



# The Purple Heart

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The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor

# The Purple Heart Magazine

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MILITARY ORDER of the PURPLE HEART of the U.S.A., Inc.

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MOPH Bylaws states: “*The Purple Heart Magazine shall be the official publication of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA, Inc. Official notices and orders published in the Purple Heart Magazine shall be deemed sufficient and lawful notice to all members for all purposes whatsoever.*”

The Bylaw's excerpt, above, is the most important directive to the Publications Committee. It remains so even as we had to transition from a hardcopy 'Print' magazine to the current digital format of “*The Purple Heart Magazine.*”

We regret that our attempts to return to print have yet to happen. The National Publications Committee is committed to a printed magazine.

As such, our ability to reach the membership is limited to active emails in the master database of the Order.

Sadly many members either do not use an email system or have been hesitant to give the Order an email address.

Others have changed providers, leaving AOL used MS Outlook, then migrated to .gmail without updating their email to Chapter, Department, and National.

We need your help. As you read this, your email is good. Do you know of fellow Patriots that want to receive the Magazine? Please ask all companions to share their 'new' email; sending either to National [see emails listed above] or to us directly: [thephmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:thephmagazine@gmail.com)

## Magazine Submissions

Successful items submitted for publication in the Magazine should follow these guidelines:

Using the text format of Microsoft Word ensures that the Editor can import text directly into the layout format of the digital Magazine.

Please, do not use all caps, bolding, fancy typefaces, or color. These may not scan/transfer accurately.

All materials submitted for publication must be typewritten, double-spaced, on white paper, or submitted via the internet.

The material must follow the Order's guidelines and policies. Material not received by the Editor on or before the deadline for that upcoming issue will not be printed—[see Deadline listed below].

We will highlight Photo Submissions best practices to publish good pictures in the next installment. ♥

*Christopher Smrt*

Chairman National Publications Committee

E-mail [NPCmoph@hotmail.com](mailto:NPCmoph@hotmail.com)

We need your material to produce an engaging and informative magazine.

If you are not comfortable writing a story or article,

I will help you. [thephmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:thephmagazine@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE for article submissions**  
**May / June Magazine April 15<sup>th</sup>**





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## **Military Order of the Purple Heart Fact Sheet**

### **Benefits of Membership Fraternity and Fellowship**

You can meet and relate to a group of veterans who have the common bond of being wounded in combat and recognized for that sacrifice.

#### **Pride of Membership**

Your membership keeps alive the history and ideals for which you were awarded the Purple Heart from its original inception by General George Washington to America's citizen soldiers of today.

#### **Local Chapters**

Regular meetings are held throughout the country and a MOPH Chapter is usually within a convenient distance from your home. Chapters engage in numerous social and helping activities – centered on veterans and their families, particularly those being treated at VA facilities.

#### **Annual Convention**

Each year MOPH holds a National Convention for the purpose of renewing goals, ideas, and electing National Officers. This Convention ensures that every member is directly involved in major decisions affecting the Order. There is always a full roster of activities for members and their families. Between the official activities of the Convention, there is time for relaxation and a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones.

#### **Scholarship Program**

MOPH has a scholarship program for members, spouses, and direct descendants (children, grandchildren, etc.) that helps ease the cost of college or trade school education.

#### **Drone Training Program**

MOPH has partnered with Wounded Eagle UAS to offer free drone training to our members. Wounded Eagle is a consortium of Veterans and supportive civilians dedicated to helping wounded and disabled service members, Veterans and their families find pathways into the commercial drone industry through training, networking and mentorship.

#### **You're Voice in Washington**

MOPH represents you in the Nation's capital, ensuring that the voice of the combat wounded is heard in Congress, at the Department of Defense, and at the Veterans Administration. As a member, you will be able to participate in MOPH sponsored campaigns for veteran causes, worthwhile endeavors that increase self-worth.

#### **The Purple Heart Magazine**

The official magazine of MOPH is distributed six times a year for member's enjoyment. Each issue brings a series of timely and well-written articles about some of the activities of The Order around the country. Members have written to say that they look forward to receiving the Magazine. The cost of your subscription is included in your modest dues payment.

#### **MOPH Website**

MOPH maintains this website for members with useful information on veteran affairs in general and MOPH activities in particular. Details on various MOPH programs, membership forms, and access to the Supply Room are some of its features.

#### **MOPH Supply Room**

Members can buy MOPH related clothing and accessories from our Supply Room, good quality products at reasonable prices. These items can be ordered by mail or via our website.

#### **Software Developer Program**

The Military Order of the Purple Heart and Redding Software Corporation are working together to provide MOPH members with free Software Developer training. Each year 15 MOPH members are chosen for our free training program / internship.

#### **Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy**

Members in good standings with MOPH or the MOPA receive a \$2,000 accidental death benefit in addition to the many other benefits of membership

# THE NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR

Peter Bedrossian, *Program Director*

**T**he National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is a New York State Museum under the jurisdiction of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. Although the Hall of Honor works closely with many different organizations and entities, it is not directly affiliated with nor governed by the federal government, military, or any other organization.

Dedicated on November 10, 2006, as the sole facility dedicated to commemorating Purple Heart recipients, the mission of the Hall of Honor is to collect, preserve and share the stories of all Purple Heart recipients. The mission statement starting with “collect” reflects that there is no comprehensive list of Purple Heart recipients that can be referenced. The mission is perhaps best represented by the Roll of Honor, an electronic database of Purple Heart recipients representing all wars for which the award has been available.

Our timeline of recipients, based upon the date of the incident (not the date the award was made), runs from April 6, 1862 - June 9, 2020, and grows daily as we receive new enrollments. These enrollments represent all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the District of Columbia, and the Philippines.

However, all enrollments are done **voluntarily** and are made by the recipients, their families, or friends. Our Roll of Honor aims to create as comprehensive a list of Purple Heart recipients as can be made to preserve their history and honor their service and sacrifice.

(Enrollment information can be found on the Hall of Honor’s website: [www.thepurpleheart.com](http://www.thepurpleheart.com) ). The Roll of Honor can be viewed both in the museum and on the website.

The Hall of Honor is located in New Windsor, New York, approximately 12 miles North of the United States Academy at West Point, and is co-located with

the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic site. That site commemorates the final encampment of the Northern Continental Army during the final months of the American Revolution. In a very real sense, the property upon which these sites are located chronicles four centuries of American military history.

The evolution of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor began with a letter to the editor of a local newspaper asking if there was a place to honor and commemorate Purple Heart recipients. That letter began a chain of events culminating in the Hall of Honor being built.

But why here? The Hall is situated on these grounds to recognize both the American Revolution and the cre-

ation of the Purple Heart medal in 1932. More specifically, the location here is to commemorate Temple Hill Day, which occurred on May 28, 1932. That event was a significant component of New York State’s Bicentennial celebration of the birth of George Washington.

Local historians and veterans offered this site to call attention to the property called

Temple Hill in the hopes of preserving it for its connection the George Washington and the American Revolution. The program was centered around honoring local World War I veterans with the newly created Purple Heart medal. On that day, 136 local veterans were on these grounds to receive their Purple Heart medals.

The commemoration of sacrifice that was commenced that day is continued now with the Hall of Honor. The Hall of Honor will celebrate the 90th anniversary of Temple Hill Day, the Hall on MAY 28, 2022. The day’s program will include a presentation about that original Temple Hill Day and the opening of a new rotating exhibit on Temple Hill Day.



# Experience the Journey

## PH Recipient's Own words

### THE HALL OF HONOR TODAY:

The Hall of Honor was closed beginning November 15, 2019, and was re-dedicated on November 11, 2020. What the Hall of Honor visitors see today is quite different from the facility dedicated in 2006, thanks to a 17-million-dollar grant from New York State to expand and enhance the facility. The facility was nearly doubled in size and has also expanded the opportunities for visitors to learn more about the recipient's Purple Heart Journey. The galleries and exhibits at the Hall of Honor are designed to provide visitors with a self-guided experience allowing them to follow that Purple Heart Journey through these five stages of the journey:

Where the Journey begins

The Day of the Incident

Care and Treatment

The Road to Recovery

The Ultimate Sacrifice

As visitors pass through the galleries, they follow these areas in sequence. For example, the Where the Journey Begins gallery provides an overview of America's principal military conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries along a timeline wall representing all five branches of military service.

The Day of the Incident gallery space is anchored by a UH1-H Helicopter, an original helicopter. Although it is not clear if it was used in Vietnam, the model is correct for the 1968-1970 time period interpreted in the display.

It is configured for medical evacuation or "Dust Off," as it would have been called at that time. Imbedded in the helicopter is a film about evacuation evolution; the projected images represent a timeline of medical evacuation from the battlefield from the Civil War to the present.

As visitors follow this Journey through Care and Treatment, the Road to Recovery, and the Ultimate

Sacrifice, the artifacts, stories, images, and documents highlight the themes of these sections of the museum. A key new feature at the Hall of Honor is the Purple Heart Journey interactive kiosks.

For the first four themes, visitors may choose to follow any of the twenty featured recipients through their journey. These kiosks offer video clips from the recipient's interview, supported by documents and photos tied to that stage of the person's journey. Visitors can follow one recipient throughout the journey or listen to the stories of multiple recipients. Visitors

will hear what they experienced at each stage of the journey in the recipient's own words.

The Ultimate Sacrifice interactive is different as it pays homage to those who lost their lives. There are forty featured recipients and interviews with five Gold Star family members speaking of the family member who was killed in service. This kiosk also features voice-over talent reading letters and diary entries supported by photos and documents, which provide

the visitor with the experience of loss, recognition of sacrifice, and closure.

The Hall of Honor, while designed to provide a self-guided experience, the Hall of Honor also offers organized adult group visits and an educational program for school, scout, and camp groups titled "Soldiers Across Time." This program provides the history of the award, an overview of all the conflicts for which there are known recipients, as well as introduces students to the Journey of a Purple Heart recipient featured in the Purple Heart Journey interactives.

The Hall of Honor is open year-round, Tuesday -Saturday 10:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

To learn more about the Hall, please visit our website: [www.thrpurpleheart.com](http://www.thrpurpleheart.com); follow us on Facebook or call the Hall at 845-561-1765.







# ANDREW M. DEL GAUDIO

REGION IV COMMANDER

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**P**atriots and Auxiliary,  
The passing of 2021 into 2022 has seen much change within our Order. Given these changes and challenges, we must remain steadfast in our determination to make our Order the premier home for our Combat Wounded Brothers and Sisters.

We have to do this with our Auxiliary. We may be two different organizations, but we share a common goal.

We can't say it; we have to live it! We have to live up to our oath and recruit like-minded people to our organization who are willing to go the extra distance to better the lives of those like us.

Leaders must emerge and take control of this organization in what could be called our most fluid time! Planning for the future is not a new concept. See the insert above.

With the coming of the National Convention this

summer, the Order must find ways to recruit people from the ranks who wish to command at the Chapter and Department levels. These are our most critical billets.

The Order is growing older, and chapters are beginning to close; there is nothing we can do about that; we must accept that reality and place

strength to make a difference.

We as leaders have a responsibility to recognize those who are making that difference!

I say to all Regions, send us your best this year for Patriot of the Year!

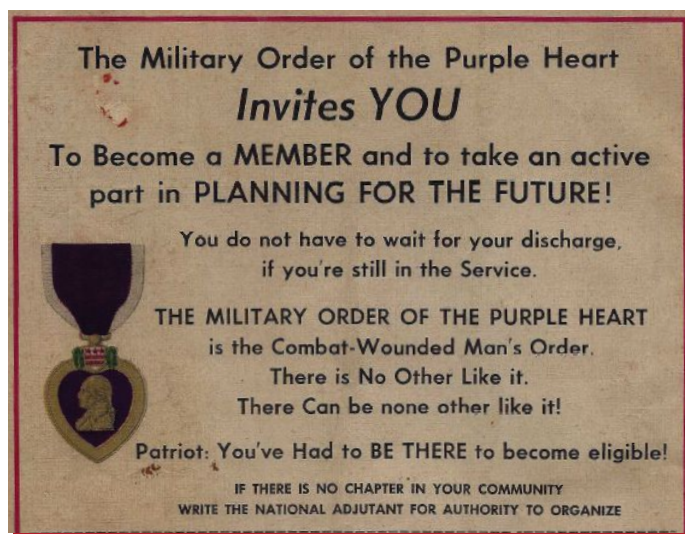
Many Patriots are doing the "Lord's work" out there who deserve recognition.

For this to happen, Leaders need to do the

right thing and spend time writing on their people. Take the time to do this essential work.

Yours in Patriotism,! ♥

*Andrew M. Del Gaudio*



**Recruiting is not a new concept.  
This is from the August 1945  
Purple Heart Magazine**



CARLTON L. CANNON

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## THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT

### “The Blood”

What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the **BLOOD of JESUS!** From the Garden of Eden to the garden in Heaven’s paradise, the **blood of sacrifice** is the constant **Testimony of God’s Grace**. As a fallen man was clothed with skins of animals sacrificed by God Himself for such provision: Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them (**Genesis 3:21**). So the **blood** of the **Lamb** was shed to clothe in the righteousness of God every member of mankind who will receive **His gift**.

This song is the song of those who make this covenant with God “**by sacrifice**.” Thus God will gather to Himself “those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice” (**Psalm 50:5**). And, from Jesus Christ who is the faithful witness, the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in **His own BLOOD**, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. **AMEN**.

**GOD’S HOLINESS** required **BLOOD for CLEANSING**, but **RIGHT RELATIONSHIP** is the **ultimate goal** of His covenant! (**Isaiah 1:11-16**) says, “The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?” says the LORD. I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fatten animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. **(12)** When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of My courts? **(13)** Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to Me. New moons, Sabbaths, and convocations – I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. **(14)** Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them. **(15)** When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide My eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of **BLOOD!** **(16) WASH and MAKE YOURSELVES CLEAN**. Take your evil deeds out of My sight! **STOP DOING WRONG!**

This **Easter**, let us remember the **SACRIFICE** made for our redemption. Thank God’s **Son** for the **BLOOD OF THE COVENANT!** Pray for us – love you! ♥

*Carlton L. Cannon, Sr*

# I am Pitts

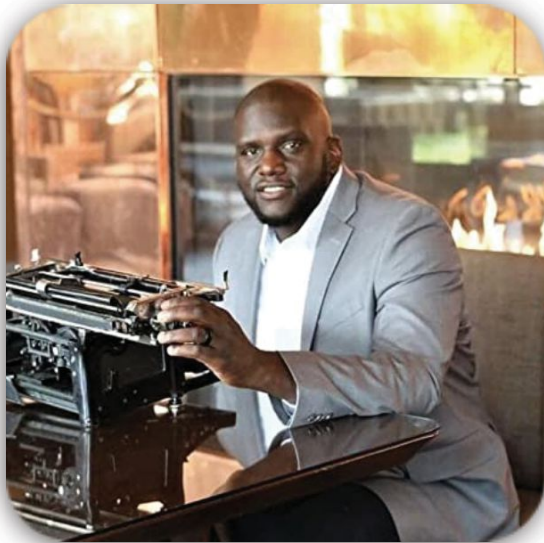
## Memoirs of an American Patriot

*By Sergeant Chuck Cooper*

*Louisville Metro Police (retired)*

**D**exter Pitts is a young man with a lifetime of experience. Bullied, threatened, and ridiculed at the hands of the other children, he suppressed his anger. His autobiography begins in his childhood and walks us through the experience of being a dark-skinned black child.

After the 9/11 attacks, Pitts was inspired to serve his country and joined the U.S. Army in August of 2003. An infantryman with the 10th Mountain Division, Pitts deployed to Iraq in 2004. Pitts returns home after being severely wounded by an IED and medically retired from the army. He is suffering from PTSD, lost in his new life, and is distraught by his mission to serve being taken from him. A good soldier always wants to complete his mission.



Pitts walks us through excruciating physical therapy and the deep darkness of PTSD. He leans heavily on his mother's unyielding love and support and his strong Christian faith. In 2009 he transitioned into a career as a Louisville Metro Police Officer. During the 2020 riots, Dexter is again targeted for his color and chosen profession. Rioters relentlessly harass and threaten him, but he stands firm with dignity and professionalism.

I Am Pitts is frightening, uplifting, and inspiring. It will renew your belief in humanity and the strength of the inner self. It will encourage the reader to develop self-awareness and spirituality. As Dexter defines his identity, the book will lead the reader to ask, "Who am I?" ♥

**T**he MOPH National Convention 2022 is tagged "Exploring New Opportunities," and that is what the Department of Dakotas is attempting to offer to all registered convention goers at this year's 89th National Convention in Rapid City, South Dakota, August 15<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup> 2022.

The agendas will include opportunities for comradery and opportunities for growth for the Order and ourselves. This is done through breakout sessions that will offer an educational element to our convention so that members will leave the convention with a better understanding of the Order, our convention purpose, and the hot topics surrounding us as Veterans.

That's not all this year's convention is offering. Convention-goers will have opportunities to attend a lighting ceremony at beautiful Mount Rushmore and spend an evening downtown Deadwood as all part of the comradery experience.

To make this year's convention the very best it can be, the Department of Dakotas is raffling a 2021 Harley Davidson Motorcycle. We are seeking your support by either purchasing a ticket of your own or offering to sell a booklet or two. All proceeds go to pay for the convention. ♥

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**2021 HARLEY DAVIDSON**  
**"HERITAGE CLASSIC"**

**RAFFLE TICKETS ARE 1 FOR \$25.00**  
**OR**  
**5 FOR A \$100.00**

**2,500 TICKETS ARE PRINTED AND THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD WHEN ALL THE TICKETS ARE SOLD.**

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*LEGACY*  
*FAMILIES AND RELATIVES OF FALLEN*  
*SOLDIERS IN THE IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WARS*

## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS!

The narrative book project, ***Legacy: Families and Relatives of Fallen Soldiers in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars*** by Ron Farina is actively seeking the perspectives of candidates who meet the following criteria:

- Spouses of soldiers killed in Iraq or Afghanistan
- Siblings of soldiers killed in Iraq or Afghanistan
- Parents of soldiers killed in Iraq or Afghanistan
- Children of soldiers killed in Iraq or Afghanistan

***Legacy*** is the third and final installment in ***Sacrifice***, a trilogy on U.S. veterans and their families. This work will focus on the families of our fallen service men and women and the impact it has on them. **This book is a not-for-profit publication**, with proceeds to go toward supporting various veteran organizations.

To participate, please contact the project's research assistant, Michaela Lawlor, using the information above. Gold Star families of any U.S. Veterans are welcome to inquire.

### ***About the Author***

Ron Farina is the author of *Who Will Have My Back: Stories of Love and Care for Those Who Have Served and Sacrificed*. His stories and essays have appeared in *Connecticut Magazine*, literary journals and the anthology *The Odds are Against Us*. He lives in Connecticut with his wife and their two Golden Retrievers, Preacher and Henry. He served as a Marine in the early years of the Vietnam War.

### ***About the Research Assistant***

See Michaela Lawlor's bio [here](#).

***CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS IS ROLLING.***  
***PROJECT COMPLETION DATE ESTIMATED 5/2023***  
***THIS PROJECT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE FUNDING OF***  
***HSH, LEOPOLD D'ARENBERG, DUKE OF BELGIUM***



# Veteran donates Purple Heart to Oklahoma State University-Tulsa

From OUS-Tulsa Website submitted by Shannon L. Matthews

U.S. Army Corporal (CPL) and Oklahoma State University-Tulsa alumnus Shannon Matthews donated his Purple Heart to OSU-Tulsa this morning in a limited in-person ceremony on campus.

“This will be the first time in the Purple Heart’s existence that a living veteran has donated their medal to any institution,” Matthews said. “A lot of people know about the Purple Heart, but how many people have seen one? OSU-Tulsa provided me with the opportunity to show the world what I have. Now I want to give something I have back to OSU-Tulsa.”

Matthews, who grew up in Tulsa, graduated from Nathan Hale High School and served in the Oklahoma Army National Guard for four years before enlisting in the U.S. Army in April 1992. While serving as part of Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti in 1994, Matthews was stabbed in the leg by an enemy combatant in close-contact fighting. Along with his Purple Heart, Matthews earned numerous commendations for his service, including the Air Assault Badge, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Southeast Asia Service Medal.

“First let me congratulate Shannon,” said Oklahoma National Guard Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Mancino, speaking to the audience at the ceremony. “We always think you do the service for a high and mighty reason – and that may be why you got in. But at the end of the day, men and women are fighting for their brothers and sisters to their left and to their right. And I know Shannon, that was part of your service as well.”

Following his time in the military, Matthews decided he needed to complete his bachelor’s degree. He enrolled in OSU-Tulsa while he continued to work and raise his daughter. At one point in his education, he felt like giving

up – but one of his professors gave him the push he needed to keep at it.

“I had missed a few weeks of class and was sick the week before a big presentation when my professor, Dr. Henry Migliore, called me up and wanted to know where I’d been. Even after I told him I couldn’t do it, he insisted he’d see me on Monday – so I showed up,” Matthews said. “After that I took every class he had. That left an impression on me. He took the time to call me and tell me what I ought to do.”

Matthews completed his bachelor’s degree in business at OSU-Tulsa in 2001 and was recognized as a “Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities.” He

went on to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Army Recruiting Command, and Army Reserve Contracting Agency before retiring from the Army Corps of Engineers in 2012. He has dedicated much of his life to giving back to veterans and investing in the success of Tulsans, establishing the Shannon L. Matthews Veterans Scholarship at Tulsa Community College in 2010.



**Mitch Reed (L), legislative ambassador State of Oklahoma Purple Heart Association, senior vice president for OSU-Tulsa Chris Benge, CPL Shannon Matthews.**

“When you think of symbols of service and sacrifice, few are more sacred than the Purple Heart,” said Chris Benge, interim senior vice president for OSU-Tulsa. “As I learned about Shannon Matthews in preparation for this event, it became apparent that this gift is emblematic of a life lived in service. Matthews has dedicated much of his life to giving back to veterans and investing in the success of Tulsans, and through this gift to OSU-Tulsa, he will continue to inspire students through his example of service and dedication.”

The Purple Heart will go on display in the OSU-Tulsa Student Union inside North Hall in the coming weeks. A recording of the live-stream of the ceremony can be found on [OSU-Tulsa’s Facebook page](#). ❤️



# DISPLAYING THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL PLAQUE

By Russell D. Ward Chapter #187

While constantly assessing our relations with rogue countries such as China, Russia, and North Korea, we hope a future war is not imminent. In the meantime, we Combat Wounded Veterans of Western New York believe education administrators and government representatives need to impress upon our youth; they could be our next generation to defend America.

Displaying the Purple Heart Medal gives benefits of symbolism such as equality, strength, and dedication that shows millions of American citizens were killed or wounded throughout our American history to protect our American freedoms. Regardless of color, national origin, nationality, gender, or age, Americans fought side by side as one America and always will.

Americans have the opportunity to work hard, overcome obstacles to rise to wherever their dreams and ambition may lead them. Students must learn at young ages to understand how serious it is to do the best they can to become successful, proud citizens.

When the PURPLE HEART MEDAL PLAQUE is viewed, it begins the conversation of American heritage to protect our way of life and do our best at all ages of our lives.

We Purple Heart Recipients of Western New York wish to display Purple Heart Honor Plaques in schools where students and adults will read them to continue the conversation of how we can make ourselves better American citizens. Displaying the plaque shown above is a way of giving strength to students and adults to understand our freedom was

not given freely. It is the gift that we enjoy today from so many that suffered.

The following are some more positive influences taken from the PURPLE HEART PLAQUE UNITY: When the Purple Heart Medal plaque is displayed, it unites students and adults to know all Races, Religions, National Origins, Ages, Genders, and Nationalities fought as one united people to keep American freedoms.



•**ENCOURAGEMENT:** The Purple Heart Medal plaque encourages students and adults experiencing problems or hardships to know millions of wounded veterans worked their way through their situations until things got better and continued to live full lives.

•**HONOR:** Displaying the Purple Heart Plaque will further make students and adults honor and respect our American way of life that was won by a million American citizens killed and millions more wounded in many wars throughout history to keep us free.

•**PATRIOTISM:** When students and adults see the Purple Heart Plaque, they will begin to see how important it is to patronize and respect the many sacrifices made to keep our country strong and free to be the greatest country in the world.

- **FAITH:** When viewing the Purple Heart Medal Plaque, young and old will further realize freedom is not free and if necessary all citizens of America will fight as one America to keep our rights of freedom. ♥

## EDITORIAL PAGE . .

## WHY?

**M**ORE than 160 years ago General Washington, commanding the Continental Army, with his headquarters at Newburgh, N. Y., wrote the following General Order:

"The General, ever desirous to cherish a virtuous ambition in his soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. Not only instances of unusual gallantry but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with a due reward. . . . Should any who are not entitled to these honors have the insolence to assume the badge of them, they shall be severely punished. On the other hand it is expected those gallant men who are thus designated will on all occasions be treated with particular confidence and consideration. . . . The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all. This order is also to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war, and is to be considered a permanent one."

The original Purple Heart decoration, termed the "Badge of Military Merit," was of cloth shaped like a heart. Across its face was embroidered the word "Merit."

On Feb. 22, 1932, in conformity with congressional action, President Hoover directed the war department to revive the Purple Heart as the oldest of army decorations.

The enacting order reads as follows:

"General Orders No. 3.

"Purple Heart By order of the President of the United States the Purple Heart, established by Gen. George Washington at Newburgh, N. Y., Aug. 7, 1782, during the War of Revolution, is hereby revived out of respect to his memory and military achievement.

"By order of the Secretary of War. Signed: Douglas MacArthur, General, Chief of Staff."

With this background of information, read again the amazing interchange of letters between National Commander William Thomas and the War Department, to be found on page 3 of this issue.

Many Purple Heart decorations have been issued (up to now) to veterans of other wars—and this one—for meritorious action and unusual fidelity to duty. Some Purple Heart veterans of other wars—and some engaged in the present conflict—were not wounded though they were combat men. Gallantry in action, unusual fidelity to duty, brought them the citations from the commander-in-chief upon which their Purple Heart awards were based.

A new order of the war department now literally divides future possible recipients of Purple Heart honors. It provides the Purple Heart award for those who are wounded—or killed—in contact with the enemy. Others not necessarily part of the armed forces, but who are associated with them and wounded may also win the Purple Heart.

A new award, the Legion of Merit, goes to those members of the armed forces who win it by "extraordinary fidelity and devotion to essential service," formerly a basis of Purple Heart awards. The new award is based also on General Washington's General Order of August 7, 1782. In other words, where there was one, now there are two decorations.

Some war correspondents have been awarded the Purple Heart. We do not criticize that action, although it was patently General Washington's plan to limit the Badge of Military Merit to members of his armed forces. His General Order, too, provided for one, not two, decorations.

However, Presidential Executive Order 9277, signed December 3, granting authority to award the Purple Heart to any member of the armed forces who may qualify, meets with our hearty approval. That order extends award of the Purple Heart to ALL in the armed forces—army, air force, marines, navy, coast guard.

That provision is going to make the Military Order of the Purple Heart far greater than we had dreamed.

