

Department of Pennsylvania September 2011 News Bulletin Visit our Home Page

Upcoming Important Dates

September 11, 2011 - Patriot Day, Grandparents Day

September 16, 2011 - Always the Third Friday in September, POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 21, 2011 - Peace Day

October 1, 2011 - The Oct. 1 deadline is fast approaching to reserve your seat for a two-day bus trip I'm hosting to our nation's capitol. The trip is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 12 through Thursday, Oct. 13. Tickets must be purchased by Oct. 1. From: Rep. Marc J. Gergely, D-35th District, Allegheny County.

October 1, 2011 - Life Member Verification Form due, (Must be received by National Headquarters by date indicated, no exceptions.

October 15, 2011 - Department Nomination of National Aide De Camp, (Limit 1 per Department).

2ND Week in November – Life Member Rebate Checks sent to Departments and Chapters. Monies are for Verified Life Members as of June 30TH.

September News Items

In case you missed it!

From: The MOPH, July/August, Department of Pennsylvania News Bulletin.

Pennsylvania Veterans Emergency Assistance with Counties Contact Information

http://www.mophdepartmentpa.org/Application Form 171 Nov2010.pdf,

http://www.mophdepartmentpa.org/State Benefit Booklet 2011.pdf,

and for your convenience,

http://www.mophdepartmentpa.org/Pennsylvania Veterans Emergency Assistance with Counties Contact Information.pdf

Purpose: Provides financial aid in an emergency and on a temporary basis (not to exceed three months in a 12-month period) to veterans and their beneficiaries who reside in Pennsylvania for the necessities of life (food, dairy, shelter, fuel and clothing).

Veteran's eligibility criteria:

- An honorably discharged veteran.
- Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Must be a Pennsylvania resident.
- Unexpected loss of income within 180 days of application through no fault of the individual.
- May not be on Public Assistance.
- Must have a financial need.
- Upon the recent death of a veteran, their spouse or orphaned children are eligible provided the veteran would have qualified prior to his/her death.

Payments: If eligible, a veteran or their beneficiary is entitled to a total of three checks during a 12-month period. Rates are paid according to the number of persons in a household and the county in which they reside.

An application for the Veterans Emergency Assistance (MA-VA Form 17) shall be submitted through the County Veterans Affairs Director in the county they reside.

Emergency Assistance Program Manager
Michael Smith
Veterans Service Specialist
FTIG, Building S-0-47
Annville, PA 17003
717-861-8909 or 1-800-547-2838
mibsmith@state.pa.us

COUNTY DIRECTOR LISTING

Adams 717-337-9835 **Lackawanna** 570-963-6778 x 1892 **Alleghenv** 412-621-4357 Lancaster 717-299-7920 **Lawrence** 724-656-2180 **Armstrong** 724-548-3441 **Beaver** 724-770-4452 **Lebanon** 717-228-4422 **Bedford** 814-623-4848 **Lehigh** 610-782-3295 **Berks** 610-898-8541 **Luzerne** 570-706-3976 **Blair** 814-693-3160 **Lycoming** 570-327-2365 McKean 814-887-3241 **Bradford** 570-265-1704 **Mercer** 724-662-3800 x2211 **Bucks** 215-345-3307

Butler 724-284-5352 Cambria 814-472-1590 Cameron 814-486-1372 Carbon 570-325-3986 Centre 814-355-6812 Chester 610-344-6375 Clarion 814-226-4000 x2601 Clearfield 814-765-4611

Clarion 814-226-4000 x260 Clearfield 814-765-4611 Clinton 570-893-4339 Columbia 570-387-6501 Crawford 814-333-7314 Cumberland 717-240-6178 Dauphin 717-780-6356

Delaware 610-891-4646 Elk 814-776-5370 Erie 814-451-6270 Fayette 724-430-1241 Forest 814-755-3404 Franklin 717-263-4326 Fulton 717-485-6873 Greene 724-852-5275 Huntingdon 814-643-1360 Indiana 724-465-3815 Jefferson 814-849-3618

Juniata 717-436-7728

Mifflin 717-248-6421 Monroe 570-517-3187 Montgomery 610-278-3285 Montour 570-271-3061 Northampton 610-559-3199 Northumberland 570-988-4213

