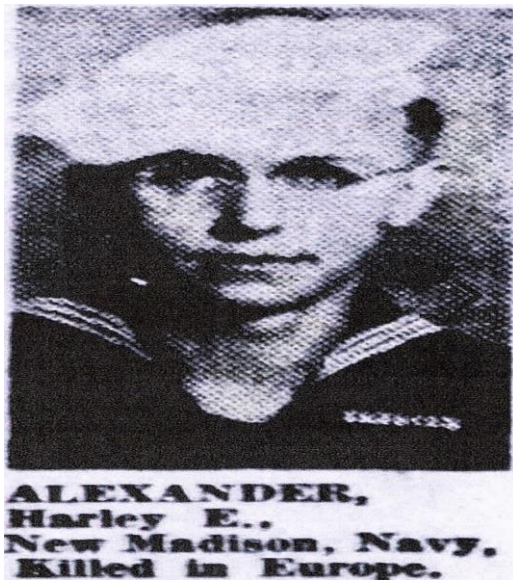


Dennis Hanneman, Commander of Military Order of Purple Heart Department of Ohio, and John Looker Senior Vice Commander of Military Order of Purple Heart Department of Ohio attended the funeral of Navy Coxswain (Cox) Harley E. Alexander who was killed during World War II and was accounted for on March 22, 2024.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Navy Coxswain (Cox) Harley E. Alexander, 22, of New Madison, Ohio, killed during World War 11, was accounted for on Mar. 22, 2024.

On June 8, 1944, Alexander was assigned to the destroyer USS *Glennon*, which

struck a mine off the coast of Quenneville, France, which forced 16 sailors overboard. Ultimately, the majority of the crew had abandoned the vessel, but a few remained on board for salvage operations, including Alexander. Two days later, on June 10, the *Glennon* was struck by multiple artillery barrages from German forces on shore, eventually causing the ship to sink late in the evening. Following the attack, 38 sailors had been wounded and 25 were missing, including Cox Alexander. Other than the rescued sailors thrown overboard from the initial mine strike, there is no report of any recovery of other missing sailors. The remains of Cox Alexander were not accounted for, and he was deemed non-recoverable on May 4, 1949.



In 1957, pieces of *Glennon* were hauled to shore by salvagers. A local resident was searching through the larger sections of wreckage and found human remains within the forward portion of the ship. The remains were turned over to American officials and processing determined the remains to be those of at least two individuals, subsequently designated X-9296, and X-9297. After unsuccessful efforts to identify the remains, they were interred on 4 March 1959 in Ardennes American Cemetery, Neupert, Belgium.

In 2021, DPAA researchers began an effort to associate unresolved sailors from the *Glennon* based on historical documentation of the remains removed from the ship's wreckage. By August 2022, the Department of Defense and the American Battle Monuments Commission exhumed unknown remains X-9296 and X-9297 from Ardennes American Cemetery

for comparison with unaccounted-for sailors from *Glennon*.

To identify Alexander's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological analysis. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and Y-chromosome DNA (Y-STR) analysis.

Alexander's name is recorded on the American Battle Monuments Commission's Wall of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England, along with the others who are missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Cox Alexander was buried in New Madison, Ohio, on June 29, 2024.

DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of the Navy for their partnership in this mission.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or <https://www.linkedin.com/company/defense-pow-mia-accounting-agency>.

Department of Minnesota

Bill Bull

National Viola Program Manager

Purple Heart Week Viola Handout

MOPH veterans held a Viola Flower handout to all visitors and staff in the atrium of the Minneapolis Veterans Hospital all week long this August making it a "Purple Heart Week" here in Minnesota for 2024. Many new connections were made with Veterans and staff who are Purple Heart recipients but not members of the Order. In general, it was a great opportunity to put a public face to our organization and make some needed contacts with new possible members and organizations.



(L to R) Sheryl Osburn, MOPHA Minnesota Department President; Diane Lind, MOPHA Minnesota Department Secretary; Linda Bellis, MOPHA Region 2 President; David Bellis Commander, Minnesota MOPH.

1946 Viola History

Just to keep in tune with my History Theme, a look at the 1946 rollout of the Viola Program with some insight from the National Mag July 1946.

(Next page.)

Everything Is Set And Ready For Purple Heart Viola Sale.

The initial sale over the country of the Purple Heart Viola, replica of the official flower promises to exceed in volume and return, the first effort of any other veteran organization.

Chairman Andrew N. Segal, of the -National Committee, reported to the Executive Committee and the Business Committee a very satisfactory operation from every viewpoint.

The co-operating chapters and units will be supported in the sale by national publicity and local publicity directed to their respective communities.

It is anticipated that President Truman will initiate the sale in Washington before the nationally declared Purple Heart Viola week. Where sales are inhibited by local ordinance or regulation except at a specified date the good work may be carried on at that time.

The flower and the label are copyrighted and can be used only by authorized persons. Chairman Segal has sent full instructions and cards to all those participating to safeguard the sales against racketeers. The flower replica and the label can not be duplicated, without running afoul of the law.

There is little doubt that it will be a great national event.



DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA HAS SUCCESSFUL FLOWER SALE

Minnesota went over the top in sales August 17th of the Purple Heart (flower) Violet. The only thing is that the Department Flower committee underestimated the amount it could sell. 50,000 were sold in three Chapters (Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth).

The flower sale is not the only thing for which this department can be proud. Last year one of it's Chapters, the Nels Wold Chapter No. 5, headed the list of new members taken in. Today they have (?) members which gives Commander R. G. Boyer a 100% gain in membership.

Gov. Thye bought the first purple violet from officials of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Friday, a week in advance of the sales campaign for rehabilitation and relief of war veterans and dependents

Left to right are F.T. Handorf 3301 Stevens Ave, Minneapolis, state chairman of flower day; Herman H. Witte, 1528 Payne Ave., Minnesota department commander of the order, Gov. Thye and Mrs. Witte.

Department of Wisconsin

George Banda

Camp Hometown Hero's give opportunities the children who lost family during a conflict. Husband and Wife Rick and Barb Cherone have been volunteering from the beginning at this wonderful camp just on the outskirts of Kewaskum, Wisconsin. Camp Hometown Heroes is a free week-long overnight summer camp for children and siblings of fallen U.S. Service members. During this visit to camp, the children begin the healing process with other children who have experienced a similar loss, doing the summer activities that they love.

Rick and Barbs' love for what they do shines through in their engagement with the kids. A huge shoutout to them both.



Region III News

Department of Idaho

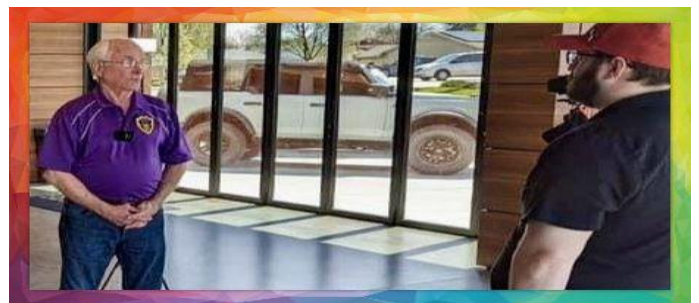
Ned Barker

Memorial Day at State Veterans Cemetery



Patriot Hayward Sawyer and Past Commander Henry Parker

Putts for Patriots





Patriot Hayward Sawyer and Sr Vice Commander George Nickel did video spots for Putts for Patriots on May 18, 2024.



ABOUT THE BENEFICIARIES

Idaho Backcountry Veterans

Started in 2017 Idaho Back Country Veterans is a Not-For-Profit corporation registered in Idaho. They fundraise and have a series of amazing sponsors and partners that help them create natural escapes for those they help. They get vets together with each other and away from the daily grind. Like minded individuals in a comfortable environment where they can drop the shields and open up about their experiences with those that have been through the same experiences.



Idaho Combat Wounded Veterans

Idaho Combat Wounded Veterans is a nonprofit dedicated to supporting those who've bravely served and sustained combat injuries. Rooted in patriotism, they educate members, engage in legislative initiatives, and provide vital assistance to veterans and their families. The organization is a beacon of support, aiming to make a lasting impact on the lives of those who sacrificed for our freedom.



Wyakin Foundation

The Wyakin Foundation was founded in 2010 by Jeff and Rebecca Bacon and Idaho State Senator Marv Hagedorn to provide a pathway for wounded and injured post 9-11 veterans to transition through education into careers of their choosing. In 2011, the Wyakin Foundation welcomed their first class of 5 veterans; fast forward to today, the program has grown to 52 veterans pursuing a wide range of degrees and vocational trades. The program focuses on six tenets: Mentorship, Professional Development, Networking, Educational/ Financial Assistance, Community Impact, and Wyakin for Life (Alumni Network)



Idaho Veterans Chamber of Commerce

The 1st Idaho Veterans Chamber delivers wrap-around navigation services veterans, military serving, and their families to provide community resources for education, Housing, Entrepreneurship, Workforce Management, Family and Wellness services. Through a navigation network hub, we bridge the gap by building strong sustainable partnerships deeply rooted within the Idaho and Military communities through collaboration and connection.



