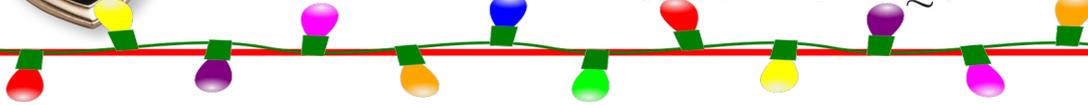




# THE PURPLE HEARTBEAT

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS' NEWSLETTER



### Inside this issue:

## NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CALL

### HAVE A BLESSED DECEMBER

Most Patriots well remember spending our December Holy Days away from home and family. The warm family traditions, the religious observances that strengthened us, and the special moments with the family at Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Year's Eve are things we cherished and missed when we were deployed. This has always been the special season of celebrating God's wonderful care, mercies and provision for us. Letters and "care packages" from caring strangers, as well from family, were always welcomed; and it was encouraging to know that people were thinking of us and wanted to brighten our holy days. They helped make our December deployments bearable, and some of us even discovered a deeper appreciation of faith and family during those times away from home in the company of other troops serving both God and Country in far off lands.

Now, we are the ones giving time, effort and donations to bring the same cheer to deployed troops – a message of hope and encouragement from home – because we know personally how important that is. Truly, this is the season for celebrations of God's great love, mercies and gifts to all of us!

For all of our Patriots of faith, may you have a very blessed and Joyous Chanukah or Merry Christmas as you gather to celebrate the One who creates, sustains, and redeems us all, and rejoice in God's faithful promises. May the Lord bless your celebration and worship, and prosper you and your loved ones in the year ahead.

All the best to you, your family, and the people you serve.

Yours In Patriotism,

*Felix Garcia III*

Felix Garcia III

National Commander



Commissary & PX Privileges	3
5 Facts About Purple Heart	4
Patriot of the Month	4
Chapter of the Month	5
Activities Across the MOPH	6-9
Purple Heart Flag Act	10-11
PREVENT: Suicide Awareness	12-14
National Committee's	15



**USAA:** USAA is proud to serve The Military Order of the Purple Heart.

USAA has joined forces with the Military Order of The Purple Heart to help show pride in their mission and programs. When you join USAA, you become part of an extended, military-based family that can be passed down from generation to generation.

Discover what a FREE USAA membership can do for you <http://www.usaa.com/moph> or call 855-221-MOPH (6674) to learn more.





# THE PURPLE HEARTBEAT

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS' NEWSLETTER

## NATIONAL ADJUTANT'S CALL

Dear Patriots,

The end of the year is approaching fast, the National HQ wants to wish all members and their families a wonderful holiday season. We are working hard on getting the records caught up, our goal is to have Life Membership rebates sent out in January of 2020.

We are currently in the process of finishing up the financial audit from last year, once this is completed, I will post all our records on line so all membership can see where we stand.

The foundation lawsuit update. With the assistance of Departments and chapters we are close to funding the cost of the Appeal. The NEC voted to move forward, the vote passed with 77.6% of the vote. I am planning on posting the recommendation of our annual management audit so all members can see what areas we need to focus on. I believe that we can overcome this temporary situation and build a stronger better organization. At the HQ we are here to support the membership, if you have questions, concerns or need assistance do not hesitate to contact me anytime at: [ernierivera@purpleheart.org](mailto:ernierivera@purpleheart.org).

**“Believe in the Order”**

Yours In Patriotism,

*Ernie*

Ernie Rivera

National Adjutant



## DEPARTMENT CONVENTION NOTIFICATION

WE MUST HAVE YOUR INPUT NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON **DECEMBER 1ST, 2019** TO COMPLETE PLANNING FOR NATIONAL OFFICER VISITS TO DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS - WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.

Email: [ernierivera@purpleheart.org](mailto:ernierivera@purpleheart.org)

Fax: National Adjutant  
MOPH Headquarters

Mail:

Ernie Rivera  
National Adjutant  
MOPH Headquarters  
5413 – B Backlick Road

**New law provides eligible Veterans and Primary Family****Caregivers with access to DOD and Coast Guard commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare, and recreation retail services.**

According to the Department of Defense, starting Jan. 1, 2020, all service-connected Veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war (POW), and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible Veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) can use commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

For more information regarding these privileges and access to military installations, visit

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/expanding-access>

**Who is eligible Jan. 1, 2020?****Veterans**

Purple Heart recipients

former prisoners of war

Veterans with 0-90% service-connected disability ratings

*(For former service members who have not yet sought disability compensation from VA, visit <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/>)*

Medal of Honor recipients and Veterans with 100% service-connected disability ratings are already eligible under existing DOD policy.