Perry 717-582-5133

Philadelphia 215-686-3256

Pike 570-296-3563

Potter 814-274-8290 x210 Schuylkill 570-628-1400 Snyder 570-837-4277 Somerset 814-445-1551 Sullivan 570-946-5201

Susquehanna 570-278-4600 x260

Tioga 570-723-8141 Union 570-524-8677 Venango 814-432-9780 Warren 814-728-3478 Washington 724-228-6865 Wayne 570-253-4262 x3114 Westmoreland 724-830-3531 Wyoming 570-996-2258

York 717-771-9218

Military Order of the Purple Heart Salutes Simi Valley, CA

Va MOPH at http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000528455405

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is proud and honored to salute Mayor Bob Huber and the City Council of Simi Valley, California, on the occasion of proclaiming Simi Valley as the first Purple Heart City in Southern California.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony that will take place at 6:30 PM, Monday, September 26, 2011, at the Simi Valley City Hall, 2929 Canyon Road, Simi Valley, CA. In proclaiming itself a "Purple Heart City," Simi Valley honors the brave servicemen and women who have either been killed or wounded in combat and honors not only California's Purple Heart Recipients, but all veterans across the nation.

Receiving the Proclamation on behalf of the Military Order of the Purple Heart will be National Commander Bill Hutton, Department of California Commander Gary Rutledge, and Patriot Walter Martin, Commander of MOPH Chapter 1898. Also participating will be other members of the MOPH and the MOPH Ladies Auxiliary, including two WWII Purple Heart recipients, Patriot Smith Russell and Patriot Harry Mansdorf, who had been a Prisoner of War.

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum presents, "Cannon Ball" "Military Follies Revue" October 16, 2011

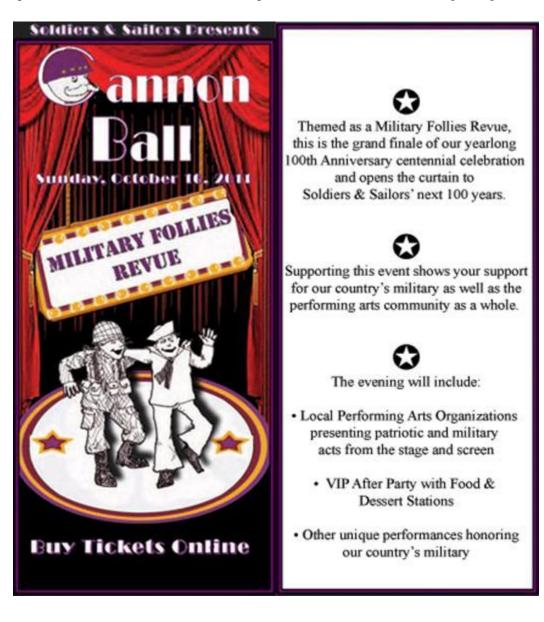
From: The July MOPH Dept. of PA. News Bulletin

Received: July 6, 2011

Soldiers & Sailors' annual fundraiser is just around the corner.

This year's event is a Patriotic Show saluting the men and women who served and are serving our country.

Purchase your tickets online today for as low as \$35 per person!



Traumatic Brain Injury for all Veterans as of October 2011

Retroactive Traumatic Injury Benefits No Longer Just For OEF/OIF Injuries TSGLI Payments Will Be Made for Qualifying Injuries

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is extending retroactive traumatic injury benefits to Servicemembers who suffered qualifying injuries during the period Oct. 7, 2001 to Nov. 30, 2005, regardless of the geographic location where the injuries occurred.

"Now all of our nation's Servicemembers who suffered severe traumatic injuries while serving their country can receive the same traumatic injury benefits, regardless of where their injury occurred," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We at VA appreciate the efforts of Congress and the President to improve benefits for our troops."

Effective Oct. 1, the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Traumatic Injury Protection benefit, known as TSGLI, will be payable for all qualifying injuries incurred during this period. This retroactive benefit is payable whether or not the Servicemember had SGLI coverage at the time of the injury.

The Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2010, passed by Congress and signed by President Obama in October of 2010, removes the requirement that injuries during this period be incurred in Operations Enduring or Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF). This is welcome news for the many Servicemembers who suffered serious traumatic injuries while serving stateside or in other areas outside of OEF/OIF during this time period, but until now have not been eligible for TSGLI.

