



Purple Hat Press

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Zach Fike

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Lee Brown

National Junior Vice Commander

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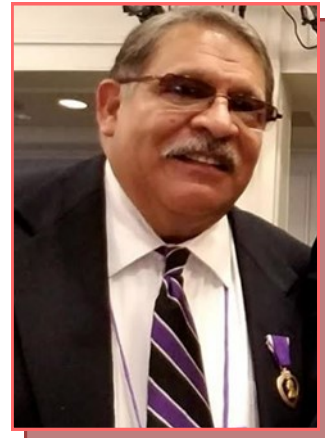


Rick Cherone



Felix Garcia III

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Francisco "Paco" Elizalde

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Barry Gasdek

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Billy Weldon

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER FELIX GARCIA III

Patriots, can you believe that it has been six-months since our Dallas, Texas National Convention? We are prepping for the 86th National Convention in Spokane, Washington. As we enter the mid-point of my election, I want to reflect, but more importantly inspire you to continue your mission. We are all aware now that we are in some financial straits. The feedback regarding purchasing the JROTC medal is not favorable. Emails continue to discredit or do they shed light to issues? I wish that I had all the solutions, and remedies to make us whole again.



I vaguely remembered during a Marine brief, prior to war, regarding unit cohesion. Honestly, I had to do some internet homework, and I share with you the following: "Unit cohesion is a military concept, defined by one former United States Chief of staff in the early 1980s as "the bonding together of soldiers in such a way as to sustain their will and commitment to each other, the unit, and mission accomplishment, despite combat or mission stress."

As we enter the Chapter/Department elections, I need each one of you to look deep within yourselves and be that "bond" during our "mission stress". Being elected into a leadership position, is one of the highest honors that is bestowed within the Military Order of the Purple Heart. I respectfully request that you seek candidacy as a form of change to the Order. If you accept the position, now is the time that we must "bond" for our survival. We have beaten the enemies' bullets, rockets, mortars, punji traps, improvised explosives devices in many forms, snipers, counter-snipers, etc., etc. Overcoming our current "stress" should be a tasking that is accepted and combated by all of us. We need more community outreach, Tweets, Facebook, Instagram, and good ole fashion verbal communication with a smile while wearing and boasting our Purple Heart medal to the public. We need to rebrand and showcase our sacrifices to all that we encounter.

Now is the time that we mentor and recruit our inevitable replacements. Even I see my wars moving further away from OEF/OIF, as I become the grey beard of this great organization and losing hair.

There is talent out there that we must recruit. I ask each one of you to recruit a millennial, but more importantly include them versus having them watch from the side lines. Their social media talent is the very skill set that we desperately need at the Chapter, Department, and National level.



Lastly, these six months have been rewarding, information by a firehose, and learning how a nonprofit operates. I stated earlier, that I don't have all the answers. What I have been doing is studying each one of you that I've come in contact with, whether face-to-face or a long-distance phone call. You all have real world experience, lessons learned, and great ideas for the betterment of this organization. I truly thank you for your confidence, time, and devotion to ensure our existences as the greatest veteran service organization will continue to flourish.

"Neither a wise nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him." ~Dwight D. Eisenhower

YIP,
Felix Garcia III
National Junior Vice Commander

Region I

MOPH NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—LEGISLATIVE

The United States Mint opened sales for their new 2018 WWI Centennial Silver Dollar. This new coin honors the 100th anniversary of American participation in WWI.

The first official purchase was made by Colonel Gerald York, grandson of WWI hero, Sergeant Alvin York. Colonel York then gifted a first-purchase coin to Aleks Morosky, Legislative Director for the Military Order of the Purple Heart (center). Joining them is David Hamon, Veterans Liaison for the U.S. WWI Centennial Commission.

A surcharge from the coin supports the Centennial Commission's education and commemorative programs. The new World War I Centennial Silver Dollar can be purchased at www.usmint.gov.



CHAPTER 1787—DELAWARE—MILTON UNVEILS PURPLE HEART PARKING SPACE

In late January, town officials and representatives from the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 1787 unveiled a designated parking spot for Purple Heart veterans right outside the town's library and municipal park.

"There are events held here year round," says Vice Mayor Kevin Kelly. "That's exactly where it needs to be and it's in a perfect location." The sign is part of a larger program run by the national Military Order of the Purple Heart called the Purple Heart Trail. "There are highways, universities, towns throughout the U.S. that recognize purple heart entities," says John Jackson, Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 1787 Commander. "Milton is--as far as I know--the first town in the state of Delaware that's done this for us." [Read full story here.](#)

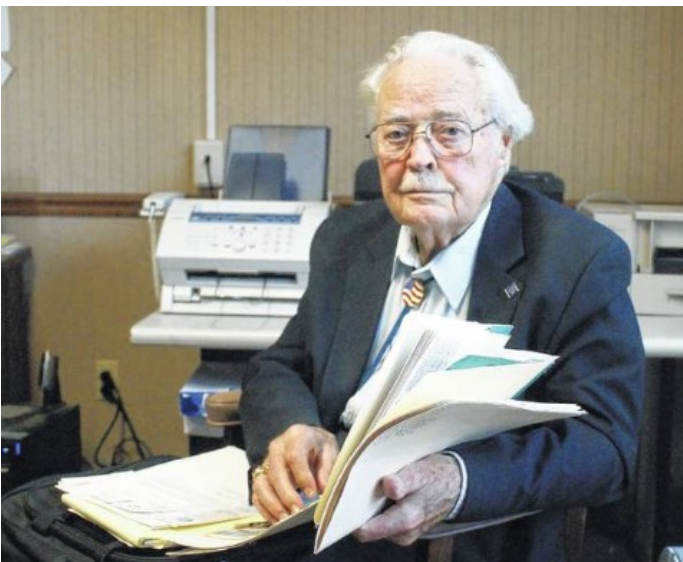
Region I



CHAPTER 21—NEW YORK

Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 21 served lunch to the patients of the PTSD unit at the Montrose VA Hospital, New Years Day.

From R to Left: Chapter Sr Vice Commander Gene Lang, Chapter Commander Dale Novak, Enid Lang, Frances, Adrienne Novak, Lynn Witt and an employee of the VA who assisted.



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA—CARROLL CO. SUPPORTS NAMING US 52 VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, THANKS TO PATRIOT CLYDE EASTER

The county’s board of supervisors unanimously passed a resolution supporting the change for the road, which runs from the North Carolina-Virginia border, just north of Mount Airy, through Cana, Virginia, and then on to the Wythe County border in the north.

The vote came as a result of efforts of Clyde Easter, a Carroll County native who is a veteran of World War II and Anzio Beachhead. Easter served with the Third Infantry Division in Europe. He was wounded twice on the Anzio Beachhead and is a recipient of The Purple Heart and an Oak Leaf Cluster. [Read full story here.](#)



CHAPTER 455—PA

Patriots of Chapter 455 recently passed out some 100 stockings filled with goodies for both female and male veterans at the South West Veterans Home in Pittsburgh PA.



