



THE PURPLE HEARTBEAT

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS' NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL ADJUTANT'S CALL

Dear Patriots,

2019 National Convention Date Change: 8-12 July 2019 in Branson, MO.

2018 Membership Directory: The Directory is scheduled for delivery in November 2018. Please contact customerservice@publishingconcepts.com or at 800-982-1590 for further assistance.

Updated Bylaws and Changes: The documents are available on the website <http://www.mophhq.org/bylaws.html>. Hard copy of Bylaws can be ordered through Supply.

Legislative: Update as well as the MOPH Legislative Priorities for 2018-2019.

Procedures Manual: The Procedures Manual update is complete, the new document is titled "[How-to-Manual](#)" and is available [online](#).

Chapters & Departments:

- ◆ All are welcome to provide photos and articles for the Purple Hat Press. Send to: communications@purpleheart.org
- ◆ Look for new Chapter & Department Convention planning guidelines and new report dates to accommodate the National Convention date change to 8-12 July 2019.
- ◆ **Deadline** to receive ALL reports to be eligible to receive a share of the Life Member Rebate is October 1, 2018. Note that Department Adjutants can now verify and submit Life Member Verification Report (LMV) on behalf of the Chapters. See new LMV form online.

Yours In Patriotism,



Ernesto Hernandez
National Adjutant MOPH

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Membership Statistics - 9/12/2018

Associate Life Members	2,429
Life Members	43,914
Total Active Members	46,343
New Members since 7/1/2018	248
Deceased Members since 7/1/2018	169

Region	Total	AS	LM
2	10,552	619	9,933
1	10,360	520	9,840
4	9,969	588	9,381
5	7,493	314	7,179
6	5,334	245	5,089
3	2,493	142	2,351
7	141	1	140

Dept	Total	AS	LM
TX-5	4,113	175	3,938
CA-6	3,228	135	3,093
FL-4	2,974	209	2,765
NC-4	2,360	97	2,263
NJ-1	2,225	159	2,066
PA-1	2,162	88	2,074
MI-2	2,033	120	1,913
NY-1	1,848	99	1,749
OH-2	1,804	35	1,769
VA-1	1,442	54	1,388

Chapter	Total	AS	LM
1836-TX-5	813	22	791
0642-NC-4	777	20	757
1919-TX-5	573	28	545
0875-MA-1	550	53	497
2226-NC-4	506	17	489
0353-VA-1	435	15	420
0366-NJ-1	432	31	401
0455-PA-1	402	8	394
1513-TX-5	391	27	364
1876-TX-5	387	8	379

MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS

REPORTS !!

DUE DATES !!!

TRACKER !!!

TO QUALIFY FOR THE REBATE: VALID REPORTS MUST BE RECEIVED AT HQS or POSTMARKED BY 10/1/2018

CHAPTERS/DEPARTMENTS: Please check the Tracker (<http://www.purpleheart.org/ReportTracking.aspx>) to verify that all FOUR reports have been received and credited:

Election Report – Finance Report – Current 990 Filing – LMV

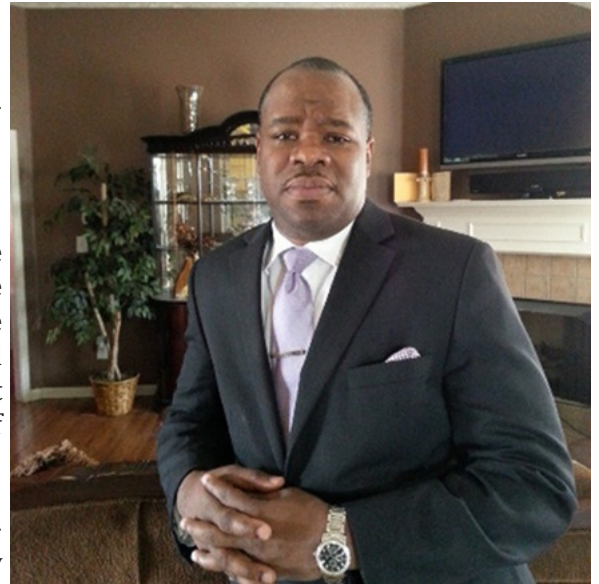
If you have any questions, please contact the Membership Department, membership@purpleheart.org

LOG-IN ACCESS: The Officer access to the online membership system is still **DOWN**, but you can access your record, check the Tracker and go shopping.

