



THE PURPLE HEARTBEAT
NATIONAL HEADQUARTER'S NEWSLETTER

THE HEADQUARTERS STAFF WISHES ALL PATRIOTS
MEMORABLE HOLIDAYS AND A REWARDING 2011!



THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH EXCEPT AUGUST. ALL ADJUTANTS AND COMMANDERS RECEIVE A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER. ADJUTANTS RECEIVE THE SPECIFIC CHAPTER/DEPARTMENT INFORMATION.

ALSO ENCLOSED:

- CHAPTERS: November 2010 Roster of Monthly Changes
DEPARTMENTS: November 2010 Membership Status Report & Chapters Roster of Monthly Changes

Back Row (L to R): Jim Richards, Adale Tourtellott, John Lloyd, Stewart McKeown, Michael Viviano, Karin Romney
Middle Row: Joyce Woo, Ana Marquez, Michelle Keith, Anne Beal, Carolyn Frazee, Pick Thichangthong, Casey Nottage, Carole Rhodes
Front Row: Frank Van Hoy, Jack Leonard
Missing: David Ahee, Vince Candida, Bob Reny, Jennifer Pereyra

MOPH ANNUAL MARCH ON THE HILL CANCELLED

MOPH's Annual March on the Hill is cancelled because the House of Representatives will not be in session according to its March 2011 schedule. Members are to cease all travel planning and appointment efforts.

WARNING



Veterans Beware! An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on the VA and gathering of personal information on veterans.

This organization is not affiliated with the VA in any way.

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. The VA Legal Counsel has requested assistance in spreading the word that VAS is not endorsed by the VA to provide any services. (VA Affairs, Office of General Counsel)

Inside this issue:

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NATIONAL ADJUTANT'S CALL . . .

Dear Patriots,

March on the Hill. I know the cancellation of the March on the Hill will disappoint many of you who look forward to participating in this annual event. This cancellation means that we will have to intensify individual efforts and we encourage all Patriots to meet with their respective members of Congress while doing your district work. Write letters, send faxes and make telephone calls on issues that concern veterans. One effective way is for the entire membership of a Chapter to sign letters to your senator or congressman on issues of concern.

Cell Phones for Soldiers. Patriot Scotty McKenzie, Cell Phones for Soldiers Coordinator, continues to be a powerful advocate for that program. A recent letter from a warrior's wife points up its value: "I just wanted to take a minute and "thank you" for this wonderful program. My husband is in Afghanistan and the calling cards have been a blessing. . . It is wonderful to hear my husband's voice each time he calls . . ." Another note from the West Virginia VA Medical Center comments: "Because our Centers include veterans from neighboring states, the cell phone cards enable many patients to contact their loved ones residing considerable distances from the VA facility." In addition, in Martinsburg WV, a number of members of the 167th Aero Medical Squadron of the West Virginia National Guard deploy to South Asia for extended duty assignments in support of the US Air Force. "Your cell phones have proven a God send for many of these troops."

Department Convention Notification. Department commanders must submit the dates and locations of their Conventions by **close of business January 25, 2011** so we can schedule attendance of National and Regional Commanders. Please do not call in information as it must be in writing - mail, email, or fax: MOPH HQ (Attn: Casey Nottage), 5413-B Backlick Road, Springfield VA 22151; cnottage@purpleheart.org; fax 703-642-2054.

Thank You. As this year ends, I want to thank all Patriots for their energy, dedication, and devotion that make MOPH such an outstanding organization. I also want to thank all of you who have made my job so rewarding, providing insight, guidance and, most of all, frank criticism necessary for growth.

Yours in Patriotism
Jack Leonard

Life Membership Rebate Checks are included with this Newsletter

CHRISTMAS AND WW II AT A POW CAMP

Clair Cline and the prison camp violin



"My most memorable moment was Christmas Eve. As my buddies brooded about home and families, I began playing *Silent Night*. As the notes drifted through the barracks, a voice chimed in, then others. Amid the harmony, I heard a different language. "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht, alles schlaft, Einsam wacht . . ." An elderly white-haired guard stood in the shadows, his eyes wet with tears."

[He carved a violin out of rough hewn bed slats.]



Effective 1 December 2010 **The Supply Room** closed and will reopen 16 January 2011. Please plan your purchases accordingly.