Region I

**MOPH HEADQUARTERS—LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
VETERANS TREATMENT COURT COORDINATION ACT**

THE NATIONAL MILITARY & VETERANS ALLIANCE RECENTLY ENDORSED THE VETERAN TREATMENT COURT COORDINATION ACT INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE CRIST AND REPRESENTATIVE JEFF DENHAM. THIS BILL WOULD HELP GET VETERANS IN CRISIS THE CARE THEY NEED WHILE KEEPING THEM OUT OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

MOPH NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR ALEKSANDR MOROSKY (FAR RIGHT) MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ALLIANCE; AMERICAN MILITARY RETIREES ASSOCIATION, THE RETIRED ENLISTED ASSOCIATION AND VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA TO DISCUSS THE BILL AND THE DIFFERENCE IT CAN MAKE IN THE LIVES OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS.



Region I



PATRIOT BOB DOLE RECEIVES GOLD MEDAL FOR WAR & POLITICAL SERVICE WASHINGTON, D.C.

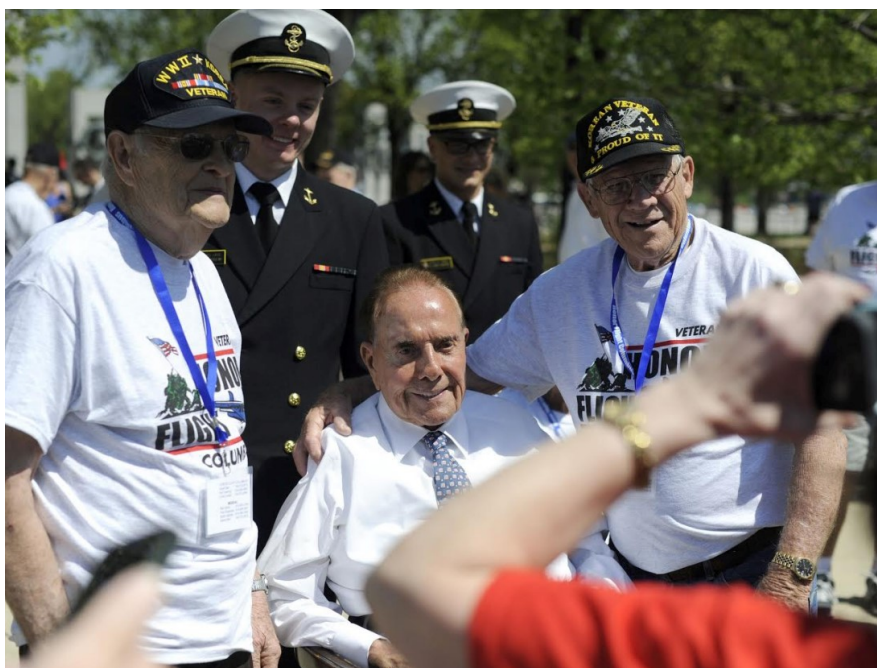
Robert Joseph “Bob” Dole, of Russell, enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves Corps in 1942, and summoned to active duty in 1943.

Upon completing training programs in the U.S. he became a combat infantry officer and was sent to Italy. In April of 1945, while in combat near Castel d’Aiano in the Apennine mountains SW of Bologna, Italy, he was severely wounded by a German machine gun, while trying to rescue a radioman. Patriot Dole had sustained a shattered right shoulder, fractured vertebrae in his neck and spine, paralysis from the neck down, metal shrapnel throughout his body and a damaged kidney.

He was transported back to the U.S. and recovered at the Percy Jones Army Hospital, which is now named Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center, in honor of the three patients who became U.S. Senators. Dole was decorated three times, receiving two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star with combat “V” for valor for his attempt to assist the downed radioman.

After his Army days, Patriot Dole went on to serve in the Kansas House of Representatives, the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. – serving in several leadership positions within his party, including Majority and Minority Leader, and even bid for the Vice Presidency and Presidency.

Patriot Dole spends countless hours visiting young men and women who have been wounded in combat. He has been a member of MOPH since 1970. [Read full story here.](#)



Region I



CHAPTER 875—MASS—WREATH LAYING

Hundreds of volunteers turned out to Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017 to honor and lay wreaths at the graves of local residents who served in the U.S. Military.



Participants in the annual Wreaths Across America event laid a total of 6,579 wreaths at grave sites throughout the Agawam cemetery, Patriot Brian Willette and Associate Member Gina Willette said.

"It doesn't matter who you're affiliated with, or even if you know a veteran who's buried here, people can come and honor the veterans," Gina said in an interview. "We really want people to know, even if you can't give monetarily, you can come and put the wreath down and honor that veteran." [Read more.](#)



Region I

CHAPTER 1787—VA

Two parking spaces for Purple Heart Receipts have been reserved in Sussex County, Delaware. The Rifle Lamp; Pistol Club and Toddy's Auto Sales join the Milford Cheer Center and AutoWorks in providing these spaces in Sussex County. The sign at Toddy's honors those who served in owner Clifford Todd's family. His father Clifford served in World War II, brother Ernest served in the Navy in Vietnam, and son Michael serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club - Bridgeville, Delaware
L-R Club Member Tom Perry (Middletown, DE), Gleen Struck (Milford, DE)



Toddy's Auto Sales - Lewes, Delaware
L-R Phillip Todd, Richard Todd (Toddy), and Kathy Todd

CHAPTER 21—NEW YORK

SUPER-BOWL PARTY AT MONTROSE VA

Patriots of Chapter 21 enjoyed bonding with patients from the Montrose VA, PTSD unit for the Super Bowl party. Friends and family attended.



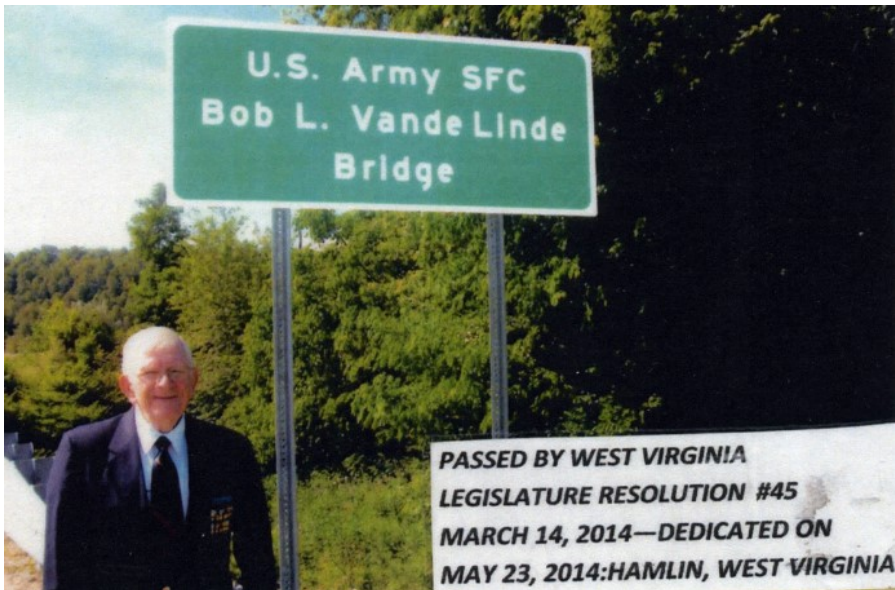
Region I

CHAPTER 1607—VA—PATRIOT BOB VANDELINDE

Patriot VandeLinde was assigned to the 187th Airborne Infantry at Fort Campbell, Ky., in 1948 and, two years later, he was a paratrooper in the thick of the Korean War. On Oct. 22, 1950, VandeLinde and his eight-man unit came into combat with a group of 200 enemy troops whose encampment was just down the road from their outpost on the outskirts of a Korean village.