When Commanders and Adjutants require a member roster, please submit the request to the Membership Department at membership@purpleheart.org, include the chapter or department name, and the format (pdf or excel).



SERVICE PROGRAM UPDATE



I would like to introduce myself as the new National Service Director. I am honored to be chosen by the Military Order of the Purple Heart National leadership to spearhead our great service program. I am eager and willing to work with all advocates and support staff. Many people know me as the Past Department Commander of Alabama and the Department Adjutant of Maryland.

My mission and goal echoes those of the National leadership—stabilize the Order. This is not just another job for me—it's my dream—to give back to those who have given so much to me and our country. My primary role as the new National Service Director is to direct, supervise, and coordinate the activities of all our National Service Officers.

My duty is to direct and supervise claims and appeals involving the Regional and Central offices of the VA on Compensation, Pension, or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Arrange representation of such persons in the presentation of appeals before the Board of Veteran Appeal of the VA and United States Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims. Finally, ensure that everyone represented by the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Program has been provided a Power of Attorney authorizing us to represent them.

I am aware of the issues the service program faced earlier this year. So to help, I agreed to a significant reduction in pay to sure up the budget for our program. Furthermore, I believe sacrifices should be made at the top. Sacrifices that I believe all of you have made in the previous months. I would like to say thank you for your dedication and sacrifice. My predecessors have passed the torch of responsibility and I am aware of the complex task at hand. I am determined to accomplish my mission and create cohesion amongst our service team.

A little about me. I am a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. I am a retired combat disabled soldier of the United States Army, a native of Montgomery, AL. Moreover, I am also a graduate of Auburn University Montgomery and Miles Law School. I am married with kids and currently reside in Metro Washington, D.C.

We represent a time-honored organization, veterans, widows and their children. So let's continue our advocacy work. My door is open to all. Thank you for your support in advance. As I begin my journey as your new National Service Director, I look forward to the challenges bestowed unto me.



Arthur

Arthur Coleman III

National Service Director

Phone: 703-642-5360 Xtn: 130

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Legislative Update



Patriots,

I am pleased to inform you that MOPH has had several legislative victories over the past few months. Here is a summary of the highlights:

In May, Congress passed the VA MISSION Act. This comprehensive legislation consolidated all non-VA care programs, including the Choice Program, into a single Veterans Community Care Program, while also providing additional resources to build internal VA capacity. Equally as important, this bill accomplished the long-standing MOPH goal of **finally** expanding the VA Caregiver Program to veterans of **ALL** eras.

Last month, the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act became law. It included the language of the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act, a bill that was strongly supported by MOPH, which will authorize all disabled veterans, all Purple Heart recipients regardless of disability rating, and their eligible caregivers to shop at **on-base military exchanges and commissaries**, beginning January 2020. It also authorized Space Available (**Space-A**) travel for all veterans with a permanent service-connected disability rated as total.

In addition, for the second year in a row, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution, designating August 7, 2018 as **National Purple Heart Recognition Day**. This was followed by an official message from President Trump, commemorating National Purple Heart day this year.

And just this week, the House and Senate agreed to include the provision **eliminating death gratuity payment delays** in the event that a service member dies during a government shutdown in the final version of 2019 Defense Appropriations Act. This will become law as soon as Congress votes on final passage.

