



THE PURPLE HEARTBEAT
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS' NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S VETERANS' DAY MESSAGE

On Veterans' Day throughout the nation, at events and parades large and small, members of the Order and our Auxiliary made special efforts to honor veterans, their families and loved ones. For many, the efforts involved hours of planning and preparations in hosting events, marching or driving in parades, serving coffee or meals at veterans' homes and facilities, driving many miles to events and bringing along those who might not otherwise have been able to participate . . . and many more examples of sacrificing for others.

Our Order is honored and blessed by your efforts to honor those who served with us, who served prior to us, who served after us, and who continue to serve our nation, our neighbors, and our families.

Thank you and God Bless America!
Jim Sims



THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH EXCEPT AUGUST. ALL ADJUTANTS AND COMMANDERS RECEIVE A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER. ADJUTANTS RECEIVE THE SPECIFIC CHAPTER/DEPARTMENT INFORMATION.

ALSO ENCLOSED:

- CHAPTERS: Oct. 2009 Roster of Monthly Changes; Full Roster; AM Delinquent Report (if any)
Departments: Oct. 2009 Membership Status Report, Chapters Roster of Monthly Changes; Full Roster; AM Delinquent Report (if any)

MARCH ON THE HILL

February 8-12, 2010, Monday evening through Friday, will be the 6th Annual MOPH March-on-the-Hill, when MOPH Patriots travel to Washington DC to speak with their Senators and Representatives regarding important issues affecting Veterans and their families. Department Commanders should mark their calendars and start planning to select who will be the best representatives for this event. More information and details will be forthcoming.



Patriots make a very dramatic impact on the Hill by being in the same uniform. All participants should wear the following version of the MOPH uniform:

- Overseas Cap (fore and aft)
Dark Blue Blazer with full size Purple Heart Medal on left lapel
White Shirt
Purple Heart Necktie
Medium Gray Slacks
Black Shoes

[See next page for availability and cost of uniform items from the Supply Store]

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NATIONAL ADJUTANT'S CALL . . .

- ◆ **Veterans' Day Activities.** MOPH HQ deeply appreciates all the e-mails and photos describing various Veterans Day activities and MOPH/LAMOPH participation.
- In the Washington DC area, HQ and the Departments of Virginia and Maryland teamed to cover as many celebrations and observances as possible. While National Commander Sims and LAMOPH President Gilliard sat with President Obama for a White House breakfast, other MOPH members laid wreaths at the WWII and Korean War memorials.
- Commander Sims and President Gilliard represented MOPH at the Tomb of the Unknown and at Arlington National Cemetery with a MOPH Color Guard captained by Member/Korean War Veteran Al Ortiz.
- National Service Director Frank Van Hoy and Operations Manager Dennis Jenkins participated in wreath laying ceremonies at the Vietnam Wall Memorial.
- ◆ **New Website.** Check out the newly launched MOPH website - it's a beauty! Many thanks to MIS John Lloyd for his software expertise and creativity.
- ◆ **AVC.** During the period 13-14 November, MOPH members will participate in and support the annual **American Veterans' Conference** in Washington DC. Members Dennis Wallot, Boyd Barclay, Mike Ali, Al Ortiz, and John Bircher were selected to sit on AVC's **Purple Heart Panel** presented on Saturday, November 14, at the US Navy Memorial before an audience of veteran attendees and senior government officials.

Yours in Patriotism,
Jack Leonard

SUPPLY STORE

Note: The following items can be purchased from the Supply Store until 15 December:

- Ties: 3 types \$19.95 to \$22.00
- Bullion patch \$25.00
- Purple Heart Medal (full size) \$20.00
- Name tag \$7.00

Overseas/Uniform caps can be ordered from:

Keystone Uniform Cap
801 North Front Street
Philadelphia PA 191123
Tel: 215-922-5493



MOPH LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE



On 11 November 2009, the day that honors all veterans, the *Military Order of the Purple Heart* launched a completely revised website which you can visit at the same address, www.purpleheart.org. It has new formats, more photos, additional features, and is easier to navigate.

The revised site was made possible by a grant from the *Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation* which allowed purchase of design and software services from American Eagle, one of the more capable firms in website design. MOPH HQ worked for months with American Eagle to ensure that the new site meets both current and future needs of the Order. Please visit our new site and send your comments to: webmaster@purpleheart.org.