Department of the Dakotas

South Dakota Purple Heart Recognition Day

At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Governor Kristi Noem has proclaimed Wednesday, August 7, 2024, as "Purple Heart Recognition Day," calling on all South Dakotans to acknowledge and remember the sacrifices made by the brave members of our military who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal.



selflessly put their lives on the line to keep us safe and free,” said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

SDDVA encourages all South Dakotans to set aside time on August 7 to pay tribute to our heroes who have been honored with the Purple Heart. It is important for all Americans to learn the history of this important military award and the sacrifices made by the recipients. “Our military remains as strong today as it has ever been. America’s veterans have been defined by the virtues of selfless service, sacrifice, and devotion to duty,” said Whitlock. “These men and women, who serve and have served, are the flesh and blood of American exceptionalism.”

The Purple Heart, our nation’s oldest military medal, is presented to service members who have been wounded or killed as a result of enemy action while serving in the U.S. military. A Purple Heart is a solemn distinction and means a service member has greatly sacrificed themselves, or paid the ultimate price, while in the line of duty.

According to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, more than 1.8 million Purple Heart medals have been presented to service members since the award was created in 1782.

“Every day, America’s service members

Region IV News

Chapter 0465-GA-4

Lou Zayas

Nicholls, Georgia - a Purple Heart City



The City of Nicholls Georgia became a Purple Heart City on July1,2024.

American Legion Post 127 – a Purple Heart Entity



(L to R) A.L. Commander Steve Silverio, Commander Lou Zayas, Senior Vice Don Bullard, Patriot Jim Ruiz.



(L to R) A.L. Commander Steve Silverio, Commander Lou Zayas, Senior Vice Don Bullard.



Saturday July 13, 2024, The American Legion Post 127 Sugar Hill, Ga became a Purple Heart entity.

VFW Chapter 6449 Fairburn, GA Brunch

Fairburn GA became a Purple Heart City recently. The VFW Chapter there had a special brunch for the Purple Heart at their headquarters today August 4, 2024. Too many names to remember, sorry.



Calhoun, GA Dedicates PH Monument



Today, the city of Calhoun, Georgia, dedicated this monument to Purple Heart recipients in honor of Purple Heart Day. Chapter 525 was responsible for getting this dedication done. Commander Archie Armer and some of his chapter Patriots were also in attendance.

Chapter 0661-PR-4

Road Security

Antonio Bojito



*Antonio Bojito D Co. 2/12 Inf. Div. 25th. inf DIV. CUCHI., 1969
Trang Bang. Alpha Six Camp. Tuang Tú, My friend during ROAD
SECURITY.*

This was my first PH, I was wounded three times in 1969, and 22 years old, while humping through SAIGON, CUCHI, HOBOWOODS, BOLOWOODS, DAUTIENG and TAI NING, with the 2/12 Inf. Bde. and the glorious 25th. Inf. Div.

I also possess a Bronze Star with "V" Device, and two Army Commendation Medal.

I went to the Museum in Connecticut and left on their computers a briefing on my odyssey of my tour in COUNTRY.

We completed 42 days in COMPANY AMBUSH on EAGLE-FLIGHTS, we completed 500 flights, only three baths of 2 gallons water "STINKY" oof.

Department of Florida

Department Scholarship Awardee



Department of Florida Scholarship Awardee- Ms. Taylor Nelson. Ms. Nelson is the granddaughter of our National Sergeant-at-Arms for Life and Chapter 758 Commander, Retired Marine Ken Swords. She is attending Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. On behalf of the Department of Florida, we wish her the best of luck in all her endeavors.

Region V News

Chapter 0393-TX-5

Roberto Garza

Burgers on the Border

On 4th of July, 2024 The Military Order of

the Purple Heart along with members from VFW District 10, Department of Texas, DAV Ch 187, DAV Ch 10, American Legion Post 832 and other volunteers assembled at the National Guard Armory to cook hamburgers and hot dogs for the Soldiers supporting the border mission in the El Paso region. The Veteran organizations come together each year on the 4th of July to thank our local National Guard units for their service. This great event not only says, "Thank You," to our troops it also unifies the veteran organizations and is proof of what a positive impact the unity of our veteran organizations can have on our community. Over 600 hamburgers and hot dogs were cooked and delivered to the troops on the border.



(Left to Right) Past Commander and current Trustee Alfredo Gutierrez and Senior Vice Commander Lone Star Chapter 393 cook hot dogs with the unit First Sergeant.



(Left to Right) Trustee George Elsaesser, Trustee Alfredo Gutierrez, Commander Roberto Garza, and Senior Vice Commander Lone Star Ch 393 pause for a photo at the 2024 Burgers on the Border event.



Members of various Veteran organizations from El Paso, TX join for a group photo with the Unit Commander at the 2024 Burgers on the Border event.

Chapter 0402-SC-4

Chuck Adkins



On 30 July 2024, the Sour & Salt Bakery located in Columbia, South Carolina was proclaimed a Purple Heart Restaurant. The Founder and Owner/Operator is Eleni Adkins, daughter in law of Patriot Chuck Adkins (Chapter 0460-AR-5). Pictured are (left to right) are Chapter 0402-SC-4 Patriots John Testruth and Jermal Washington (Chapter Commander), Eleni Adkins, LTC Christopher Adkins, ENG, US Army (son of Patriot Adkins), and Patriots Frank Kmetz, Chapter 0402-SC-4 and Chuck Adkins, Past National Adjutant. After the ceremony, the Patriots were treated by Eleni to some delicious pastries baked fresh that morning.

Chapter 0460-AR-5

Chuck Adkins

Members of Chapter 0460-AR-5 (Fayetteville, Arkansas) celebrate National Purple Heart Day at the Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks by manning a recruiting and information table.



(Left to Right): Patriots Joe Murray, Chuck Adkins, Elmer Moore, Ken Gheen, David Schwerigan, and Lonnie Young (Commander).



Region VI News

Chapter 0015-CA-6

Purple Heart Day at Golden Gate Cemetery

On 7 August 2024, Military Order of the Purple Heart Woodrow Wilson Chapter 15 held its annual Purple Heart Day commemoration at Golden Gate National Cemetery.



The first two are of Mr. Gary Higgins, of Chapter 15, who presided over the ceremony, with the proprietor of Tun Tavern, also known as William Nay, an historian and Commandant of Gen J. C. Breckinridge Detachment 010 of the Marine Corps League, who presented the history of the Purple Heart and of its predecessor, the Badge of Military Merit.



The Historian presented a Badge of Military Merit to each person present recipient of a Purple Heart.



Numerous VSO's including the Marine Corps League and Legion Riders supported the event.



Commander of Chapter 15 Jerry Sapiro in the white shirt and his wife Cordelia in the pink as well as other Chapter Patriots and supporters enjoy lunch after the ceremonies.

Chapter 0210-CA-6

Reactivation

I am extremely pleased to announce the reactivation of Department of California Chapter 210, Long Beach CA.

Chapter 210 has a membership of over 300 members but due to health reasons, difficulty driving and other issues our members faced it became inactive. With the assistance from the Past Commander Joseph Del Rio and our Department Senior Vice Commander they made contact with members who expressed interest in supporting their Chapter.

On July 8, 2024, a meeting was held, elections were conducted and the new officers sworn in by the Department of California Commander.

Stepping up to the task and pictured are Commander Zeferino Madrigal (black suit), Adjutant Bladimir Rodriguez (Black shirt) and Finance Officer Jesus (Chuy) Esquivel (Purple Shirt). Chapter members also in attendance were Albert Lopez and Aeron Rimando.

Our goal this year along with recruiting new MOPH members is to reach out to our existing members and invite them back to participate. The results have been rewarding since most are pleased to hear from us and are willing to attend a meeting near them.

Jo Keller

Patriotic Hall Named Historic Landmark

PATRIOTIC HALL TO BE NAMED COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARK

Tom Lasser



Board directs MVA to pursue federal designation July 10, 2024



LOS ANGELES, CA - In a recent motion, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors announced that Bob Hope Patriotic Hall would be designated a county historic landmark and also directed the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) to nominate the building for listing with the National Register of Historic Places,

Patriotic Hall was previously listed as a California Point of Historical Interest in 1976 and in 1982 was determined eligible for listing in the National Register while also being listed with the California Register of Historical Resources for serving as a war memorial and as an excellent example of Italian Renaissance Revival architecture."

The 10-story, 85,000-square foot property was constructed in 1926 to provide "social and medical services" to veterans in

addition to serving as a memorial to them and their service. In addition to county and nonprofit tenants providing services to veterans and their families, today the building is also a museum with uniforms and artifacts dating back to the Civil War.

"Designating this space as a historic landmark is a testament not only to the sacrifices of the past but also to the service of the present as we strive to serve today's veterans while honoring their predecessors," said MVA Director Jim Zenner. "We are deeply grateful to Supervisors Solis and Horvath for sponsoring this thoughtful and timely motion as we approach our centennial."

As the county department charged with veteran's affairs, MVA also administers every aspect of the building's operations. 2026 will mark the 100th anniversary of its completion.

