



# Military Order of the Purple Heart

## Department of Pennsylvania

For Combat Wounded Veterans, "In War there is no substitute for Victory".



### MOPH December 2010 Department of Pennsylvania News Bulletin

*From all of us to all of you, "Happy Holidays"*

*This story is unbelievable and this family needs our help!*

**TITLE: CAPT. PHILLP ESPOSITO AND LT. LOU ALLEN KIA JUNE 7, 2005.**

**Please take the time to READ THEIR STORY, AND SIGN THEIR PETITION. After doing so, you'll be forwarded to a Donations Page for the Site that is handling the Petition, you may donate if you wish, but you don't have to.**

PATRIOTS,

I MET Barb Allen [www.unconventionalenemy.com](http://www.unconventionalenemy.com) AT HER BOOK SIGNING IN WARWICK NY A FEW DAYS AGO. HER STORY BREAKS MY HEART, PLEASE READ THE PETITION AT, [www.ipetitions.com/petition/1stltlouallen/](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/1stltlouallen/), AND GO TO HER WEBSITE. FIND OUT ABOUT HER STORY. I HAVE 10 COPIES HER BOOK AND IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE LET ME KNOW.

IF YOU COULD SIGN AND PASS AROUND THIS PETITION IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. I HAVE SPOKEN WITH MOPH NATIONAL COMMANDER JONES AND HE TOLD ME IT WOULD BE OK TO GO WITH IT. FOR MORE INFO CONTACT, [www.lourules.com/](http://www.lourules.com/).

Our families have been blessed with the support of countless people over these years. When Lou was killed, friends and strangers came forward to console and care for us. A group of Vietnam Veterans, whom I had never met before, showed up at my home to repair the scene of a demolition job a contractor had left us with, so that I may accommodate the influx of people in my home during those weeks. These men would not accept payment, and stated only that Lou was their brother. Neighbors, strangers, and friends lined my street for a candlelight vigil. Collection cans materialized as people offered donations to my children's fund.

During the years of attending pre-trial proceedings, we continued to be supported by a community of people who refused to let us feel as if we were alone. And after the verdict, the same community mourned again with us. Now, since I have released my book and the effort to secure a Purple Heart has escalated, we are again feeling the encouragement and strength from people across the country.

Laurene Sandstrom, Lou's sister, is the driving force behind this petition. Without her, this effort would not be the success it is today. While Phil's widow opposes the campaign, Phil's mother and sister feel as strongly about it as we do, and joined with Laurene long before I did to see this happen. They would like to secure the Purple Heart for Phillip, and will accept it when it is refused by his widow. To date, we have approximately 5,000 signatures since the petition began one month ago. Our goal is 10,000 but we absolutely welcome more. The petition is online and takes only a moment to sign. It can also be found at [www.lourules.com](http://www.lourules.com), which leads you to Lt. Allen's Memorial Page.

There, you may print it and sign it the old-fashioned way. Then, fill the page with signatures and mail it in to the address on the site.

**For those who question our motive for seeking to have this honor bestowed, allow me to explain.**

1. Lou was killed in Iraq. He was killed with a claymore mine, a device that was aimed at him and Phillip, and sent 700 steel ball bearings exploding to them at a frightening speed. He lived for several hours, conscious and in pain, worried for his family and for Phillip. His death was absolutely hostile.

2. Lou lost his life - no more baseball games, birthday parties, or tomorrows. He shared with me once his fear that he would die young and his children would forget him. He and his children are entitled to a legacy that has so far been denied.

3. The government has thus far failed to hold anyone accountable either for the murders, the botched court case, or the manner in which our families were prevented from the opportunity to see justice through a plea bargain. While we know Martinez killed them, the government failed to convict him. Therefore, the government clings to the known, or conventional enemy, (In this case an Iraqi) has not been disproved by the system the decision makers are using to deny this honor. Either publicly declare Martinez to be the killer, admit the system failed, or show some other evidence that the enemy they acknowledge did not kill him. Obviously we seek to see the government confront its failure and take steps to ensure these mistakes are not repeated.

4. Declaring a soldier who willfully inflicts harm or death upon a fellow soldier to be an Unconventional Enemy of our nation will confront the cancer within the ranks. Soldiers will be trained to recognize warning signs as credible, and act accordingly. Lives will be saved and families spared the agony ours has endured. Why anyone would question the merit of saving lives is incomprehensible.

5. The government has offered no official statement about our case, other than Eric Durr, the spokesman, stating the verdict proves the justice system worked. To be clear, this is not a campaign filled with malice or bitterness. We are under no illusion that a medal will bring Lou back or serve as a magic wand to erase the pain. Rather, we seek to secure for Lou, as Phil's mother and sister seek for Phillip, a rightful place in the pages of history. We could not be prouder of the people who have stood beside us, to include the Vietnam Veteran who was so moved by our story that he sent me his own Purple Heart, inscribed with Lou's name.

My children know what happened to their father. They know this honor won't bring him back or solve our problems, yet they share our desire to see their father honored. To walk in the Purple Heart Museum and see their dad's name with the others. I hope to show them that in spite of all that has happened, our country is a great one. The people standing by us are helping me to instill patriotism within my boys that would make their dad proud.

Holding their dad's Purple Heart in their hands will do nothing but good things for my children. And when they are grown, they will never question why we did nothing to restore his legacy, protect those who serve now and later, and seek accountability.

**SEMPER FI**

**PATRIOT BRUCE BOICE, VETERANS ADVOCATE**

**MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, PA. SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**

**PENNSYLVANIA FIRST RESPONDER CHAIRMAN**

**CHAPTER #170 CHAPLIN**

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## ARLINGTON CEMETERY, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

Answer: 21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honor given to any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

Answer: 21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1.

3. Why are his gloves wet?

Answer: His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?

Answer: He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed?

Answer: Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

Answer: For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb. The Serviceperson must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and their waist size cannot exceed 30. They must commit 2 years of life to guard the Tomb, live in a barracks under the Tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the Tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin. The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror. The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred.

Among the notables are President Taft, Joe Lewis {the boxer}, Medal of Honor recipient Audie L. Murphy.

ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC. The US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir". Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm they said that, "Guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson."

The Tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

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## **Veterans' Bill of Rights Passed by House**

Week of December 13, 2010.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently voted to approve legislation to address the unique medical concerns of women veterans, and injured and amputee veterans. H.R. 5953 requires that all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities post a bill of rights as a way to bolster the consistency of VA care and address gaps in care reported by these veteran patient populations. The bill would also instruct the VA to inform veterans and educate employees at each VA prosthetics and orthotics clinic of the Injured and Amputee Veterans' Bill of Rights. H.R. 5953 as amended is available on the,

[House Committee on Veterans' Affairs website.](#)