



THE PURPLE HEARTBEAT

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS' NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL ADJUTANT'S CALL . . .

Politics and the SILLY Season. Patriot Members and their Ladies are reminded of the provision in the MOPH Constitution and By-Laws Re: Political Activity. Section 10, Public Law 85-761, incorporating the MOPH, specifically addresses the **nonpolitical nature of the Corporation.** **Article XV, To Preserve the Integrity of the Order,** Section 6, specifically states: "The Corporation ... shall not contribute, ... support, ... or assist **any party** or candidate..." Please keep in mind that the President of the United States **IS** the Honorary National Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA., Inc.

March 2012 March-on-the Hill (MOTH). MOPH Funding constraints and a less than adequate Congressional schedule has forced us to cancel this year's MOTH.

National Commander's Testimony to the Joint House/Senate Veterans Affairs Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 21 March 2012 at 1030 AM. Topics for the CMDR's Testimony are hereby solicited from the field and all Members of the Order. Traditionally, the CMDR's topics will be whittled down to a mere handful, maybe only some five or six.

National Convention in Scottsdale AZ (August 2012). Developing Registration and other items of interest: This year, there are separate and distinct procedures for MOPH and LAMOPH Registrations. Separate CHECKS will be required for each registrant. Keep your eyes open for an extensive listing of outside and off-site tours and trips on the Website. All reservations for these events will be handled by the Resort Staff. Hotel Resort Registration may provide for room upgrades based on your budget. Check out the Scottsdale Resort Website for information on **room upgrades** before making your Convention hotel reservations.

ROTC Program Updates for 2012. Check out the updated procedures and programs developed by ROTC Officer Roger Newall on the MOPH Website.

Patriot of the Year. Chapter Commanders are the prime movers for this process – your selection of the Chapter candidate is due to your Department Commander in April. See the *Procedures Manual* for complete guidance.

Yours in Patriotism,
Jack Leonard



THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH EXCEPT AUGUST, BUT **ONLY IN DIGITAL FORMAT.** ALL ADJUTANTS AND COMMANDERS WILL RECEIVE A DIGITAL COPY VIA EMAIL. IT ALSO CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE MOPH WEBSITE AND PRINTED FOR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION.

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MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART 80TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

LAMOPH 79th

7-11 August 2012

The Scottsdale Plaza Resort
7200 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85253

Reservations: [1.800.832.2025](tel:18008322025) – Identify as Military Order of the Purple Heart

Deadline for reservations: Friday, 7 July 2012

NO Reservations at the group rate will be taken after this date

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN: ROBERT PUSKAR
CELL: 480.363.0140 Email: rjpuskar@cox.net

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE BELOW INFORMATION

NEW REGISTRATION PROCESS - This year we begin the MOPH-LAMOPH Separate Registration process. MOPH Members (Life & Associate) will use ONLY the MOPH Form; LAMOPH (Life & Associate) will use ONLY the LAMOPH Form - Each is to be accompanied with a single check for that form only. Because of the separate accounting, we will return any combined checks. Registration forms and more Convention information will be in the February *Newsletter* as well as in the March/April *Purple Heart Magazine*.

NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM (NVLSLSP) AND AGENT ORANGE

NVLSLSP is a nonprofit organization that is representing Vietnam veterans as their legal representative in validating Agent Orange claims to ensure receipt of the highest possible benefits. After years of litigation (*Nehmer vs. VA*), NVLSLSP convinced a court to invalidate the VA's Agent Orange rules that were unfavorable to Vietnam veterans seeking disability benefits. It also obtained a Court Order requiring the VA to:

- (1) Identify all Vietnam veterans who, prior to August 31, 2010, filed a VA claim relating to Ischemic Heart Disease, Parkinson's Disease, or Chronic B-Cell Leukemia – all linked to Agent Orange Exposure; and
- (2) Re-decide all these claims and pay benefits retroactive to a particular date if there's been an error.



Operation Ranch Hand aircraft spraying, South Vietnam.