**Caregivers**

On Jan. 1, individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregiver of an eligible veteran under the PCAFC will be eligible for these privileges.

For information about primary family caregivers in the PCAFC, visit <https://www.caregiver.va.gov/>.

**Required credentials.****Veterans**

On Jan. 1, Veterans eligible solely under this act that are eligible to obtain a Veteran Health Identification Card must use this credential for in-person installation and privilege access. The card must display the Veteran's eligibility status (i.e., PURPLE HEART, FORMER POW or SERVICE CONNECTED). Apply here: <https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic/index.asp>.

Veterans eligible solely under this act who are not enrolled in or are not eligible to enroll in VA health care, or who are enrolled in VA health care, but do not possess a Veteran Health Identification Card will not have

access to DoD and Coast Guard installations for in-person commissary, exchange, and MWR retail privileges, but will have full access to online exchanges and American Forces Travel.

Medal of Honor recipients and Veterans with 100% service-connected disability ratings are eligible for DOD credentials under DOD policy.

**Caregivers**

Eligible caregivers will receive an eligibility letter from VA's Office of Community Care.

If you are a primary family caregiver under the PCAFC and lose your eligibility letter, please call 1-877-733-7927 to request a replacement. Please allow two weeks for processing.

Find out more about military resale privileges.

Army and Air Force Exchange Service (<https://www.shopmyexchange.com/vets>)

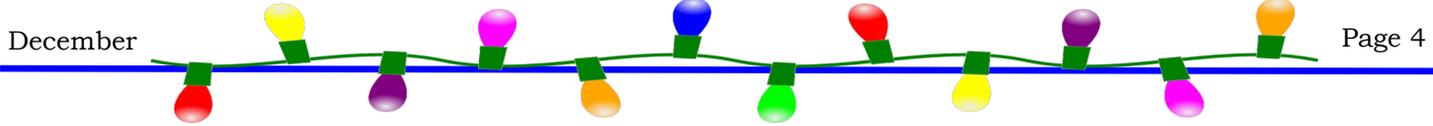
Coast Guard Exchange (<https://shopCGX.com>)

Defense Commissary Agency (<https://www.commissaries.com/>)

Navy Exchange (<https://www.mynavyexchange.com/>)

Marine Corps Exchange (<http://www.mymcx.com/>)

MILITARY STAR Card (<https://www.myecp.com/>)



## 5 Facts about the Purple Heart:

1. **The Purple Heart was created by George Washington.** In 1782, Washington, who was then commander in chief of the Continental Army, created the Badge of Military Merit, which is the Purple Heart's predecessor. He designed it in the form of cloth purple heart, to be given to soldier who had displayed "unusual gallantry in battle" and "extraordinary fidelity and essential service."
  2. **The first recipient was Sgt. William Brown, a Continental Army soldier.** The Badge of Military Merit, as the award was called back then, was bestowed on Brown in 1783 for his service during the Battle of Yorktown.
  3. **Gen. Douglas MacArthur revived and redesigned the Purple Heart in 1932.** The Badge of Military Merit had not been awarded since the Revolution, so MacArthur worked to reinstate it as the Purple Heart medal to mark Washington's 200th birthday. The new medal was created as a combat decoration for commendable action as well as for soldiers who were wounded or killed in combat. In 1944, the Purple Heart became a decoration only for those wounded or killed in enemy action.
  4. **John F. Kennedy is the only president to have had a Purple Heart.** Kennedy, a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II, injured his back when his patrol torpedo boat collided with a Japanese destroyer.
  5. **Vietnam War veteran Curry T. Haynes Jr. received a record 10 Purple Hearts.** Haynes, who served in the U.S. Army, was wounded during an attack in 1967, which led to his first Purple Heart. The other nine were awarded for the wounds he received during an attack in 1968. Haynes died in 2017 from cancer.
-

**Bud Beveridge, Chapter 1979**

Bud Beveridge Is A Member Of The Military Order Of The Purple Heart, Chapter 1979, Des Moines, Iowa.

Clyde "Bud" Beveridge Of West Des Moines, Iowa Will Never Forget That Day In Viet Nam. He And Three Other Marines Were Manning A Bunker When Suddenly They Came Under A Mortar Attack.

Bud Wore A Flak Jacket. The Other Marines Weren't Wearing Theirs. A Mortar Round Hit Right On Top Of The Bunker. Bud Was The Only Survivor And Was Severely Wounded By The Blast. His Flak Jacket Had Saved Him.