TSGLI provides a payment ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 to Servicemembers sustaining certain severe traumatic injuries resulting in a range of losses, including amputations; limb salvage; paralysis; burns; loss of sight, hearing or speech; facial reconstruction; 15-day continuous hospitalization; coma; and loss of activities of daily living due to traumatic brain injury or other traumatic injuries.

National Guard and Reserve members who were injured during the retroactive period and suffered a qualifying loss are also eligible for a TSGLI payment, even if the cause was not related to military service, such as a civilian automobile accident or severe injury which occurred while working around their home.

National Guard and Reserve members make up more than 40 percent of the total force which has been deployed since 9-11. Those who are no longer in the National Guard or Reserves can also apply as long as their injury occurred while they were in service.

"I am extremely pleased that these total force warriors who defend our freedoms are getting the recognition and benefits they have rightfully earned in service to our nation," added Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey.

VA is working with the Department of Defense to publicize this change in the TSGLI law. Additionally, all of the branches of service are identifying any claims previously denied because the injury was not

incurred in OEF/OIF and reaching out to those individuals.

Although applications are currently being accepted by branch of service TSGLI offices, benefits will not be paid until Oct. 1, 2011, the effective date of the law.

For more information or to apply for a TSGLI payment, Servicemembers and Veterans should go to http://www.facebook.com/I/AAQBIY61xAQAAlcG9zQvurGysedXc6hRdVunpFB-BYnw-1g/www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/TSGLI/TSGLI.htm or contact their branch of service TSGLI Office (contact information available at above link).

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection program (TSGLI)

www.insurance.va.gov/, Links to information about TSGLI



Warriors... Start Your Engines! When: October 2, 2011.

You are invited to attend the <u>Dover International Speedway Sprint Cup Series</u> on Sunday, October 2, 2011. This event will be held at 1131 North Dupont Highway in Dover, DE. Warriors that are selected to attend will pick up their tickets at Will Call any time after 8:00 AM. The event will end at approximately 6:00 PM.

Each warrior is welcome to invite one guest. The warrior and their guest will receive a reserved race ticket, lunch buffet ticket and a trackside tour pass. Warriors and their guest will be responsible for their own travel and lodging (if applicable) expenses.

The trackside tour is available from 8:30 AM until 10:15 AM and the hospitality village tent sponsored by the VFW will be open for warriors from 8:00 AM Until 1:00 PM. Warriors may be selected at random to ride in the pace car for a few laps or to ride in the pre-race during driver introductions. The Monster Bridge area (a glass-enclosed seating structure that extends over the track at Dover International Speedway) will also be open to all WWP guests for the first 40 laps.

Please note that space is limited and therefore requests will be accommodated on a first come first serve basis. For more information or to be considered for this event please contact Bob Laverick, Regional Director, at realraw.riorproject.org.

If you are interested in attending please provide the following information:

Event Name: Dover International Speedway, Sprint Series

Name: Branch:

Rank:

Did you serve in Country in Iraq or Afghanistan:

List of Military Disabilities if any:

Special instructions regarding disability:

Cell:

Email:

Caregiver name (if applicable):

Relationship to the Warrior:

Do you have a service dog?

If so, will you be bringing the animal?

Have you joined WWP Connect?

Have you been to a WWP event in the past 3-6 months? If yes, please specify.

Wounded Warrior Project

<u>connect.wounded.warriorproject.org</u> • 877.TEAM.WWP (832.6997)

© 2011 Wounded Warrior Project®. All Rights Reserved.

Representative Mark Gergely D-35 District Allegheny County Bus trip deadline Oct. 1, 2011



Website

The Oct. 1 deadline is fast approaching to reserve your seat for a two-day bus trip I'm hosting to our nation's capitol. Tickets must be purchased by October 1, 2011.

The trip is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 2011 through Thursday, October 13, 2011.

The bus will depart from the McKeesport Area High School at 7 a.m. Wednesday. Over the two days in Washington, D.C. we'll tour the Museum of American History, Arlington National Cemetery, and the World War II, Korean, Vietnam, F.D.R and Lincoln memorials. Hotel rooms will be reserved at the Spring Hill Suites in Chantilly, Virginia.

