



THE PURPLE HEARTBEAT
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS' NEWSLETTER

HEADQUARTERS STAFF WISHES ALL PATRIOTS WONDERFUL HOLIDAYS AND A SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR!



THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH EXCEPT AUGUST, BUT ONLY IN DIGITAL FORMAT. ALL ADJUTANTS AND COMMANDERS WILL RECEIVE A DIGITAL COPY VIA EMAIL. IT ALSO CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE MOPH WEBSITE AND PRINTED FOR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION.

Inside this issue:

Back Row (L-R): Michele Keith, Michael Viviano, Karin Romney, Stewart McKeown, John Lloyd, Adele Tourtellott, Jim Richards, Bob Reny
Middle Row: Ana Marquez, Jennifer Pereyra, Carole Rhodes, Pick Thichongthong, Carolyn Frazee, Anne Beal
Front Row: Frank Van Hoy, John Leonard, Casey Nottage
Missing: Joyce Woo, Vince Candida, David Ahee

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NATIONAL ADJUTANT'S CALL . . .

Life Member Rebate Checks. Will be sent in the next few days.

2012 March on the Hill. The Spring March on the Hill is still being considered, but a firm schedule will depend on Congressional scheduling to be announced in Jan 2012 and our budget.

'The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated.' So said Mark Twain when his demise was erroneously reported. And we must say the same about Patriot Anthony Mello, Chapter 0204, CA, whose death we also reported erroneously - our deepest apologies to both Patriot Mello and his family.

Past National Commander Robert Schroeder. Patriot Schroeder died 5 August 2011. HQ only recently learned the details of his passing. Bob was National Commander in 1953 and a Member of Chapter 0096, WI. We extend our sincerest condolences to his family.

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## **NATIONAL ADJUTANT'S CALL . . . [Continued]**

**Cell Phones For Soldiers.** It is critical to MOPH receipt of phone calling cards from this program that MOPH get credit for the used cell phones submitted. To get the proper mailing labels that will give MOPH credit for your submissions, Departments and Chapters must register as cell phone collectors before sending the phones. Go to the MOPH Website, click on "Cell Phone For Soldiers," click on "Donate a Gently Used Phone," click on "All Other Visitors (red block at bottom), click on "4 or more" under "Select," click on "would like to become a CPFS collector," and follow the instructions for registration. Once registered, you then can request mailing labels that will credit your contributions to MOPH. You also might consider holding cell phone collection fairs to gather phones in significant quantities or working long-term collection with local merchants.

**Patriot Charles "Chuck" Lear.** Be sure to read about Marine Veteran Lear in the November/December 2011 edition of the VVA Veterans Magazine, "Just You And The Target – Chuck Lear's Archery Triumphs." Lear, a double amputee from Vietnam action in 1966, is one of the finest archers in the world. He joined MOPH in 1993 and is a member of Chapter 0115, MO.

**WWII Patriots Are Passing in greater numbers.** Each day's mail brings us more death notices on WWII members. This one caught my eye the other day: William John "Pete" LaFitte of Chapter 0351, LA, died on November 1, 2011; he died peacefully in his sleep at home with his wife by his side. He served in the Army Air Corps, was captured in the Philippines, was a Japanese POW for three and one-half years and a survivor of the Bataan Death March. Patriot LaFitte joined MOPH in 2000 and had two Purple Hearts among his awards.

**Patriot Al Ortiz @ Arlington Cemetery.** The November Newsletter inadvertently omitted the wonderful effort by Patriot Al Ortiz and his wife Val at Arlington Cemetery on Veteran's Day. The Park Service originally reported that there was no PH Wreath for National Commander Bill Hutton and National President Barbara Cherone to lay at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. Subsequent to the completion of formal ceremonies, Al and Val "found" the MOPH Wreath and did thereby arrange to formally lay the MOPH Wreath at the Tomb. WELL DONE, Al & Val.

**STOLEN VALOR Update.** MOPH is among the 25 organizations representing millions of veterans who have filed AMICUS briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold a federal law making it a crime to falsely claim receiving a military award for valor. The case pits First Amendment rights of free speech against allowing impersonators to erode the meaning and prestige of military medals. Oral arguments, *United States v. Alvarez*, are planned for sometime in 2012.

**MOPH and USAA.** We have been approached by USAA to provide MOPH with future possibilities of additional revenue sources. Will advise on further developments.

**Purple Heart Magazine Cover to be in VA Vet Center Calendar on Montford Point Marines.** See page 4.

**Thank you.** Another Christmas and another year ending for all of us – with varying pluses and minuses. One of the major pluses in this position is the outstanding support that I receive from both the leadership and the Members of the Order. I could not do the job without it and I thank all of you for such thoughtful responsive efforts. May you and your families have warm, healthy and memorable holidays.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Jack Leonard



**SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX (SSDI)** is no longer available - it's been removed from Social Security's website. It was an invaluable tool to confirm deaths and will be missed.