"Designating the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall on the National Register of Historic Places and the County Register as a County Landmark will properly honor this historic and majestic structure, establish it as a permanent monument to the sacrifice of the veterans who died in service to our nation, as well as preserve it as a dedicated space where veterans in Los Angeles County can gather in fellowship and remembrance," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, who represents the First District.

Administered by the National Park Service and authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register of Historic Places contains more than 98,000 properties and is designed to "coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archaeological resources." Additionally, listing in the National Register completes the first step toward establishing eligibility for federal preservation tax credits.

Chapter 2929-CA-6

Graves stand at attention!



Past Commander of MOPH California Chapter 2929 Len Tavernetti continues to single handedly Care, clean, finance and decorate over 20 graves of past military members he discovered at the Hillside Cemetery in Redlands California.



These graves are respectfully cared for and decorated for every holiday imaginable.

Once dirty and forgotten they are now a showcase lined up at attention.

Chapter Coins

Robert E. Bush Chapter 2929 members were presented the Chapters First personalized Chapter coin Named after MOH recipient Robert E. Bush.

Presenting was Chapter commander Raymond Wetzel



(Pictures L to R): Top row: Commander Wetzel and Guest Commander Zeferino Madrigal Chapter 210 Long Beach; Guest Bladimir Rodriguez Chapter 210; new member (transfer) to the Chapter Richard Gauthier, and Chapter Senior Vice & Adjutant Glenn Coplin. Second row: Chapter RTC/RTC Coordinator Doc Hooper (Semper Fi Honor Guard detail), Patriot Danny Perez, and Patriots Glenn Coplin and Joseph Mosely, Chapter Finance Officer. Bottom row: Commander Wetzel and PCC Len Tavernetti, Ruben Luis and up front on the right patriot Steve Hadley.

Chapter 0385-CA-6

Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace

Bruce Hodgman

Patriot John H. “Jack” Fries, age 94, was presented a war medal by the Military Order of the Purple Heart USA Inc. Chapter 385 on behalf of the Korean War Veterans Association and the South Korean Government. The medal honors his military service and personal sacrifice during the Korean War, during which he earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Korean Service Medal for Battle Stars.



Jack Fries, left, receiving his medal from Bruce Hodgman, Commander, Chapter 385

The medal is called the **Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medal** and expresses the Korean government's appreciation to United States servicemen and women who served in the Korean War.

Jack is a celebrity in 385 because of his storied life, which includes being a TV/Radio personality, writer, lecturer, and ordained minister. In July 1950, Jack left college to join the Marine Corps. After being discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1954, he became an executive with Chesebrough-Pond's Inc., an international toiletries and cosmetic company.

In 1962, because of his personality and charm, Jack became interested in current events and entered the news reporting business with stints at CBS in Los Angeles and KCRA in Sacramento. A past member of the Writers Guild of America, he wrote ***“Passport to Good Health”*** and ***“Jackie Remembers, Our Gang.”*** The latter was a picture story of his wife of 48 years, now passed, as the former leading lady in the TV Show ***“Our Gang”*** as the character called ***“Darla.”***

Jack is a Life Member of the Order and editor/publisher of 385's former monthly publication ***“The Capitol Patriot”*** from 2010 to 2016. Jack became Inactive in the Chapter for health reasons in 2017.

Chapter 0392-CA-6

Purple Heart Day Luncheon and Scholarship



On Purple Heart Day San Gabriel Valley Chapter 392 had a luncheon at Tepeyac restaurant in City of Industry.



Our chapter also presented a \$500.00 gift card & \$600.00 cash to a Veteran single mom with 2 beautiful daughters who is struggling.



We also celebrated by presenting a \$500.00 scholarship to Gena Valencia. She is the proud daughter of lifetime member Ruben Valencia & Associate member Emily Valencia.





Fred Zermeno from Senator Bob Archuletas office presented Chapter 392 a Certificate of recognition for our work in the community. Accepting the certificate is Finance Officer Santiago Rios & Adjutant Ruben Valencia.

It was a great day to celebrate.



Chapter 0442-AZ-6

John Moore

Monthly VA Home Bingo

Chapter 442 hosts bingo monthly at the Tucson VA Hospital for patients. Bingo is held on the last Saturday of each month. Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, Patriot Danny Lemon and their wives conducted bingo for patients in the Tucson VA Hospital on July 27th. 17 patients attended the bingo session. Patriot Dave Bertagnoli is our POC for bingo.



Patients at the Tucson VA Hospital enjoy Bingo.



Patriot Lemon & Patriot Bertagnoli call bingo.



Mrs. Lemon helps a patient.

Marana – Purple Heart Town – 10 years

For Purple Heart Day the **Town of Marana** reaffirmed their status as a Purple Heart Town at their council meeting. **Mayor Ed Honea** issued a new Purple Heart Town proclamation. **Commander Mike Dyer** presented the Town with a certificate of appreciation. The mayor and council members each received a challenge coin, replica Badge of Merit, and Purple Heart wrist band.



Purple Heart Proclamation



Mayor Honea issues proclamation to Patriot Moore & Commander Dyer

Also, On Purple Heart Day the Town of Marana presented the chapter an artwork of the town's Purple Heart signs that are posted at the town limits. This was the 10th anniversary of the Town becoming a Purple Heart community. Commander Mike Dyer accepted the artwork at the Town Council meeting.



presentations.



Arizona State Veterans – Purple Heart Day

On Purple Heart Day Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 visited the Arizona State Veterans Home Tucson to honor Purple Heart recipients residing in the home. The home has 13 residents with Purple Hearts. 2 served in WWII, 4 in Korea, & 7 in Vietnam. We presented each with a Certificate of Appreciation, a PH challenge coin, a replica Badge of Military Merit, a Purple Heart tumbler, and a Purple Heart hat pin. Chapter 442 also donated \$500 to the Veterans Home for the welfare of the residents. A Purple Heart Day cake was served after the

Chapter 0483-HI-6

Takumi Abe

74th Anniversary of the Korean War



Patriot Jim Zimmerman presents Sam Nanez, the State Veterans Home's director with a \$500 check for welfare of the residents.



Mino and Patsy Takaesu



Patriot John Moore with hero Elmer Scullwal who served on the light cruiser USS Saint Louis. The USS Saint Louis was hit with torpedoes, dive bombers, & a Kamikaze attack on 3 separate occasions. Elmer was wounded during the Kamikaze attack.

The following pictures were taken at the National Cemetery of the Pacific Punchbowl.



Tommy Tanaka and Ed Cruschank



La'auli Utupo, Takumi Abe, Tommy Tanaka

Claim Sharks Are Illegal

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

This is still illegal. Using creative semantics to skirt the law is not innovative, and it is not honest or transparent.

There are no "good actors" or "bad actors." Every company that charges for initial claims assistance is doing it illegally.



MOPH Chapter 483 group photo

Legislation

Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment and Retirement

Family caregivers, in supporting their ill or injured veteran loved ones, play a vital role for this nation in keeping the promise to care for those who have served.

Caring for a loved one is often a full-time job, which requires family members to put their entire lives on hold. Once caregiver's responsibilities conclude, this nation must plan and assist them in transitioning back into the workforce or retirement as a way of expressing gratitude for their dedication and service.

3885, the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment and Retirement Act, would provide caregivers additional support from the VA, including employment assistance, retirement planning and bereavement counseling, if their veteran loved one no longer requires caregiving services due to recovery, requiring a higher level of care or passing away.

No caregiver who takes on the role of caring for one of our nation's veterans should have to feel uncertain about their future, and their financial security should not be threatened because they kept the promise to care for those who have served our nation. Our nation's ill and injured veterans and their caregivers deserve better.

DAV supports S. 3885, as it aligns with DAV Resolution No. 167, to improve and provide comprehensive service for caregivers of severely wounded, injured, and ill veterans of all eras.

We call on all DAV members and supporters to contact their senators and urge them to co-sponsor and support S. 3885, the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment and Retirement Act.

[Take Action!](#)



Improving Menopause Care

Please add your support for H.R. 8347, the Improving Menopause Care for Veterans Act. This bill would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a comprehensive study on the menopause care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Menopause has been shown to raise the risk for depression twofold and corresponds to the highest rates of suicide among U.S. women. However, as detailed in DAV's latest report, [Women Veterans: The Journey to Mental Wellness](#), the impact of menopause

on mental health and suicide risk among women veterans is understudied and not well defined. Therefore, it is crucial that the physical and mental health care needs of our women veterans experiencing menopause and perimenopause are adequately being addressed.

H.R. 8347 would direct GAO to focus on services for women veterans enrolled in VA care who are experiencing symptoms associated with the transition phases of menopause to include perimenopause, genitourinary syndrome of menopause, and post-menopause.

This legislation is consistent with DAV Resolution No. 371, which calls for research on menopause and its impact on mental health and the overall well-being of female veterans.

Please use the prepared email or your own letter and urge your Representative to co-sponsor H.R. 8347, the Improving Menopause Care for Veterans Act. Thank you for your support of DAV's legislative priorities.