The Hamlin, W.Va., native's service earned him numerous decorations in combat including the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, a Korean Presidential Citation and Service Medal and a Combat Infantry Badge among many other honors.

In 2011, VandeLinde was also declared as the "Warrior of the Day" and in May 2014, a bridge that spans the Mud River on W.Va. 3 in Hamlin was renamed the "U.S. Army SFC Bob L. VandeLinde Bridge" at a dedication where Medal of Honor recipient and good friend Woody Williams spoke. [Read full story here.](#)



CHAPTER 103—CONNECTICUT—PASSING OF PATRIOT GEORGE CROWLEY

George Andrew Crowley, 100, of North Haven, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at his daughter's home in Northford with his family by his side. He was the beloved husband of Florence Sylvie Gibbons Crowley.

George was born in Bristol, CT on August 15, 1917 and was the son of the late Andrew and Mildred Holcomb Crowley. He served his country faithfully in the U.S. Army during WW II in the Pacific, HQ. 1st BN. 169th Infantry 43rd Division received the Purple Heart and the Division Medal of Honor.

George had worked as a supervisor for Pratt & Whitney for many years until his retirement. He was a life time Mason; member of the New Haven Raccoon Club and a member of the V.F.W. George was an avid sportsman.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospital for children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104 or St. Jude's Children Hospital, PO Box 50, Memphis, TN 38101-9929. The North Haven Funeral Home, 36 Washington Avenue has been entrusted with the arrangement. [Read fully story here](#) via the North Haven Funeral Home.



DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA—PATRIOT GEORGE BROWN

It was Feb. 14 and amidst the chaos of the attack, Brown was on the radio coordinating a counter attack as he was familiar with the outlying enemy positions. Viet Cong had carefully coordinated the attacks to target bunker positions and inflict maximum damage.



Brown was hit and sustained the most serious injuries — shrapnel wounds from his waist to his head, with only his thumbs spared. In addition to the shrapnel wounds, he sustained broken fingers and a severe concussion.

Having already shed 40 pounds humping through the challenging terrain in Vietnam, Brown was flown to an evacuation hospital in country, then shipped to the Philippines and later to Japan. He spent weeks hospitalized and weeks more in rehabilitation. [Read full story here.](#)

Region I



CHAPTER 1965—VA PATRIOTS VISIT WWII VETERAN WILLARY GILLEY

January 30th—Chapter 1965 Patriots Richard Wise, Maurice Menefee and Dan Dorchak visited with Veteran Willard Gilley, a '43 Hokie, Veteran of the Third Army (Battle of the Bulge) and 26th ID. Willard has since then passed away. May he rest in peace.



CHAPTER 1787—DE RESERVED PURPLE HEART PARKING SIGNS INSTALLED

Sign is located on Chandler Street, behind the Milton Public Library, a sign reserving a parking spot for Purple Heart veterans has been installed.

Milton Town Council approved installing of the sign in December. The sign is on Chandler Street, next to the entrance to the parking lot behind the Milton Public Library.

This marks the second sign in Milton. The first was installed at the Milton CHEER Center, 24855 Broadkill Road.

John Jackson, Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 1787 commander, was on hand for the unveiling. [Read full story here.](#)

Region I

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA—PATRIOT WILLIAM GRANT RECEIVES BRONZE STAR

The Nevada National Guard presented Pvt. William Grant with the honor at the Clark County Armory.

Grant served in Normandy with the 60th Infantry Regiment in the U. S. Army and was wounded in battle.

His son, Bill Grant had researched his father's military records and found out he had been awarded the Bronze Star, but no one had ever physically given it to him. Bill contacted Veterans Affairs to do just that.

"I am thrilled and honored to be able to have these medals presented to my dad after such a long time," Bill said. "As part of the 'greatest generation' he is truly a hero, a quiet hero, who served his country and his family."

William Grant received the award while his family was in Las Vegas for the holiday season. He earned a Purple Heart and campaign ribbons after leaving the military in 1945. "We need to cherish the World War II veterans still with us, honor those who have passed and never forget their sacrifice," Nevada Army National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Zachary Doser said.

William Grant, a Las Vegas resident, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Pitt University and worked with the Social Security administration for several decades in Baltimore before moving to Nevada. [See full story here.](#)



DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA—REP. RYAN COSTELLO AWARDS PURPLE HEART TO CHESTER COUNTY ARMY VETERAN, PATRIOT JUSTIN RADBILL



U.S. Army veteran Justin Radbill, left, is awarded the Purple Heart by U.S. Rep. Ryan Costello, R-6, at a ceremony in West Goshen Wednesday.

More than 50 family members, friends, veterans, Purple Heart award recipients and state police officers crowded into the Chester County Office of Veterans Affairs, at the Chester County Government Services Building, in late December. Costello pinned the award for injured military personnel onto the U.S. Army veteran's coat.

Pvt. First Class Radbill was injured in Baghdad, Iraq during June of 2003 and although a ceremony took place, he never was awarded the actual medal.

Radbill walks with help of a cane and will undergo more surgery next week after an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated and he was struck with shrapnel, while also suffering other significant injuries.

Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Patriot Dennis Kukulka, from Chapter 1777 was among those who recognized Radbill's sacrifices.

Region I

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY—PASSING OF PATRIOT JOHN PALMENTIERI

Palmentieri, who was awarded a purple heart after being shot by a German sniper in France, lived on Boston Avenue, which was renamed “Purple Heart Way” in honor of him and his three brothers.

Before being drafted, Palmentieri was a high school student in Atlantic City. Palmentieri did not arrive in France until after the D-Day invasion, he said the fear still existed.



In the hospital, Palmentieri met Ray Borzellino, a medic who lived around the corner from Palmentieri in Atlantic City. After the war, Palmentieri married Borzellino’s sister Louise, whom he met at the Veterans Administration Office. Louise was working for the VA at the time, and the two were married for 70 years. [Read full story here.](#)

Left photo: John and Louise Palmentieri

Bottom photo: Patriots Jerry Callahan, John Palmentieri and Ronald Rease.



Region II

CHAPTER 733— WEST VIRGINIA—HUNTINGTON BECOMES A PURPLE HEART CITY

Huntington, WV is now a Purple Heart City. The Mayor of Huntington Stephen Williams and the City Council partook in this special ceremony at the meeting, along with Patriots of the Department of West Virginia; bringing together the community.