The total tour package cost is as follows:

\$150.00 per person/4 per hotel room

\$165.00 per person/3 per hotel room

\$229.00 per person/2 per hotel room

\$290.00 per person/1 per hotel room

The bus will return to McKeesport Area High School at approximately 11 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13. For more information and to purchase tickets, please contact <u>my constituent service</u> office at 412-664-0035. Tour packages must be purchased by Oct. 1.

For Profit Colleges and Vulnerable G.I.'s

Must reading for those who are about to use their GI Education Bill benefits.

"New York Times, Opinion Page"

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/22/opinion/for-profit-colleges-vulnerable-gis.html? r=1&src=tp&smid=fb-share

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Website Updates from MOPH, San Diego, Chapter 0049

Received: September 16, 2011

From: Ulysses Miller, Jr., Adjutant/Webmaster, MOPH Chapter 0049

Gentlemen:

If you will recall last Veterans Day, November 11, 2010, the <u>B&B Association of North America</u> offered a free night's stay for active duty, retired military and all veterans. Again, this year, the <u>B&B Association of North America</u> is offering a free night stay for November 10, 2011to eligible active duty member, retired military and veterans.

Last year, the reservation went very, very, fast. So go to our web site, read the criteria, and review the locations that are available. Act fast because "free" doesn't last for long.

See: http://www.sandiegopurpleheart.com/veteran_unique_offers_information. The information is in the first story in the right-hand column.

Respectfully,

Ulysses Miller, Jr. Adjutant/Webmaster, MOPH Chapter 0049

Not a Typical Veteran Job Fair

When: September 28, 2011
Where: In downtown Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

Veterans Leadership Program is supporting a very unique 'Career Day' and 'Salute' to Veterans that is being sponsored by Bank of New York Mellon and Aon Corporation. I have been sending the following email to my distribution lists with details of the event and ask that you do the same.

_	
Dear	
Dear	

This is the first time I have sent out this type of request for help from the local military and veteran community. It concerns a very special event to help our local veterans with disabilities and their spouses. Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania (VLP) fully supports this event.

<u>Introduction</u>: On September 28, 2011, the Bank of New York (BNY) Mellon and Aon Corporation are presenting a 'Salute to America's Wounded Warriors'. The purpose of this event is to proactively support the transition of service members and their spouses from their military service into the private sector. The focus of this event is on veterans with disabilities and their spouses who will be connected with local firms that have employment opportunities. This is <u>not</u> a typical job fair—this is an event where real local employers with real employment opportunities are reaching out to our veterans with disabilities and their spouses.

<u>Who is Involved</u>: General Richard B. Myers, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, along with BNY Mellon Chairman and CEO Gerald Hassell, Aon CEO Greg Case, and Prudential Group President Lori High will be hosting a day-long salute and celebration of these veterans.

<u>Why Does This Matter</u>: Veterans with disabilities have unemployment rates much higher than their civilian counterparts and much higher than their veteran counterparts without disabilities. BNY Mellon and Aon Corporation are taking a leadership role to proactively help local veterans with disabilities and their spouses find employment and to celebrate their service. This is exactly the kind of actionable community support that can and will make a difference for our disabled veterans and their spouses.

How You Can Help: We have been working with BNY Mellon to help them make this a successful event. The Wounded Warrior Project and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are also involved. Our task is to, "...identify veterans with disabilities in Greater Pittsburgh who are unemployed or underemployed who are looking for careers in business...". I am asking for your help with our task to identify and register these heroes and their spouses for this day-long event. I also ask that you forward this request to others who may be able to help.

<u>How Veterans with Disabilities and their Spouses can Register</u>: Just send us their names contact information (email address/phone number), and resume. My points of contact are Matt Maloney (<u>maloney@vlpwpa.org</u>) and Emily Nichelson-Boots (<u>bootse@vlpwpa.org</u>). I am also available to help in any way possible. My email address is <u>mercera@vlpwpa.org</u>. Please do not hesitate to contact Matt, Emily, or me at our email addresses or by phone at 412-481-8200.

<u>Location and Agenda</u> for the September 28th 'Salute to America's Wounded Warriors':

<u>Location</u>: One BNY Mellon Center, 500 Grant Street, 3rd Floor Client Reception Center, Downtown Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

Agenda: 9:00 a.m.: Registration and Continental Breakfast.