The key to receiving maximum benefits for your AO claim is to make sure that VA has assigned the correct "effective date" to your claim. This date appears under the heading "What We Decided" in the letter that contained the decision on your claim. Usually, the earlier the "effective date," the higher the benefit.

NVLSLSP needs answers to two key questions to determine if your "effective date" is valid. In order to answer the questions, write down the following dates:

- The "effective date" from the letter _____
- The approximate date when first diagnosed _____
- Approximate date when claim first filed _____

Question #1: Between the date of diagnosis and the effective date, did you (a) file a claim in writing for VA benefits for **any** medical condition or (b) receive a VA decision on **any** claim for benefits?

Question #2: Did you file a claim in writing for benefits **before** the effective date?

If the answer is **YES** to either question, then you or your MOPH NSO should call or email NVLSLSP because the VA may have erred and denied you some benefits. If the answer to both questions is **NO**, no further action is necessary.

NVLSLSP contact data: 855-333-0677 or agentorange@nvlsp.org. Have your VA file number ready for reference or include in the email.



2012
National Convention
Scottsdale, Arizona

Convention Book Advertising

<u>AD SIZE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>AD CONTACT INFORMATION</u>	<u>MEDIA FORMAT</u>
Full Page	\$ 275	David Alegria P.O. Box 132 Tucson, Arizona 85702 Email: peacefulheart70@hotmail.com Phone: 520-247-5988 Make checks out to: Military Order of the Purple Heart	Color or Black & White PDF, PowerPoint, Word, Illustrator or EPS
Half Page	\$ 150		
Quarter Page	\$ 100		Convention Book Size 8 1/2 x 11

ADVERTISER CONTACT INFORMATION

ORGANIZATION OR PERSON _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON _____

PHONE NUMBERS: Business _____ Home _____ Cell _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

ORDER

AD SIZE	MEDIA FORMAT INCLUDED	PAYMENT ENCLOSED
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS		

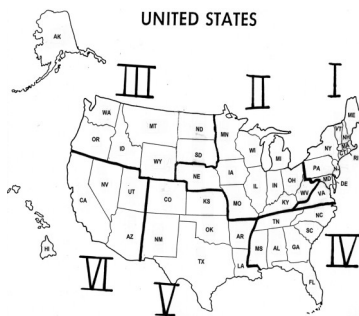
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS AS OF 7/1/2011 - 12/31/2011

YTD TOTAL MEMBERS: 44,664 DECEASED: 890 NEW ACTIVITY: 1,413

REGIONS

Reg	Total Mem	AS	LM	*Total New Activity
2	10,613	18	356	374
4	8,695	24	347	371
1	10,863	25	204	229
5	7,137	20	172	192
6	5,127	11	142	153
3	2,121	21	70	91



DEPARTMENTS/STATES CONTINUED

Reg	Dept	Total Mem	AS	LM	*Total New Activity
6	UT	156	0	10	10
1	NN	620	0	9	9
5	OK	668	2	7	9
2	IA	300	0	8	8
6	NV	300	0	7	7
3	DK	147	0	6	6
5	KS	354	0	6	6
5	NM	582	0	5	5
1	DE	207	1	3	4
3	ID	265	1	3	4
3	WY	202	0	3	3
7	AE	44	0	3	3
1	RI	151	0	2	2
3	MT	106	0	1	1
6	GU	116	0	0	0

DEPARTMENTS/STATES

Reg	Dept	Total Mem	AS	LM	*Total New Activity
4	NC	1724	1	170	171
5	TX	3744	9	103	112
6	CA	3243	8	102	110
2	OH	1713	4	80	84
4	FL	2876	11	72	83
2	IL	1069	2	66	68
1	PA	2492	14	44	58
2	MI	2192	1	57	58
2	MN	1333	0	56	56
1	VA	1237	3	37	40
1	NJ	2343	3	28	31
3	AK	307	10	19	29
1	MA	551	3	25	28
1	NY	1903	1	26	27
2	MO	812	4	23	27
4	GA	1036	1	26	27
3	OR	440	6	19	25
4	TN	739	2	23	25
4	SC	878	2	22	24
3	WA	654	4	19	23
5	CO	598	2	21	23
2	IN	682	3	18	21
2	WV	714	4	15	19
4	AL	708	4	15	19
5	LA	698	0	19	19
5	AR	493	7	11	18
1	CT	831	0	16	16
6	AZ	1000	2	13	15
1	MD	528	0	14	14
2	KY	562	0	12	12
4	PR	161	1	11	12
2	WI	878	0	11	11
6	HI	312	1	10	11
2	NE	358	0	10	10
4	MS	573	2	8	10