Since That Fateful Day Bud Has Been Giving Back To The Veterans Community At The Des Moines VA Hospital For The Past 20 Years.

As Former Commander Of Chapter 1979 And Current Senior Vice Commander, Bud Has Organized Countless Bingo Games, Helped Transport Veterans And Volunteered On Many Special Projects.

MOPH Chapter 1979 Has Received Over \$18,000 In Grant Monies To Date To Help Disabled And PTSD Veterans Attend Baseball Games, Barbecues, Christmas Celebrations And Other Social Functions.

The Chapter Has Also Purchased Gift Cards To Help With Counseling At The Local Vet Center.

Patriot Bud Beveridge And MOPH Chapter 1979 Have Made A Huge Difference In The Des Moines Area Veterans Community.



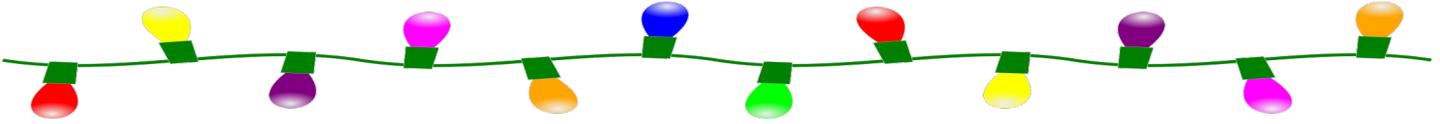
## **Sumter, SC Chapter 817 Participates**

**In**

## **Morris College Thanksgiving Parade**



**Sumter, SC Chapter 817 participated in the Morris College Thanksgiving Parade on November 23. The Parade consisted of dignitaries from the College, floats from many Sumter County organizations, and bands and Jr. ROTC Detachments from area high schools. Since Chapter 817 had designated Morris College as a Purple Heart College earlier this year, the Chapter Float was designated as the first float in the Parade. Pictured above in the first row, left to right, are Patriots Ron Harvin, Albert Jelks, Joel Jefferson, Don Kellum, Jamie Carl O'Neal, and Johnny Williams. In the second row, left to right, are Commander Harry Thompson and Patriots Johnny Goodley, Jesse Burgess, and Glenn Braden.**



### Chapter 875



An annual tradition for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, USA, Western Massachusetts Combat Wounded Veterans Chapter 875, presenting the Colors for the Holyoke VNA & Hospice Life Care Memorial Tree Lighting at the Holyoke Mall at Ingleside.

### Chapter 817



Sumter's General George L. Mabry, Jr. Chapter 817 recently donated \$2,000 in Walmart Gift Cards to the Shaw AFB First Sergeant's Council. The Council, consisting of Shaw AFB First Sergeants, will distribute the Gift Cards to Airmen in need of assistance during the Christmas Holidays. Pictured above during presentation of the Gift Cards are members of the First Sergeant's Council and members of Chapter 817. At the center of the photo in dark clothing left to right are Patriot Ron Harvin, Chapter Commander Harry Thompson, Patriot Jessie Burgess, Base Welfare Officer, Ms. Evette Bohannon, and Chapter Treasurer Dave Nesbitt.

## Kansas City, MO Chapter 115: Chapter Commander, Walter Schley

### Purple Heart Designation Highlights College's Veterans Week Ceremonies:

By Keivin Fletcher

A number of traditional ceremonies, and special recognition for Columbia College as a Purple Heart College, highlighted the school's annual Veterans Week festivities.

On Wednesday, Nov. 6, officials from The Military Order of the Purple Heart joined Columbia College President Dr. Scott Dalrymple in a dedication ceremony recognizing the college as the 58th institution to be designated as a Purple Heart University.

The designation, awarded "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 freedoms enjoyed by all Americans," further cements Columbia College as a military-friendly institution. The college is an annual member of the Military Times "Best For Vets: College" rankings, as well as regularly appearing on the Military Friendly® official list of colleges and universities around the country. In 2018, Columbia College educated more than 7,000 active-duty service members, veterans, or their dependents at 36 locations around the country and via its online education program.

Originally awarded as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782, the Purple Heart is the oldest U.S. military award still presented. General Douglas MacArthur revived the award and renamed it the Purple Heart on the 150th anniversary of Washington's creation in 1932; it is now presented to service members of the United States Armed Forces who have been wounded or made the ultimate sacrifice in combat. More than 1.9 million Purple Hearts have since been awarded.

"It's a wonderful honor, and we're proud to serve our student veterans," said Dalrymple. "It's not just a day or a week for us, but we continue to make sure that we spend more than a day honoring those who have served our country, and this ceremony is one important piece of that." *(Continues next page)*



During the ceremony, Dalrymple also announced that the college is renovating a building at 904 N. Eighth Street to serve as the new home of the Ousley Veterans Service Center, and it will be named for famed Tuskegee Airman and Columbia College alumnus, Col. Charles McGee '78, Hon. '14. "We're honored to call him an alumnus of Columbia College, and we're honored by how gracious, humane and decent he is; he's just a fantastic human being, and a model for all of us."

Veterans Week activities culminated on Monday, Nov. 11, Veterans Day, beginning with an honor-guard raising of the American and Columbia College flags not long after sunrise. Later that morning, Senior Director of Military & Veterans Services Keith Glindemann presided over the college's annual remembrance of our nation's service members who have been killed while fighting in the Global War on Terror.

Thirty-seven Americans have died since Veterans Day 2018, and their names were read in a solemn ceremony by a pair of Columbia College employee veterans. Systems Analyst Jen Boyt, an Iraq veteran of the Army National Guard, and Evening Program Associate Director William Bushnell, a retired Navy lieutenant commander, brought the list of names since 2001 up to 6,993.

At the conclusion of the day, retired Army Lt. Col. Rob Boone, associate vice president for Columbia College Global-Military, presided over the annual lighting of the Military Service Tree located outside of Dorsey Hall.

"The Purple Heart College designation is a clear indication of our continued support of our veterans," said Boone. "Columbia College has had an enduring relationship with all branches of service since 1973. Our commitment to the military has never wavered, and it never will."

---

## Chapter 7110



St. Charles, Minnesota proclaimed a Purple Heart community with the support of multiple veteran organizations including the Rochester Minnesota Chapter 7110 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

---

## Chapter 1754

In Williamsburg, Virginia, MOPH Chapter 1754 proudly participated in Williamsburg Veterans March in Duke of Gloucester Street.



( L to R: Patriot Griffin, Lowe Long, John Chambers and T.C. Smith)

---

## *Initiated by the Buffalo Chapter 187*

# CONGRESSMAN HIGGINS INTRODUCES THE PURPLE HEART FLAG ACT



*Congressman Brian Higgins (NY-26) joined a meeting of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 187 to announce introduction of the Purple Heart Flag Act (H.R. 5237), legislation officially designating a Purple Heart flag and making public display of the flag at federal facilities protocol on specific days.*

*Similar to the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) flag, the bill would require display of the Purple Heart flag in our nation's war memorials, national cemeteries, veterans' hospitals, and the Departments of Defense, State, and Veterans Affairs on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans Day.*

*"We could never do enough to repay those who are injured or killed in service to this nation, but regularly displaying a Purple Heart Flag would serve as a public declaration that says: we thank you, we honor you, and we will never forget the sacrifices made," said Congressman Higgins. (continues next page)*

*The idea for the bill was brought to Congressman Higgins by Russell D. Ward, Vietnam War veteran and Senior Vice Commander of Military Order of the Purple Heart Buffalo Chapter 187, during a veteran event in September. Higgins introduced the bill on November 21, 2019 and is hoping for broad bipartisan support.*

*“A Purple Heart Flag would be a tremendous addition at government buildings nationwide, spreading honor throughout America for those who were killed or wounded in combat in all of America’s wars while defending our freedom and principals,” said U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran Russ Ward.*

*Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 187 Adjutant Jim Schaller added, “I would hope that this bill passes both the House and the Senate and is signed by the President so that someday soon Purple Heart Flags will be flying right under the United States Flag that has draped those that have given their all for this great Nation. People will hopefully stop and ponder the fact that this flag represents all those who shed their blood on foreign soil fighting against an enemy of the United States so that Americans can enjoy all the freedoms we have.”*

*“Whether honoring a local Purple Heart hero in Western New York, or looking out for the best interests of veterans across the community and the nation, there is one constant: the dedicated members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 187 voluntarily report for duty again and again with the sole mission of supporting those who sacrificed and served,” said Higgins.*

*On August 7, 1782, General George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit, a piece of heart-shaped purple cloth embroidered with the word “merit” in white thread, presented to those engaging in extraordinary meritorious actions. Gen. Washington intended the award to be permanent, but it was only presented to a few soldiers who served during the Revolutionary War. The Purple Heart medal was later implemented in its current form in 1932 on President Washington’s 200th Birthday by Army General Douglas MacArthur and officially developed into today’s version by 1944. The Purple Heart is presented to service members of the U.S. armed forces who have been wounded or killed as a direct result of enemy action and is the oldest badge still awarded to the U.S. military today.*