10:00 a.m.: Workshop I: Positioning Statement and First Impression.

11:00 a.m.: Workshop II: Transitioning from the Military to the Private Sector/Networking.

11:45 a.m.: Veterans Panel-Challenges with the Corporate Culture (from BNY Mellon and AON veterans who have made the transition).

12:30 p.m.: Lunch

1:30 p.m.: Employer Welcome Reception.

2:00 p.m.: Wounded Warrior Recognition. (General Myers, CEOs of BNY Mellon and Aon, and, Prudential

Group President)

2:45-4:00 p.m.: Networking Session for Veterans, Spouses, and Employers.

Participating Corporations (Confirmed):

Aon Corporation BNY Mellon

Carnegie Mellon University Carnegie Museums

DQE Holdings Eaton Corporation

Federated Investors F.N.B Corporation

HighMark Inc. INC Research

Leeds MARC USA

Penn United Technologies, Inc PNC Financial Services Group

Prudential Westinghouse Electric Company

West Virginia University

Participating Corporations (Awaiting Final Confirmation):

84 Lumber Company Bechtel Marine Propulsion Corporation

Dick's Sporting Goods Erie Insurance Exchange

First Energy Giant Eagle Inc.

HJ Heinz Company Hunter Family of Companies

Kennametal, Inc. PPG Industries, Inc.

UPMC Health System West Penn Allegheny Health System

<u>Summary</u>: VLP has provided essential housing, employment, and other vital supportive services to veterans, service members, and their families to improve their self-sufficiency, sustainability, and quality of life since 1982. We are grateful to BNY Mellon, Aon Corporation, and the other corporate participants for their proactive support of our region's heroes and their spouses. Please help us identify and register participants for this unique opportunity, and please feel free to pass this on to others who may be able to help.

Best regards,

Albert H. Mercer

Executive Director

Veterans Leadership Program of Western

Pennsylvania

2417 East Carson Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2111

Office: 412-481-8200, x212

Cell: 724-612-4124 Fax: 412-325-2724

mercera@vlpwpa.org

http://www.vlpwpa.org

Three Links for your convenience...

MOPH Department of Pennsylvania Website

Webmasters Corner, updated continually

Virus / Scam and Computer Fixes Page

SCAMS: IRS Reports

Suspicious e-Mails and Identity Theft; Phishing and Other Schemes Using the IRS Name and more...

http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=155682,00.html, or you may find what you're looking for on this list, http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=214917,00.html.

800 PHONE NUMBERS

Any time you call an 800 number (for a credit card, banking, charter communications, health and other insurance, computer help desk, etc) and you find that you're talking to a foreign customer service representative (perhaps in India, Philippines, etc), please consider doing the following: After you connect and you realize that the customer service representative is not from the USA (you can always ask if you are not sure about the accent), please, very politely (this is not about trashing other cultures) say, "I'd like to speak to a customer service representative in the United States of America."

The rep might suggest talking to his/her manager, but, again, politely say, "Thank you, but I'd like to speak to a customer service representative in the USA." YOU WILL BE IMMEDIATELY CONNECTED TO A REPRESENTATIVE IN THE USA. *That's the rule and the LAW.*

It takes less than one minute to have your call re-directed to the USA. Tonight when I got redirected to a USA rep, I asked again to make sure - and yes, she was from Fort Lauderdale.

Imagine what would happen if every US citizen insisted on talking to only US phone reps from this day on. Imagine how that would ultimately impact the number of US jobs that would need to be created ASAP

MOPH, TRI-COUNTY Chapter 1983 Schedule from 5/12/2011- 12/8/2011.

Tri-County Chapter 1983 Military Order of the Purple Heart

Mail/Phone: 172 Oxford Road Annville, PA 17003-8654 RQKECK@GMAIL.COM (717) 534 1525

Schedule:

05/12/2011: 7:00 P.M. MOPH Chapter Meeting at Palmyra VFW.

05/29/2011: Memorial Day service, Pleasant Hill Chapel, United Church of Christ – Participation.

05/30/2011: Hershey Memorial Day Parade – Participation.

06/03/2011: MOPH Department of Pennsylvania Convention in Somerset PA – Participation.

