



Military Order of the Purple Heart

Department of Pennsylvania

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



MOPH July 2010 Department of Pennsylvania News Bulletin



Happy 4TH of July Everyone



The Department of Pennsylvania wishes you a, "Wonderful Holiday".

"Congratulations" to Commander Joseph Serenka from Renaissance Chapter 0455 and all Elected and Appointed Officers for the 2010-2011 Year. We'll have them on the Site at, www.departmentpa.org as soon as I get the Official List. A "Big Thank You" to all those who are using the Departments Website to pass on Important and Useful Information. Here's a Photo of our New 2010-2011 Officers.



Let's get to it!

All Chapters: Remember to contact the Department with the MOPH Chapter Commander 2011 picks for the “**Patriot of the Month and or Year**”.

From the Pittsburgh Area:

We begin with a one “Important Month”. August 11, 2010 at 7:30 PM is the next Meeting Month for the “Federation of War Veterans Societies” in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania at Soldiers and Sailors Hall & Museum. Those of you who’ve been chosen as Delegates from the Local Area MOPH Chapters for the Purple Heart have been given a copy of the Federation By-Laws and are expected to contact Adjutant Anthony Filardi at, 412-881-5913 for more information if needed.

From the Lancaster Area: A submission to the Webmasters Corner and Email Page, Re-Posted June 24TH 2010.

Hello Patriots,

My name Karl Spidel, Commander of MOPH, Chapter 0107. It would be my pleasure to receive E-Mails from our Chapters’ Members at moph107@yahoo.com or call, 717-940-3080.

We currently meet at the Lititz Springs VFW Post#1463, 14 North Spruce Street, Lititz Pa 17543. We have been meeting at 1900 or 7 P.M. on a Wednesday evening once a month. I usually pick the Wednesday based on my work schedule. So the specific meeting night varies from month to month. We will not be meeting in July or August due to member’s vacations and breaks. If you can update Ch 107 on how we can get you to come and participate, we’d like all suggestions to further our Missions and Causes.

Thanks and Semper Fi. Karl D Spidel

From the Pittsburgh Area:

From **MOPH Chapter 0009**, by 2010-2011 Adjutant Scott Havelka

Dear Chapter 9 Patriots,

We Chapter 9 encourage you to attend Regular Chapter Meetings. We need you and your experience. Please contact me at, 412-462-3195 for more information on how you can help in your own way. We meet at the American Legion, Post 701, 2813 Capital Street, White Oak, PA. 15131 at 1 PM. every Second Tuesday of the Month except July and August.

Scott Havelka, Adjutant

Department Submissions:

“**Patriot of the Month & Year**” By Dept. of PA. Finance Director, Harry (Dean) Clark.

To make a submission for the Patriot of the Month, Chapters should inform the Department of their submission with a Bio. Then tailor it to fit your desires. The idea is to get the Chapters involved by having them submit a name of the individual that has done a good job. The individual does not have to be a “Patriot of the Month” either, just an individual that deserves some credit. We need the Chapters input. We will discuss a “Patriot of the Year” which would be selected

from input and decided by a Board during Department Convention. Send your submissions to Dept. Adjutant Nicholas Combitchi at 4115 Washington Avenue, Erie Pennsylvania 16509-1253.

Interesting Websites and Emails from Members:

Vietnam War Music Video, “Run through the Jungle”.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wi9oBUeWshE&feature=related>

THE FLAG THAT DOESN'T FLY

Between the fields where the flag is planted, there are 9+ miles of flower fields that go all the way to the ocean. The flowers are grown by seed companies. It's a beautiful place, close to Vandenberg AFB. Check out the dimensions of the flag. The Floral Flag is 740 feet long and 390 feet wide and maintains the proper Flag dimensions, as described in Executive Order #10834. This Flag is 6.65 acres and is the first Floral Flag to be planted with 5 pointed Stars, comprised of White Larkspur. Each Star is 24 feet in diameter; each Stripe is 30 feet wide. This Flag is estimated to contain more than 400,000 Larkspur plants, with 4-5 flower stems each, for a total of more than 2 million flowers.



VETERANS MEDALLION:

Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

Communications & Outreach Support Division (41C2)
Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-6240
FAX (202) 273-8698

www.cem.va.gov
public.inquiry@va.gov

Medallion Benefit

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides a medallion, by request, to be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a Veteran.

This new product is furnished in lieu of a traditional Government headstone or marker for those Veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.



The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches and 1 ½ inches. Each medallion will be inscribed with the word "VETERAN" across the top and the branch of service at the bottom.

Once a claim for a medallion is received, approved and processed, VA will mail the medallion along with a kit that will allow the family or the staff of a private cemetery to affix the device to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum or columbarium niche cover.

Important: This benefit is only applicable if the grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. In these instances, eligible Veterans are entitled to either a traditional Government-furnished headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both.

For family members of Veterans interested in submitting a claim for the new medallion, instructions on how to apply for a medallion will be updated on the NCA Web site at www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp. Until a new form specifically for ordering the medallion is available, applicants may use the form used for ordering government headstones and markers, VA Form 40-1330.