While these accomplishments are significant, there is still more to do before the end of the 115th Congress. MOPH will continue to push for the passage of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Commemorative Coin Act, the Purple Heart Preservation Act to prevent memorabilia dealers from profiting from the sales of Purple Heart Medals, and legislation to extend the waiver of the VA Home Loan funding fee to active duty Purple Heart recipients. Please be on the lookout for more information regarding these important bills.

Thank you as always for your continued support, and I look forward to our continued success in the future.

Yours in Patriotism,

Aleks Morosky
National Legislative Director

QUESTIONS: CONTACT NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR: ALEKSMOROSKY@PURPLEHEART.ORG



MOPH Legislative Priorities

2018-2019

Veterans' Health Care

- Fully fund the Veterans Health Administration, to include both VA and non-VA care.
- Non-VA care must be viewed as a supplement to VA care whenever VA cannot provide care that is timely and geographically accessible; not a replacement for VA care.
- Advocate for full funding for all aspects of the VA MISSION Act, without requiring VA to make cuts to preexisting programs or services.
- Oppose any proposals to pay for non-VA care programs by increasing veterans' out-of-pocket expenses.
- Require VA to include "number of days until next available appointment" in its mandatory publishing of appointment data in order to more accurately reflect the amount of time veterans are waiting at each facility.
- Prioritize anti-suicide efforts to include establishing extended hours at VA medical facilities and continuing to improve the Veterans' Crisis Line.
- Require that VHA grant enrollment to all veterans whose discharges are other than "dishonorable" as defined by DOD who are otherwise eligible.
- Fully fund VA medical research programs, in areas that disproportionately affect veterans such as prosthetics, toxic exposures, and TBI.
- Ensure that VA is able to provide the full array of gender-specific services for women veterans.

Veterans' and Survivors' Benefits

- Fully staff VBA so that they have enough employees to simultaneously process claims and appeals in a timely manner.
- Require VBA to accept private medical evidence that is competent, credible, probative, and complete.
- Improve decision notification letters so that veterans and VSOs are able to fully understand why claims are denied.

- Grant disability claims on a presumptive basis to veterans who are known to have been exposed to toxic substances, to include Blue Water Navy, those suffering from Gulf War Illness, and burn pit exposure.
- Require VA examiners to use a single Disability Benefits Questionnaire when evaluating Gulf War Illness claims to reduce denials due to misdiagnoses.
- Relax the standards for those suffering from disabilities related to MST but often have no documentation in their service record due to an historically low reporting rate.
- Improve VBMS to allow VSOs to properly track claims that were brokered under the National Work Queue.
- Allow for full concurrent receipt of VA disability compensation and military retired pay.
- Eliminate the SBP/DIC offset for survivors.
- Continue to oppose any efforts that make it more difficult for veterans with illnesses related to asbestos to pursue their federal personal injury trust and tort claims.
- Extend the VA home loan funding fee waiver to active duty Purple Heart recipients.

Accountability

- Continue to support VA authorities to quickly and decisively discipline and remove employees who are not properly performing their duties; especially those who willfully or negligently put veterans at risk.
- Promote a customer service-based culture across VA; one that is veteran-centric as opposed to VA centric.
- Institute a robust "secret shopper" program in order to improve and properly monitor the level customer service provided by VA employees.
- Continue to ensure that whistleblowers are fully protected and are not subject to reprisal for coming forward.

Education and Employment

- Protect the integrity and sustainability of GI Bill benefits.
- Close the "90/10 loophole" to ensure GI Bill benefits receive the same protections as other federal education benefits.
- Close the loophole that allows employers to violate USERRA with forced arbitration agreements.
- Reject proposals to diminish veterans' hiring preference in the federal government.
- Promote veterans' hiring in the private sector.
- Support opportunities for veteran entrepreneurship.

DOD and Those Currently Serving

- Ensure that DOD provides a robust, competitive compensation package, to include base pay and BAH, in order to preserve the all-volunteer force.
- Protect the integrity of TRICARE so that service members, retirees, and their families have access to the high-quality medical care they deserve.