TOP CHAPTERS - NEW ACTIVITY

Reg	Dept	Chapter	Total Member	AS	LM	*Total New Activity
4	NC	0642	542	0	138	138
1	PA	0170	537	13	14	27
2	IL	0575	233	1	22	23
3	AK	0593	158	9	13	22
5	TX	1836	738	1	20	21
2	IL	0175	105	0	16	16
2	OH	3620	144	0	16	16
6	CA	0604	95	2	14	16
3	OR	0072	205	4	11	15
5	TX	1876	300	0	15	15
5	TX	1919	572	1	14	15

TOP CHAPTERS - MEMBERS STRENGTH

Reg	Dept	Chapter	Total Mem	ChapterName & Location
5	TX	1836	738	ALAMO - SAN ANTONIO, TX
5	TX	1919	572	TEXAS CAPITAL - AUSTIN, TX
4	NC	642	542	BEIRUT MEM - JACKSONVL, NC
1	PA	0170	537	SGT WILLIAM R. GRAFE - GERMANTOWN, PA
4	FL	717	377	WEST PALM BEACH - WPB FL

TOP DEPTS - MEMBERS STRENGTH

Reg	Dept	Total Mem	Reg	Dept	Total Mem
5	TX	3744	2	MI	2192
6	CA	3243	1	NY	1903
4	FL	2876	4	NC	1724
1	PA	2492	2	OH	1713
1	NJ	2343	2	MN	1333

TOTAL MEMBERS COUNT IS THE TOTAL COUNT OF PH MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WITHOUT DECEASED MEMBERS.

*NEW ACTIVITY IS THE TOTAL COUNT OF NEW MEMBERS, AND MEMBERS WHO CONVERTED FROM ANNUAL TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN OPERATON SHUFLY?

If you did, USMC Headquarters would like to hear from you as its Division of Public Affairs is organizing a series of commemorative events in honor of the 50th anniversary of Operation SHUFLY, the first US Marine Corps engagement in combat operations leading to the Vietnam War. Interested Marines who served in the following squadrons between 9 April 1962 to 30 November 1964 should contact Jeanette Casselano, 703-614-1034 or Jeanette.casselano.ctr@usmc.mil: MABS-16, Sub Unit, HMM-162, HMM-163, HMM-261, HMM-361, HMM-362, HMM-364, HMM-365

Archie's Angels of Marine Medium Transport Helicopter Squadron 362 (HMM-362), under LCOL Archie Clapp, began SHUFLY operations at a WWII-era Japanese airstrip near Soc Tran, Vietnam on 15 April 1962 with 24 UH-34 SEA-HORSE helicopters, three OE-1 BIRDDOG fixed wing Cessna observation aircraft and a C-117 SKYTRAIN for logistics support. Clapp's mission was to support RVN ground troops in their operations against the Viet Cong, pioneering tactics that were used later in the war, such as having a reserve helicopter airborne and loaded with Infantry that quickly could respond to help a unit in trouble. Other Marine helicopter squadrons would rotate in approximately every four months until 1965 when the US involvement drastically increased. To provide a capability for pre-landing strikes on enemy positions, some of the helicopters were modified to carry the TK-1, an externally mounted combination of M-60 machine guns and 2.75-inch rocket launchers. Some pilots loved the UH-34, calling it a tough old bird that kept flying even if the tail rotor was damaged.

For its service in Vietnam, HMM-365 was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation and the Navy Unit Citation. *Archie's Angels* (later known as *Ugly Angels*) continued to fly in Vietnam after SHUFLY until 1965, conducted relief operations in the Dominican Republic and Haiti in 1967 and in Peru in 1970. HMM-365 was deactivated in 1971.