*Sources: Congressman Brian Higgins: Fighting for Western New York*

---

# PREVENTS By the NUMBERS



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide

November 2019

Since its inception, the PREVENTS office has engaged stakeholder groups across sectors, building upon the critical success of suicide prevention pioneers and agencies working with service members and Veterans. The relationships cultivated with agency experts, private leaders, universities, nonprofits, and more, are critical to the executive order's success. To date, the PREVENTS team has conducted:

## 100 Engagement Activities:

Including State and Community-Level Events and Bi-Partisan Town Halls



Texas

**13** Attendees at Town Hall

**100** Participants at a Meadows Institute Site Visit

In 2017, Texas' Veteran suicide rate was

**31.3** per **100,000**



Arizona

**72** Attendees at Town Hall

**200** Participants at Arizona Statewide Tribal Veteran Symposium

In 2017, Arizona's Veteran suicide rate was

**44.9** per **100,000**

## Ongoing Research and Information Activities:



**150+** meetings conducted

with agency experts, public/private sector thought leaders, and subject matter experts.



**1000+** responses

to the national Request for Information (RFI).

## Driving Change:

58 Partnerships Currently in Development  
139 Federal Stakeholders

### Research

**PREVENTS Research Summit:**  
**128 attendees**, consisting of nationally recognized experts, representing **62 organizations**.

### Workplace and Professional Development

**U.S. Chamber of Commerce Meeting:**  
**Nearly 30 companies**, signed a pledge to improve mental health and well-being in the workplace.

### Lethal Means Safety

**Line of Effort Meeting:**  
**30 attendees**, consisting of public/private subject matter experts.

### Partnerships

- Commitments from:**
- Health care delivery systems
  - Higher education
  - Financial services industry
  - Faith-based community groups
  - Veterans Service Organizations

## PREVENTS

The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide

If you are a Veteran in crisis or having thoughts of suicide – or if you know a Veteran in crisis – call the Veterans Crisis Line at **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online at **VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat**, or text to **838255**.

# NATIONAL COMMITTEE'S 2019-2020

---

## FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Dennis Wallot (Chair)
- Doug Middleton (4 years members)
- Al Flyr (4 years Member)
- Paul Pickart (3 years Member)
- Felix Garcia (ex-officio with vote)
- Francisco "Paco" Elizalde Jr.( non-voting member)
- James McCormick ( non-voting member)
- Phil Moore (non-voting member)
- James Gurley (non-voting member)
- Ernie Rivera (non-voting member)

## INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:

- Dennis Wallot (Chair)
- Al Flyr (4 years Member)
- Paul Pickart (3 years Member)
- Doug Middleton
- Felix Garcia (ex-officio with vote)
- Phil Moore (non-voting member)
- Ernie Rivera (non-voting member)

## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:

- Chris Smrt (Chair)
- Nick McIntosh (4 years Member)
- Matt Bridges (3 years Member)
- Charles Eggleston (2 years Member)
- Felix Garcia (ex-officio with vote)

## BYLAWS COMMITTEE:

- Charles Adkins (Chair)
- James L. Anderson (Secretary)
- Chris Vedvick
- Charles Gatlin
- James L. McCormick, II
- Cathrine Shaw
- Gilbert Brown
- Larry Leighton
- James Gulley

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

- John Logan (Chair)



# JOIN THE LEGACY PROGRAM

Help Preserve the Legacy of the Purple Heart



**Choose your donation frequency:**

**Choose your donation level:**

**Or enter your own amount:**

\$

### Your Details

First Name\*

Last Name

Email\*

Mailing Address\*

Message of Support

City\*

State/Province\*

Postal Code\*

Country\*

United States ▼

CHECK / MONEY ORDER NO: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:

Military Order of the Purple Heart (LEGACY PROGRAM)

5413-B Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151

PH: 703-642-5360

# MOPH CALENDAR 2019 - 2020

## DECEMBER 2019

- 07 ..... PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY
- 24 - 25 ..... CHRISTMAS - HQS CLOSED
- 31 ..... NEW YEAR'S DAY - HQS CLOSED

## JANUARY 2020

- 01 ..... NEW YEAR'S DAY - HQS CLOSED
- 15 ..... INVESTMENT CONFERENCE CALL (2ND QUARTER)
- 20 ..... MLK DAY - HQS CLOSED
- 26 ..... MOPH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

## FEBRUARY 2020

- 17 ..... PRESIDENT'S DAY - HQS CLOSED
- 22 ..... GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

---

### FUTURE CONVENTIONS

- 2020 NATIONAL CONVENTION, CHARLESTON, WV.....JULY 27 - JULY 31
  - 2021 NATIONAL CONVENTION, TBD
- 

