

# THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART



SUNNY JONES CHAPTER 49 · P.O. BOX 1068 · LEMON GROVE, CA 91946-1086

## Sunny Jones Chapter 49

P.O. Box 1068

Lemon Grove, CA 91946

### Message from the Commander: Joe Petrini

Please join me in welcoming three new Chapter Members: Milledge Wilson, Pat Hurley and Don Schmidt. We look forward to getting to know the new Patriots at Chapter meetings.

Chapter members have been involved in numerous functions since our last newsletter. In November, the "Second Annual Afternoon Tea" and the "Patriots Meet and Greet" was held at the Veteran's Home of California, Chula Vista. The Afternoon Tea honored the women veterans residing at the Veterans Home, while the "Meet and Greet" provided an opportunity for Patriots to visit with Veterans. Chapter and Unit Members participated in Wreaths Across America for the second year in a row. The event was held at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery and Miramar National Cemetery. And finally, the Annual Holiday Luncheon offered an opportunity for all of us to share the holiday spirit. Following are photos from the Holiday Luncheon, many more can be found on our website at <http://www.sandiegopurpleheart.com/>



Patriots Rod Barrett, Alice Barrett



Patriot Ernie Collier and family



Patriot Ernie Collier's Family



Bo and Julin Boyd



André LeCault and Max Tadlock



Jack & Kay Harkins



Robert & Latrisha Hernandez



Charlotte Miller & Alex Quintanar

### **Dept. of CA Mid-Term Meeting Report**

January 18-20 Diane Petrini, Unit #49 President and I attended the Department of California Mid Year meetings in Clovis, California. The Department renewed its intent to assess each Chapter at the rate of \$2.00 per life member to supplement the annual budget. Discussions included various methods of fundraising, including an upcoming Golf event in conjunction with the Department Annual Convention and the Host Chapter. Also suggested was a Military Ball.

Other items resulting from the meetings were that Chapters will no longer have both a VAVS account and a Welfare account, in addition to their General account. Those Chapters that have both accounts will combine the accounts into one account identified as SWR, Service, Welfare and Rehabilitation. Our Chapter closed our third account last year due to the monthly charges being imposed, so we will just rename our Welfare account and call it SWR.

MOPH was formed to provide fellowship, camaraderie with others who have shared experience, to assist our brethren in need, those who have served, those now serving, and their families. Further, our objectives include promotion of patriotism. Currently we have about \$2,500 in our Welfare account, thanks to our member's generosity during our fund drive last year. Those funds are for the explicit use of helping veterans and active duty military when they are faced with an emergency such as groceries, electricity, heat, shelter or other necessities. We recently prevented an eviction for a veteran in need. The funds don't do any good sitting in our account, so if you have a need or know of someone who is experiencing a financial emergency, please contact our Welfare Officer Robert Quimby at (619) 299-6107.

Bill Hutton, our National Commander of MOPH and former Department of California Commander, spoke about the tightening of budgets including an overall 15% reduction at National. Commander Hutton did promise to do his best to see that the cuts will not be in the National Service area where MOPH provides advocacy & assistance with veterans filing claims with the Veterans Administration.

**Chapter Patriot of the Year**  
**Patriot Oscar G. Polster**  
**Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient 2011**  
**and**  
**Military Order of the Purple Heart "Sunny Jones" Chapter 49**  
**2011-2012 Patriot of the Year**



All "Sunny Jones Chapter 49" Patriots can take justifiable pride that the Chapter Patriot of the Year of 2011-2012, Oscar G. Polster, was honored at the 2011 Veteran of the Year Recognition Awards Ceremony on November 8, 2011 with the award of the prestigious San Diego County "Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center, and received a magnificent American Eagle and Banner statue in a presentation.

Oscar Polster is a truly quintessential American patriot who has lived his entire life in service to his country, his community, and fellow Veterans. Oscar is one of the most recognizable Veteran volunteers in the entire San Diego region, by his 40 years of sustained service as a Disabled American Veteran pioneer and leader, and as a Veterans of Foreign Wars member and leader, and well as Military Order of the Purple Heart Patriot and Volunteer at the Veterans Hospital / VA Regional Medical Center. Oscar has completed another singularly dynamic and productive year of service to the community in 2011, despite his World War II service disability and his struggle against life-threatening health condition, and thus he merits the acclamation selection as the Patriot of the Year by the Military Order of the Purple Heart "Sunny Jones" Chapter 49 of San Diego, and is distinctly deserving of the Veterans Lifetime Achievement Award.