Region II



DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA—MARSHALL UNIVERSITY BECOMES PURPLE HEART UNIV.

Marshall University honored military men and women today by becoming the first Purple Heart University in West Virginia to receive the honor from the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The new title is meant to recognize Marshall University’s service to Purple Heart veterans in the area, some of whom attend the university.

In addition to installing “Purple Heart University” signage at the entrance of the university’s Gullickson Hall, Marshall University has reserved a sparking space outside of the hall for Purple Heart recipients and all others who have

been wounded during combat while serving the U.S. armed forces. The space is conveniently located for student veterans visiting the university’s Office of Military and Veterans Affairs inside of Gullickson Hall. [Full story here.](#)



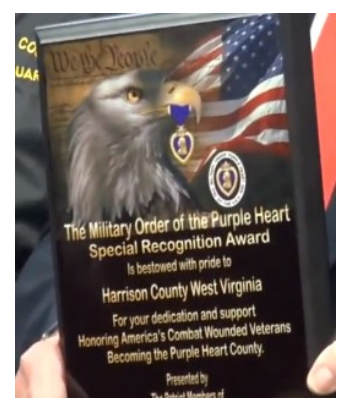
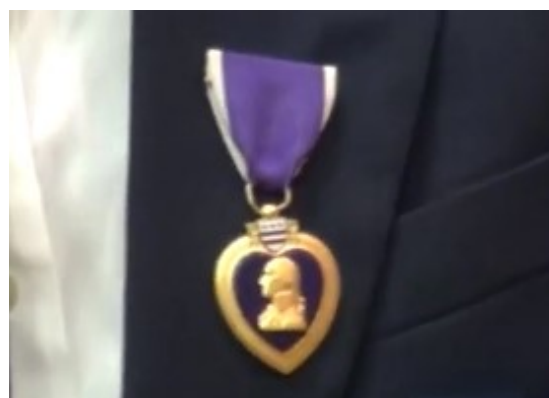
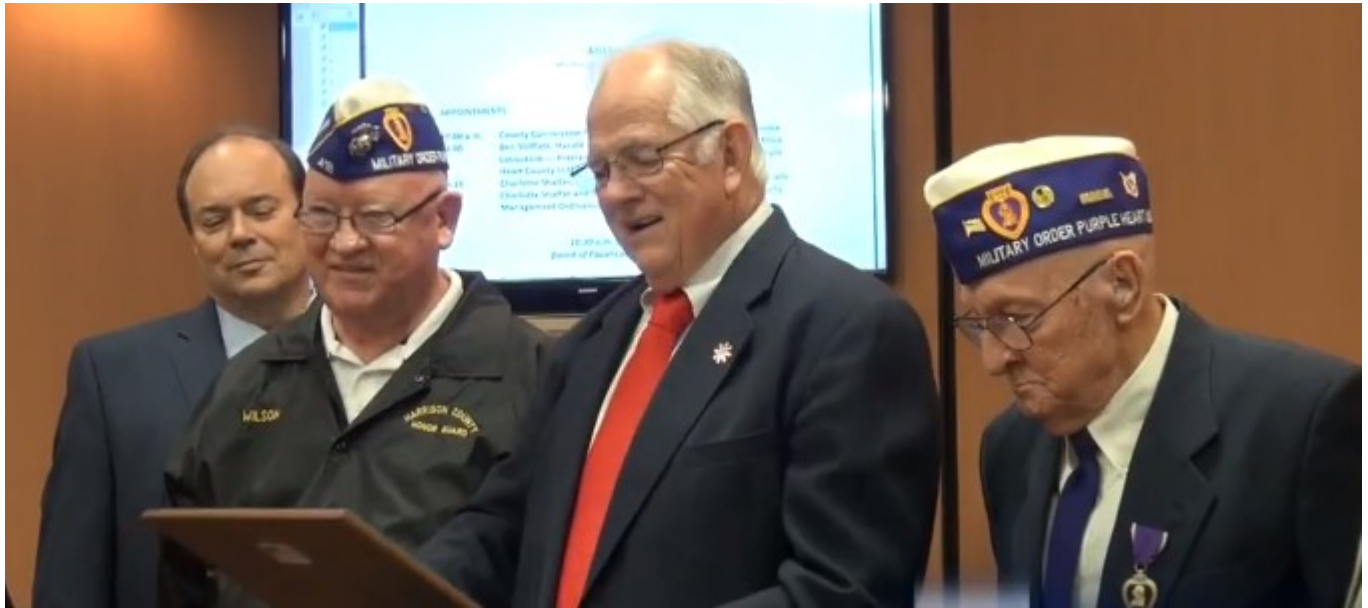
L TO R: JONATHAN MCCORMICK OF THE OFFICE OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, MARSHALL UNIVERSITY, PRESIDENT JEROME GILBERT, AND BRYAN CHAMBERS FROM THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON, UNVEIL A SIGN AND PARKING SPACE MEANT JUST FOR PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS ON 1/25/18, AT MARSHAL UNIVERSITY.

Region II

CHAPTER 418—WV—HARRISON COUNTY: A PURPLE HEART COUNTY

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. - The Harrison County Commission proclaimed Harrison County to be a "Purple Heart County". WV Chapter 418 received the proclamation from commissioners and said its important to not only remember those who were wounded in combat but to teach younger generations about the sacrifice of those who came before them.

"We have more veterans, more combat wounded veterans in West Virginia than just a handful of other states, and especially this county, and so I think it is a distinct pleasure to have that and for the city of Clarkburg," said Harold Wilson, Sergeant of Arms for Chapter 418. [Full story here.](#)



Region II



CHAPTER 31—OHIO

MEMORIAL DEDICATION

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated to the City of Springboro, OH by Department Commander John Agenbroad and the State of Ohio Honor Guard.

CHAPTER 144—ILLINOIS

DONATION TO FISHER HOUSE

Chapter 144 has been donating to the Fisher House—Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, since 2014. Patriots are able to raise these funds by collecting donations for Veterans in front of stores.

Pictured: Chapter Commander Sam Maggio & Fisher House IL Manager Holly Wright.



CHAPTER 7110—MN

On the right: Rochester Minnesota Chapter 7110 Finance Officer Earl Kinneberg was presented with a Purple Heart clock with his name on it and the date he was wounded in Vietnam.

It was presented from Department of Minnesota Senior Vice Commander Ryan Sabinish (L) The clock was given to represent the amount of time Earl has given for the military order of the Purple Heart this will be his 5 year anniversary being a finance officer for the Rochester chapter.



Region II



CHAPTER 7110—MN—ROCHESTER A PURPLE HEART CITY

Rochester, Minnesota was declared a Purple Heart City. It was organized by Chapter 7110 and Department of MN Senior Vice Commander, also with the help of Olmsted County Veterans Service Officers.