[Take Action!](#)



End Veteran Homelessness

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) joint initiatives to end homelessness among veterans through enhanced collaboration with other federal, state, faith-based, VSO and community partners have made significant inroads in decreasing homelessness among our nation's veterans.

H.R. 8560, the End Veteran Homelessness Act would have case managers prioritize assistance to vulnerable homeless veterans, including veterans who are homeless and have disabilities (including chronic mental illness, chronic substance abuse disorders or chronic physical disabilities).

This bill would authorize payment of administrative fees to the public housing agencies for costs of administering vouchers and other eligible expenses used to facilitate the leasing of the vouchers, such as security deposits and other costs related to retention and support of participating owners.

The legislation would also require the Government Accounting Office (GAO) to complete and submit a report with specific information as it pertains to the VA HUD-VASH program to certain congressional committees.

In accordance with DAV Resolution No. 083, DAV supports H.R. 8560, the End Veteran Homelessness Act.

We ask you to contact your Representative and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 8560. Thank you for taking action on behalf of service-disabled veterans, their dependents, survivors, and caregivers.

Take Action!



Clear Communication for Veterans

Please add your support for H.R. 7816, the Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act. This bill would require the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to collaborate with a federally funded research and development center to evaluate the clarity, organization and conciseness of notice letters sent to claimants for VA benefits. This evaluation aims to identify potential reductions in paper use and costs and to improve the understandability of these notices for claimants.

Often times the letters sent to veterans and their families speak a language that they cannot always easily understand. The clarity of the legal information contained in the letters is crucial, and DAV is on record

recommending that VA take a look at their letters by concentrating on the language for the reader and not the legal requirements.

This legislation is consistent with DAV Resolution No. 220, which calls for meaningful claims and appeals reform. VA letters should not be structured in a way that induces confusion, anxiety, and frustration for veterans.

Please use the prepared email or your own letter and urge your Representative to support H.R. 7816, the Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act.

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

Take Action!



Rural Veterans Transportation to Care

Our nation's 2.4 million veterans living in rural areas often face difficulties accessing Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care that those living in urban and suburban areas do not. Chief among them is transportation to VA medical facilities. The nearly 300,000 veterans living in areas

considered highly rural face even greater obstacles and deserve increased attention to assistance in accessing VA's high-quality health care.

S. 3751, the Rural Veterans Transportation to Care Act, would help more veterans in highly rural areas get transportation to VA health facilities and access the health care benefits they've earned and need.

This bipartisan bill would expand eligibility to the VA's Highly Rural Transportation Grant Program, which provides grant funding for veteran service organizations and state veterans service agencies to provide veterans transportation in eligible counties by increasing the maximum amount of funding granted to purchase an ADA-compliant vehicle.

DAV is proud to support the Rural Veterans Transportation to Care Act, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 030, which calls for ensuring sufficient access to care to meet the health needs of veterans residing in rural or remote areas. This bill would help the VA provide all rural veterans better access to health care and help ensure our nation keeps its promises to America's veterans.

We are calling on all DAV members and supporters to contact their senators and urge them to co-sponsor and support this legislation. Thank you for participating in the DAV Commander's Action Network.

[Take Action!](#)



Reunions

2nd Bn 3rd Marines (Vietnam War)

Savannah, GA

4 September - 8 September 2024.

For information contact: Marine Fergy Hughes

P.O. Box 211

Baldwin, NY 11510-0211

(623) 780-1819

clydesdadfergy@aol.com

26th Marines Association Annual

Thursday, September 26th, through

Monday 30th, 2024--You can reserve

several days before or after at the same

rate. Location: Homewood Suites - San

Sebastian; 10 Prawn Street, Saint Augustine,

Florida 32084 Phone:(800) 445-8667 -- (800-

Page **118** of **138**

HILTONS)

Web Site

< <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/ustssh-w-homewood-suites-st-augustine-san-sebastian/>

Group Registration/Reservation Code: 91-G

For details see < www.26thMarines.org >, or
E-Mail < Chair.26thmarines@gmail.com >

Million Veteran Program (MVP)

VA's Million Veteran Program (MVP) is a national research program looking at how genes, lifestyle, military experiences, and exposures affect health and wellness in Veterans.

Since launching in 2011, 1 million Veterans have joined MVP. It's the largest research effort at VA to improve health care for Veterans and one of the largest research programs in the world studying genes and health.

To learn more or join, visit mvp.va.gov today.

Have any questions? Visit the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** section of MVP Online to search or browse common questions about the program, participation, privacy, and more.

Interested in MVP research? Visit our **research page** to learn more about new findings from the MVP cohort and how VA investigators and other approved partners can apply for access to MVP data.

Contact MVP

For additional information, call the MVP Info Center toll-free at 1-866-441-6075 (Monday - Friday; 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET).

Have any questions? Send us an email at askmvp@va.gov.

Sign up to receive our MVP Insider newsletter and learn about the latest news and discoveries.

Note: The Million Veteran Program will never ask for your financial, credit, or bank account information or ask you for money. If you think you have been contacted as part of a scam, you can visit the **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** website for information about how to report the scam.

The MVP program office can be reached by sending an email to MVPPO@va.gov.

Career Opportunities

Opportunities listed in this section are being

provided as a service only. We are not compensated for listing them in the magazine and readers are cautioned to do their own due diligence.

If you find new opportunities you'd like to share and see listed, please provide details to publications@purpleheart.org.



<https://www.ars.usda.gov/work-with-us/>



<https://vacareers.va.gov/careers>



<https://www.hiremilitary.us/s/>



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



<https://recruitmilitary.com/>



<https://www.att.jobs/search-jobs>



<https://walmartfindafuture.com>



<https://careers.jbhunt.com/blog/jb-hunt-jobs-for-military-veterans>



<https://jobs.aa.com/go/Military/8179900>

Membership Fees

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

When conducting Membership Drives or having a by chance meeting with a Purple Heart Recipient, need to ensure when to have the \$200.00 Membership Application available to hand out (see attached). We are having too many instances of the old

\$50.00 applications are coming into the HQ and the individuals believe they are now members. It's very difficult when we reach out and inform them, they owe another \$150.00.

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

Thanks, and have a great day!

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

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

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

☐ DD-214 ☐ DD-215 (Must be supported by DD-214) ☐ Orders plus PH Certificate ☐ WD AGO 53-55

Service ☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Air Force ☐ Marines ☐ Coast Guard

War Wounded ☐ WW2 ☐ Korea ☐ Vietnam ☐ OEF ☐ OIF ☐ OND ☐ Other _____

Date entered service _____ ☐ Active Duty (Provide PCS orders) Date Departed Service/Discharged _____

Date wounded _____ Location of Engagement _____

Commissioning source: _____ Have you been convicted of a Felony? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

Name of Purple Heart Recipient _____

Member# & Signature _____ Chapter# _____

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

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

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

Relationship documents ☐ Birth Certificate ☐ Adoption Papers ☐ Marriage Certificate ☐ Casualty Report

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

All information and requirements are subject to change without notice.

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

MOPHA Application for Membership

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**



Past National Commanders and Past National Presidents

Past National Commanders	Years	Past National Presidents
(##) Frank J. Cushner*	1932-33	
(##) Frank J. Cushner*	1933-34	Mable Patron*
Howard J. Lepper*	1934-35	Mable Patron*
Frank A. Schrepher*	1935-36	Mary Nachtmann*
Heinrich A. Pickert*	1936-37	Ruby White*
Thorvald M. Thompson*	1937-38	Edith Hanson*
Charles O. Carlson*	1938-39	Lucile Fahry*
Wendell A. Lochbiler*	1939-40	Ethen Giannini*
Herbert A. Church*	1940-41	Irene Buck Bursch*
Harry B. Weinburg*	1941-42	Olive Bradfield*
William M. Thomas*	1942-43	Edna Morrell*
Elmer J. Keys*	1943-44	Gladys Hapsch*
(##) Harold M. Hamilton*	1944-45	Edyth Mattocks*
(##) Harold M. Hamilton*	1945-46	Loretta Coltin*
Ray Dorris*	1946-47	Ethel Kneller*
Verne S. White*	1947-48	Jewell Mueller*
Clifford A. Parmenter*	1948-49	Beatrice G. Donovan*
Frank J. Schneller*	1949-50	Meta Ihbe*
John D. Goodin*	1950-51	Beatrice Parmenter*
Victor F. Kubly*	1951-52	Mae O'Brien Young*
Robert W. Schroeder*	1952-53	Bessie Hawkins*
Anton D. Kneller*	1953-54	Helen Paradowski*
Walter C. Bowman*	1954-55	Marie Maguire*
Aloysius J. Healy*	1955-56	Rose Ann Risley*
William B. Eaton*	1956-57	Teresa M. Coughlin*
Richard P. Golick*	1957-58	Regina S. McComb*
Lloyd E. Henry*	1958-59	Helen Schwend*
Harry E. Heiser*	1959-60	Eva Gottfried*
Victor N. Lukacz*	1960-61	Marie Jakoubek*
Edward F. Holiday*	1961-62	Madeline Hickey*