- Eliminate arbitrary budget caps that harm military readiness, capability, and morale.
- Fully fund the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to ensure that all those who are yet unaccounted for are finally brought home.
- Ensure that the intentions and protections of SCRA are not violated through forced arbitration clauses in financial contracts.
- Eligibility for burial at Arlington National Cemetery must continue to include Purple Heart recipients and those who may be killed in action in present and future conflicts.

Honoring Purple Heart Recipients

- Continue to oppose any effort to amend the criteria for award of the Purple Heart medal that would diminish the prestige or purpose of the award.
- Authorize the U.S. Treasury to mint Purple Heart commemorative coins, the proceeds of which would be used to support the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.
- Support full federal recognition of August 7th as “National Purple Heart Day” in perpetuity in order to properly honor all those who were killed in action or became wounded in defense of our country.
- Prohibit the commercial sale of military-issued Purple Heart medals on the secondary market.

Point of contact: Aleks Morosky, MOPH National Legislative Director: aleksmorosky@purpleheart.org

FUTURE CONVENTIONS

2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION, BRANSON, MO.....8 - 12 JULY
 2020 NATIONAL CONVENTION, CHARLESTON, WV.....JULY 27 - JULY 31
 2021 NATIONAL CONVENTION, TBD

KEY DATES FOR PURPLE HEART MAGAZINE

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES.....FIRST DAY OF FEB, APR, JUN, AUG, OCT, DEC

DISTRIBUTION OF PURPLE HEART MAGAZINE.....JANUARY-FEBRUARY, MARCH-APRIL, MAY-JUNE
JULY-AUGUST, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER AND
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION NOTIFICATION

It's that time of year again to submit the dates and location of your Department Convention so we can schedule attendance of National and Region Commanders; until we have all your data, we cannot complete the schedule. Please do not assume attendance of any National or Region Officer until notification by the National Adjutant. Please do not call in information as it must be in writing – [email, fax, or mail](#).

Email: Adjutant@purpleheart.org

Mail: Ernesto P. Hernandez III
National Adjutant
MOPH Headquarters
5413-B Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22151

Fax: Ernesto P. Hernandez III
National Adjutant
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Fax No: 703-642-1841

DEADLINE: WE MUST HAVE YOUR INPUT NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON *DECEMBER 1, 2018* TO COMPLETE PLANNING FOR NATIONAL OFFICER VISITS TO DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS - WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.



As always, please do not forget to submit your stories, articles and photos for the December issue of the **PURPLE HAT PRESS**.

Deadline: Nov. 30th, 2018 COB

Email to: communications@purpleheart.org

* MOPH JROTC/ROTC PROGRAM UPDATE *

ATTENTION: Department & Chapter JROTC/ROTC Coordinators:

The MOPH will again provide ROTC/JROTC award packages to high schools, colleges, universities, and trade schools for the 2019 school year. The award package includes a medal with separate ribbon bar, certificate and folder. For this year, there will be no charge for the award.

The award can be ordered by sending an email to rotc@purpleheart.org, a letter to the address below or by Fax. You will need to include name, rank of the ROTC/JROTC Instructor, name and address of the school, and ceremony date.

Email: rotc@purpleheart.org

Fax: 703-742-1841

Mail: MOPH, ATTN: JROTC/ROTC, 5413-B Backlick Rd., Springfield, VA 22151

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Stewart McKeown at MOPH Headquarters at **703)-642-5360 Ext: 108** or Email: rotc@purpleheart.org.