Had the "Legion of Merit" not been torn from the Purple Heart we would have nothing but praise for the new set-up. Perhaps even that should have our approval. Perhaps it should not.

The National Commander is to be commended for his prompt action in obtaining the outline of the new set-up from the War Department.

And we wonder . . . and suggest that every Purple Heart man give thought, too . . . to the order "splitting" what have up to now been Purple Heart awards. Is that what General Washington intended when he wrote his General Order of Dec. 7th, 1782?

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# Overriding Standard for Military Capability—Lethality

In an op-ed for [Task & Purpose](#), Lt. General Gregory Newbold USMC (Ret.) laid out how the ideals of wokeness pushed by the Left do not help the U.S. military's primary mission of being a lethal war-fighting organization that must be ready at all times to kill the nation's enemies.

Newbold warned how many Americans and senior military leaders had formed a “dementia when it comes to warfare.”

“The result is confusion or denial about the essential ingredients of a competent military force and the costs of major power conflict. The memory loss is largely irrespective of political bent because all too many are seduced by a Hollywood-infused sense of antiseptic warfare and push-button solutions.

At the same time, forgotten are the one million casualties of the Battle of the Somme in World War I, or the almost two million in the Battle of Stalingrad in World War II. This ‘warfare dementia’ is a dangerous and potentially catastrophic malady because the price for it could alter the success of the American experiment and most assuredly will be paid in blood.”

Instead of pushing for Critical Race Theory in the military, Newbold said the armed forces must get back to the basics of Critical Military Theory.

**1. The U.S. military has two main purposes** — to deter our enemies from engaging us in warfare and, if that fails, to defeat them in combat. Deterrence is only possible if the opposing force believes it will be defeated. Respect is not good enough; fear and certainty are required.

**2. To be true to its purpose, the U.S. military cannot be a mirror image of the society it serves.**

Values that are admirable in civilian society — sensitivity, individuality, compassion, and tolerance for the less capable — are often antithetical to the traits that deter a potential enemy and win the wars that must be fought: Conformity, discipline, unity.

Direct ground combat, of the type we must be prepared to fight, is only waged competently when ac-

tions are instinctive, almost irrationally disciplined, and wholly sacrificial when required. Consensus building, deference, and (frankly) softness have their place in polite society, but nothing about intense ground combat is polite — it is often sub-humanly coarse.



**3. There is only one overriding standard for military capability—lethality.**

Those officeholders who dilute this core truth with civil society's often appropriate priorities (diversity, gender focus, etc.) undermine the military's chances of success in combat. Reduced chances for success mean more casualties, which makes defeat more likely. Combat is the harshest meritocracy that exists, and nothing but ruthless adherence to this principle contributes to deterrence and combat effectiveness. ♥

Newbold's last assignment was Director of Operations for the Joint Staff, said, “senior military and political leadership have lost sight of these and other crucial tents of **Critical Military Theory** by shifting a change in priorities and standards.”

# Tiny Homes for Veterans

by **Porfirio (Tony) Quesada**

## Tiny Homes for Veterans—A Dream Come True

The journey of a dream come true is full of grist and glory. Anyone devoted to a dream knows that once the seed is planted, it is primarily a journey of grist as it takes on a life of its own. It requires abundant faith and constant attendance to navigate such a thing, often with twists and turns to mark the way.

If you were to drive through the small midwestern town of Lincoln, IL, and pass by the corner of Sixth and College Street, you would witness the glory of a dream come true. There stands the first local “tiny home for veterans,” which became a reality in July 2021.

CIVC (Central Illinois Veterans Commission) initiated its mission to provide homes and supportive services for veterans began over five years ago. The seed was planted by local veteran and CIVC Chairman Joe Schaler and has involved many donors and volunteers throughout the community and beyond to make this dream come true.



CIVC Chairman Joe Schaler

The donors are the Hayes-Krell Chapter 159 and the Dept of Illinois. Schaler, a Vietnam Marine vet, is Past Commander of the Purple Heart Chapter and currently the Department Senior Vice Commander.

Schaler is devoted to CIVC’s mission. The integrity and commitment he pursues their cause are well known in the community. As one local resident put it, “If Joe’s involved, it gets done, and it’s done right.”

Upon his retirement ten years ago, Schaler felt called to give his time and attention to the needs of veterans. His own experiences and challenges of re-entering civilian life and living with the traumas of war have fed his passion for helping others.

There was virtually no assistance available upon their return for Vietnam vets and others before them. They were told to turn in their discharge papers within 30 days. “Most vets never turn in their papers,” said Schaler, “so we don’t know where they live or what their needs are.”

For Schaler, it was a perfunctory process. “When I turned in my papers, the officer said, ‘Well, you walked in, so you must not be hurting,’ and that was pretty much it. I didn’t even think to ask any questions.”

Any plans that Schaler had for his life before entering the war were no longer a part of his reality. He got a job training as a diesel mechanic but was let go after six months. It wasn’t until much later that he discovered why. At that time, the government offered tax relief to businesses that hired veterans. Employers got six months’ relief on half the wages paid. “We got used and used again,” said Schaler.

“We have the second-largest veteran populated district in the State of Illinois with 55,000 vets,” said Schaler. “Yet the nearest VA home is three hours away.” There is a patchwork of temporary housing facilities offered in Central Illinois, i.e., the Salvation Army in Lincoln offers 3-month housing, and Springfield, IL offers 24-month transitional housing for up to 15 vets.

The mission of CIVC is to go much further by assisting with permanent mortgage-free housing and providing individual vs. group homes. “Everyone needs their own place,” said Schaler, “for their privacy, self-esteem, and to get their life back.”

The recipient of CIVC’s first home, Army veteran Scott Jackson, feels very much at home. He witnessed it being built from the ground up. Over 100 volunteers gathered from near and far to get the job done within three days. There were few dry eyes at the opening ceremony—a blessing of the build as Jackson stepped forward. “I am overwhelmed with gratitude,” he said.



There was no question he felt welcomed by the community. The atmosphere was vibrant and full of goodwill and camaraderie. The 2x4s used to build this 565 square foot home had all been signed and marked with inspirational messages by folks in the community—from school children to business staff.

Jackson was initially resistant to applying for the house. “I was absolutely not going to do it,” he said. “I told my daughter I thought others were more deserving and that I’d live in a tent first.” Yet his daughter kept urging him to apply, and he’s glad he did.



## A Dream Come True

The community is also grateful that he applied. The genuine desire to give back and help those who have been of service has energized every thought, word, and move that made this dream come true—from the idea to the construction, from those handing out water to those hanging drywall.

Settled into his new home, Jackson has felt even more grateful. “It’s incredible,” he said, “the number of people that have been so kind, helpful, and loving. The community support and amount of new friends I’ve made since being here have been amazing.”

Given the swell of support, Jackson had been warned by CIVC to expect a lot of attention. Many folks that helped with the first home are looking forward to the next one, scheduled for this spring. Jackson is often recognized while out and about, sometimes in unexpected ways.

“I was recently in a minor car accident,” he said. “A car ran into the car behind me. I got out, and the car that hit me was a young guy in his 20s. The first words out of his mouth were, ‘Are you okay? How do you like your new home?’ He had helped build my house and said he was going to be there again for the next one.”

“I really like it, the tiny home thing,” said Jackson. “It’s very economical. Every chance I get, I tell people about it.” CIVC provided it with everything furnished, down to the silverware and food in the fridge when he arrived.

The ease of living provided by the tiny home, which is ADA compliant, is well suited for Jackson’s situation. He is still recovering from a fall in 2001 that nearly left him paralyzed.

“It changed my life forever,” he said. “I was able to walk within a month with intense physical therapy. Yet to this day, I have spastic paralysis and quadriparesis (weakness in all four limbs). The symptoms are similar to MS and cause many other health issues. It’s one thing after another. I’m on a lot of medication, have seven doctors, and lots of therapy.”

“I refuse pain pills,” said Jackson, and he explained that he instead takes a combination of ibuprofen and Tylenol. “And I’ve always been able to calm myself with meditation. One of my pain therapists recommended it—that and breathing exercises.”

Despite his physical condition, Jackson maintains a positive attitude. “I keep smiling and keep ongoing,” he said. “The military helped me with that ‘not quit attitude.’ You keep going forward and never look back. Plus, I’ve got kids and grandkids. I wasn’t going to give up. There’s too much in life to live for.”

Meanwhile, Jackson is looking forward to having new neighbors. Fortunately, the corner lot is large enough for three tiny homes. Two concrete foundations are ready and waiting for the second and third homes to be built. Funds are now being raised, and materials are gathered for the next build, planned for early April.

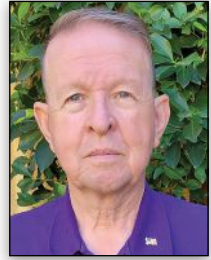
The first home has served as a touchstone for spreading the word. Veterans from other cities have come to visit and go back inspired by CIVC’s mission and its community of supporters.

“At CIVC, our mission is to provide not just a house for our veterans,” said Schaler, “but a place to call home. Our community’s generous support and welcoming spirit has played a key role in making this a success. We are extremely grateful and look forward to continued support as we come together to make a difference in the lives of veterans.” ♥



## National Adjutant Larry Leighton

[nationaladjutant@purpleheart.org](mailto:nationaladjutant@purpleheart.org)



## Did You Know?

**National Appointed Officers:** We now have several new National Appointed Officers. Commander McCormick made the following appointments to serve the Order at all levels better.