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
5413-B Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151
703-642-5360 Fax: 703-642-2054
www.purpleheart.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Springfield, VA. July 12, 2010

MOPH ANNOUNCES THE PURPLE HEART MAGAZINE NOW AVAILABLE IN DIGITAL FORMAT ON ITS NATIONAL WEBSITE:

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is proud to announce the newest feature on its National Website, www.purpleheart.org. A new reading applet allows the reader to open the latest issue of the national magazine, *[The Purple Heart](#)*, as a full page for easier viewing. Moreover, the ability to view the magazine in digital format results in a much sharper and more colorful edition. Added features include the ability to zoom in and out for larger print, easy scrolling on each page, and easier to use page turning buttons. While this new feature may require some getting used to, you will soon find yourself navigating through the magazine with ease. Those readers preferring to download the magazine as a “pdf” file, can still do so by clicking the button at the bottom of the screen. This feature will be available as a test for the next two issues and reader feedback would be greatly appreciated by emailing your comments to: magazine@purpleheart.org.

The organization now known as the "[Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Inc.](#)," (MOPH) was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all who have received the decoration. Chartered by the Congress, The MOPH is unique among Veteran Service Organizations in that all its members were wounded in combat. For this sacrifice, they were awarded the Purple Heart Medal. With grants from the MOPH Service Foundation, the MOPH and its Ladies Auxiliary promote Patriotism, Fraternalism, and the Preservation of America's military history. Most importantly, they provide comfort and assistance to all Veterans and their families, especially those requiring claims assistance with the VA, those who are homeless, and those requiring employment assistance. Through the VAVS program, MOPH volunteers provide assistance to hospitalized veterans at VA sites and State Veterans Homes.

For information about the MOPH National Website, contact:

Webmaster John Lloyd, (703) 354-2140 or email jlloyd@purpleheart.org. Or, National Public Relations Director, John Bircher, 352-753-5535. Email: PublicRelations@Purpleheart.org

[MOPH on the Web](#), [MOPH on Facebook](#), [MOPH on Twitter](#), [MOPH on YouTube](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Springfield, VA. July 11, 2010.

MOPH APPLAUDS ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPROVED PTSD CLAIM REQUIREMENTS

The Military Order of the Purple Heart applauds the implementation of new and easier claim requirements for veterans suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). First announced by President Obama this week, Secretary of Veteran Affairs Eric Shinseki is expected to further announce on Monday, July 12, 2010 a streamlined process that will

make the PTSD claims process less cumbersome and time-consuming. In making the announcement, President Obama called this change “a long overdue step” to aid veterans with PTSD, making it easier for them to receive federal benefits. The new rules will apply not only to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, but also to those who served in previous conflicts. According to MOPH National Commander Jim Sims, “This is a change that is long overdue and finally acknowledges the need to quickly address a serious illness that affects many young men and women returning from combat.”

The organization now known as the "[Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Inc.](#)," (MOPH) was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all who have received the decoration. Chartered by the Congress, The MOPH is unique among Veteran Service Organizations in that all its members were wounded in combat. For this sacrifice, they were awarded the Purple Heart Medal. With grants from the MOPH Service Foundation, the MOPH and its Ladies Auxiliary promote Patriotism, Fraternalism, and the Preservation of America's military history. Most importantly, they provide comfort and assistance to all Veterans and their families, especially those requiring claims assistance with the VA, those who are homeless, and those requiring employment assistance. Through the VAVS program, MOPH volunteers provide assistance to hospitalized veterans at VA sites and State Veterans Homes.

For further information contact your local MOPH National Service Officer. Or, National Public Relations Director, John Bircher, 352-753-5535. Email: PublicRelations@Purpleheart.org

[MOPH on the Web](#), [MOPH on Facebook](#), [MOPH on Twitter](#), [MOPH on YouTube](#)

Letter from the Editor/Webmaster:

Dear Patriots,

At the Department of Pennsylvania Convention this past June it was decided as I'm Webmaster, that I was to put together the Departments Monthly News Bulletin. Also, as I've transferred to Chapter 0009, the Chapter 0455 Bulletins and News Letters/Dept. News Letters are to be submitted to me by Chapter 0455's Dan Wilhelm and James Lang in a form that I can put directly on their Site. I'm still Chapter 0455's Webmaster until June of 2011 or until they find another to take my place. Hopefully a member from 455 will step up soon. I'll train the Chapter 0455 individual who wishes to be their Webmaster. It's not hard; technology has made it so simple to do.

I encourage all Pennsylvania MOPH Members to send me E-mails of Stories/Facts etc. that they think might help others that we serve.

Please don't send Political or Religious items for they won't be published. We do not support any Individuals who hold Office or any certain Political Parties. Elections happen and Representatives change along with the Political Party in control. We support those who support our Missions and Causes and of course all those in the National By-Laws.

Please only send me those Articles you think might serve those we serve. I'd appreciate them in PDF form. All pictures must be in JPEG form. Just go to your Paint Program to Save As jpeg. Also in Word you can make a pdf file. I suggest that before you save your file as pdf, you click review and protect your document. This will keep its integrity so no one can change it and use it for malicious purposes.

Yours in Patriotism,

Scott Havelka, Webmaster/Editor

Phone: 412-462-3195, E-mail: scotto426@verizon.net