KEY DATES FOR DEPARTMENTS, CHAPTERS and NATIONAL OFFICERS FROM 7/1/2018 – 7/12/2019

(List of key dates of Important Mailing and Filing Deadlines)

Fiscal Year	1 JULY 2018 to 30 JUNE 2019
Membership Recruiting and Voting Strength for National Convention	1 JULY 2018 to 31 MAY 2019
Annual Mailing Labels Invoices Sent to DEPT and CHAP on order list	2nd Week in SEPTEMBER 2018
IRS 990 Form filing due for DEPT and CHAP - 990-N electronic filing for DEPT and CHAP <\$50,000 Gross Receipts - 990 EZ or 990 for DEPT and CHAP not qualified to file 990-N Due 15th day of 5th month following the end of organization's taxable year.	Example: 15 NOVEMBER 2018 (for Fiscal Year ended 30 JUNE 2018. Can file as soon as 1 JULY 2018). Submit IRS receipt accepting the 990 filing with the Finance Report.
LM Verification Form* Due (Must be received at Nat'l HQs or postmarked by date indicated; No Exceptions)	1 OCTOBER 2018
LM Rebates Sent to DEPT & CHAP (for verified LMs as of 30 June 2018)	DECEMBER 2018
Report Forms Update on Website - (Election, Finance, Americanism, VAVS, Welfare & LM Verification)	1 st Week in December 2018
CHAPTER ELECTIONS* to be held in February 2019 and Reports Due at National Upon Installation of Officers; Must be received or postmarked no later than due date for voting strength count.	30 MARCH 2019
CHAPTER Americanism and Welfare Reports to appropriate National Officers. See submission information on the Forms.	15 APRIL 2019
DEPARTMENT Americanism, Inspector (see sample format in Finance and Inspection Guide on website), Welfare and VAVS Reports to appropriate National Officers. See submission information on the Forms.	1 MAY 2019
DEPARTMENT Conventions to be held in May 2019. ELECTIONS* Reports Due at National upon Installation of Officers; Must be received or postmarked no later than due date for voting at National Convention.	31 MAY 2019
CHAPTER Finance Report (with 990, Property List - if required)	31 MAY 2019
DEPARTMENT Finance Report (with 990, Property List - if required)	15 JUNE 2019
NATIONAL CONVENTION – BRANSON, MO	8 – 12 JULY 2019

*Chapters and Departments which have NOT **timely** Submitted a Current validated Election Report will NOT qualify for Delegates at the National Convention, and in addition, non-filing of current validated Finance Report (includes the IRS 990 Form **Accepted** Filing Receipt and Property List, if required) and Life Member Verification will NOT be paid LM Dues Rebates!

KEY DATES FOR PURPLE HEART MAGAZINE

Deadline for Articles for PURPLE HEART Magazine	1st day of even months
Distribution of PURPLE HEART Magazine	4th week of odd months

KEY DATES FOR 2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORTS

Deadline for DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S REPORTS	15 MAY 2019
Deadline for NATIONAL OFFICER'S REPORTS	15 MAY 2019

Effective 10 September 2018



NATIONAL OFFICERS LISTING 2018-2019



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SO HE CAN HOOK IT UP)
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(ADDRESS CHANGES, OBITUARIES, SUBSCRIPTIONS)

TO: membership@purpleheart.org

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MOPH CALENDAR 2018 - 2019**OCTOBER 2018**

8 COLUMBUS DAY - HQS CLOSED

16 INVESTMENT CONFERENCE CALL (1ST QUARTER)

NOVEMBER 2017

11 VETERANS' DAY

12 VETERANS' DAY OBSERVANCE - HQS CLOSED

13-15 .. PURPLE HEART FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING,
ORLANDO FL.

22-23 .. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - HQS CLOSED

DECEMBER 2018

07 PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

25 CHRISTMAS - HQS CLOSED

JANUARY 2019

01 NEW YEAR'S DAY - HQS CLOSED

15 INVESTMENT CONFERENCE CALL (2ND QUARTER)

21 MLK DAY - HQS CLOSED

26 MOPH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

FEBRUARY 2019

01 MAGAZINE DEADLINE: ARTICLES—MARCH/APRIL

18 PRESIDENT'S DAY - HQS CLOSED

22 GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY