



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

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13 December 2011

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member:

On behalf of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), whose membership is comprised entirely of combat wounded veterans of our country's numerous wars and conflicts fought on foreign shores, I am writing to inform you that MOPH is adamantly opposed to language that is included in the House version of the NDAA. The provision, Section 662 would authorize the awarding of the Purple Heart Medal to those victims that were killed or wounded at Fort Hood and the two military recruiters who were killed in Arkansas.

While MOPH members are appalled and saddened by these criminal acts and are very sympathetic with the family members of those killed or wounded, we do not believe that these criminal acts should be deemed to meet the long established criterion for the award of this country's oldest military medal, the Purple Heart.

MOPH has a long tradition of supporting and defending the premises upon which General George Washington, and later General Douglas MacArthur and succeeding Presidents, established the criteria for the award of the Purple Heart Medal which has stood the test of time. The current criterion for the Purple Heart Medal is clear and MOPH adheres and supports it.

While it might appear that Congress should respond to the emotions of criminal acts that have occurred, which we all abhor, MOPH believes that the criteria for the award should not be diminished. Such legislation would destroy the original intent of the medal and dishonor those who lie buried in our many cemeteries around the world, or currently bear wounds received in service to this great nation.

We ask that you not alter history and retain the current and time tested criteria for the award of the Purple Heart Medal. To do otherwise is a slap in the face to all those that have received this award and would do a disservice to all future recipients. The Department of Defense established and continues to review the criteria for military awards. MOPH believes this is the way it should be and not based upon singular events, politics or emotions.

Respectfully,

William R. Hutton
National Commander

Cc: All members of the Senate Armed Services Committee