- Deputy National Judge Advocate: Patriot Walter Kroptovich, 1775-VA-1, has been appointed to perform those duties customarily performed by the Judge Advocate whenever there is no elected Judge Advocate or the elected Judge Advocate is not available (such as on a deployment). 501-492-9218  
[walterk2580@gmail.com](mailto:walterk2580@gmail.com)
- Deputy National Finance Officer (Legacy): Patriot Terry Anderson, 0807-MN-2, has been appointed to this position to revamp, revitalize, and reorganize our current Legacy Program. Currently, the Program is a monthly donation of \$20 that assists Combat Wounded Veterans and their families.- Patriot Anderson will be looking to incentivize businesses and corporations to join the program. He also be making it more inviting for us, the membership.  
[terry7077@outlook.com](mailto:terry7077@outlook.com) 507-236-4653
- Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Director: Charles Anderson, 0493-CA-6. Among other things, he has already started to review and update the VAVS handbook, which can be downloaded from the website.  
[anderson\\_charles58@yahoo.com](mailto:anderson_charles58@yahoo.com)
- 760-826-9757

**MOPH Scholarship Program:** I received multiple calls last week about our scholarship program. Other organizations have “open season” at different times of the year than we do, so scholars, parents, and grandparents are getting anxious to start asking for help. When asked, I tell them we usually do not provide information about our Program until late April or May and accept applications in June.

We do not have any funds set aside for the Program, but we have not given up just yet. Stay tuned to our website: Stay tuned to our website:

<https://purpleheart.org/ScholarshipProgram>

We'll update it as information becomes available.

**Motorcycle For Sale** - \$10.00: Well, maybe not strictly for sale at that price, but you can buy a raffle ticket (3 for \$25) from the Department of the Dakotas. The money raised will help pay for the August Convention in Rapid City, SD, Aug 14-19. Check out the details on our website:

<https://purpleheart.org/NationalConvention>

**Running for National Elected Officer** this year? If you plan to run for one of our national elected positions, dust off your resume and picture. Candidate announcements will be in the May-June issue (suspense for input is April 15th). ♥

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** Click —> <https://www.purpleheart.org/newaccount?>



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## News & Gatherings



Chancellor Darrell T. Allison, Frances Figueroa Department Commander, & Siobhan R. Norris Associate Vice Chancellor for Military Affairs,

Fayetteville State University was named a Purple Heart University by the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 2226 Region IV for its ongoing support of veterans and their families, specifically those who were wounded in combat.

Frances Figueroa, the Department Commander of the North Carolina Military Order of the Purple Heart, presented the designation to Chancellor Darrell T. Allison and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Military Affairs, Siobhan R. Norris during the Veteran's Day ceremony.

Also in attendance was Ret. General Irrizary, and Fayetteville City Council member Chris Davis (a Purple Heart recipient). ♥



William R. Gaines, Jr. Memorial Park

MOPH CHAPTER 759 - Charlotte County, FL has dedicated a Park to the Memory of William R Gaines Jr. He was a resident of Charlotte County. Gaines was killed in the Beirut Lebanon bombing that killed several service members some years back.

Within the William R. Gaines, Jr. Memorial Park, a Military Services Memorial has been developed. There is a monument honoring every branch of our Armed Services —Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force. In the center of the Memorial is a monument honoring our Purple Heart Veterans.

At the top of the Purple Heart monument is an eternal light that shines every night. ♥

**DEADLINE for article submissions**  
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# Expressive Writing and PTSD

Wendell Affield served four years in the Navy—1965-1969, two tours in Vietnam, the second with the Mobile Riverine Force where he was wounded in an ambush. Affield is the author of four books and a life member of MOPH.

2022 is the tenth anniversary of my Vietnam War memoir, *MUDDY JUNGLE RIVERS*. It's been a long winding path. Along the way, I discovered that writing my memories helped me make sense of my Vietnam experience.

I am not a mental health professional. I was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) by a Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) doctor in the early 1990s. I come to therapeutic writing as a person who has dealt with trauma memories for more than five decades.

The Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes the power of expressive writing therapy. One of the tools they use in treating PTSD is Written Exposure Therapy (WET). I have not participated in that program, but I began my journey twenty years ago and discovered the power of expressive writing therapy.

In 2002, after retirement, I registered at Bemidji State University (BSU), part-time. I hadn't set foot in a classroom since I walked out midway through the eleventh grade thirty-six years earlier. My first professor, Dr. Mark Christensen, took the time to work with a high school dropout. I quickly realized how fortunate I was to be in his class.

In my first class, I recall Professor Christensen's writing prompt: "What would you like to write about?" My response startled me. "I want to write about life on a riverboat in Vietnam. About decomposing bodies and bodies were blown beyond recognition. About soldiers, sailors, and Marines dying, some of whom I knew and some I didn't; about friends drowned, sniped, burned, maimed. I want to write about getting wounded, crawling a riverbank toward a medevac chopper, and having nightmares. About the terror of blindness and the sense of loss and guilt." (From 2002 onward, I have

saved all my writing on the computer. It's instructive to see how it evolved over the years.)

I revisited the evening I pulled a decomposing American body from a muddy river in my first memory story. That was my introduction to sensory-triggered memories. Since then, I've come to realize that my olfactory sense—smell—is my most potent trigger.

I wrote most of my first rough drafts sitting on a brush pile out in my meadow—through the seasons; scorching summer sun, arctic clipper blasts, and drizzling spring rain. The tranquility of nature became a sixth sense as I explored my past.

I was blessed to have many professors at BSU who took a sincere interest in my quest to explore my past. A few years after that first writing class, Professor Christensen introduced me to the power of poetry. I found World War One British poets most compelling. Siegfried Sassoon, Robert

Graves, and Wilfred Owen—Owen was killed in action one week before the armistice, wrote with a power that I hoped to emulate.

I told fellow students that I wanted to know if they ever felt that my prose or poetry glorified war. I realized that writing my experiences had left me with the sense that Owen had so eloquently stated, "My subject is war, and the pity of war. The Poetry is in the pity." Owen wrote much of his poetry in the trenches, in real-time.

Mine came almost four decades after my battles. Over the next several years, I wrote hundreds of stories and poems and revised them thousands of times. I wrote in first-person point of view, in the voice of a twenty-year-old member of a seven-man riverboat crew—profanity included. My understanding of the writing craft grew. As I gained tools to tell my stories, an exciting thing happened which I wasn't conscious of at the time. I began to make sense of my experience. Putting each story on paper gave me a sense of control. A grad student suggested I arrange my stories chronologically. With control came understanding.

I hadn't set foot in a classroom since I walked out midway through the eleventh grade thirty-six years earlier.

# Written Exposure Therapy (WET)

A decade after my first class, in an end-of-semester cover letter, I wrote, “Susan, for me it’s symbolic that we’ve come full circle—you were the first to encourage me to take a class at BSU—ten years ago—and this past spring I’ve attended one of your last classes before your retirement. Over those years, a world taught by many gifted people has opened to me. A world at times painful, cathartic, surprising, fulfilling.” Not long after her retirement, Susan Carol Hauser invited me to join a writing group she had started. Sadly, Susan is gone, but her lessons live on.

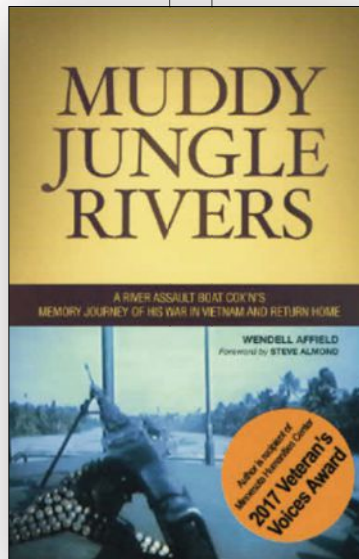
A year later, my daughter Rachel wrote an Amazon review on my recently published memoir, *MUDDY JUNGLE RIVERS* (2012). “My father never spoke to us of his time in Vietnam, so this is all new to me.” That is the nature of post traumatic stress disorder—silence. As I write this in 2022, I think about a friend, Richard, who recently began attending the Veterans Writer Group that I facilitate. Richard and I worked together through the 1990s for nine years. At a recent group meeting, we discussed that silence. He and I knew we were both in the military served in Vietnam, but we never talked about our past during those nine years.

*MUDDY JUNGLE RIVERS* opened amazing paths for me. Thanks to the internet, I reconnected with many men I had served with. At speaking events, audiences often asked me about PTSD. At first, I was hesitant to talk about it because I was afraid I’d get emotional. I realized that PTSD was an important topic; that many in my generation lived with it in silence. Only by talking about it can someone give others the “license” or courage to do likewise.

In 2015 I was invited to share what I had learned through writing my traumas—somewhere, I don’t remember where or when I read the phrase “expressive writing therapy.” I read *Writing to Heal* (2004) by James W. Pennebaker and realized that I was

writing to heal during the years I attended Bemidji State University.