WWII MEMORIES



“I was on submarine duty in the Pacific in the year 1943. We were in the area off the coast of the Philippines. I remember a complete turkey dinner on Thanksgiving. While the turkeys were cooking, the submarine had to dive. We went down too steeply and the turkeys fell out of the oven onto the deck. The cook picked them up and put them back into the oven—and we ate them, regardless of what may have gotten on them as a result of their fall. That meat was good!” [Stanley Collins, US Navy]

“On Thanksgiving day in 1944, we had a Thanksgiving dinner on the front lines. The field kitchen crew had set up two tables in a clearing in the forest. There was a big bowl of turkey and dressing and a smaller bowl of other fixings. After we ate they put the tables back at the edge of the forest. Several days later, the Germans starting shooting a cannon out of a small tank. The first shot hit the big bowl that had been left on the table, and the second shot hit the other bowl.” [Murray Stevens, US Army]

**WE WISH ALL PATRIOTS AND THEIR FAMILIES A
WARM AND WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING!**

From all of us at MOPH Headquarters

A MEMBER OWNED COMPANY - ONE OF A SERIES

PYLON TELECOM SOLUTIONS

Pylon Telecom Solutions (PTS) is owned by Patriot George Rapciewicz, a member since 2006 and part of Chapter 0493, Vista CA. **PTS** is a certified Disabled Veteran Owned Business and Small Disadvantaged Business that specializes in formal project management, risk management, and telecommunications services, with special expertise in fiber optics. George states that his mission is to provide clients with the best possible service available, meet or exceed expectations, and develop relationships based on trust, customer service, quality of work performed, and to have clients feel that they can depend on **PTS** to get the job done when called upon again. No matter how big or small your project is, your requirements will be taken seriously and handled with the utmost importance and priority.

PTS is located in Spring Valley CA, San Diego County, just 12 miles east of downtown San Diego. E-mail: info@pylontelecom.com. Phone: (619) 663-7508



NOTE: Owner Members wishing to have their companies mentioned in the **Newsletter** should send details to the National Adjutant, jleonard@purpleheart.org. Please include your website.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING VETERANS – ONE OF SERIES

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA (VVA)

Founded in 1978 as a lobbying group that became a membership organization in 1979, **VVA** is the only national Vietnam Veterans Service Organization (VSO) congressionally chartered and exclusively *dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families*. VVA is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and is tax exempt. In 1983, VVA set up its Vietnam Veterans of America Legal Services (VVALS) to provide assistance to veterans seeking benefits and services from the government. VVALS soon became one of the most competent and aggressive legal assistance programs available to veterans and wrote the widely acclaimed *Viet Vet Survival Guide*, with more than 150,000 copies now in print.

VVA claims to have over 50,000 individual members, with 46 state councils helping to administer 630 local chapters. Membership is open to veterans who served on active duty in Vietnam; Membership fees are \$20 for 1-year, \$50 for 3-years, and life memberships run from \$150 to \$250, dependent on your age. The VVA National Organization keeps less than half of membership dues; the rest stays at the state and local level to support programs and services for veterans and their families.

VVA is funded primarily by various fund-raising activities and its membership. One of the most visible programs is the nationwide mail requests for clothing and household goods, usually accompanied by a plastic bag to be filled, that can be picked up by trucks scheduled by phone. VVA sells its donations through a bidding process to qualified retailers. VVA also accepts donations of automobiles. However, it discourages cash donations. [Website: www.vva.org]

ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA (AVVA)

AVVA is a separate national, non-profit membership and service organization dedicated to advancing the full range of issues affecting Vietnam veterans, their families, and their communities. However, it is affiliated with the VVA, and they join VVA chapters in outreach and assistance to veterans. AVVA began as a group of members within VVA, but became independent in 1999 as its scope of activities grew, all under the VVA umbrella. Like the VVA, AVVA is organized into State Associations that have local Chapters under them. In 2009, AVVA was recognized by the VA as a National Organization which will be able to use accredited service officers to assist in the preparation and process of benefit claims for veterans and eligible family members. This means that AVVA will have an NSO network, probably collocated at VA facilities. [Website: www.avva.org]

TAX DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPT LETTER

Chapters and Departments now have a form letter to acknowledge receipt of cash donations. The sample letter can be downloaded from the website by going to **Members** on the first page, click on **Download Forms and Documents** to reach the **MOPH Forms Directory**. Look under **Most Popular** and you'll see "**Thank You for Your Donation Letter Template.**" You can download this sample and then adjust it for your Chapter or Department by putting it on your unit stationary, leaving a blank space for date and donor details (name, address), changing the reference data to reflect your Department and Chapter number and your assigned EIN number – don't use the one in the sample letter. If you don't have a lot of clerical support, the letters can be printed and signed, leaving space to write in the donor and date at time of donation. You are urged to use this letter to encourage cash donations and help keep internal records of gifts.



CHAPTER AND DEPARTMENT REBATES

The chapter and department life membership rebate checks are being mailed with this Newsletter. If your chapter adjutant properly filed a Life Membership Verification Form by October 1, 2009, a check will be sent. Departments receive LM rebates for all chapters within their jurisdiction who submitted the LM Verification Form on time. Departments also receive rebates for their DMLs, if the Department filed its own LM Verification Form on time. A list of chapters and departments receiving LM Rebate checks was published in the October 2009 Newsletter.



ONLINE ACCESS FOR OFFICERS

Access to the membership data online are restricted to certain positions. The positions are: National Commander, National Sr. Vice, National Jr. Vice, National Adjutant, Region Commander, Department Commander, Department Sr. Vice Commander, Department Jr. Vice Commander, Department Adjutant, Chapter Commander, Chapter Sr. Vice Commander, Chapter Jr. Vice Commander, and Chapter Adjutant. National Commander and National Adjutant level positions have access to national data. Region level positions have access to region data. Department level positions have access to dept data and Chapter level positions have access to chapter data. The reports available for download and printing are Roster, Mailing List, Historical Roster, Current Annual Members, Current Taps Report.