Oscar served in the U. S. Army from 1943 to 1946, and fought in the Battle of Okinawa with the 96th Infantry "Deadeye" Division against the fanatical enemy Japanese occupiers; he earned the Bronze Star for valorous conduct in combat and the Purple Heart for wounds that

included loss of his right leg and drastic disability to his left leg and to his right arm. When Oscar was honorably discharged on a medical disability, he turned his disappointment for the lost opportunity for a career he had hoped for in the uniform of his country, into new purpose, and almost immediately joined Disabled American Veterans in 1947 at his hometown of St Louis Missouri and carried out continuous life-long service as a Veteran volunteer.

Today, Oscar proudly holds memberships in The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and The Disabled American Veterans (DAV). He pioneered in many firsts for disabled veterans, notably in athletic competition and sports leagues for paraplegic and amputee athletes: Oscar was a pioneering member of a wheelchair basketball team in 1948 that became "The St. Louis Rolling Rams" and spurred the establishment and growth of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, his original team sustaining as the oldest continuing wheelchair basketball team in the world. These ground-breaking accomplishments by the earliest Veteran disabled and amputee athletes were the foundation and inspiration for modern programs such as Warrior Games and Olympics. Upon relocating to the west coast, Oscar energized the DAV San Diego chapter with his enthusiasm and determination, served in every office in the chapter, and ultimately expanded its outreach and service deliveries so extensively that he was called upon to receive the honor of reviewing US Navy Recruit Training Graduation Parades at Naval Training Center San Diego for during 1977 and 1978. His stalwart services as Adjutant of VFW Chapter 2111 Chula Vista supported the chapter's flourishing in the 1970's through the 1990's, and thus helped strengthen the Chula Vista area's Veterans support and awareness climate to the level that it became a natural choice for the location of a California state Veterans Home.

Oscar commenced his service to the Veterans Hospital in San Diego in 1972, and now proudly enjoys the status of continuously serving as U.S. Title 38 (Veteran's Relief) Regular Volunteer for 39 years at the VA Hospital. By unsurpassed determination, Oscar has carried on, against impeding disabilities, to reach 18,500 Volunteer Service Hours in the hospital. His consistent advocacy for as complete an array of patient services as possible contributed to successes such as gaining donations of a uniquely equipped shuttle bus vehicle for movement of patients served by the Spinal Cord Injury Unit. The uniqueness of Oscar's profound contributions through his sustained Volunteer services was recognized by many associated hospital stakeholders whose accounts of his endeavors resulted in the "The Chapel of Four Chaplains Foundation" 2006 presentation of the 2006 Legion of Honor Award, which is respected globally for its prestigious character.

Oscar's commitment to make every possible enhancement to quality of life experiences of patients also led him to accept responsibility to serve as Volunteer Financial Officer for the Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS) Welfare Fund that is supported by monetary donations to that benevolent purpose, and he has he has flawlessly executed that responsibility for fourteen years, to sustain immensely valued services and opportunities for patients that are provided exclusively by the donation funds. His furtherance of both the benefit fund and the social quality of the institutional environment is best exemplified by his 30 year leading role in the annual Holiday Bazaar every December, with a vast array of crafts and goods offered for donations to the welfare funds. Oscar added another Volunteer responsibility in his life this past year by accepting election to the office of Junior Vice-Commander of Chapter 49 MOPH

Special Thanks to Jack Harkins, USMC Retired, Senior Vice Commander MOPH Chapter 49

### **Chapter Associate of the Year: Luc Perez**

Luc Perez has been instrumental in the activities of the Chapter for many years. He has volunteered his time and energy to the activities of the Chapter from the VA Bingo to the monthly meetings. Luc is currently serving the Veterans at the Chula Vista Veterans Home. He has participated in numerous Chapter activities for many years and has demonstrated the

character and ability of the finest of our Chapter members. Luc is a credit to his father and mother. Luc is an example of the finest of his generation. We thank Luc and appreciate his dedication to the ideals of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Luc Perez has for many years demonstrated what it means to be a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. His sharing of his ability, his concern for veterans, his dedication and service to those who have served our country. Congratulations Luc!

## **TAKE A HIKE! With Chaplain Bob Holloway, Master Hiker**

**On Sunday, February 12, 2012** Patriot Bob Holloway has agreed to lead a hike at Mission Trails Regional Park. As many of you know, Chaplain Bob is a fully trained guide at Mission Trails Park. He has selected a trail that would be an "easy" hike for our members. The route will be around part of Kumeyaay Lake and onto the Grasslands down river to the Old Mission Dam. We will return to the parking area for final. Along the way, Hike Master Bob will tell about the Indians that lived in this area 2000 years ago and now form the Kumeyaay Nation. The hike should take 1 1/2 hours and cover about the same distance.