There are at least 150 Purple Heart recipients in the Rochester area. The Olmsted County Veterans' Services office sent out 156 invitations to Thursday's event. Veterans' Services Officer Jennifer Shumaker said those were the recipients the county office knows about among the more than 9,300 veterans it serves. Rochester has the state's fastest-growing chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Ryan Sabinish, Chapter Sr. Vice Commander, said membership in Lloyd-Swenson Chapter 7110 continues to grow.

Harry Kerr, the Chapter's adjutant, said the Chapter's name is adopted to remember two local soldiers who died in combat: Sgt. Allen Lloyd, who died in Cambodia in 1971, and Lance Cpl. Curtis Swenson, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2010.

[Read the full story here.](#)

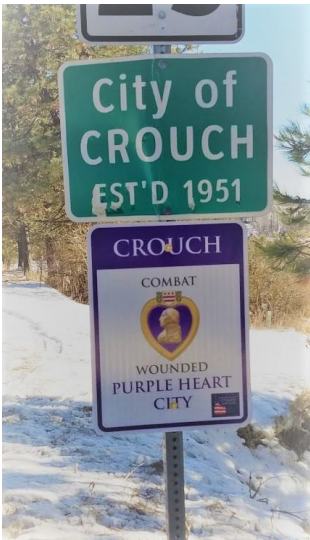


Region III

CHAPTER 509-IDAHO

CROUCH RECEIVES PURPLE HEART CITY DESIGNATION

The Crouch City Council meeting on December 13th had a special presentation by MOPH Dept. of Idaho. The tone was set by City of Crouch Mayor Bob Powell, who read a Proclamation which would designate the City of Crouch as a Purple Heart City. The crowd of attendees witnessed the signing of the Proclamation. Special dignitaries of MOPH were there, including Past Dept. of Idaho Commander (now Adjutant) Ned Barker, Bill Hamilton Commander Chief Joseph Chapter 509, Patriot Bob Pelcher Past Chapter 509 Commander and Walter Jackson Past Department of Idaho Commander.



Region III

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA—MSU DESIGNATED A PURPLE HEART UNIVERSITY

The Department of Montana worked with MSU to have it designated Montana's 1st Purple Heart University.

L to R: Mr. Joseph Schumacher, Veterans Director, Montana State University, David Chung, Senior Vice Commander, Department of Montana, Dr. Waded Cruzado, President, Montana State University, Char Gatlin, Chief of Staff/S-1, Department of Montana, Mr. Saul Martinez, Purple Heart Recipient, Director of Warrior Services, Quiet Waters.

Photo credit: Marcus "Doc" Cravens, Montana State University. [Full story here.](#)



CHAPTER 583—MT—PATRIOT JACK HENLEY RECOGNIZED BY CONGRESSMAN GREG GIANFORTE

Rep. Greg Gianforte was in Hamilton to honor WWII and Korean War veteran Jack Henley. He presented Henley with a certificate of his tribute made on the House floor back in November 2017.

Henley joined the US Army right after graduating from high school in 1943 and attended boot camp in South Carolina before being sent to Guadalcanal where he earned a pair of Bronze Stars.

He was then sent to the Philippines where he safely led a squad of men through cannon, mortar and automatic gunfire. He returned to the battlefield twice and saved two wounded men in the process. Henley earned a Silver Star and Purple Heart while in the Philippines. Following World War II, Henley took some time off from the military but then

re-enlisted and served during the Korean War as a drill instructor. By the end of Henley's 28-year career, he had been awarded 18 medals and decorations and his name is included in the Hall of Valor in Washington D.C. [Full story here.](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE DAKOTAS—SOUTH DAKOTA WWII VETERAN RECEIVES PURPLE HEART MEDAL

The ceremony for 94-year-old Sylvan Vigness, of Flandreau, was held on January 27th at the Flandreau Community Center. His 89-year-old wife, Iona, was asked to pin the award on her husband's sweater.

Sylvan Vigness served on the USS Hinsdale as petty officer and signalman. He injured his left eye in 1945 during a Japanese kamikaze plane crash onto his ship headed to the initial landings at Iwo Jima in the western Pacific. He wasn't treated until months later. [Read full story here.](#)

PHOTO: Sylvan Vigness with his wife, Iona, after she pinned a Purple Heart to his chest, during a ceremony in his honor. Department of the Dakotas Commander Ken Teunissen represented for MOPH (left). US Senator Mike Rounds and Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard also attended the ceremony.



Region IV



CHAPTER 642—NORTH CAROLINA

The annual "Purple Heart Memorial Tree for KIA's" that Chapter 642 displays each year for over 10 years at the PX on board the Marine Corps Base at Camp Lejeune, NC. There are aver 528 names of Marines and Navy Corpsman from the II Marine Expeditionary Force on the large board that have died while serving in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2003 to present. The large tree contains a large purple ball for each year and number killed during that year. On the large board are the names, ranks, and year killed of each member. The last picture are two of the many patriots and associate members that man the table during the noon hour during the month of December.



Region IV**CHAPTER 776—FLORIDA
HONORS PATRIOT CURT EBITZ**

FOUNDER OF CHAPTER 776 AARON A. WEAVER MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, ADJUTANT AND HISTORIAN CURT EBITZ RECEIVED THE SECOND ANNUAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD DURING THE 13TH ANNUAL PURPLE HEART CEREMONY AT THE CITRUS COUNTY AUDITORIUM.

This year, Chapter 776 surprised retired Col. Curt Ebitz, founder of the chapter, with a lifetime achievement award. “He has been the mainstay of our chapter and our right-hand man since its inception,” Allen said.

Marine veteran, Patriot Richard Hunt (Dept. of FL Commander) noted that Ebitz is a member of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame, inducted because of his service to the community after his military service. “We give this in honor to him in appreciation of his lifelong dedication and service to the community, state of Florida and the nation,” Hunt said.

Ebitz said, “I’ve been surprised twice in my life. The first time as a platoon leader when we were ambushed in the jungles of Vietnam, and now.” This year’s ceremony was in honor of World War II Marine veteran John Auble, formerly of Homosassa, who died Dec. 16, 2017. Auble was twice wounded at the Battle of Iwo Jima and medically retired from the Marines at age 19.

[Read full story here.](#)

Region IV



**DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
EAGLE HEAD CANES**

Several Patriots of the Dept. of FL had the honor of receiving an Eagle Head Cane, handmade by the Indian River Woodcarvers, and made exclusively for Purple Heart recipients. They are presented once each year at the SEAL Museum in Ft. Pierce, FL.

For more info and how to receive one of these amazing canes, visit <http://indianriverwoodcarvers.weebly.com>.



Region IV

CHAPTER 2216—ALABAMA

“I’TS JUST RESPECT” PATRIOT ROBERT GREEN SAYS



The signs are outlined in purple, mounted on purple poles. The lines painted on asphalt designating the parking lot spaces are also purple. The color purple signifies the Purple Heart Medal, also pictured on the parking lot signs with the words “Reserved for combat wounded.”

More than 100 such signs have been placed in the parking lots of businesses and government facilities in Coffee, Dale and Geneva Counties, according to Patriot Robert Green. “Even if the parking spot is empty, it’s a good reminder for those who walk or drive by.”