Past National Commanders	Years	Past National Presidents
Lester J. Hawkins*	1962-63	Ellen Hawkins*
Robert T. Schumack*	1963-64	Lucile Eaton*
Carl A. Falkowski*	1964-65	Ruth Sinkowits*
Clair Voss*	1965-66	Sophia Kelderhouse*
John H. Burgess*	1966-67	Ann S. Pellican*
(##) Earnest P. Slaughter*	1967-68	Luretta S. Noble*
(##) Earnest P. Slaughter*	1968-69	Madeline Friedley*
Shaffe T. Courey*	1969-70	Viola Carlson*
Ronald A. Beattie*	1970-71	Jeane Thiede*
Harvey Thiede*	1971-72	Ruby Holloway*
Robert H. Betts*	1972-73	Nancy Klare*
John E. Binnion*	1973-74	Emma LaVigne*
John R. Eletto*	1974-75	Juliane Johnston*
John M. Duchessi*	1975-76	Shirley Angellocchi*
Richard F. Flanders*	1976-77	Helen Pierce*
Douglas H. McGarricy*	1977-78	Georgia Dounias*
Raymond F. Warren*	1978-79	Escer Boyer*
James Durkin	1979-80	Beth Kubly*
Jerry Searles*	1980-81	Anola Hacker*
Duane Brigstock*	1981-82	Leona Townsend*
Donald Arthur*	1982-83	Eleanor Duchessi
Wendell R. Lowe*	1983-84	Stella Krewson*
Thomas F. Sharpe*	1984-85	Kay Masi
Edward Chastain*	1985-86	Sharon Carlton
Jules Carvalho, Jr.*	1986-87	Delora Compton
Donald M. Skinder*	1987-88	Irene H. Chastain*
Frank A. Athanason	1988-89	Juanita M. Collier
Ernest E. Brown*	1989-90	Margaret Brown Pope*
Leonard A. Carlton*	1990-91	Mildred Brink*
Joseph R. Hems*	1991-92	Patricia A. Sharpe
Robert C. Padgett, Jr.*	1992-93	Noreen Barnard*
Michael D. Tomsey*	1993-94	Beverly Thompson*
John C. Loberg*	1994-95	Lucille Kinney

Past National Commanders	Years	Past National Presidents
Carroll M. Fyffe*	1995-96	Elaine Mons
James M. Blaylock	1996-97	Margaret Kurtzman
Louis C. Tebbe*	1997-98	Margaret Stanulis*
Boyd L. Barclay	1998-99	Sheila Mitchell
Richard H. Esau Jr.*	1999-2000	Wilma Cornell
Frederick A. Taylor, Jr.	2000-2001	Shirley Van Buren
R. Louis Spinelli*	2001-2002	Louise Brown
William A. Wroolie*	2002-2003	Bonnie Dumler
Al Silvano	2003-2004	Joan Walsh
Robert Lichtenberger*	2004-2005	Carol Lance
James Randles*	2005-2006	Judith Spaulding
Tom Poulter*	2006-2007	Nancy Lee Birschbach
Henry Cook*	2007-2008	Harriett Hems
Jeff Roy	2008-2009	Jane Stoel
Jim Sims*	2009-2010	Gwendolyn Gilliard
Clayton Jones*	2010-2011	Karen Haltiner
William (Bill) Hutton	2011-2012	Barbara (Barb) Cherone
Bruce McKenty	2012-2013	Barbara Cannode
Ron Siebels	2013-2014	Barbara Cannode
Patrick Little*	2014-2015	Jan Knapp
Robert Puskar*	2015-2016	Eileen Oltmann
Hershel Gober	2016-2017	Terri Shattuck
Neil van Ess	2017-2018	Gloria Sanchez
Douglas Greenlaw	2018-2019	Diane Petrini
Felix Garcia	2019-2020	Cheryl Perez
Ernie Rivera	2020-2021	Amanda Flener
James McCormick	2021-2022	Colleen Orfanello
Chris Vedvick (resigned)	2022-2023	Kay Jo Baucom
(##) Carder Ferguson	2022-2024	Barbara Hale Ray

* Deceased

(**##**) Served more than one term.

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 Jul 1 – Aug 20, 2024, regardless of the actual date of death. The listing has been sorted by last name, first name, date posted, and date of death.



Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0204-CA-6	John B	ALLARD		2011-05-09	2024-07-20
0442-AZ-6	Trini	ALVAREZ		1993-02-27	2024-07-24
DML-UT-6	Charles V	ANDERSON		None	2024-08-13
DML-DE-1	Francis A	ANGEL		None	2024-08-19
0127-MI-2	Mario J	ANGELO		2015-05-29	2024-07-09
0730-NV-6	Frank A	ARELLANES		None	2024-08-13
0691-AZ-6	Donald A	ASH		2024-07-28	2024-08-06
0385-CA-6	Stephen	AULDRIDGE	Edward	None	2024-07-27
0176-NM-5	Esteban S.	BACA		1988-08-22	2024-07-09
DML-CA-6	Homer D	BACON		2015-05-03	2024-07-20
0442-AZ-6	Morris A.	BAIER		2021-02-06	2024-07-11
0059-CA-6	Clifford A	BARBANELL		2017-09-20	2024-07-20
0115-MO-2	Ralph E	BARKS		2023-12-19	2024-08-20
0806-MS-4	Joseph G	BARNES		2023-01-27	2024-07-17
0442-AZ-6	Gary W	BAUMGARDNER		2024-02-25	2024-07-06
DML-DK-3	Wendlin P	BAUMGARTNER		None	2024-08-12
0442-AZ-6	John H	BAUWENS		2003-06-23	2024-07-06
0570-MD-1	Lee C.	BENSON		None	2024-07-17
0366-NJ-1	Stanley	BERENZWEIG		2019-05-06	2024-07-04
1979-IA-2	Clyde	BEVERIDGE	L	2024-07-24	2024-08-02
0995-UT-6	Jonathan E	BIRD		2019-01-06	2024-07-17
0696-FL-4	Robert	BLANGO		None	2024-07-29
0519-PA-1	Charles H	BOOTH		2019-08-04	2024-07-20
1919-TX-5	Richard M	BOSSERMAN		2009-04-08	2024-07-10
0460-AR-5	Dean	BRAATEN	Austin	2023-09-20	2024-08-11
DML-NC-4	Larry Dean	BRADLEY		2024-06-17	2024-07-07
0460-AR-5	Patrick M	BRADY		2021-08-17	2024-08-11
0385-CA-6	Barry	BRAKE	B	None	2024-08-18
0366-NJ-1	Frank R	BRAZICKI		2013-11-23	2024-07-05
0566-FL-4	Larry E	BROOME		2024-06-23	2024-07-23
0711-NV-6	James E	BROWN		None	2024-08-14
1513-TX-5	Clarence A	BRYANT		2024-08-06	2024-08-06
0059-CA-6	Russell	BRYANT		2013-10-08	2024-07-18
0442-AZ-6	Gilbert	BULLIS		2004-07-09	2024-07-06
0353-VA-1	Nelson R	BULLOCK		2013-11-26	2024-07-09
DML-UT-6	Boyd	BURGESS	G	2000-10-20	2024-07-16
0455-PA-1	Richard	BURNS		1981-01-20	2024-08-19
0455-PA-1	Louis A	BUTERA		1995-12-18	2024-08-19

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0691-AZ-6	James L	CALDWELL		2020-08-03	2024-07-23
DML-UT-6	Chauncy C	CALL		1997-06-19	2024-07-17
0711-NV-6	Alfred	CAMLIN	V	2014-05-04	2024-07-17
0483-HI-6	Donald D	CAMPBELL		None	2024-08-19
0103-CT-1	Michael W	CAREY		None	2024-08-15
0609-MI-2	Darwin T	CARLSON		2012-12-30	2024-07-17
DML-UT-6	James Steven	CARLSON		None	2024-08-13
DML-IN-2	Norman R	CARR		2022-05-24	2024-07-22
0115-MO-2	Charlie H.	CARTER		1996-10-27	2024-08-20
0041-MI-2	Vincent C	CARUANA		None	2024-08-06
0995-UT-6	Russell	CASHIN		2018-10-20	2024-07-04
0115-MO-2	George F.	CASTER		None	2024-08-20
DML-CA-6	George E	CAWLEY		None	2024-08-08
DML-MS-4	Matelon E	CHRESTMAN		2018-06-19	2024-07-18
0542-TX-5	John C	CLARK		2008-01-13	2024-07-22
0012-WA-3	Robert L	CLARK		2008-03-28	2024-08-19
0366-NJ-1	Thomas J	CLARKE		2002-01-28	2024-07-05
0636-NC-4	Craig S	CLOYD		2020-06-25	2024-07-10
0268-MN-2	William L	COCHRANE		2024-05-31	2024-07-24
0442-AZ-6	D. G.	COLONNA		2018-11-08	2024-07-06
DML-FL-4	Joseph K	COLOSIMO		2002-12-10	2024-07-17
0777-IA-2	Robert J	CONLEY		2024-08-10	2024-08-16
1922-IN-2	Oval	CONNELL		2011-12-21	2024-07-10
DML-UT-6	Owen E	CONRAD		2014-11-18	2024-07-16
0442-AZ-6	Larry E.	CONROY		2006-11-18	2024-07-06
0091-MI-2	Robert I	COOLEY		2023-08-04	2024-07-27
DML-CA-6	Elias A	CORONADO		2021-03-06	2024-07-20
0125-MO-2	Firman R	COTTER		2014-06-18	2024-07-22
0701-NJ-1	James H	CROSSON		2001-12-07	2024-07-09
DML-DK-3	Maurice M	CROW		None	2024-08-12
0204-CA-6	Richard A	CRUZ		2015-04-14	2024-07-20
0795-FL-4	Anthony	CURTIS	M	2024-06-16	2024-07-07
0639-NC-4	Thurman Lee	DAIL		2011-05-04	2024-07-10
0455-PA-1	George	DANCHIK		2005-12-02	2024-08-19
0888-TN-4	Joe B	DAVIS		2019-10-18	2024-07-17
DML-NC-4	Michael	DAVIS	John	2022-11-24	2024-07-07
0106-CA-6	Gilbert	DE LA PENA		2024-05-23	2024-07-29
0442-AZ-6	August S.	DE WIG		1988-12-07	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	Raymond S.	DEANE		1992-12-01	2024-07-06
0455-PA-1	Sam	DEPE		1999-04-01	2024-08-19