I am a firm believer that one is not “healed” of PTSD but can learn to integrate old trauma memories into total life experience and, yes, move beyond. There will always be a trigger to send one back—as I’ve mentioned, olfactory triggers are especially powerful. With a whiff of diesel fumes or decomposing flesh, I’m back on the rivers of Vietnam. But there is life beyond PTSD.



Post traumatic growth (PTG) is a powerful concept of growth resulting from personal trauma. Post traumatic growth is a theory developed in 1996 by psychologists Richard Tedeschi and Lawrence Calhoun. [Growth after trauma \(apa.org\)](https://www.apa.org/ptg) PTG recognizes five primary areas of positive response: appreciation of life, relationships with others; new possibilities in life; personal strength; spiritual change.

Expressive writing is a recognized tool for PTG. In our local Veterans Writer Group, we are currently working our way through *The Post traumatic Growth Workbook* (2016) by Richard G. Tedeschi, Ph.D., and Bret A. Moore, PsyD, ABPP.

In closing, I share this story. Several years ago, I was invited to speak at a Hospice Volunteer Dinner. The hostess suggested I talk about end-of-life regrets that veterans often have. As I researched my subject, I was shocked to learn that one of the veterans’ greatest regrets is not having shared their military experience with family—that part of their life would be gone. I encourage each of you—tell your stories. Your families will be grateful. ♥

A short television interview with Wendell Affield: <https://lprtv.org/local-veteran-honored-with-award-for-community-work/>  
View other media events at: <https://www.wendellaffield.com/media/>  
*Muddy Jungle Rivers* can be viewed at: <https://www.amazon.com/Muddy-Jungle-Rivers-assault-journey/dp/098470230X>



## Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency



# Famed Director Spike Lee Learns of MIA Cousin After Making Movie About Cousin's Unit

By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sean Everette

Early in 2021, Spike Lee, acclaimed director of movies like “BlackKkKlansman,” “Malcolm X,” and “Do The Right Thing,” received a letter from the United States Army. He was a little confused, because, as far as he knew, no one in his family had ever been in the Army. Curious, he opened the letter to learn his first cousin once removed, Maceo A. Walker, was a private first class in the 92nd Inf. Div., the only African American infantry division in Europe during World War II, and has been missing since 1945. First cousin once removed means Maceo’s mother was Spike’s grandfather’s sister.

“I didn’t know what to think,” said Spike. “Is this a joke, or what? Because I want to really emphasize, my grandmother, my mother, my grandfather, no one ever talked about my grandfather having siblings.”

It turns out Spike is Maceo’s primary next of kin, his eldest still-living relative.

“We get this all the time where family members are like, ‘We never knew of the service member! Our parents never talked about them.’” said Laurie Jones, Spike’s casualty case management specialist with the Army’s Past Conflict Repatriation Branch. “We have to try to show the family member how they are related to the service member, and that’s what I had to do with Spike, walk him through the genealogy reports so he could understand how he was related, because he didn’t believe he was related to the service member.”

“I had no idea till I got the letter!” Spike said.

In what could be called serendipity, Spike learning about Maceo was not his first connection with the 92nd Inf. Div., called the “Buffalo Soldiers.” He made the movie “Miracle at St. Anna” in 2008 based on the real-life massacre by the Nazis at Sant’Anna Di Stazzema, a small village in Tuscany, and the experiences of the 92nd in Italy during World War II.

“The 92<sup>nd</sup> was... should be the most fabled black unit in World War II,” said James McBride. “It’s been overlooked by historians for years.”

James is the author of “Miracle at St. Anna,” the novel on which the movie was based. He also wrote the movie’s screenplay.

“I started researching black Soldiers in Europe during World War II,” James said. “Of course, I came across the Tuskegee Airmen, but if you look a little bit deeper, I kept running into these stories about the men in the Serchio Valley who had done this and that and the other, and so I moved to Italy for six months and researched the book and that’s how I found out about the 92nd Division. It’s just an extraordinary story.”

The segregated division, made up of primarily white senior officers and African American junior officers and enlisted, was sent in the summer of 1944 to the Gothic Line in the northern Apennine Mountains, Germany’s last major line of defense against the Allied forces pushing north up the Italian peninsula. They remained there throughout the winter with their one major operation – Operation FOURTH TERM – taking place in February 1945. Maceo was killed on Feb. 10 during a battle near the Cinquale Canal.

“To be in Italy, to do this film, to honor the 92nd Division and be in the area where this battle took place and my cousin, Pfc. Maceo A. Walker, died at 20 years old, that’s the spirits there,” Spike said. “I can’t explain it any other way. It’s not just my cousin, but all of those brothers in 92<sup>nd</sup> Division, ‘Buffalo Soldiers,’ who fought



## Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise

for this country, who believed in this country, and came home to the United States and were still not full-class citizens.”

Despite countless contributions to military conflicts going back to the American Revolution, African Americans still struggled for the same treatment as their white counterparts.

“It should be mentioned the 92nd was treated very poorly by the press,” James added. “In part because the daily battle reports were written by the commanders of the different companies, and they were mostly white, mostly southerners, who didn’t like commanding a lot of the 1st and 2nd lieutenants, who basically ran everything and who were young, educated black men from New York and Washington, D.C. and went to Howard and so forth. It created a lot of problems, mostly because of Ned Almond, who was a very good general, but he was a southerner, and he reflected the beliefs of that time.”

James continued saying we, as a nation, will be lost if we don’t pay attention to our history.

“There’s a lot about the 92nd that was very good that people didn’t know, and there was a lot about it that wasn’t so good that people don’t know. The fact that we’re having this conversation means that we are trying to ferret our way out of the maze of racial problems that exist in this country,” the best-selling author concluded.

“This is about American families who, through this department, find some pride after being told that you have a relative that you didn’t even know about, who existed and died fighting for the United States of America.

### Trying to Bring These Soldiers Home

Approximately 700 92nd Inf. Div. Soldiers were killed in Italy during the war. When the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency started its 92nd Inf. Div. project in 2014 to account for the Buffalo Soldiers still missing, 53 were unaccounted for. Only three have been identified since then. Six more sets of remains are at DPAA’s Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska laboratory waiting to be identified. Most of the rest are thought to still be buried as Unknowns at one of the American Battle Monuments Commission’s cemeteries in Italy. Pfc. Maceo A. Walker is possibly one of those.

“There are seven Unknowns that Graves Registration personnel recovered from directly around the Cinquale Canal area where Pfc. Walker was lost,” said Dr. Sarah Barksdale, DPAA’s 92nd Inf. Div. Project lead historian. “So, when I made a short-list of individuals that I think historically could be associated with any one of those Unknowns, Pfc. Walker is on that short list, as well as 17 other individuals who were killed directly around the canal. From a historical perspective, that’s my indication that he could certainly be associated with any one of those seven individuals.”

It can be difficult to get permission to disinter these Unknowns, because DPAA must be relatively certain they will be able to make an identification. The best way to do that is to have DNA samples from service members’ families.

“When we started the project, the project lead put in the request with the Army for all 53 missing service members, asking them to try to find a next of kin to collect DNA,” Sarah said. “Fortunately, we got enough to actually start disinterring, because the requirement is that you have to have 50% of the people on any given short-list for a proposal. However, more family DNA samples potentially means more missing get accounted for.”

Spike had the chance to talk with Sarah, to get an update on the search for Maceo. He asked, “Is it true you’re having trouble from African American families to get DNA?”

“About half of the families we don’t have DNA from right now, Army Casualty wasn’t able to locate them,” Sarah answered. “We’re thinking it’s maybe because of migrations, that sort of thing. They’re just difficult to

## Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise

locate genealogically it seems. And then secondly, about half of the families the Service Casualty Office has contacted have declined to participate.”

James was there when Spike met with the DPAA historian to discuss his cousin’s case and wasn’t surprised by what she had to say.

“That’s understandable, because a great number of Soldiers in the 92nd Division were from the South and they were sharecroppers and they had no trust of the Army,” he said. “It’s unfortunate that this sort of social problem, social, cultural, racial problem, pings forward 50 or 60 years after the war. I can imagine that for some of the families who are probably struggling now, who likely didn’t leave the cycle of poverty, they see no reason to go back. There has to be some way of getting these families and these people more involved.”

It’s also possible some families just don’t know about their family member’s service because no one ever talked about it, like with Spike not knowing about his cousin.

“I interviewed 25, maybe more, members of the 92nd themselves, not their families,” said James. “It was difficult business to talk about. Most of them didn’t want to talk about it at all.”

Spike said he encountered the same when making his movie “Da 5 Bloods,” which is about black Soldiers in Vietnam.

“I talked to a lot of Vietnam vets, black and white, and doing other research,” he said. “It’s very rare, no matter black, white, whatever, that people want to talk about the war when they get home, so that’s not just a black thing. It’s just like horrific things and it’s hard for them to speak about it. I think that’s universal.”

“About half of the families we don’t have DNA from right now, Army Casualty wasn’t able to locate them,”

Both Spike and James said DPAA’s mission brings them some hope that these men can be brought home and honored and for the future.