A three time Purple Heart recipient, Patriot Green is the person credited for making the city of Enterprise aware of the significance of attaining a Purple Heart City designation. He is also the Commander of the one-year-old MOPH Chapter 2216 in Enterprise, AL.

Increasing public awareness of the significance of the Purple Heart parking is a mission Green takes seriously. “I want people to understand what the sign means,” Green said. “It means a lot to me and it means a lot to my brothers and sisters that are combat wounded. “The Purple

Heart parking signs are a way of saying ‘thank you’ to the men and women who spilled blood for our country. It’s just respect” Green said.

Green received his first Purple Heart in Vietnam in 1968 on his 21st birthday, which was also his first day in the field. [Read full story here.](#)



CHAPTER 817—SC—PURPLE HEART COUNTY

Purple Heart County Highway Signs were installed during 18-19 December at prominent entrances to Sumter County, SC. This was a follow-on action to an MOPH Chapter 817 proposal to the Sumter County Administrator and County Council to recognize wounded veterans and enhance Sumter as a veterans friendly county.

Region IV

CHAPTER 696—FL—CELEBRATES THE BIRTHDAY OF A WWII PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT

Chapter 696 attended the birthday of WWII Purple Heart Veteran, Michael Nalbandian (center).

L to R: Chapter Finance Officer Rob Duffney, Chapter JVC Bert Kurland, Chapter Commander Jack Wagner, Patriot Ed Charles, Chapter Trustee Sam Fantino, and Chapter Adjutant Bill Dismukes.

This birthday celebration had originated from a district office of Senator Tammy Duckworth, also a Purple Heart Recipient & Member of MOPH, when she was contacted by Michael's sisters, who live in Illinois, so that their brother would not be alone on his birthday. Several of Chapter 696 Patriots gladly volunteered to visit a fellow brother in arms, with cake and balloons.



CHAPTER 776—FL PURPLE HEART CEREMONY TO PAY TRIBUTE

WWII Veterans from L: Charles Tharp, Thomas Gomez, Charles Hohl and Claude Mills receive handmade quilts from the Quilts of Valor Foundation, presented by from L: Curt Ebitz, Mickey Hunt, Tee Pasay and Richard Allen. [Read full story here.](#)

Region IV



DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

PASSING OF PATRIOT DALE BEATTY—ARMY VETERAN, PHILANTHROPIST & CO-FOUNDER OF **PURPLE HEART HOMES**

Patriot Dale Beatty, an Army veteran from Statesville, NC who lost both legs beneath the knees in Iraq and devoted his life to helping other veterans, died unexpectedly Monday at age 39, as reported by Purple Heart Homes.

Patriots Beatty and John Gallina, also from Statesville, were wounded when a mine detonated through the floor of their Humvee in northern Iraq in 2004. The two friends were in high school when they enlisted in the North Carolina National Guard in 1996.

Together they founded Purple Heart Homes in 2008 because many injured veterans need new homes when they return from conflicts. Others need improvements to their homes, especially as the veterans age and can't do the repairs themselves. The organization has helped veterans in the Carolinas and other states coast to coast with new or renovated homes, often with volunteers providing everything from donations to labor. Purple Heart Homes completed its 300th housing project in November, 2017.

For more information on Purple Heart Homes visit:

<https://purplehearthomesusa.org/>



PATRIOTS JOHN GALLINA & DALE BEATTY, FOUNDERS OF PURPLE HEART HOMES

CHAPTER 740—TX—PATRIOT DUNAGAN IS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE



Photo: Regent Juanita Baker presents Donnie Dunagan with the Community Service Award at a recent meeting of San Agenlo's Pocahontas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution meeting on Jan. 16.

The Pocahontas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recognized Dr. Donnie Dunagan with the Community Service Award on Jan. 16, citing his selfless efforts over the past five years to promote the education, employment, and well-being of military veterans and their families, and also other at-risk members of our community, in addition to his lifelong commitment to the service of others.

He worked with Sonrisas Trails Therapeutic Riding to establish a program for veterans suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder. He promotes many programs through the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and American Legion that raise funds for the needs of these organiza-

tions and support their causes. He works diligently to make veterans aware of all the services available to them. Most recently, he promoted the SHEROES event for women veterans. [Read the full story here.](#)



DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS—PATRIOT WOODY WILLIAMS VISITS LUBBOCK FOR VETERANS LUNCHEON TO ENCOURAGE GOLD STAR FAMILY MONUMENT

The veterans who were treated to a luncheon program Thursday at MCM Elegante walked through a photo gallery of fallen Texans before entering a banquet area to hear speaker Woody Williams, Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

Hershel "Woody" Williams and his foundation have dedicated 30 monuments in 36 different states to Gold Star Families for the sacrifice

they have made, and he is trying to help fundraise for the next one in Lubbock.

Steve Oien, Chapter 900 Commander and an organizer of the luncheon program, told the veterans, many of them participants of the South Plains Honor Flight, that Gold Star families will also be remembered by a monument planned for construction late this year. [Read full story here.](#)

Region V

DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO—PURPLE HEART ENTITY DEDICATION

Patriots of from several Chapters in the Department of Colorado had the honor and privilege to dedicate Jim N Nicks BBQ as the first Purple Heart Restaurant in Colorado. They are thankful for all their dedication to help veterans and the mission that MOPH lives by.



DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

MOPH HOSTS ANNUAL BALL AT FORT HOOD

The Military Order of the Purple Heart hosted the 16th annual Purple Heart Ball Saturday evening.

Purple Heart Medal recipients, Gold Star Family members, veterans, spouses and civilians graced Club Hood as they mingled, enjoyed good food and bonded with one another.

The guest speaker this year was KWTX Vice President and General Manager Mike Wright.

Congressman John Carter, mayors and city council members of surrounding cities were in attendance. John Footman is the Inspector for the state of Texas for The Military Order of the Purple Heart. "This is what we do every year to bond us together and bond all our veterans together." Veteran's organizations throughout the area contribute and sponsor the program every year. [Full story here.](#)



Region V

CHAPTER 1513—TEXAS—SOMERWELL BECOMES A PURPLE HEART COUNTY

Somervell County, Texas became a Purple Heart County on February 12th, thanks to the efforts of DFW Mid-Cities Chapter #1513, Military Order of the Purple Heart Patriots.



Region V



CHAPTER 1513—TEXAS

CITY OF RICHLAND HILLS, TX BECOMES A PURPLE HEART CITY

Richland Hills, Texas became a Purple Heart City on February 12th, thanks to the efforts of DFW Mid-Cities Chapter #1513, Military Order of the Purple Heart Patriots. The proclamation was signed by Mayor, Bill Agan.

Region V



CHAPTER 1513—TEXAS—PURPLE HEART CITY DESIGNATION

Coppell, Texas became a Purple Heart City on January 9, 2018. Pictured: Patriots Jon Luncwicz and Gus Wittschack with Miss Coppel and two Veterans of the VFW.