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0385-CA-6	Kenneth G	DESIRELLO		None	2024-07-27
0010-NJ-1	Edward A	DEVISH		2021-04-05	2024-07-04
0442-AZ-6	Francis L.	DICKEY		1999-07-20	2024-07-06
0103-CT-1	Willis F	DIGGS		None	2024-08-15
0729-CA-6	Thomas	DIMPERIO		None	2024-08-08
0527-NJ-1	Thomas J.	DONNELLY		1993-09-05	2024-07-27
0442-AZ-6	Marshall M	DOW		2021-02-06	2024-07-06
0010-NJ-1	Edmund A	DRAZGA		1997-09-29	2024-07-04
0425-GA-4	William R	DRESSER		2016-02-16	2024-07-23
0402-SC-4	John W	DRUMMOND		2016-09-03	2024-07-18
0995-UT-6	Dean A	DU BOIS		None	2024-08-06
DML-CA-6	Joaquin A R	DUENAS		2021-10-25	2024-07-20
0711-NV-6	John J.	DUFFY		None	2024-08-06
0995-UT-6	William J	DUMAS		None	2024-08-06
0442-AZ-6	Gary J.	DUNCAN		2018-12-27	2024-07-06
0729-CA-6	James E	DUTEY		2015-12-31	2024-07-20
0400-FL-4	Byrl	EBERT		1988-11-03	2024-07-10
0995-UT-6	Dale Leslie	EDGMAND		2018-08-26	2024-07-17
0059-CA-6	Howard L	EDWARDS		2015-02-12	2024-07-20
0455-PA-1	Leonard R	ELLIS		1994-03-20	2024-08-19
0385-CA-6	George	EMMETT		None	2024-07-27
0711-NV-6	Lyle R	ENGLE		None	2024-08-06
0442-AZ-6	John F.	ERDMAN		2003-05-16	2024-07-06
0606-OH-2	David T	EVANS		2005-05-25	2024-08-19
0455-PA-1	Robert F.	FARGEL		1992-10-12	2024-08-19
0711-NV-6	George M.	FERRES		None	2024-08-06
0691-AZ-6	Patrick D	FINTON		2019-05-29	2024-07-23
0711-NV-6	Kenneth A	FLETTER		2013-01-23	2024-07-22
DML-CA-6	Michael P	FLORES		2019-08-24	2024-07-20
0621-MO-2	Stephen L	FLOYD		None	2024-08-08
0483-HI-6	Albert	FRANK		None	2024-08-19
0028-NJ-1	Frank G	FRANZINGER		2012-01-18	2024-07-09
0204-CA-6	Lyle A	FRITCHEY		2012-02-15	2024-07-20
DML-NC-4	Merwin P	FULLER		2022-03-22	2024-07-07
DML-CA-6	Mickey	FURSTENBERG		None	2024-07-30
0729-CA-6	Joseph M	GALBAN		2017-07-04	2024-07-20
0176-NM-5	Charles	GALLEGOS		None	2024-08-07
0049-CA-6	Abraham	GAMBITO	A	1991-08-02	2024-07-10
0385-CA-6	Walter C	GARCHOW		None	2024-07-27
0721-IN-2	Frank	GARCIA		2024-08-02	2024-08-15

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0385-CA-6	Bill	GARRISON	J	None	2024-07-27
0455-PA-1	Chilson	GAUDREAU		1992-06-11	2024-08-19
0115-MO-2	Ray M	GEVENS		None	2024-08-20
0759-FL-4	Alfred	GLEICHER		2016-07-05	2024-07-17
0442-AZ-6	Mark	GOLDBERG		2012-02-28	2024-07-06
0059-CA-6	Raymond G	GOMEZ		2020-10-25	2024-07-20
0711-NV-6	Manuel P	GONZALES		None	2024-08-16
DML-CA-6	William	GONZALES		2003-11-03	2024-07-22
0442-AZ-6	Robert D.	GOODRICH		1992-01-15	2024-07-06
0385-CA-6	Kiyo	GOTO		None	2024-07-27
0867-TX-5	Silas M	GRIDER		None	2024-08-06
2216-AL-4	Johnny	GRIFFIN	E	2024-06-26	2024-07-09
0385-CA-6	Everett J	GUGEL		None	2024-07-27
0442-AZ-6	Bob E	GUTHRIE		2019-03-19	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	Terry L	HAASE		2023-01-19	2024-07-06
0483-HI-6	Chester C	HADA		2003-09-03	2024-07-17
0995-UT-6	Robert	HAGENDORF	Stanley	2021-02-08	2024-07-17
DML-OK-5	Joseph C	HAINES		None	2024-08-19
0442-AZ-6	Kenneth O.	HALL		1991-05-29	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	Earl P.	HALLUMS		2012-12-17	2024-07-06
0425-GA-4	Olive J	HALVERSON		2014-11-01	2024-07-17
0181-NJ-1	Arthur	HAMILTON	J	2020-03-25	2024-07-09
0115-MO-2	Russell E	HAMILTON		1999-07-12	2024-08-20
DML-MS-4	Robert C	HAMMOND		2020-07-15	2024-07-17
0995-UT-6	Dennis	HANSEN	George	2020-05-01	2024-07-17
0210-CA-6	Russell V.	HANSEN		1990-12-05	2024-07-10
0995-UT-6	Stillman	HARDING	J	2017-03-23	2024-07-04
0442-AZ-6	John C	HARRISON		1995-08-04	2024-07-06
0995-UT-6	Verlin M	HATCH		2004-06-05	2024-07-05
0442-AZ-6	Charles L.	HATHAWAY		2003-09-21	2024-07-06
0455-PA-1	Steve	HAWRYLAK		2004-04-15	2024-08-19
0442-AZ-6	Frank T	HAZZARD		2006-07-06	2024-07-06
DML-NC-4	Francis	HEALEY	D	2018-09-08	2024-07-07
0442-AZ-6	James M	HEATHERLY		2006-11-07	2024-07-06
DML-CA-6	Daniel C	HELIX		2021-03-09	2024-07-20
1607-VA-1	Ogden H	HILL		2008-09-14	2024-07-15
0115-MO-2	Charles D	HITCHBORN		2023-01-20	2024-08-20
0010-NJ-1	Edward S.	HOE		2005-10-06	2024-07-04
0442-AZ-6	Wilbert S	HOLCK		1999-03-06	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	Samuel T	HOLMES		2018-03-29	2024-07-06

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
DML-PA-1	Glenn E	HOLTZAPPLE		None	2024-08-19
0115-MO-2	Virgil E	HORTON		2009-04-19	2024-08-20
0442-AZ-6	Norbert H.	HUBING		2016-10-08	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	Robert F.	HUGHES		2000-01-09	2024-07-06
1983-PA-1	Clinton H	HUTTON		2015-01-16	2024-07-17
0010-NJ-1	Vincent	HYNES	Thomas	1994-09-17	2024-07-15
0407-WA-3	Sy Sylvester C	IFFERT		2020-05-09	2024-07-18
0204-CA-6	Darris James	IMEL		2015-04-24	2024-07-20
0489-HI-6	John K	IWAMOTO		None	2024-07-30
0483-HI-6	Henry T	IZUKA		None	2024-08-05
DML-IA-2	Willie A.	JARRETT		None	2024-08-08
0442-AZ-6	Horace T	JERALD		2012-12-03	2024-07-06
2202-AL-4	James A	JOHNSON		2017-12-31	2024-07-17
0115-MO-2	Robert L	JOHNSON		2024-03-15	2024-08-20
0455-PA-1	Maurice F	JOINT		1995-11-26	2024-08-19
0442-AZ-6	Thomas Dale	JONES		2007-04-23	2024-07-06
0036-NJ-1	Angelo	JULIANO	Peter	2015-03-10	2024-07-17
DML-CA-6	John L	JUSTICE		2018-02-22	2024-07-20
0455-PA-1	George J	KEELING		2002-10-10	2024-08-19
0442-AZ-6	Marvin H	KEELY		2005-08-26	2024-07-06
0115-MO-2	Maurice D	KELLOGG		2010-05-20	2024-08-20
0606-OH-2	Robert P	KELM		2012-07-17	2024-07-22
1976-MI-2	Timothy E	KEOHANE		None	2024-08-08
0995-UT-6	Hyrum	KING	D	2020-11-26	2024-07-17
0041-MI-2	Walter C	KING		None	2024-08-07
0460-AR-5	Charles	KIRBY	L	2021-03-20	2024-08-11
0472-AZ-6	James A	KITTS		2024-01-28	2024-07-04
0455-PA-1	William H	KOHLER		1996-08-18	2024-08-19
0455-PA-1	Stephen M.	KOVALIK		1998-09-16	2024-08-19
2015-MT-3	Sidney P	KURTH		2009-03-02	2024-07-09
0455-PA-1	John C.	KYLE		1996-07-18	2024-08-19
0731-HI-6	Bernardo	LABASAN		None	2024-08-07
0455-PA-1	Peter	LABASH		2000-06-22	2024-08-19
0455-PA-1	Francis E	LARKIN		2006-04-30	2024-08-19
0483-HI-6	Daniel	LAU		2020-10-21	2024-07-17
0442-AZ-6	William A.	LAUNDENSLAGER		2018-12-03	2024-07-08
0264-NY-1	Thomas R.	LEONARD		None	2024-08-15
0407-WA-3	Harry K	LEROY		2010-12-15	2024-07-17
0711-NV-6	Leonard	LESTER		None	2024-08-06
0442-AZ-6	Joe M.	LEVARIO		2012-08-18	2024-07-06

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0719-NV-6	Ralph	LEVENBERG		None	2024-08-15
0204-CA-6	Alvin	LEWIS	J	2018-01-13	2024-07-20
0115-MO-2	Lloyd D	LEWIS		2008-05-23	2024-08-20
0115-MO-2	Patrick H	LEWIS		2023-09-22	2024-08-20
0366-NJ-1	Richard J	LIMPERT		None	2024-08-06
1985-MI-2	Henry I	LISKE		2011-12-02	2024-07-09
0453-FL-4	James H.	LIVINGSTONE		2001-05-05	2024-07-10
0442-AZ-6	Paul J.	LIVINGSTONE		2001-02-05	2024-07-06
0078-CA-6	John A	LOGAN		2024-05-03	2024-07-23
0759-FL-4	Angelo	LOMBINO	A	2017-07-17	2024-07-22
0455-PA-1	Edward B	LOPES		1998-10-21	2024-08-19
0632-NE-2	Robert M	LOSKILL		2010-10-31	2024-07-18
0142-IL-2	Charles	MACALUSO		None	2024-08-06
0509-ID-3	Donald S	MACBETH		2013-09-14	2024-07-17
0036-NJ-1	Edward H.	MACDONALD		1995-06-29	2024-07-10
0393-TX-5	Gilberto	MACIAS		2018-11-27	2024-07-18
0204-CA-6	Charles L	MAJORS		2013-08-16	2024-07-20
0483-HI-6	Hibbert J	MANLEY		None	2024-08-19
0028-NJ-1	Vincenzo C	MANNINO		2012-05-02	2024-07-15
0711-NV-6	Glenn N	MARTIN		None	2024-08-13
DML-UT-6	Randy T	MARTIN		2020-08-31	2024-07-16
0115-MO-2	David	MASLAN		2001-08-14	2024-08-20
0442-AZ-6	Erique J	MAYER		2018-09-09	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	David B.	MCALPINE		1997-05-22	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	Harry C.	MCCLAIN		2001-11-02	2024-07-07
DML-OK-5	Raymond P	MCDOULETT		2011-02-25	2024-07-10
0264-NY-1	Robert J	MCINTOSH		None	2024-08-15
0400-FL-4	James B	MCKEARNEY		2007-07-11	2024-07-10
0795-FL-4	Daniel P	MCLAUGHLIN		2020-01-31	2024-07-07
0115-MO-2	Robert J	MCMEEKAN		None	2024-08-20
0484-TN-4	James	MCMICKLE		None	2024-07-15
0455-PA-1	Edward C	MCNULTY		1993-10-05	2024-08-19
0711-NV-6	Elmer C	MCWILLIAMS		None	2024-08-06
0059-CA-6	Gerald W	MEADORS		2019-10-18	2024-07-20
0455-PA-1	Andrew J.	MEROLA		1996-06-17	2024-08-19
0442-AZ-6	John	MESICH		2019-01-03	2024-07-06
0711-NV-6	Douglas R	MICHAELSON		None	2024-08-06
0115-MO-2	George W	MILLER		2023-06-11	2024-08-20
0204-CA-6	William H	MILLER		2024-02-13	2024-07-20
1955-LA-5	John B	MINNICK		2012-10-25	2024-07-10

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0455-PA-1	Joseph	MLINAC	F	2023-12-23	2024-08-19
0010-NJ-1	Emil F	MONDOKER		2022-11-25	2024-07-04
0442-AZ-6	Rafael G	MONGE		2016-06-18	2024-07-06
0059-CA-6	Lawrence J	MONROE		2016-08-27	2024-07-20
DML-UT-6	Thomas F	MONTEZ		2021-07-30	2024-07-16
0455-PA-1	John J	MOONEY		2005-04-01	2024-08-19
0442-AZ-6	John P.	MOORE		2003-11-07	2024-07-06
0455-PA-1	Leonard G.	MOORHEAD		2000-05-10	2024-08-19
0455-PA-1	Robert	MORELLI		2006-07-19	2024-08-19
0106-CA-6	George P	MORRIS		2018-03-27	2024-07-10
0442-AZ-6	Ricky L.	MOSOLF		2019-05-06	2024-07-06
0636-NC-4	James J	MULDER		2024-05-24	2024-07-10
0641-OK-5	Orville Oscar	MUNSON		2012-06-14	2024-07-17
0455-PA-1	Joseph	MURRAY		1990-06-17	2024-08-19
0015-CA-6	Frank G.	NADIN		1990-12-27	2024-07-10
0407-WA-3	Richard H	NAITO		2005-05-11	2024-07-15
0455-PA-1	Herman F.	NAWROCKI		1990-07-14	2024-08-19
0115-MO-2	Arthur H	NEBE		2003-06-23	2024-08-20
DML-DK-3	Hiram M	NEIFFER		None	2024-08-12
0194-MN-2	Eugene A	NELSON		2022-03-22	2024-07-22
0442-AZ-6	David	NORKIN		1996-03-19	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	Arthur M	NORTON		2008-02-11	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	Rudolph	NUNEZ		2012-03-12	2024-07-06
0995-UT-6	Terry A	OAKLEY		None	2024-08-06
0010-NJ-1	Arthur	O'BRIEN	G	2011-12-17	2024-07-09
0598-TX-5	Evelio M	ORTIZ		2017-02-03	2024-07-18
0483-HI-6	William C	OSHIRO		None	2024-08-19
0010-NJ-1	Julian M	OSZEYCZIK		2018-02-11	2024-07-09
0719-NV-6	Claude S	OWEN		None	2024-08-13
0442-AZ-6	David S.	PANMAN		1996-10-17	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	Peo A	PANTERA		2010-03-05	2024-07-06
0037-MI-2	Arthur	PAPPAS	G	None	2024-08-07
0385-CA-6	Robert E	PARK		None	2024-07-27
0181-NJ-1	Joseph R	PATAMIA		None	2024-08-15
0204-CA-6	Wilfred A	PATNAUDE		2021-03-11	2024-07-20
0442-AZ-6	Ronald M.	PAVELKA		2001-09-06	2024-07-06
0115-MO-2	Donald L.	PEARSE		2007-12-18	2024-08-20
0995-UT-6	David	PEARSON	B	2022-11-09	2024-07-17
DML-MA-1	William T	PEARSON		2004-04-20	2024-07-27
0489-HI-6	Marcello	PEDRONAN		None	2024-07-30