VETERANS ACROSS AMERICA (VAA) was formed in 1996 at the request of President Clinton in the wake of the first Gulf War as a grass roots organization to help returning veterans find employment. Now after the two longest wars in our history have added thousands of transitioning vets to the ranks, the problem has become even more acute. Its *Champion Mentoring Program* is VAA's prime vehicle for assisting vets in finding jobs - it sets up one-on-one mentoring between a cadre of experienced business world mentors and the returning veteran mentees. VAA claims that 65 percent of vets entering their program will get jobs within six months. Vets can register for VAA mentoring at www.veteransacrossameria.com.

MOPH CALENDAR

JANUARY 2012

31..... INVESTMENT COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 2012

01..... MAGAZINE DEADLINE FOR MAR/APR ISSUE

12..... LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

14..... SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

20..... PRESIDENT'S DAY - HQ CLOSED

22..... WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

MARCH 2012

15-23 ANNUAL NSO TRAINING, ORLANDO FL

21..... COMMANDER'S CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY WASHINGTON DC

24..... NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP MEETING, ST LOUIS MO

31..... NFC MID-YEAR MEETING, ALEXANDRIA VA

APRIL 2012

01..... MAGAZINE DEADLINE MAY/JUNE ISSUE

25..... INVESTMENT COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

MAY 2012

19..... ARMED FORCES DAY

28..... MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED - HQ CLOSED

JUNE 2012

01..... MAGAZINE DEADLINE JULY/AUGUST ISSUE

30..... NFC MEETING, ALEXANDRIA VA

JULY 2012

04..... INDEPENDENCE DAY - HQ CLOSED

07..... FINAL DUE DATE FOR CONVENTION REGISTRATION

18..... INVESTMENT COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

20..... PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR ANNUAL MEETING, NY

2012 NATIONAL CONVENTION, SCOTTSDALE AZ..... AUGUST 07-11, 2012

2013 NATIONAL CONVENTION, ROGERS AR..... AUGUST 06-10, 2013

2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION, DENVER CO..... AUGUST 05-09, 2014

PATRIOT NUNEZ AND HIS SILVER STAR

On the afternoon of 25 August 1968, Sergeant First Class Rudolph Nunez was leading a 5th Special Forces Group company against a North Vietnamese unit that had overrun the Duc Lap Special Forces Camp. His mission was to neutralize an enemy held bunker and trench area that was preventing friendly forces from regaining control of the Camp. His citation read in part: "Sergeant Nunez repeatedly exposed himself to the fusillade as he attempted to establish a base of fire which would enable other elements of his company to maneuver in a flanking attack on the North Vietnamese. While he was directing the fire of his troops into the enemy emplacements, his rifle was struck by hostile fire and rendered inoperable and he received a painful wound in his arm. Despite his injury, he obtained a carbine from a fallen comrade and continued to fire until his ammunition was exhausted. His base of fire insured the successful maneuver of the other friendly elements. Sergeant Nunez obtained another weapon and continued to lead his company against the enemy until all resistance was neutralized.



Patriot Nunez, who joined MOPH in 1992, is a member of Chapter 0442 in Tucson, Arizona.

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 **Curtis P-40 Warhawk**, aka **Tomahawk**, was the first American single seat fighter to be mass produced - 14,000 planes between 1940 and 1944. Initial cost per plane? \$25,000! It ended up being used by 28 nations, including Russia, but it gained its first fame with General Chennault's American Volunteer Group (AVG) *Flying Tigers* in 1941/1942 out of Northern China when the *Tigers* destroyed 286 Japanese aircraft while losing only eight planes. The primary role of the AVG pilots was to intercept Japanese bombers, often flying with *Zeros* as escorts, who were pounding Chinese cities. A few *Warhawks* also got off the ground and intercepted the Japanese attackers at Pearl Harbor, but most were destroyed on the ground. One pilot commented that "The P-40 was a fine combat airplane."