COPPELL
TEXAS

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the people of the City of Coppell, Texas have great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served their country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in present use and was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by George Washington in 1782; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart was the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier and is specifically awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who have been wounded or paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat with a declared enemy of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women from the city of Coppell, Texas who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedom and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, many men and women in uniform have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, many citizens of our community have earned the Purple Heart Medal as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force, continued as a singularly meritorious act of essential service; and

WHEREAS, January 9, 2018 has officially been designated as the day in Coppell, Texas to remember and recognize veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Karen Schlo Hunt, Mayor of the City of Coppell, Dallas County, Texas, do hereby proclaim Coppell, Texas a

PURPLE HEART CITY

for honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedom enjoyed by all Americans.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Coppell to be affixed this 9th day of January 2018.

Karen Schlo Hunt
Karen Schlo Hunt, Mayor

Christal Anderson
Christal Anderson, City Secretary



CHAPTER 423—CO—PRESENTS FIRST RESPONDERS PLAQUE TO FALLEN TROOPER

Patriots of Chapter 423 participated in a ceremony for fallen Colorado State Patrol Cadet Taylor Thyfault, who was killed after being hit by a car during a high speed chase back in May 2015. He was honored in mid December, 2017, and was posthumously made a trooper and presented a plaque for his service.

CHAPTER 587—ARKANSAS—GREENWOOD BECOMES A PURPLE HEART CITY

Greenwood Mayor, Doug Kinslow, welcomed some special guests at the January meeting of the city council for a very special honor. The men were combat veterans that were dressed in white shirts with purple hats and ties to signify that they were purple heart recipients.

“We would not be able to do what we are doing here tonight if it were not for the gentlemen that are here tonight,” said Kinslow. “There are no words that I can come up with that can express our gratitude for their service. We are honored beyond words tonight”.



GREENWOOD MAYOR, DOUG KINSLOW, IS SHOWN ACCEPTING A PLAQUE FROM PATRIOT CARDER FERGUSON AT THE CITY HALL



CHAPTER 1513—TEXAS WELCOMES PATRIOT SHELBY DAWSON

Department of Texas, Adjutant Jon Lunkwicz signed up Shelby S. Dawson, a WWII US Marine, that was wounded on July 26th, 1944. He received his Purple Heart on October 20, 2017... 73 years later.

Dawson also became one of the oldest, if not the oldest Marine, to ever receive the Purple Heart Award. A crowd of more than 200 people came to watch Dawson receive the honor which he earned more than seven decades ago.

Dawson enlisted in the Navy when he was 17 years old. At that time, according to military records, the award was given to those “wounded” by an enemy. But Dawson had a hard time proving that happened. And that’s how the I-Team first met him back in 20-16.

Dawson told CBS11, in 1944, days into the invasion on Guam, a mortar around exploded near him. “The explosion knocked me kind of silly. I reached down to pick up my M1 and my hand won’t work.” Hit by shrapnel, he made it to the medical tent where a doctor told him he needed to go to the hospital ship. [Read full story here.](#)



CHAPTER 1513—TEXAS

Fuel City, Inc. located in Texas became a Purple Heart Business on January 17, 2018.



Region V

Chapter 1513—Texas

Today's Car Wash #1, #2, #3, located in Killeen, Texas, became a Purple Heart business on February 16th, 2018.



Region V

CHAPTER 1513—TEXAS

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4815 of San Antonio, Texas became a Purple Heart Post on February 17, 2018.



MOPH DOT SR. VICE COMMANDER JON LUNKWICZ , MOPH CHAPTER 1513 COMMANDER GUS WITTSCHACK , PATRIOT HANK HERMANN, AND PATRIOT ROBERT VASQUEZ PRESENTING SIGN TO MAYOR RON JENSEN.



CHAPTER 1513—TEXAS

The City of Grand Prairie, Texas was designated a Purple Heart City on Tuesday January 23, 2018 Mayor Ron Jensen proclaimed that the City of Grand Prairie a "Purple Heart City". MOPH Department of Texas Sr. Vice Commander Jon Lunkwicz presented a sign in honor of proclaiming the City of Grand Prairie "Purple Heart City".



CHAPTER 708—AR

12 YR-OLD FUNRAISES FOR MOPH

In November 2016, Kyleigh Boone decided she wanted to give back to a local organization by selling her pecan pies. For the 2017 holiday season, Boone decided to once again get to baking. She sold her pecan pies and was able to deliver her earnings in the new year to a local veterans organization—MOPH.

She attended the January meeting for the MOPH Chapter 708 and presented them a check for \$2,000, matching what she donated the previous year. Patriot Everett Evans (right) said Boone has a wonderful giving heart, and MOPH appreciates her pecan pie fundraiser the last two years.

Evans presented Boone with a certificate of appreciation at the January meeting as well as a purple stone pendant necklace in honor of her support for the Combat Wounded Veterans of Northeast Arkansas. [Read full story here.](#)



KYLEIGH'S FATHER BRANDON WHO IS A PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT, KYLEIGH BOONE, AND EVERETT EVANS AT THE JAN. 2018 MEETING.

DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA

RECOGNITION FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

Chapter 589 Commander Mitchell Reed and A dozen other Veterans participated in a Vietnam Veterans lapel pinning ceremony for their service. Reed was sent to Vietnam on his birthday in 1968. The following year, he received the Purple Heart award for taking a bullet in his lung. During the ceremony he spoke about the importance of never forgetting all the brave Americans who have served. [Read full story here.](#)



CHAPTER 900—TX—PATRIOT STEVEN OIEN

Marine Cpl. Steven Oien, who survived Vietnam, now is helping to coordinate a future monument in Lubbock that will recognize recipients of the Purple Heart Medal and the Gold Star families who lost a loved one in war. “I would like to have our fundraising done by the end of May. The Monument of Courage is part



of that to instill patriotism in our communities. We need to reinforce that — individuals gave up a great deal of their lives to be in our military. Some of them gave the ultimate sacrifice.

“Families also are devastated through the loss of a loved one. My desire is for every organization — every professional man and woman in our region — to make a donation to this. It’s a way of remembering our soldiers’ sacrifice for the nation,” he said. “It takes us all to keep

our country going, to keep it strong. Whether you’re a civilian or in the military, we all have a part to play.” The Monument of Courage is planned for the Huneke Park at 82nd Street and Nashville Avenue, where the Lubbock Area Veterans War Memorial and the Willie McCool Memorial are located. [Read full story here.](#)

CHAPTER 589—OK—COLLINSVILLE BECOMES A PURPLE HEART CITY

City staff and other locals gathered outside the Veterans Building off Main Street to recognize Collinsville as a Purple Heart City. Collinsville is now the eighth city in Oklahoma to be designated as a Purple Heart City. Distinctive signs announcing Collinsville’s status as a Purple Heart City were donated to the City by the Collinsville Masonic Lodge #165 and then placed on various street entrances across town on Thursday.

The proclamation was read by Mayor Bud York. Other Purple Heart recipients also attended the ceremony, including Collinsville VFW Commander Jerry Kistner, who is also a Vietnam War, Granada, Panama and Gulf War Navy veteran.