VA BURIAL BENEFITS – MAY NOT BE ENOUGH

From time to time, we hear Patriots talk about the burial benefits they expect from the VA so we thought we'd look into some aspects. Here's the VA's language on the subject:



“Burial in a VA National Cemetery is available for eligible veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For veterans, benefits also include a burial flag (with case for active duty) and military funeral honors. Family members and other loved ones of the deceased veteran may request a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

Upon request, DoD will provide military funeral honors consisting of the folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of *Taps*. A funeral honors detail consists of two or more uniformed members of the armed forces, with at least one member from the deceased branch of service.”

Note there's no mention of perhaps the major expense of death – the cost of the coffin and mortuary services, although VA will pay a \$300 “burial and funeral allowance” under certain circumstances. How far will that go to meeting your expenses? Well, the National Funeral Director's Association estimates over \$4,500 for basic services (processing the deceased and cost of casket) and over \$4,800 if you include a service at the funeral home. Many veterans believe caskets are free, but caskets are provided by the government only for active duty deaths.

This means that veterans and their families have to plan for expenses far beyond the government provided services and stipend. (Source: www.va.gov)

Guide for Arlington National Cemetery

The following information may be useful for both Patriots and their families in planning for interment in or visiting the Arlington National Cemetery.

Eligibility for Interment (ground burial) or inurnment in the Columbarium (ashes)

There are various conditions and awards that permit a veteran to be buried in the Cemetery, but the one that applies to all MOPH members is this one: Any member of the armed forces who has been awarded a Purple Heart Medal, and his or her spouse, widow or widower, minor child, or permanently dependent child, and certain unmarried adult children.

Fees

There are no fees or costs for any interment or inurnment. However, all costs associated with preparation of remains, casket or urn and shipping of remains to the DC area are at the expense of the estate, unless the deceased was on active duty. When planning funerals, recommend you check with your local VA and Social Security Office to determine any off-setting benefits.

Key Phone Numbers

General Information: 703-607-8000
 Internment Services Branch: (Local) 703-607-8585
 (Toll free) 1-877-907-8585

Hours of Operation

Open all year
 April – September 8:00 am – 7:00 pm
 October – March 8:00 am – 5:00 pm



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART
79TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
9-13 AUGUST 2011
CONVENTION BOOK ADVERTISING
(VETERANS & SUPPORTERS)

*Proudly hosted by the Department of Minnesota
 Held at Crown Plaza - Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel
 11 East Kellogg Boulevard
 Saint Paul, MN 55101*

DEADLINE: May 31, 2011

Make checks payable to: National Convention, Department of Minnesota
 Mail checks to: Military Order of the Purple Heart (Attn: Bob Connor)
 20 West 12th Street
 Room 134
 Saint Paul, MN 55155

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>SIZES</u>
Back Cover.....	\$500.....	8.5x11
Inside Covers.....	\$400.....	8.5x11
Full Page.....	\$399.....	8.5x11
Half Page.....	\$150.....	25x4.875
Quarter Page.....	\$75.....	685x875
<u>AD SPECS:</u>		
Color or Black/White		
PDF, Illustrator or EPS File		
Journal Book size 8x11		

AD CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Phone: 800-627-6101 x 4921

ADVERTISER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Organization or Supporter: _____
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 Name of Contact (if Org) _____
 Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____
 Email: _____

YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!!!

Advertising in the Convention Book provides a significant means for offsetting expenses for the Convention. We request that Chapters, Departments, and individual members participate wherever possible.

FRANCE HONORS PATRIOT ELVERT POOLER WITH HIGHEST AWARD



On July 21, 2010, the Consul General of France of Boston MA, Christophe Guilhou, presented the Legion of Honor Medal to Patriot Elvert 'Buck' Pooler, now 85, at the Sanford-Springvale Historical Museum in Sanford, ME. The Medal is France's highest civil and military award, created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, to acknowledge great services rendered to France. It was given to Pooler as a sign of gratitude for his bravery and heroism during France's liberation from Nazi Germany 65 years ago. Patriot Pooler is now a "Chevalier de la

Legion d'Honneur" or Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honor.



Patriot Pooler served with Army units, including the 79th Infantry Division, that drove the German Army out of France, getting wounded twice – in July and December 1944. He was in the Army from July 1943 until January 1946 serving in Europe from May 1944 to December 1945, earning a Bronze Star and, of course, the Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster. He's also very proud of his Combat Infantry Badge: "This means you've been in combat, I hold that above the others."