All you need is some water, a hat, some substantial shoes, some sun screen(#30) and the willingness to laugh at Bob's jokes. Boots on the ground at **08:30 AM**. Call Bob before 8:30 PM at (619) 417-2459 to sign up or with any questions. This is an easy hike and almost all flat and level. Patriots, ladies and children welcome.....It's not the destination.....It's the journey.

### Directions:

From Friars Road...going east becomes Mission Gorge Road in Grantville. Continue east several miles past Jackson Drive (traffic light), past Golfcrest (traffic light)---going uphill---to Father Junipero Serra Road (traffic light). Make sure you pass Golfcrest. Stay on Mission Gorge Road to the traffic light at Father Junipero Serra Road. Turn left and go about 100 yards to the entrance to Kumeyaay Lake Camp Grounds. There is parking to your right. Follow the signs. Hike Master Bob will meet you at the entrance building at 8:30. Please don't be late.

## **Ladies Auxiliary Unit 49 News**

Joe and I recently returned from the Department of California Mid-Term Meetings in Clovis, CA. The Department Meetings are a wonderful place to meet people and to, learn what other Units are doing to help our Veterans. This year, our National President, Barb Cherone, attended the meetings. Barb shared with us the efforts she is making on a National Level to support the Units and, especially, to work hand-in hand with the Patriots.

The Constitution and By-Laws of the LAMOPH are now available online at:

<http://www.purpleheart.org/Downloads/LAMOPH/LAMOPHConstitutionAndBylaws.pdf>. The By-Laws were updated in 2011. The Book can also still be purchased from National for \$13.00

The Department Annual Convention will be held in Rohnert Park, Ca on June 12-16, 2011 and the 2011 National Convention will in Scottsdale, AZ on August 7-11. I encourage all Unit Members to attend these informative meetings.

Please encourage all wives, mothers, daughters, sisters and grandchildren to join the LAMOPH.

**The Third Annual Veteran's Day Essay Contest** is completed. The winning student was recognized during the November 15<sup>th</sup> Chula Vista City Council meeting. The Annual Veteran's Day Essay Contest for Fifth Graders in the Chula Vista Elementary School District on "Why It's Important to Thank Our Veterans" was a successful event again this year. We had nine elementary schools participate with a total of 89 essays. As usual, the best part is reading the essays. Some made us cry, some made us laugh, but all of them made us feel proud of our younger generation and the gratitude and appreciation they have for our veterans. Our Unit ladies chose the 13 semi-finalists, the men chose the 6 finalists, and residents of the Veterans Home of Chula Vista chose the winning essay. Carlos Bautista, the essay winner, read his essay at the Chula Vista City Council meeting and won a \$25.00 gift certificate to Oggi's Pizza. The six semi-finalists essays were framed and placed around the Veterans Home Chula Vista lobby on Veterans Day for the residents and guests to read.

Cheryl Perez

Americanism Officer, Unit #49

*The winning Essay:*

### **Why It's Important to Thank Our Veterans**

*To me, Veterans Day is a day to remember and honor Veterans all over the United States and especially the ones who are serving in the Middle East. These men and women who put their lives at risk let us be free, safe and have served with courage. Veterans have served our country through the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. On this day we should get everyone together to give thanks to all Veterans, including Firefighters and Police. One month ago I visited Pearl Harbor with my family and as I read all the information about December 7, 1941, my Mom asked me to think about everyone that served our country so that I may have my freedom. I also read and thought about one thing, that it did not matter from where you were from or what color you are, but that we fought this war together. I think we are safe in our country because of people who serve our country. We are safe in our home and in schools because they stand guard so that one day I just may take their place.*

*My Uncle Rudy served in the Vietnam War and my Mom's Godson now is serving as an Apache Helicopter Pilot in the Army. His name is Carlos too and we just heard that he will leave to Afghanistan in January. I want to thank them both for the courage it takes to go to a strange land to fight for our freedom and safety.*

*I want to honor Veterans Day putting an American Flag in my front yard, to honor those who risked their lives for me. I will also pray for those who are fighting today.*

*By: Carlos Bautista • 5<sup>th</sup> Grader in Chula Vista Elementary School District*

We welcome all Ladies to our meetings and to participate in our activities. We also encourage Chapter Members to encourage their Spouses, Daughters, and Granddaughters to join the LAMOPH. Please join us at our next Meeting on Saturday, February 4, 2012. If you have any questions, please call Unit President Diane Petrini at 619-379-2513 or email LAMOPH49@gmail.com.