“What this program I think is trying to do is it’s trying to show the families and show the country that we care about our own and that we want to unravel this stuff and that we’re willing to put the time and expense and money and expertise in it,” James said. “Anything that brings this kind of history to the American public is good news, because we need to know our history so we can talk to each other now. While I wasn’t the originator of the story, I’m all in favor of it because it’s not really about just black Soldiers. It’s about Americans not knowing their history. And if we can’t know our history, we won’t move forward.”

Lee elaborated on how DPAA’s work on the 92nd became even more personal to him nearly 15 years after completing a movie on the unit.

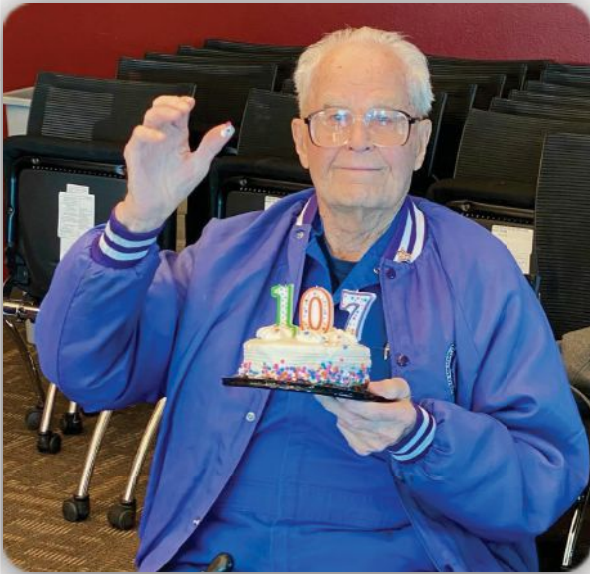
“This has nothing to do with politics,” said Spike. “This is about American families who, through this department, find some pride. And families, like myself, I’m a prime example, being told that you have a relative that you didn’t even know about, who existed and died fighting for the United States of America. My cousin, Pfc. Maceo A. Walker reached out to me and said, ‘Spike, I want you to know I existed, and I want you to spread the word and let the world know that I existed. I was 20 years old, enlisted, and died in Italy, World War II, fighting for democracy. The red, white, and blue.’”

If you have a family member or suspect you have a family member who went missing or was killed but never accounted for in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, DPAA and our partners want and need you to be involved in the search for your service member. Contact information for your service member’s appropriate Service Casualty Officer can be found at: <https://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Contact-Information/>. Reach out and they’ll help you find out more about your family’s specific case and help arrange for you and your family to donate DNA family reference samples, a key piece of evidence that will greatly assist in bringing your service member home. ♥

# Harold Nelson

## 107 Years Old

WWII Veteran Harold Nelson celebrated his 107th birthday February 28, 2022.



Harold Nelson was born on February 28, 1915, in Wolbach, Nebraska. Before he was drafted into the U.S. Army at Ft Cook, Nebraska, he was a farmhand. Harold was the first Nebraskan to be drafted in Nebraska. He served from July 14, 1941, to June 23, 1945.

Staff Sergeant Harold Nelson served with F Company, 7th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division. He fought in Tunisia, Sicily, Algeria-French Morocco, and in Naples-Foggia.

Staff Sergeant Harold Nelson was wounded twice, August 16, 1943, and February 29, 1944. He received two Purple Heart Medals.

While fighting in the theaters of European-African-Middle Eastern



Harold Nelson resides in Denver, CO, and his favorite pastime is spending quality time at the casinos in Black Hawk, CO.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 375 and the MOPH Auxiliary Unit 375 hosted a birthday party for Harold Nelson on Saturday, February 26, 2022.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart made him a member of the organization, making him the oldest living member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The Auxiliary Unit 375 presented Harold Nelson with a Quilt of Honor.. ♥



# Colleen Orfanello

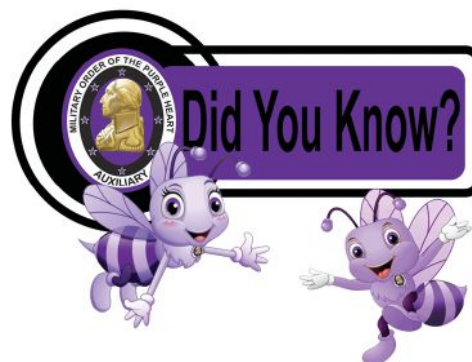
## National President

[Colleen.mopha@gmail.com](mailto:Colleen.mopha@gmail.com)

504-296-5022

Proud daughter of

Edward Oltmann - Vietnam



Did you know that **March 13th** is National K9 Veterans Day? We often send care-boxes to our troops but often forget about our 4-legged heroes. This year, consider volunteering at a local humane shelter, delivering treats to a police or sheriff's office for the K9 Unit, or perhaps send items to our troops' furry companions by addressing boxes to "K9 handlers". You could always send items such as flea and tick powder, toys, and food to the many homeless dogs in places such as Kosovo. If you are unsure of where to send items overseas, here is an address where your donation will be appreciated (These human heroes from Kentucky could use a little love too):

LTC Jason Mendez, CNS 2, CMR 12, Unit 93221, Camp Bondsteel, APO, AE 09240

On **March 25th**, we celebrate Medal of Honor Day to honor the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients. On this day, I personally like to perform a random act of kindness. I see it as a small way to make someone smile in otherwise gloomy times.

On **March 29th**, we honor Vietnam Veterans on their special day. Many communities host "Welcome Home!" breakfasts, parties, and other functions on this day. Here are a few tips to make your event fun and patriotic:

**PURPLE PASTA!** Consider a Spaghetti Night or fundraiser with PURPLE or red, white & blue pasta. After cooking your pasta al dente, soak the cooked pasta in warm water with gel-icing colors. Within a few minutes, the pasta will absorb the color. Rinse and dry, then serve. It is fun and a great way to show our Vietnam heroes' appreciation.

**PURPLE MARSHMALLOWS.** I personally made these yummy treats for my Dad and his buddies on Vietnam Veterans Day. I wrapped them in cellophane and placed a packet of hot cocoa in a handmade paper mug. It was such a fun way to send "warm wishes," especially when covid did not allow us to host a "welcome home" party. A link to the paper mug cut-out template and marshmallows can be found here.

**PAPER MUG** (to assemble the mug, fold all dotted lines up and glue or tape edges.)

**MARSHMALLOWS** Use this link for Food Network's recipe and add 1 1/2 teaspoons of Purple gel-icing-color (Mixed very well) into the cold water that will be poured over the gelatin. Use more for deeper purple hues.

Marshmallows will considerably lighten as they are whipped in the mixer. – see the linked video for reference. These treats take time but are deliciously worth it. So good, you will never buy store-bought marshmallows again.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST?** How about purple or patriotic pancakes? I made purple-heart-shaped pancakes for my Dad, and he loved them! Simply add gel color to pancake mix and pour (and bake) in a silicone mold or any way you usually make pancakes. They are so fun! Try Red and blue pancakes with white whipped cream and berries for a truly patriotic breakfast!

We know about Gold Star Mothers Day but sometimes forget about Gold Star Spouses Day. – On **April 5th**, we honor those whose spouses gave their lives while serving. As caregivers ourselves, let us reach out to these spouses and listen to them share stories and memories. Think about planting a tree in a fallen-heroes name. Have the Gold Star Spouse choose the perfect location that means something special to them.



On **March 21st**, Region V President Fran Holtgreven will host a "Meet & Greet" for MOPHA Region V members. Patriots are invited to join the fun. For more details and the zoom-link, contact Fran at [Frannie50@hotmail.com](mailto:Frannie50@hotmail.com)

And lastly, the Auxiliary will be creating a Memory Quilt composed of fallen heroes. Anyone can send photos of their loved ones, friends, and fellow Veterans. Spread the word. Photos should be received by March 31st for inclusion for the 2022 quilt. Please send them to PHOTOS.-MOPHA@gmail.com. See the flyer for details. ♥

# MOPH AUXILIARY MEMBERS MAKING QUILTS & MARSHMALLOWS



Georgia Courville



Colleen Orfanello MOPHA President





**From the Desk of the National Chaplain**  
Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary

Greetings Auxiliary Members:

Can you believe we are well into New Year 2022 already? Two months into New Year's resolutions and continuing life-changing events of the world. By the way, how are you doing with those resolutions so far? Me? I didn't mainly make any, for I have found that the only constant I have is our God, Who never changes and keeps His promises, and I'm holding on to Him-Amen.

I want to propose that we consider celebrating birthdays of Past National Presidents and current Leadership with a shout-out to let them know they are remembered on their special day -let me know what you think. Oh, just the month and day only -no year needs to be mentioned. I'd be more than happy to send birthday cards.

This is just to remind you that coincidentally, two important observances were celebrated last month. **Presidents' Day Holiday** is celebrated on Monday, 21 February. President Washington's DOB is listed as 22 February 1732 (Julian calendar).

As we know, General Washington introduced the "Badge of Military Merit" we now know as the "Purple Heart." And, concurrently with President Abraham Lincoln's birthday, 12 February 1809, who signed the Emancipation Proclamation, share significant leadership events and birthday months. We honor them, our Badge of Merit/Purple Heart creator General George Washington – Salute!

Secondly, we celebrated National Black History Month, aka National African-American History

Month, which started as the precursor of Negro History Day - then Week by Carter G. Woodson.