Chapter	First Name	Last Name	MI	Date Of Death	Date Death Posted
0036-NJ-1	Louis	PEK		2007-06-10	2024-07-22
0442-AZ-6	Walter A	PENFIELD		2013-05-16	2024-07-06
0455-PA-1	Patrick P	PENNETTI		1995-12-22	2024-08-19
0442-AZ-6	George J.	PETERSOHN		2008-10-04	2024-07-06
0460-AR-5	Verlyn	PETERSON	Ray	2021-03-09	2024-08-11
0385-CA-6	William B	PHILEN		None	2024-08-18
0204-CA-6	Donald B	PHILLIPS		2015-11-12	2024-07-20
0059-CA-6	Ralph D.	PICKENS		1995-05-03	2024-07-20
0442-AZ-6	Willis	PIKE		2003-11-25	2024-07-06
0995-UT-6	William G	PINNOCK		2016-04-04	2024-07-04
0524-FL-4	James W	POPE		None	2024-07-22
DML-NC-4	Robert S	PRINCE		2021-12-10	2024-07-10
0442-AZ-6	Ambrose J.	QUINN		1992-07-16	2024-07-06
0417-NY-1	Prisciliano	QUINTERO		1997-09-08	2024-07-10
0731-HI-6	Albert	QUIOCHO		None	2024-08-06
0072-OR-3	Tyler	RADDUE	T	2024-04-19	2024-07-11
0455-PA-1	William	RAMIREZ		1990-11-16	2024-08-19
DML-NC-4	Earl J	RAYBURN		2018-11-14	2024-07-08
DML-UT-6	Donald G	REAVELEY		None	2024-08-13
0795-FL-4	Ernest L	REES		2015-11-26	2024-07-07
0028-NJ-1	Franklin T	REHRIG		2020-04-16	2024-07-18
DML-TX-5	Candido	REYES		2001-01-09	2024-07-18
DML-OK-5	Jimmie L	RHODD		None	2024-08-19
0442-AZ-6	Henry T.	RICHARDS		2017-04-14	2024-07-06
0729-CA-6	Marvin A	RICHARDS		2020-05-31	2024-07-20
DML-WV-2	John U	RIFE		2011-11-28	2024-07-09
0385-CA-6	Joseph A	RINK		None	2024-07-27
DML-NC-4	William P	ROBBINS		2020-10-21	2024-07-07
0442-AZ-6	Gerald F	ROBERTS		1999-09-28	2024-07-06
0244-TN-4	James E.	ROBINETTE		1993-03-08	2024-07-10
0115-MO-2	Joseph E	ROBINSON		2005-09-22	2024-08-20
0204-CA-6	Manuel L	ROCHA		2012-08-13	2024-07-20
0483-HI-6	Stanley E	RODRIGUES		None	2024-08-19
DML-PA-1	Howard H	ROGERS		None	2024-08-19
0115-MO-2	Lloyd N	ROGNAN		2005-02-06	2024-08-20
0442-AZ-6	Galileo B.	ROMO		1998-03-03	2024-07-06
0021-NY-1	Maurice C	ROSCH		None	2024-07-27
0455-PA-1	Stanley	ROZANSKI		2008-01-08	2024-07-04
0442-AZ-6	Kenneth M	RUCKER		2011-07-03	2024-07-06
2929-CA-6	Jack Arden	RUFFER		2018-01-04	2024-08-19

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0204-CA-6	Fred E	RUNNELLS		2014-12-11	2024-07-20
0393-TX-5	Billie	RUNYAN	N	None	2024-08-06
0634-NC-4	Harrison F	RUZICKA		2024-04-03	2024-07-23
0417-NY-1	Harvey	SACKS		2021-02-13	2024-07-09
0442-AZ-6	Rudolph R.	SAFFER		1999-03-16	2024-07-06
0995-UT-6	Clinton R	SAGERS		2009-07-05	2024-07-05
0036-NJ-1	Pasquale J	SALERNO		2000-08-09	2024-07-10
0204-CA-6	Theodore L	SALISBURY		2020-07-24	2024-07-20
0888-TN-4	Ervin E	SANDERS		None	2024-08-08
DML-UT-6	Ira L	SAVAGE		2016-12-06	2024-07-16
1966-NM-5	Jose A	SAVEDRA		None	2024-08-06
0455-PA-1	Dominic D	SCHELL		1995-10-08	2024-08-19
0442-AZ-6	James J.	SCHNITZER		2015-02-22	2024-07-06
1916-IN-2	Albert	SCHUMAN	John	2014-10-05	2024-07-17
0995-UT-6	Van	SESSIONS	L	2020-01-19	2024-07-17
0455-PA-1	James P.	SHEARER		2004-11-10	2024-08-19
0535-FL-4	Edward C	SHEFFIELD		2024-07-20	2024-08-19
0122-MD-1	Alfred	SHEHAB	H M	2020-12-12	2024-07-18
0632-NE-2	Doris	SHUPE		2018-08-03	2024-07-18
0417-NY-1	Samuel	SINGER		2012-05-26	2024-07-09
0103-CT-1	Alexander	SINSKIE	J	None	2024-08-16
DML-NC-4	Clyde H	SIZEMORE		2017-12-19	2024-07-08
0115-MO-2	Clifford P	SLAYTON		2003-01-19	2024-08-20
0524-FL-4	Chester B	SMITH		2024-04-02	2024-07-18
DML-MA-1	Earl W.	SMITH		1995-01-22	2024-07-15
0366-NJ-1	James	SMITH	L	2008-03-18	2024-07-06
0489-HI-6	Joseph Q	SMITH		None	2024-07-30
0455-PA-1	Robert M	SMITH		2001-10-17	2024-08-19
DML-UT-6	Stanton F	SMITH		2012-10-12	2024-07-16
0366-NJ-1	Thoms J	SMITH		None	2024-08-06
DML-NC-4	Jimmy D	SNOW		2021-11-19	2024-07-08
DML-DK-3	Robert D	SOHRT		None	2024-08-12
0316-FL-4	Robert A	SPELMAN		2011-02-11	2024-07-09
0442-AZ-6	Anthony	SPERA	Duane	2011-06-29	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	James N	ST JOHN		2017-02-10	2024-07-06
0056-MN-2	Martin A	STEINBACH		2010-06-24	2024-07-17
DML-UT-6	Ben	STROHM	R	None	2024-07-30
0729-CA-6	Allen	SUGHRUE	P	2020-12-16	2024-07-20
0010-NJ-1	George F	SWAN		2011-11-11	2024-07-04
0268-MN-2	Harley E	SWENSON		2020-11-30	2024-07-09

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0455-PA-1	Fran V	TANYER		2007-01-20	2024-08-19
0115-MO-2	Lester H.	TAYLOR		1992-01-01	2024-08-20
0059-CA-6	Stan Art	TERRY		2010-06-14	2024-07-20
0442-AZ-6	Michael E.	THAANUM		1999-10-06	2024-07-06
DML-OK-5	Billy	THOMAS	C	None	2024-08-19
0442-AZ-6	George	THOMAS		2015-01-25	2024-07-06
0612-TX-5	Harry A	THOMPSON		2011-08-02	2024-07-10
0115-MO-2	Ralph G	THORNTON		2004-01-03	2024-08-20
0995-UT-6	Don V	TIBBS		2016-11-20	2024-07-04
0204-CA-6	William A	TIFFANY		2022-09-21	2024-07-20
0010-NJ-1	John S	TOMAS		2014-09-07	2024-07-09
0711-NV-6	Vito A	TOMEIO		2014-03-25	2024-07-10
0995-UT-6	Roy	TORGESON	R	2018-03-01	2024-07-17
0078-CA-6	John W	TROTTER		2024-03-01	2024-07-23
0442-AZ-6	Victor W	TROUTMAN		2013-09-28	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	Alejandro	TRUJILLO		2010-10-02	2024-07-06
0442-AZ-6	Duane P.	ULRICH		2021-01-06	2024-07-06
0305-OR-3	Wesley R	UPTON		2008-10-14	2024-07-17
0455-PA-1	Americo J.	VALICENTI		1995-01-10	2024-08-19
0696-FL-4	Ivan J	VANDERPOOL		2013-11-08	2024-07-10
0460-AR-5	William T	VAUGHT		2019-02-05	2024-08-11
0385-CA-6	Frederick L	VERDERBER		None	2024-07-27
0115-MO-2	William T.	VETTER		1992-04-28	2024-08-20
0204-CA-6	Fred G	VILLANUEVA		2017-03-20	2024-07-20
0455-PA-1	William P.	VISNICH		2001-12-20	2024-08-19
0442-AZ-6	Harold E	WADLEY		2018-08-20	2024-07-06
0018-MI-2	Varge	WAGNER		2014-03-14	2024-07-10
0460-AR-5	Dwayne R	WALKER		2021-12-01	2024-08-11
0607-VA-1	Allen	WESELESKEY	E	2024-07-10	2024-07-10
0509-ID-3	David E	WEST		1999-07-30	2024-07-17
0244-TN-4	Edward T	WEST		2020-10-22	2024-07-09
0244-TN-4	Layton L	WIDNER		1995-10-11	2024-07-15
0542-TX-5	Woodruff F	WILKERSON		None	2024-07-27
0723-TX-5	Willard W	WILKES		2019-02-01	2024-07-18
0719-NV-6	William P	WILLETT		None	2024-08-06
DML-WV-2	Berlin	WILLIAMS	E	2005-02-10	2024-07-10
1863-WV-2	Howard E.	WILLIAMS		2005-03-09	2024-07-15
0059-CA-6	Winston A	WILLIAMS		2021-02-14	2024-07-20
0529-PA-1	George R	WILSON		2012-08-22	2024-07-17
0385-CA-6	William K	WOODS		None	2024-07-27

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0385-CA-6	Robert C	WRIGHT		None	2024-07-27
0442-AZ-6	John	WUKOVITS		2012-09-28	2024-07-06
0204-CA-6	Malcolm S	WYCKOFF		2009-10-04	2024-07-20
0442-AZ-6	Eugene C.	ZABEL		2021-11-23	2024-07-06
DML-UT-6	Teddy J	ZAMBOS		None	2024-08-13