2012  
*National Convention*  
Scottsdale, Arizona

## Convention Book Advertising

<u>AD SIZE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>AD CONTACT INFORMATION</u>	<u>MEDIA FORMAT</u>
Full Page	\$ 275	David Alegria P.O. Box 132 Tucson, Arizona 85702 Email: <a href="mailto:peacefulheart70@hotmail.com">peacefulheart70@hotmail.com</a> Phone: 520-247-5988 Make checks out to: Military Order of the Purple Heart	Color or Black & White PDF, PowerPoint, Word, Illustrator or EPS
Half Page	\$ 150		
Quarter Page	\$ 100		Convention Book Size 8 1/2 x 11

### ADVERTISER CONTACT INFORMATION

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## PANEL FINDS TREATMENT FOR BRAIN INJURY LACKS EVIDENCE

Techniques being used to treat traumatic brain injuries (TBI), the signature wounds suffered by troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, appear to be helpful but lack rigorous scientific support, a government-appointed panel recently reported after completing the most comprehensive analysis of the evidence to date.



The new report, done by the Institute of Medicine at the request of the Department of Defense, concluded that some specific methods - the use of special daily diaries, for instance, to improve memory - were backed by more evidence than others. But overall the field was short of both good research and decent standards to administer treatments or measure their effects.

Some 20 percent of service members wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan have suffered blows to the face, neck, or head and the number of brain injuries has nearly tripled in the past decade to more than 30,000 from 11,000.

The panel rated two types of treatment, one focused on memory and the other on social skills, as having a “modest” evidence base. It rated other techniques - for sharpening organizational skills, sustaining focus or improving overall functioning - lower still, with only a hint of evidence to back them up. The researchers found no evidence that any treatment led to enduring, long-term improvements.

As a rule, therapists do not begin intensive cognitive rehab until months after an injury, to give brain tissue a chance to heal, but the molecular processes underlying this repair are not very well understood.

This should change with time. The report lists more than two dozen large trials underway or about to start, through the Department of Defense, VA or other government agencies. The agencies have set up a data-sharing system—the first step toward standardization in a field that, all experts agree, needs to grow up fast. (Excerpted from New York Times, 10/12/2011)

## PURPLE HEART MAGAZINE COVER TO BE INCLUDED IN CALENDAR HONORING MONTFORD POINT MARINES

The VA Readjustment Counseling Service (The Vet Centers) is creating a 2012/2013 calendar that honors the more than 20,000 black Marine recruits that were trained from 1942 to 1949 at Camp Montford Point, Jacksonville NC (near Camp



Lejeune—an all-white facility at the time). The cover of MOPH's March/April 2011 *Purple Heart Magazine*, which featured a photo of two Montford Point Marines being decorated with Purple Heart Medals for wounds received in the Battle of Saipan, will be part of the Calendar. The Calendar will be available

at over 300 Vet Centers across the country when released and members can get a copy there until supplies run out.

The Montford Marines were honored in November 2011 with a Congressional Gold Medal and a National Montford Point Marine Memorial project is underway to be located at the Lejeune Memorial Gardens, corner of Montford Landing Road and Highway 24. For additional details on the Montford Marines, go to the Montford Point Marine Association Inc. website ([www.Montfordpointmarines.com](http://www.Montfordpointmarines.com)). The Association also runs the Montford Point Marine Museum, a collection of photographs and artifacts, at Camp Johnson near Jacksonville NC. Camp Johnson is located on the original training site.



## THE AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE MEMORIAL

This new Memorial, honoring all veterans who were permanently disabled while serving in the United States Armed Forces, will command an impressive two acre site in full view of the United States Capitol, adjacent to the National Mall, and across from Independence Avenue and the United States Botanic Garden.



Project Executive Barry Owenby recently presented a status report on the Memorial:

- 1998. Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, established to raise the funds necessary to design and construct the Memorial.
- 2000. President Clinton signed legislation authorizing creation of the Memorial.
- 2009. Approved by the US Commission of Fine Arts
- July 2010. Received final approval from the National Capitol Planning Commission and began the process of completing construction drawings and specifications and resolving both design and maintenance issues with the National Park Service. Also began finalizing selection process for the project's general contractor.
- November 10, 2010. Memorial's Ceremonial Groundbreaking attended by over 500 people, including Speaker of the House and Secretary of the VA.
- December 2010. Finalized all design issue with the Park Service.
- February 2011. Submitted request for construction permit.
- April 2011. Executed contract with Tompkins Builders, one of Washington's oldest, largest, and most reputable contractors. Tompkins has already begun purchasing and fabricating materials for the Memorial, including the Memorial's stone—which constitutes a significant portion of the construction cost.
- The Memorial's stone is being provided by North Carolina Granite, a leading national stone fabricator with a long history in Washington. They supplied the stone for the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, the Memorial Bridge which crosses the Potomac at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, and the paving stones for the World War II Memorial. Three types of granite will be used: Bethel White for the Wall of Gratitude, Virginia Mist for the plaza paving, and St. John's Black for the fountain and reflecting pool.
- May 2011. Executed contract with the Memorial's sculptor for the bronze sculptures, acclaimed artist Larry Kirkland whose commissioned work is installed at Penn Station NY, City of Denver, California Museum of Science, and the American Red Cross Headquarters and the National Academies of Science, both in Washington DC.
- Work will soon begin on the Memorial's glass walls - the three walls consist of a total of 48 laminated, 5-ply panels of Starphire glass, with inscriptions and images embedded in the interior panes. This is the same glass used in the Apache helicopter, the B-2 bomber, and the new mine resistant personnel vehicle.
- Another prominent Memorial feature is the flame in the center of the star-shaped fountain. After extensive system testing and finalizing the flame's mechanical component and operating systems, the fabrication will begin this fall.

The DAV is the largest donor to the Memorial's fund; more information on the Memorial and its support can be found at [www.avdelm.org](http://www.avdelm.org). MOPH is listed as endorsing construction of the memorial.

# MOPH CALENDAR

**DECEMBER 2011**

26..... CHRISTMAS - HQ CLOSED

**JANUARY 2012**

01..... HAPPY NEW YEAR

02..... HQ CLOSED

16..... MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY - HQ CLOSED

25..... INVESTMENT COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

**FEBRUARY 2012**

01..... MAGAZINE DEADLINE FOR MAR/APR ISSUE

12..... LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

14..... SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

20..... PRESIDENT'S DAY - HQ CLOSED

22..... WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

24..... FLAG DAY

**MARCH 2012**

07..... TENTATIVE - COMDRS TESTIMONY WASHINGTON DC

15-23 ..... ANNUAL NSO TRAINING, ORLANDO FL

24..... NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP MEETING, ST LOUIS MO

31..... NFC MID-YEAR MEETING, ALEXANDRIA VA

TBD ..... MARCH ON THE HILL

TBD ..... LEADERSHIP EXECUTIVE MEETING, ARLINGTON, VA

**APRIL 2012**

25..... INVESTMENT COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

**MAY 2012**

19..... ARMED FORCES DAY

28..... MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED - HQ CLOSED

**JUNE 2012**

30..... NFC MEETING, ALEXANDRIA VA

**JULY 2012**

04..... INDEPENDENCE DAY - HQ CLOSED

18..... INVESTMENT COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

2012 NATIONAL CONVENTION, SCOTTSDALE AZ..... AUGUST 7-11, 2012  
 2013 NATIONAL CONVENTION, ROGERS AR..... AUGUST 6-10, 2013  
 2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION, DENVER CO..... AUGUST 5-9, 2014

## COMBAT-WOUNDED VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

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### CIVIL WAR 150

*Gettysburg.* On July 3, 1863, 15,000 Confederate soldiers, under Maj. General George Pickett, formed perfectly aligned battle ranks facing the Union position, on Cemetery Ridge.



Lieutenant William Harmon of the 1st Minnesota Volunteers:

*If men ever became devils that was one of the times. We were crazy with the excitement of the fight. We just rushed in like wild beasts. Men swore and cursed and struggled and fought, grappled in hand-to-hand fight, threw stones, clubbed their muskets, kicked, yelled and hurraed. But it was over in no time . . . When the line had passed, those who were not wounded threw down their arms, I remember that a Conf. officer . . . Gathered himself up as our men swept by and coolly remarked, "You have done it this time."*

Suddenly it was over. Almost 4,000 of the Confederate soldiers in Pickett's Charge were captured. Pickett's division alone lost 75 percent of its men. The defending Union forces, just half as numerous as the rebel attackers, suffered only 1,500 casualties - only one fifth of the number they had inflicted.

### RETURNED CHECK FEE



All checks sent to MOPH HQ that are returned for any reason (unpaid, insufficient funds, etc.) by the bank will incur a **\$14.00** fee payable by the check writer to MOPH to cover administrative costs incurred.

*"You just tell me the brand of whiskey Grant drinks - I would like to send a barrel of it to my other generals."* Attributed to President Lincoln as a reply to advisors who complained of Grant's drinking habits.