The **2022 Theme:** was "Black Health and Wellness." I encourage you to read President Biden's Proclamation, covering some of my thoughts. And, no, I am not making this a political item, just bringing more informed awareness into our lives to celebrate and be thankful for every day. After all, our awesome organization comprises a diverse group of members.

**Prayer:** Father, Creator of all, giving You all of the honor, glory, and praise, thank You for Who and What You are, what You have done from in

the beginning to this moment in our lives, and what You are doing now. Thank you for our health, strength, and the lives we share daily.

Thank You to those who paved the way for us to enjoy now and continue to strive toward. Lord, help us come to terms with the realization, the remembrance that we as people-human beings

created by You-in Your image, by You, the great "I AM," as a part of a diverse Universe with each of us given a purpose for this world-Earth.

Thank You, Father, for blessing us with a variety of gifts, talents, creativity so unique and different to set us apart but yet to join us together respectfully and be used to accomplish much as You require us to do in peace, joy, faith, hope, and love as we continue in Your will and appointed purpose of Your second greatest Commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ♥

In Your Name. AMEN

*Gwendolyn Gilliard*





# MILITARY ORDER of the PURPLE HEART AUXILIARY Memorial Quilt Project

The MOPHA is accepting photographs for the 2022 Memorial Quilt. The Quilt(s) will be used in the National Memorial Day Parade.



Please submit photographs of a deceased Veteran(s) to:

**PHOTOS.MOPHA@Gmail.com**

- Photographs of deceased Veterans from any era are accepted.
- Veteran does not have to be a Purple Heart Recipient.
- Full-body or head-shot, black & white or color photographs of any size are welcomed.
- Anyone can submit a photograph (or multiple photographs).
- Please submit photographs by March 31, 2022.\*
- Quilting Groups or individuals wishing to volunteer for the 2023 Quilt are appreciated. Please reach out to us at Photos.MOPHA@gmail.com.



**\*The deadline to submit photographs for the 2022 Quilt is MARCH 31, 2022; however, photos will be accepted year-round for future Quilts.**

**DEADLINE for article submissions  
May / June Magazine April 15<sup>th</sup>**



## Application for Life Membership Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary



**AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP** Eligibility is based on relationship to Purple Heart Recipient and is granted to a parent, grandparent, spouse, widow, widower, sibling, child, or grandchild of persons who have been awarded the Purple Heart by the Armed Services of the United States, and to those who served in the Armed Forces and have received the Purple Heart decoration in their own name. Life Membership is subject to conditions set forth in Article I of the MOPHA Bylaws.

**ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP** is available based on relationship to Auxiliary member and is granted to a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, or spouse of a member in the Auxiliary. Associate Membership is subject to conditions set forth in Article XVIII of the MOPHA Bylaws.

Evidence of Purple Heart recipient's award and relationship to applicant must be verified.

**Dues Schedule:** Life Membership—\$50.00 Associate Life Membership—\$50.00

*Dues submitted with Application for Membership are NON-REFUNDABLE*

### LIFE MEMBER APPLICATION (revised July 2020) Based On Relationship to Purple Heart Recipient

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] He/she is a member of MOPH Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member Number \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] He/she is not a member of MOPH. Attached is the DD214 for certification of Purple Heart award.  
Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary member name & ID number signing you up \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
**Membership eligibility must be certified by Chapter or Department MOPH Officer or DD214.**  
I certify that the MOPH Member & ID Number is known to me & the Applicant is eligible for membership in MOPHA.  
Certified by \_\_\_\_\_ MOPH Officer Position \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Member Type \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

### ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION (revised July 2020) Based On Relationship to Auxiliary Member

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Relation to Auxiliary Member \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Auxiliary Member \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Who is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Auxiliary member Relation to Recipient \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Purple Heart Recipient \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary member & ID number signing you up \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
**Membership eligibility must be certified by Chapter or Department MOPH Officer or DD214.**  
I certify that the MOPHA Member & ID Number is known to me & the Applicant is eligible for membership in MOPHA.  
Certified by \_\_\_\_\_ MOPH Officer Position \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Member Type \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

*Complete appropriate application and send with payment to:*

Cheryl Perez . PO Box 120085 . Chula Vista, CA . 91912 / Email: Members.MOPHA@gmail.com



# THE PURPLE HEART MAGAZINE

## MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

### Advertisements Rates 2021

#### Online Combo Rates

Issues	Percent Discount	Third 7.5" x 5"	Half 7.5" x 5"	Full 7.5" x 5"
PAGE 3				
1		\$200	\$300	<b>\$600</b>
2	10%	\$180	\$270	\$540
3	15%	\$170	\$255	\$510
4	20%	\$160	\$240	\$480
INSIDE PAGES				
1		\$133	\$200	<b>\$400</b>
2	10%	\$120	\$180	\$360
3	15%	\$113	\$170	\$340
4	20%	\$107	\$160	\$320

The website hosting The Purple Heart Magazine is open to the public and is not restricted to our Combat Wounded Patriots. A .pdf copy is downloadable.

All of the links to websites and E-mail address are **live** links. An example of a live link is the E-mail address of the Editor shown below.

The Purple Heart Magazine is a **full color** digital edition.

The six editions per year of the Magazine begin with the Jan/Feb issue.

Ads submission dates are the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Editor with any questions.

(502) 494-0256. [thephmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:thephmagazine@gmail.com)

*Nick McIntosh*





## Application for Life Membership

### Military Order of the Purple Heart

**Purple Heart Recipient** Eligibility: Any person of good moral character who is serving in or has served in one of the Armed Forces of the United States, or any foreign country, who can show proof of the award of the Purple Heart for wounds.

Evidence of the award of the Purple Heart must be submitted with the application. Certificate alone does not constitute proof of award. If discharged, discharge document such as a DD-214 must be provided reflecting character of service as honorable or general.

For active duty, provide PCS orders, Purple Heart Orders and Purple Heart Certificate.

There is no posthumous membership.

All applications are subject to verification with the National Personnel Records Center and/or Service.

**Associate Member** For a parent, spouse, sibling, lineal or adopted descendant (child, grandchild or great-grandchild) of either a living or deceased Purple Heart recipient, evidence of the award of the Purple Heart and the relationship must be submitted with the application.

If the Purple Heart recipient is living, the recipient must be a member in-good-standing of the MOPH and he/she must sign to acknowledge the relationship and consent for membership.

## Dues Schedule

### Military Order of the Purple Heart

Life Membership \$200.00  
Associate Life Membership \$200.00

Fees may be paid in four equal payments of \$50. The first \$50 must be submitted with this application and the remaining \$150 within one year when using this option. If you want to use this option, initial here \_\_\_\_\_.

**Fees submitted with Application for Membership are NON-REFUNDABLE.**

## PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Member# \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter# \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(H) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work/Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Recruited by (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Check one ☐ Life Member ☐ Associate Life Member

Credit Card ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express CVV #(required) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(required even if not paying by credit card) *Typing my name above will constitute as my signature*

All applicants must complete the appropriate section below and send with payment to: MOPH National Headquarters  
5413-B Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151 [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org) [membership@purpleheart.org](mailto:membership@purpleheart.org) 888.668.1656

**Purple Heart Recipient** MOPH Bylaws require that a copy of the document that supports the award of the Purple Heart medal must accompany each application. A copy of documentation submitted will be retained on file for future reference. Evidence of the award of the Purple Heart must be submitted with the application. Certificate alone does not constitute proof of award. If discharged, discharge document such as a DD-214 must be provided reflecting character of service as honorable or general. For active duty, provide PCS orders, Purple Heart Orders and Purple Heart Certificate. There is no posthumous membership. All applications are subject to verification with the National Personnel Records Center and/or Service.

☐ DD-214 ☐ DD-215 (supported by DD-214) ☐ Orders plus PH Certificate ☐ WD AGO 53-55

**Service** ☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Air Force ☐ Marines ☐ Coast Guard

**War Wounded** ☐ WW2 ☐ Korea ☐ Vietnam ☐ OEF ☐ OIF ☐ OND ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Date entered service \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Active Duty (Provide PCS orders) Date Departed Service/Discharged \_\_\_\_\_

Date wounded \_\_\_\_\_ Location of Engagement \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioning source: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been convicted of a Felony? Yes No

**Associate Member** Documentation of relationship and proof of Purple Heart award required.

Name of Purple Heart Recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Member# & Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter# \_\_\_\_\_

*I acknowledge the relationship and consent for associate membership (if applicable)*

**Purple Heart documentation** ☐ DD-214 ☐ DD-215 ☐ Orders plus PH Certificate ☐ WD AGO 53-55

**Relationship of Applicant to PH Recipient** ☐ Parent ☐ Spouse ☐ Sibling ☐ Child ☐ Grandchild ☐ Great-Grandchild

**Relationship documents** ☐ Birth Certificate ☐ Adoption Papers ☐ Marriage Certificate ☐ Casualty Report

*The National Adjutant will make the final determination on eligibility. Altered documents constitute automatic denial of membership. Payment for dues is not deductible as a charitable contribution according to the Internal Revenue Code. Dues include subscription to the Purple Heart Magazine.*

All information and requirements are subject to change without notice.

(Effective 9/1/2021; Previous editions are obsolete.)