



THE PURPLE HEARTBEAT
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS' NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL ADJUTANT'S CALL . . .

Dear Patriots,

Purple Heart Day. Purple Heart Day is Sunday, August 7, 2011 and Chapters should be thinking about ways to honor that day with the public as well as to promote awareness of MOPH. Some suggested activities include: fund raising with Viola sales at local stores, malls and military bases; having some of your Patriots interviewed by local media on their military experiences and Chapter community and VA efforts; speaking to student assemblies at local schools, and mounting MOPH displays where appropriate. The themes of all activities should be: honoring the day, recruitment, and information about MOPH. Be sure to order supporting materials ASAP.

Signing on to the MOPH Website. We get a steady stream of calls from members having trouble signing onto the website and easily 80 percent of the calls concern forgotten user names or passwords. Your user name is your first initial and last name (Robert Black will be "rblack") and you can then click on "Did you forget your password," click on "Send me a new password," and you'll receive the new one in your email.

Pop-Up Briefcase Displays. Your summer recruiting and outreach efforts might require replacement or an upgrade to your displays. MOPH HQ Supply (Jennifer) has dozens of these nifty briefcase-size displays @ \$250 plus shipping costs.

New DVA Family Caregiver Program. Post 9/11 veterans and families may download applications by going to www.caregiver.va.gov. Caregiver Support Coordinators are stationed at every VA Medical Center or you can dial toll-free 1-877-222-8387.

DVA Weighs In On Camp Lejeune NC Water Contamination Issue. If you were stationed at CJ, NC during the period 1957-1987, contact your nearest MOPH NSO on the possibility of filing a claim. For more details, see page 5 for an article by NSO Casey Matuszak.

National Convention Roll Call and Voting Precedence. Honors go to Region II to lead off all Roll Calls and Convention voting. On Saturday, August 13, Region and National Officer voting will commence with Region Commander nominations/Region voting (R2,R3 . . . R1), then other National Officer Nominations and voting (R2 - Illinois, Indiana . . . Wisconsin, R3 - Alaska . . . Wyoming, etc.)

Yours in Patriotism,
Jack Leonard



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: April 2011 Roster of Monthly Changes
DEPARTMENTS: April 2011 Membership Status Report & Chapters Roster of Monthly Changes

Inside this issue:

Table with 2 columns: Article Title and Page Number. Includes items like New PDBR (2), Homes for Our Troops (2), Big Three Reports (3), etc.

## PHYSICAL DISABILITY BOARD OF REVIEW (PDBR)



In perhaps the most significant action to date concerning benefits for wounded veterans, DoD established the **PDBR** to reassess the combined disability ratings of veterans who were medically separated from their respective services between 11 September 2001 and 31 December 2009.

**Eligibility.** Only veterans with a combined disability rating of **20 percent or less and who did not otherwise retire** are eligible to apply for this reassessment.

**PDBR Action.** The PDBR will adjudicate and recommend a final disability rating percentage that will be forwarded to a Designated Decision Authority within each Military Department for a final determination.

**Who Can Request.** This review can be requested by the former service member, surviving spouse, next of kin or legal representative.

**Time Limits.** At the present, there is no time limit or cut off date to apply.

**Submit Request.** You must submit your request on DD Form 294, *Application for Review by the Physical Disability Board of Review (FDBR) of the Rating Awarded Accompanying a Medical Separation From the Armed Forces of the United States*. You can get a fill-able form at [www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd0294.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd0294.pdf).

**Support of Request.** Applicants can submit statements, briefs, medical records, or affidavits in support of their application. Unless requested, you don't need to submit records already on file.

**Board of Corrections or PDBR?** There's a chart on page 3 of the DD-294 that explains the difference between a Board for Correction of Military (or Naval) Records (BCMR/BCNR) review and a PDBR Review and how they relate to each other. Before submitting an application to the PDBR, you might want to confer with your nearest MOPH National Service Officer to ensure your best option.

**Effect on Current Rating.** Can the PDBR lower your current rating? No.

**Documents only.** There is no provision for a personal appearance.

**Final Decision.** The PDBR makes a recommendation on your case to your Service Secretary who makes the final decision.

**Appeal.** There are no provisions for appeal of the Secretary's decision. However, previously denied BCMR/BCNR appeals may be reconsidered when relevant newly discovered evidence (not previously available) is presented.

**Basic Directive.** For details on the entire process, see DoD Instruction 6040.44 available at [www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/604044p.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/604044p.pdf).

## HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

**HFOT** is a national non-profit non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2004 that builds homes for the most severely combat wounded service members. Most of their projects are building new homes, but in rare cases, they renovate an existing home, making the special modifications needed to accommodate particular disabilities. HFOT was founded by John Gonsalves, a construction supervisor from Raynham, MA. Reacting to news about a soldier who lost both legs in Iraq, he wanted to get involved with an organization already building homes for wounded veterans, but couldn't find one. Realizing that the severely wounded needed specially designed homes, he set out to build such houses as well as retrofit existing homes to meet their needs. Funding comes from individuals, foundations and affluent well-known personalities. Corporate sponsors provide vital building materials.

As of December 2009, HFOT had built 50 homes and 33 others were under construction, aiming at a total of 100 by the end of 2011. And they want to build another 100 over the next few years. Veterans do not pay anything for the homes. Eligible veterans may receive a VA Specially Adapted Housing Grant of up to \$63,780; HFOT then covers all costs above the grant. For more information and guidelines on contributions, go to [www.homesforourtroops.org](http://www.homesforourtroops.org).





## THE BIG THREE FOR THEE

There are THREE very important reports that Chapters and Departments must file with the MOPH HQs at 5413-B Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151 or email it to [memberships@purpleheart.org](mailto:memberships@purpleheart.org) - complete and on time!! These reports are required for dues rebates and voting strength at the National Convention.

### Election Reports

Election Reports must be submitted to MOPH HQ when due and are crucial to your success. Without a current Election Report, all officers are dropped on July 1, 2011 and the last communication you will receive will be the June newsletter and updates.

**How to file:** Copy the file from the disc sent in March or Download **Election Report Forms** by going to [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org), rest cursor on "Members" at top of home page, slide down and click on "Download Forms and Documents." Look under "Blank Chapter and Department Forms" and click on "Chapter or Department Election Form."

#### Due Dates and Distribution:

**Chapters:** Adjutant will report election results immediately following installation of officers. Send original to National Adjutant no later than June 30, with copies to the Department Adjutant and Chapter file.

**Departments:** Adjutant will report election results immediately following installation of officers. Send original to National Adjutant no later than July 15, keeping a file copy.

### Finance Report

**How to file:** Download the Finance Form by going to [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org), rest cursor on "Members" at top of home page, slide down and click on "Download Forms and Documents." Look under "Blank Chapter and Department Forms" and click on "Finance Form."

#### Due Dates and Distribution:

**Chapters:** Covers fiscal year May 01 to April 30; send original to MOPH HQ no later than 31 May, with copies to Department Finance Officer and Chapter file.

**Departments:** Covers fiscal year May 01 to April 30; send original to MOPH HQ no later than June 15, keeping a copy for file.

### IRS Form 990N (e-Postcard)

This electronic report must be filed annually to maintain your tax exemption status.

**How to file:** Go to <http://epostcard.form990.org> to file the e-Postcard to IRS through its trusted partner, Urban Institute. There is no paper form.

**Due Dates:** the **15th day** of the **5th Month** after your tax year ends

**Chapters & Departments:**

- Tax year ends April 30; e-Postcard is due by September 1
- Tax year ends May 31; e-Postcard is due by October 15
- Tax year ends June 30; e-Postcard is due by November 15
- Tax year ends December 30; e-Postcard is due by May 15

**[You cannot file until your tax year ends]**

To search for previous filing, visit <http://www.irs.gov/app/ePostcard/> and enter the EIN.

**New Management Tool:** To track submissions of Election, Finance, and 990 Reports, go to [www.purpleheart.org/Members/ReportTracking.aspx](http://www.purpleheart.org/Members/ReportTracking.aspx) which will bring up your log in screen. Log in and on the Welcome Page on the lower right corner, you'll see the **Department/Chapter Election/990 Tracking System.**



# 79<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION

## EVENT REGISTRATION FORM THURSDAY - 11 AUGUST 2011

**THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE OPTIONAL (CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS APPLY) -  
HOPE YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AND ENJOY**

**Twin Cities Tour and Lunch**..... \$60.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Includes the bus fare, lunch, non-alcoholic beverage, tax and tip)

Bus will leave the Crowne at 1:30PM and return at 6:00PM.

Join us as we travel through Historic Saint Paul where you will see the Minnesota State Capitol, Saint Paul Cathedral, James J. Hill House and other historic buildings along magnificent Summit Avenue-Minnesota's two mile stretch of the most beautifully restored mansions in the Upper Midwest, if not the Nation!

Following lunch at Santoirni and a stop at Purgatory Creek's Veterans' Memorial, we will travel back to Saint Paul via the outstanding River Road that runs adjacent to the Mighty Mississippi River.

**Mystic Lake Casino**..... \$10.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mystic Lake is located in Prior Lake, 30 miles southwest of Saint Paul. On this afternoon trip, you will board at 1:00PM and return to the Crowne at 6:00PM. Each guest on the bus will receive a "Play 10 get 10" package allowing you to get started at the casino using their money!

..... **TOTAL PAYMENT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

PLEASE PRINT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to

*National Convention-Department of Minnesota  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Attn: Bob Connor  
20 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 134  
Saint Paul, MN 55155*

And mail with your check and registration form to Bob

## CAMP LEJEUNE WATER SUPPLY UPDATE



VA just published a *Training Letter* on processing claims from those individuals exposed to chemicals in Camp Lejeune's water supply. Though contamination of the water supply ended by 1985, VA is considering anyone who was at the base from 1957 to 1987 exposed to the contamination. The main contaminants were trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent. Also found were Benzene and vinyl chloride.

**Conditions:** Fourteen disease conditions were identified as having limited/suggestive evidence of an association with TCE, PCE, or a solvent mixture exposure. They include:

- |                         |   |                |
|-------------------------|---|----------------|
| Esophageal cancer       | Lung Cancer                                 | Breast cancer  |
| Bladder cancer          | Kidney Cancer                               | Adult leukemia |
| Multiple myeloma        | Myelodysplastic syndromes                   | Renal toxicity |
| Hepatic steatosis       | Female infertility                          | Scleroderma    |
| Neurobehavioral effects | Miscarriage, with exposure during pregnancy |                |

**Claims** will be processed by the Louisville Regional Office. **Exposure does not presume service connection for a condition. There must be a medical opinion linking the condition to service.**

For more information, contact your local *MOPH National Service Officer* who is aware of this issue. Additional information can be found at the US Marine Corps Site for Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water (<https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater/index.html>)

[Contributed by Casey Matuszak, MOPH NSO, Winston-Salem, NC. See his article on this subject in the current *Purple Heart Magazine* titled "You Drank What? Where?"]

## PURPLE HEART RIDERS

Up in New Hampshire, Patriot Al (Scout) Grow, Commander of Chapter 804 in Nashua, is also National President of the Purple Heart Riders, which he founded, a family oriented motorcycle riding association, NOT a MOPH motorcycle club. Membership in the PH Riders is open to all veterans who were wounded in battle and awarded the Purple Heart Medal. Many of the Riders, like Al, are also members of MOPH, but it is not required. One major motivation for Al to start the Riders was the desire to bring in veterans of any age who like to ride, taking a page from the VFW and American Legion who started riding groups and saw their membership take off. Al commented that "we have brought new Life Members into the Order," veterans from other states are joining the Riders, its website is getting numerous hits, and they receive membership inquiries everyday.



For membership in the **PH Riders**, veterans must have been wounded in action and awarded the Purple Heart Medal and own a motorcycle of at least 400cc. (For those veterans who cannot ride a motorcycle or do not own one due to medical reasons, they still welcome you to join.) Go to [www.purpleheartriders.us](http://www.purpleheartriders.us) for additional information.

**YOUR INPUT NEEDED!!** The MOPH Supply Room currently offers an assortment of items for use in Americanism programs and recruiting. It's been the same inventory for years and we thought you might have some comments on what you like, don't like and perhaps suggestions for some new items. We can look into any idea for a pamphlet, windshield notice, or handout that would help. **Send your input to:** [jleonard@purpleheart.org](mailto:jleonard@purpleheart.org).

# MOPH CALENDAR

**MAY 2011**

30 .....MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED—HQ CLOSED

**JUNE 2011**

(TBA).....DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS

1 .....MAGAZINE DEADLINE FOR JUL/AUG ISSUE

**JULY 2011**

09 .....NFC FY 2012 BUDGET MEETING, ALEXANDRIA, VA

09 .....INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

**AUGUST 2011**

1 .....MAGAZINE DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ISSUE

7 .....PURPLE HEART DAY

9-13.....NATIONAL CONVENTION, SAINT PAUL MN

**SEPTEMBER 2011**

9 .....NURSES MEMORIAL & RECEPTION, ARLINGTON NATL CEMETERY

9-10.....NATIONAL COMMANDER'S LEADERSHIP, ALEXANDRIA, VA

**OCTOBER 2011**

01 .....MAGAZINE DEADLINE FOR NOV/DEC ISSUE

10 .....COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED - HQ CLOSED

19 .....INVESTMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

**NOVEMBER 2011**

11 .....VETERANS DAY - HQ CLOSED

24-25.....THANKSGIVING - HQ CLOSED

**DECEMBER 2011**

1 .....MAGAZINE DEADLINE FOR JAN/FEB ISSUE

7 .....PEARL HARBOR DAY

25-26.....CHRISTMAS - HQ CLOSED

**JANUARY 2012**

1 .....HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

25 .....INVESTMENT COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

**FEBRUARY 2012**

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

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

22 .....WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

2012 NATIONAL CONVENTION, SCOTTSDALE AZ..... AUGUST 7-11, 2012

2013 NATIONAL CONVENTION, ROGERS, AR.....AUGUST 6-10, 2013

## 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](mailto:info@purpleheart.org)

### WAR BIRDS



The **Boeing B-29 Superfortress** was one of the largest aircraft in WW II, and very advanced for its time with a pressurized cabin, electronic fire-control system and remote-controlled machine gun turrets. It was the primary aircraft in the firebombing campaign against Japan in the final months of the war and carried the atomic bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, effectively ending the war. It was used primarily in the Pacific, seeing only rare service over Europe. But it did see action from 1950 to 1953 in Korea, flying normal strategic day missions against North Korean industrial targets and later interdicting supply routes. Once Soviet MIG-15 fighters appeared, however, the B-29 missions were restricted. A total of 3,970 B-29s were built between 1943 and 1946. *Enola Gay* is the most famous B-29, having dropped its atomic bomb on Hiroshima. You can see the plane in Smithsonian's Air Museum near Dulles in DC.



"I divide my officers into four groups - clever, diligent, stupid and lazy. Each officer possesses at least two of these qualities. Some are clever and diligent - their place is the General Staff. The next lot are stupid and lazy - they make up 90 percent of every army and are suited to routine duties. Anyone who is both clever and lazy is fit for the highest leadership duties because he possesses the intellectual clarity and the composure necessary for difficult decisions. One must beware of anyone who is stupid and diligent—he must not be entrusted with any responsibility because he will always cause mischief." (Attributed to German General Kurt von Hammerstein–Equord, anti-NAZI member of General Staff, c 1933)