### **Bereavement Committee:**

Patriot Alex Quintanar, a longtime member and Past Chapter and California Department Commander has chaired the bereavement committee. Patriot Alex is watching the obituary columns to identify Purple Heart recipients and Chapter members who have passed away. He will then organize volunteers to attend funerals and memorials for our departed members of the Purple Heart community. Please call Patriot Alex Quintanar at 619-889-3804 if you are available to serve.

**We wish the following Patriots, Ladies Auxiliary & Associate Members a Very Happy Birthday!**

January 1	Barry Shillito	February 1	George Podhorsky
January 1	Sebastian Nicastrro	February 1	Jerry Todd
January 1	Neil Avant	February 1	Harry Kaneakua, Jr.
January 1	Torin Merrill	February 1	Alfred Pappas
January 2	Randall Beck	February 2	Robert Thomas
January 3	Josiah White	February 3	Blas Peña
January 6	Edward Beam	February 3	William McLeroy
January 8	Don Coulson	February 5	Thomas Ferron
January 9	Orlow "Buzz" Garrett	February 8	Ronnie Boal
January 9	Michael Sloan	February 8	Walter McNally
January 10	Clarence Anthony	February 15	Jeffery Fishel
January 11	Margaret Bolton	February 15	Vikki Fishel
January 12	Albert Stephenson	February 18	Vance Patenaud
January 15	Arsenio Onsurez	February 18	Robert Vertrees
January 16	Anna Stryker	February 18	Gary Himaka
January 16	Robert Quimby	February 19	John Moorhouse
January 16	Leigh Thomas	February 19	Carlos Quintana
January 17	Peter Houben	February 20	Michael Henry
January 18	Joseph Ciokon	February 20	Laura Merrill
January 21	Jesse Cordero	February 21	Michael Burke
January 22	William Unger	February 22	Walter O'Neil, Jr.
January 22	Charles Miller	February 24	Charles Moore
January 22	Sheila Flowers	February 24	Ryan Marquart
January 22	Albert Breland, Jr.	February 25	Manuel Rodriguez
January 23	Rachel Perez	February 26	Alex Lujan
January 26	Burton Colan	February 28	Robert Jones
January 26	Thomas Ryan	February 29	Ulysses Miller, Jr.

*"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." Unknown*

**Meeting Place and Dates:**

Sunny Jones Chapter of the MOPH has moved its meeting location to:

***Veterans Museum & Memorial Center (VMMC)***

***2115 Park Boulevard***

***San Diego, CA 92101***

**The new meeting dates are now:**

**The first Saturday of the month.**

**Meeting time:** 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The VMMC offers ample parking and is "handicap accessible." We think the central location of Balboa Park, great parking, and accessibility make the location ideal. We are hoping to see more of our members able to attend.

**Our next meeting at the new location will be on February 4, 2012.**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 4, 2012	MOPH Chapter/Unit #49 Monthly Meeting
March 3, 2012	MOPH Chapter/Unit #49 Monthly Meeting
March 29, 2012	Bingo at VA Medical Center
June 13-16, 2012	Dept CA MOPH Annual Convention in Rohnert Park, CA
August 7-11, 2012	National MOP Annual Convention in Scottsdale, AZ

### 2011-2012 Board of Directors & Officers

<b>Commander</b> Joe Petrini 619/379-2507 <b>Judge Advocate</b> Thomas D. Adams 619/465-0080 <b>Service Officer</b> Allen R. Wissinger 858/292-5251 <b>Trustees</b> 1 Yr. Laughlin J. K. Todd 619/328-3008	<b>Sr. Vice Commander</b> Jack R. Harkins 619/804-3200 <b>Chaplain</b> Bob Holloway 619/417-2459 <b>Welfare Officer</b> Robert F. Quimby 619/299-6107	<b>Jr. Vice Commander</b> Oscar Polster 619/895-4790 <b>Historian</b> Linwood Boyd 619/326-8730 <b>First Responder</b> Lewis Meyer 619/203-6084 2 Yr. Robert F. Quimby 619/299-6107	<b>Finance Officer</b> Robert Hernandez 619/208-2893 <b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b> George K. Waller 619/264-6659	<b>Adjutant</b> Ulysses Miller, Jr. 619/262-1693 <b>Americanism Officer</b> Nick Pylypowycz 619/994-9868  3 Yr. Jamal Boubetana 619/715-6842
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