Request for access is done by visiting the website, www.purpleheart.org. Click on "Members." On that page, click on the indicator on the 3rd paragraph to submit a request. Please provide your full name, member ID and email address.

THE SUPPLY ROOM

Recruiting and Americanism Items

The much preferred method to obtain Recruiting & Americanism items is to log on to the **MOPH website**; put your cursor on **Members** to expose a menu and click on **Download Forms & Documents** which brings you to the **MOPH Forms Directory**. Look under **Supply Room Forms for Americanism Order Form** and follow the instructions. Please pay attention to which items may be out of stock or have a quantity restriction. By using this much faster method it will make it easier for the Supply Room employees to respond quickly and accurately to your needs. It will also eliminate paperwork, stamps and/or phone calls for the member making the request and create a clear and easy method to record member requirements for future orders. If you have any questions or other concerns, please contact the National Americanism Officer, Ron Siebels, at ronakph@gci.net.

Medals of America is Coming

As announced on our new website, November 11, 2009, Medals of America will be assuming the role of maintaining and processing orders of a majority of the merchandise that we used to carry. We look forward to partnering with such a distinguished and well run organization as MOA. We appreciate your patience as we transition to the new program. The MOPH Supply Room will still be here, just in a slimmed down capacity. We will continue to offer certain items not available at Medals of America. As always, we look forward to serving your needs now and in the future.



Planning to visit your store? Call ahead so we can better serve you! Phone: 703-642-5360 and make an appointment to shop with Jennifer, our Supply Assistant. Please remember to bring your check book or cash as we currently are unable to process credit cards on site. Her e-mail? supply@purpleheart.org.

We would also like to remind members that the Supply Store closes for the holidays effective COB 15th December.

UPCOMING MOPH EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2009

- 12-14 AMERICAN VETERANS' CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON DC
 18-19 MOPH SERVICE FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING, ORLANDO FL
 26 THANKSGIVING
 27 MOPH HQ CLOSED

DECEMBER 2009

- 07 PEARL HARBOR DAY
 24 MOPH HQ CLOSED
 25 CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 2010

- 01 NEW YEAR'S DAY. HQ CLOSED
 18 MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY. HQ CLOSED

FEBRUARY 2010

- 8-12 MARCH ON THE HILL
 15 PRESIDENT'S DAY. HQ CLOSED
 16 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE
 22 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

MARCH 2010

- 4 COMMANDER'S TESTIMONY TO JOINT VETERANS AFFAIRS
 COMMITTEE, WASH DC
 20 NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MID-YEAR MEETING, CHICAGO IL
 21-26 ANNUAL NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE TRAINING, ORLANDO FL
 27 NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP MEETING, ST LOUIS MO

APRIL 2010

- 30 LEADERSHIP EXECUTIVE MEETING, SEATTLE WA [BEGINS]

MAY 2010

- 01 LEADERSHIP EXECUTIVE MEETING, SEATTLE WA [ENDS]
 TBA DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS
 31 MEMORIAL DAY. HQ CLOSED

JUNE 2010

- TBA DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS

JULY 2010

- 10 NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE FY 2011 BUDGET MTG, ARL VA

AUGUST 2010

- 07 PURPLE HEART DAY
 10-14 2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION, ORLANDO FL

FUTURE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

- 2011 NATIONAL CONVENTION, ST PAUL MN AUGUST 9-13, 2011
 2012 NATIONAL CONVENTION, SCOTTSDALE AZ AUGUST 7-11, 2012

COMBAT-WOUNDED VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

5413-B BACKLICK ROAD
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151

Phone: 703-642-5360

Fax: 703-642-2054

E-mail: info@purpleheart.org

HQ STAFF PROFILE

Carole Rhodes, who joined us in August 2009, is our new *Receptionist* and it's her voice that most of you hear when you call MOPH HQ. In



addition to handling a high volume of incoming telephone calls and mail, she also provides vital assistance to both the book-keeping and membership departments. Carole came to us after seven years as a receptionist/administrative assistant with the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation so she is well acquainted with the MOPH operations and its mission. Prior to the MOPH work, she was a receptionist for Sports and Health Club Headquarters. Carole lives in Annandale, a community next to Springfield where HQ is located, giving her a relatively short commute to work. She has an interesting array of hobbies that include ice figure skating, swimming and reading. Carole has two grown daughters, Michelle and Diane, and three granddaughters, Skye, Felicity, and Melissa. Always positive and energetic, Carole is an invaluable asset to this HQ and all of MOPH.

WHAT HAPPENED IN PAST NOVEMBERS!

1918 - WW I ended with signing of Armistice. **1962** - President Kennedy lifted blockade of Cuba. **1964** - China tests first nuclear bomb. **1989** - Fall of Berlin Wall began when crossing points opened. **2001** - Taliban removed from power in Afghanistan.