[Full story here.](#)



CHAPTER 740—TEXAS

2nd Lt. Daniel Hipps, 315th Training Squadron trainee, received the Purple Heart at the Base Theater on Goodfellow Air Force Base, Jan. 31. "I was on my first of three deployments to Afghanistan as an [Explosive Ordnance Disposal] Airman," said Hipps. "I was driving our armored vehicle to respond to an [Improvised Explosive Device] that the Marines had located on a patrol when the front left tire, right below my seat, triggered a pressure plate setting off an 80 pound explosion right under the truck."



Photo: US Air Force Lt. Col. Kenneth Stremmel, 315th Training Squadron commander, presents the Purple Heart certificate to 2nd Lt. Daniel Hipps, 315th TRS trainee with Chapter 740 Commander Chris Doggett.

CHAPTER 1836—TX—RUNGE BECOMES OFFICIAL PURPLE HEART TRAIL CITY

Representing Runge are, back row, from left: Lonnie Garza, Purple Heart recipient, Bill Crumlett, Purple Heart recipient, Joyce Janssen, VFW Auxiliary member, Gloria Brewer, Runge city secretary, Runge VFW Auxiliary members Mary Huffstutler, Meta Sparks, Mary Moy, Dinah Gallagher, Patsy Wyeth, Maggie Esparza, Denise Dobson and Fran Huwe; front row, from left: Henry Janssen, Runge VFW member, Shelby Buehring, Runge VFW member and Purple Heart recipient, Nolan Jonas, Purple Heart recipient, Tony Roman, Purple Heart recipient, and Lorenzo Rodriguez, Purple Heart recipient. [Read full story here.](#)



Region VI

DEPARTMENT OF HAWAII & REGION VI PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

National Commander Neil Ess led an official delegation that included MOPH Auxiliary National President Gloria Sanchez and Region VI Commander Billy Weldon, assisted by Hawaii National Aide-de-Camp Tommy Tanaka, and Hawaii National Service Officer Rafael Paris, to the 76th Annual, Joint US Navy and National Park Service commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day. To see all photos [click here](#).



Region VI

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTINUED...



CHAPTER 995—UTAH

Chapter 995 (Ogden, Utah) Christmas Luncheon with spouses, at Jeremiah's Restaurant, on December 9, 2017.

L to R; Van Sessions, Jay Wells, Collice Blair, John Cole, Buck Rowley, Paul LaPlant, Henry Orosco, Gail McCurdy, Wes Hiraoka, Dee Gibson (Dept. Commander), Mark Dirr, Tom Davis. Photo by LeAnn Dirr.



Region VI

DEPARTMENT OF HAWAII—PEARL HARBOR 76TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

MOPH represented proudly with a huge, helium filled Purple Heart balloon for the Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Parade in Hawaii.



CHAPTER 392—CA

PATRIOT JOHNSON TO BE HONORED AT RIVCO FAIR

Vietnam War veteran, Edward G. Johnson will be honored on the Pageant Stage Thursday, February 22nd at 6:00 p.m. during the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival.

Mr. Johnson enlisted into the U.S. Army at age 19 from 1967 to 1970. He completed one combat tour in Vietnam from September 1967 to September 1968. Mr. Johnson was awarded the Military Order of Purple Heart for an injury received on January 1, 1968 at 20 years of age. In 2011, he raised \$10,000 to bring the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Moving Wall to Desert Hot Springs for the first time. Mr. Johnson dedicated the first POW/MIA flag to Desert Hot Springs Memorial Park in 2012. On December 5, 2017, the park was renamed to Desert Hot Springs Veterans Park due to his efforts. [Read full story here.](#)

Region VI



DEPARTMENT OF UTAH PATRIOTS REUNITE

Patriots Jerry Ferris and Tom Montez reunited since they met at the National Convention in Las Vegas. They visited the Purple Heart monument in Ogden, Utah, and visited a WWII, Korea and Vietnam Veteran, Bob Ramos, at the North Ogden Veterans Home.



Region VI

CHAPTER 385—CALIFORNIA



The Sacramento Chapter “Sons of the American Revolution” extended an invitation to the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 385 Folsom, CA to attend their honor dinner and meeting. A total of 12 MOPH Chapter members and guest attended. The MOPH attendees were requested to submit a short individual bio which were read during the presentations. The MOPH members were presented with Sons of the American Revolution Certificate of Appreciation and “Victory of Death” Challenge Coin.



Patriots of Chapter 385 and the Auxiliary Unit 385 walked in Folsom, California parade. MOPH was first to follow the Honor Guard.

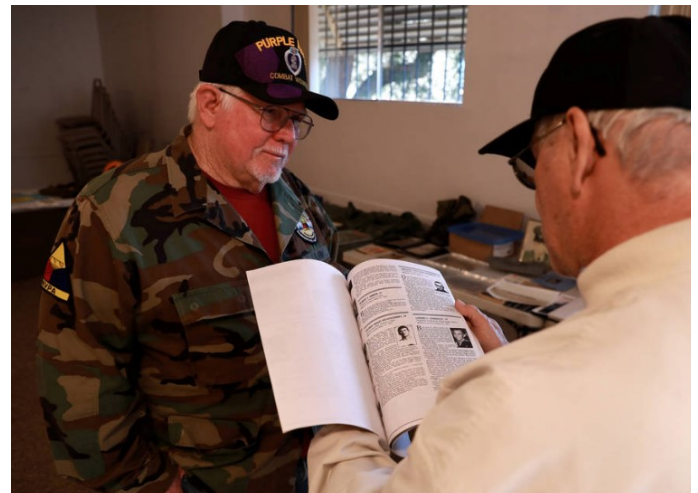
For Thanksgiving, Chapter 385 donated 35 turkey dinners to the NORCAL Army Recruiting Battalion, who in turn gave to local active duty soldiers, several who lost their homes in the Northern CA fires. An invitation was extended to the Chapter to stay on for the Battalion Thanksgiving luncheon.

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA—LAS VEGAS VIETNAM VETERANS RECALL TET OFFENSIVE

The Tet Offensive, named after the holiday that starts the Vietnamese new year, was launched Jan. 30, 1968, during an unofficial cease-fire respecting the holidays, and lasted into the summer of 1968. It spanned 35 cities and killed 6,328 U.S. military personnel.

“It was a big thing. It changed the whole war,” said Patriot Bob Haygood. “We didn’t lose the Tet Offensive. It was kind of a sneak attack on the Americans.”

Haygood, who organized Saturday’s remembrance, as well as the ones marking the 30th and 40th anniversaries of the Tet Offensive, wore a dark camouflage Army shirt and a black hat with a purple heart embroidered on the front. [Read fully story here.](#)



Region VI



Department of California New Year's Day Rose Parade

MOPH National Commander Neil Van Ess fills the purple background of the Purple Heart medal with Iris flowers on the Oddfellows and Rebekah's Rose Parade Float in tribute to the Nation's Purple Heart recipients.

Pictured below: National Commander Van Ess with Department of CA Commander, Jim Anderson.