06/04/2011:

06/06/2011: Palmyra Veterans Carnival Association – Carnival Participation.

06/09/2011:

06/09/2011: 5:30 P.M. MOPH Chapter Meeting at Palmyra Veterans Carnival, at Fireman's Park.

07/04/2011: MOPH Chapter Fundraiser at Hershey K-Mart.

09/08/2011: 7:00 P.M. MOPH Chapter Meeting at Palmyra VFW.

09/11/2011: MOPH Membership Drive at Fort Indiantown Gap PX.

10/13/2011: 7:00 P.M. MOPH Chapter Meeting at Palmyra VFW.

11/10/2011: 7:00 P.M. MOPH Chapter Meeting at Palmyra VFW.

12/08/2011: 7:00 P.M. MOPH Chapter Meeting at Palmyra VFW.

Flood 2011 - Hershey/Hummelstown Pennsylvania

Photos from 2011 Flood in Hershey and Hummelstown PA.pps

Received: September 20, 2011

From: Robert Keck, Tri-County Chapter 1983 Subject: Flood 2011 - Hershey/Hummelstown PA.

Second Annual "Pets For U.S. Vets"

Email: From, DogParty84@aol.com,

Received: July 12, 2011, copied from the MOPH, Dept. of PA. July News Bulletin

Hi Everyone, *cross post if possible. SAVE THE DATE 10/08/2011

This is a mass email to let everyone on my list know that 84 Fitness Center and the Washington Area Humane Society have teamed up once again to present the 2nd Annual Furry Fall Festival "Pets for U.S. Vets" on Sat. Oct. 8th, 2011 in the 84 ball fields.

If you attended the dogparty last year, you know that it was a huge success. We raised \$\$\$ for the Veterans Fund at the Washington Area Humane Society and dogs and cats were adopted to our local U.S. Veterans throughout the year with the adoption fee waived. It is our way of giving back to our local veterans and also helping our local shelter animals find their forever homes.

If you volunteered a service, collected donations for the Chinese Auction, walked your dog or were a vendor, please consider being a part of this wonderful day once again. I will be updating everyone on my list as things progress. If you wish to be taken off of this list, please email me back and I will remove you from it.

Once again, the Claysville American Legion Riders will open our dogparty with a Patriotic ceremony.

As soon as I get more details in place, I'll let you know.

Contact me anytime @ 412-217-9059 or dogsarty84@aol.com

If you would like to check out what all went on last year, check out our dogblog http://dogparty84.blogspot.com/

I will be updating it shortly...please be a part of the solution...

Speaking for the shelter animals,

Suzi Smith P.H.D. (Perfect Hound Dogs)



UPDATE: 2ND Annual "FURRY" Fall Festival

Save the Date: Saturday, Barktober 8, 2011 - Tell your friends!

Received: August 14, 2011

Type: Email

From:

http://www.dogparty84.blogspot.com/



A social event for dogs (and their people)

Hi Everyone,

Just a guick update on 84 Fitness Center's 2nd Annual "Furry" Fall Festival.

This year, Father Mike Ruffalo from Immaculate Conception Church in Washington will be officiating the Blessing of the Animals.

Also, the Legion Riders from the Claysville American Legion are having a benefit ride for the Pets for U.S. Vets prior to the DogParty.

Pre-registration forms will be available soon at 84 Fitness Center and the Washington Area Humane Society.

Petco will be helping us once again by putting our flyers in bags and getting the word out there. More to come...

Check out the dogblog at www.dogparty84.blogspot.com for more information.





All roads lead to the DogParty!

$Suzi\ Smith {\tt PHD}\ ({\tt perfect\ hound\ dogs})$



GENERAL DISCLAIMER

Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Pennsylvania does not represent or endorse the accuracy or reliability of any of the information, content or advertisements (collectively, the "Materials") contained on, distributed through, or linked, downloaded or accessed from any of the services contained on this website (the "Service"), nor the quality of any products, information or other materials displayed, purchased, or obtained by you as a result of an advertisement or any other information or offer in or in connection with the Service (the "Products"). You hereby acknowledge that any reliance upon any Materials shall be at your sole risk. Military Order of the Purple Heart reserves the right, in its sole discretion and without any obligation, to make improvements to, or correct any error or omissions in any portion of the Service or the Materials.