After the war, Pooler returned to Maine and helped out in his father's grocery store for a short while, spent time as a restaurant baker, had eleven years with the once famous Cushman Bakery as a door-to-door salesman, and then 25 years with the Modern Woodman of America Life Insurance Company, his last career.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE



If you helped in the liberation of France during WWII, you also may be eligible to receive the Legion of Honor Medal. Members who participated in one of the four major campaigns in the liberation of France (Normandy, Southern France, Northern France, and the Ardennes) can apply for the award. Documentation such as your DD-214 or any other document showing combat in France will be required. Send your request for consideration with copies of documentation to: Defense Attaché, Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Road NW, Washington DC 20007.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART 79TH NATIONAL CONVENTION LAMOPH 78TH

9-13 August 2011

Crowne Plaza Saint Paul Riverfront
11 Kellogg Boulevard, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Rate: \$129 plus tax

Phone 651-292-1900 Fax: 651-605-6966

Reservations: 1-800-227-6963. Ask for Military Order of the Purple Heart or
Please reference Group Code Z15

Deadline for reservations: Friday, 8 July 2011

No reservations at this rate will be taken after the deadline

Convention Chairman: Bob Connor

Office: 651-227-4456 Email: bconnor@mtn.org

UPCOMING MOPH EVENTS

DECEMBER 2010

- 24..... CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OBSERVED, HQ CLOSED
31..... HEADQUARTERS CLOSED



JANUARY 2011

- 17 MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY OBSERVED, HQ CLOSED
27 INVESTMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

FEBRUARY 2011

- 1..... MAGAZINE DEADLINE FOR MAR/APR ISSUE
16..... SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE
21..... PRESIDENTS' DAY OBSERVED, HQ CLOSED
22..... WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

MARCH 2011

- 12 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING, ST. LOUIS MO
25..... LEADERSHIP EXECUTIVE MEETING, ARLINGTON VA
26..... NFC MID-YEAR MEETING, ARLINGTON VA
27-31..... ANNUAL NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING, ORLANDO FL

APRIL 2011

- 1..... MAGAZINE DEADLINE FOR MAY/JUNE ISSUE
1..... END OF SERVICE TRAINING
20..... INVESTMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

MAY 2011

- (TBA) DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS
11-13..... MOPHSF MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW, MYRTLE BEACH, SC
30..... MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED—HQ CLOSED

JUNE 2011

- (TBA) DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS
1..... MAGAZINE DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST ISSUE

JULY 2011

- 16..... NFC FY 2012 BUDGET MEETING, ARLINGTON, VA
INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 2011

- 1..... MAGAZINE DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ISSUE
7..... PURPLE HEART DAY
9-13..... NATIONAL CONVENTION, ST PAUL MN

SEPTEMBER 2011

- 9..... NURSES MEMORIAL & RECEPTION, ARLINGTON NATL CEMETERY
9-10..... NATIONAL COMMANDER'S LEADERSHIP, ALEXANDRIA, VA

2012 NATIONAL CONVENTION, SCOTTSDALE AZ..... AUGUST 7-11, 2012

2013 NATIONAL CONVENTION, ROGERS, AR..... AUGUST 6-10, 2013

COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

5413-B BACKLICK ROAD
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151

Phone: 703-642-5360
Fax: 703-642-2054
E-mail: info@purpleheart.org

WAR BIRDS



The **North American F-51 (P-51) Mustang**, built in just 117 days, served in Europe with limited service in the Pacific. With its large internal and smaller external wing tanks, Mustangs could escort B-17s all the way to Germany and back, providing vital protection against German fighters.

At the start of the Korean War, F-51s became the United Nation's main fighter, but this role was quickly assumed by jet aircraft and the Mustang became a close ground support aircraft. F-51s were adopted by over 55 foreign air forces and continued to be an effective fighter or ground support aircraft into the mid-1980s. During wartime, the cost of a Mustang was 51,000 dollars. Mustangs were the fighter aircraft flown by the famous African-American Tuskegee Airmen, subject of recent books and films. A total of 16,766 Mustangs were built, the most of any American fighter aircraft.

Old Army Saying: The only medal you really want to be awarded is the Longevity Medal.

