



July 2023

Volume 3 Issue 7

Commander's Corner



Fellow Patriots,

Most of our chapters go dark for the summer. We will still hold our monthly Department Commanders Call. The department and chapters will continue to assist Patriots & veterans in

need. If you need anything reach out to us by email or phone or contact your chapter.

Think about what we can do to improve the Order. All suggestions, remarks, comments & concerns can be sent to Chapter or Department leadership and will be evaluated at the monthly Commander's calls.

The Sr. Vice-Cdr and I will be attending the National Convention in August. If you have concerns, you would like addressed get them to one of us and we will consider them.

The Cdr's Call is every month on the Fourth Thursday. A member of the chapter command group must attend. Open to all members.

Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time, Aug 25, 2023

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2842 9701

Passcode: 879117 Dial in: 669 900 6833.

Yours in Patriotism,
Keith Gray
Commander

Junior Vice-Commander



August 7th is Purple Heart Day. A special thank you goes to all our members for their service and sacrifice! The Purple Heart is one of the most respected of all our nation's medals. It is not earned by courage, service, or achievement. The Purple Heart represents the blood that has

Department Officers 2023/2024

Cdr: Keith Gray commandermophaz@gmail.com

Sr. Vice Cdr: Rodger Ely juggy64@aol.com

Jr. Vice Cdr: John Moore

mophchapter442@comcast.net

Adjutant: Larry Leighton

adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com

Finance Officer: Ron Capek ronluccap@gmail.com

Sgt-at-Arms: Jimi Sallmen jimisallmen@gmail.com

Inspector: **vacant position**

Judge Advocate: **vacant position**

Americanism Officer: **vacant position**

Chaplain: John L. Bhelm jblehmsr@gmail.com

Legislative Liaison: Jim Muhr jrmuhr@yahoo.com

Find Us Online

Website: <http://mophaz.org/>

Facebook: [Department Facebook Page](#)

National MOPH Website: <https://national-moph.uc.r.appspot.com/#>

Calendar

- **Aug 4** – Coast Guard Birthday
- **Aug 5** – Salt River Pima/Maricopa Indian Community PH Fun Run
- **Aug 7** – Purple Heart Day
- **Aug 29** – Marine Corps Reserve Birthday
- **Sep 28** – Groundbreaking Ceremony "Casitas" for Homeless Vets in Phoenix

Update Your Contact Information

Keep your snail mail address, phone & email address up to date. You can do this yourself at the MOPH National website at <https://national-moph.uc.r.appspot.com/#>. You just need your membership number to log-in. You can also email us at adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com and we can

been shed in defense of our Nation. General George Washington devised the Badge of Military Merit in 1782. In 1932 congress authorized the Purple Heart which was based on the Badge of Merit. The award was for those wounded in combat or killed in action. The Purple Heart represents the shared sacrifice that binds those together who have shed blood in defense of our nation. All who have been decorated with the Purple Heart gave some, but many gave all.



who served in the Coast Guard.

Aug 4th is the Coast Guard Birthday. Since 1790, the U.S. Coast Guard has kept the nation's waterways safe, playing a critical role in national security. Thank you to all



John R. Moore
Jr. Vice-Commander

Aug 29th is the Marine Corps Forces Reserve 107th Birthday. Today 40,000 citizens serve as Marine Corps Reservists. Thank you to our members who served as Marine Corps Reservists.

National Convention



As you all know the National Convention is fast approaching. This will be the 90th Annual Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention. It will be held in Baton Rouge, LA! This year's theme is **Healing the Heart**. The National Convention will be held from August 14

update your snail mail, phone & email address for you.



National Purple Heart Honor Mission



Department Patriot of the Year, John Grand, from Chapter 442 is the Arizona Honoree for the 2023 Purple Heart Patriot Project. John is receiving a paid trip for a week of tributes at the Purple Heart Hall of Honor, West Point, the 9/11 Memorial and other

sites.

To learn about the Purple Heart Honor Mission, go to url: <https://www.purpleheartmission.org/>

Casitas for Homeless Veterans Project



On September 28th ground will be broken for the construction of 35 Casitas to house homeless veterans. 28 will be 600 square feet and 7 will be 400 square feet in size. The MOPH Department of Arizona will present a check for \$10,000.00 to help fund this worthy project at the groundbreaking ceremony. Come join us for the check presentation at 10:00 AM on September 28th. The location for the ceremony is 1803 E. Broadway, Phoenix, AZ.

The Purple Heart Magazine

The **June/July issue of the National MOPH's Purple Heart Magazine** is available online at this [link](#).

to August 18 at the Crowne Plaza located at 4728 Constitution Ave, Baton Rouge, LA. To get the group rate for the hotel, please go to www.crownebaton.com. Convention tickets can be purchased for \$180 by logging into your MOPH account and then selecting the [National Convention Registration](#) page. If you would like to watch the convention online, you can purchase tickets to the live stream for \$25 on the registration page.

Salt River Pima/Maricopa Indian Community

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community was declared a Purple Heart Community on February 2nd, 2022. With 30 Purple Heart Recipients in the community, we invite you to join in honoring their service and commitment by participating in their Purple Heart Fun Run. T-shirts and delicious refreshments will be provided. 480-362-7884



Department Purple Heart Brick Program

Department Adjutant



Help Wanted!

Looking for an additional outlet for your creative spirit? Want to try something new? Already an experienced grant writer? The Department needs Members, Associate Members, and/or Supporters to help raise funds for our many programs by researching and writing grants.

Tools are available to help find potential granters and to write good proposals. If you might be interested, please contact **Department Adjutant Larry Leighton** at adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com or 602-759-0878.

Department Americanism Officer Needed

The purpose of the Americanism Program is to work with schools and other organizations to help promote U.S. history and the quest for freedom. It is administered by the National Americanism Officer. Patriot Bob Metzger, Chapter 691, resigned as our Department Americanism Officer this week after establishing and running our department program for several years. Bob made our program one of the best in the entire Order. We need someone to step up and take Bob's place in this Appointed Department Officer position. To find out more about what the position entails and what Bob has been doing, you can also contact Bob at bobmet@cox.net or 602-228-6520. If interested in filling this important and fulfilling position, please contact Department Commander Keith Gray at commandermophaz@gmail.com or 623-285-5141.

Life Member Verification

Every year, using the national roster as of June 30th, the Department and Chapter Commanders, helped by their adjutants and membership are responsible for verifying the accuracy of each individual person's membership profile. We need to make sure critical data, such as indicated below are correct and complete. You can help the Adjutants. **First making sure your personal profile is up to date** (phone number, mailing address, email address) and correct (birth date, gender, type of membership) and second, contact your adjutant and volunteer to help call those members with no email



Order a 4" x 8" Purple Heart Brick to be placed at Wesley Bolin Plaza at the State Capitol to commemorate being a Purple Heart recipient

or order one to commemorate a family member or friend who received the Award. The cost of the brick, engraving, and placement costs are: \$35 Purple Heart recipients and \$40 for other veterans. Checks, along with a copy of your order form, should be made out to MOPH AZ & sent to:

Patriot Stephan Bobby
MOPH AZ PH Brick Coordinator
4543 E. County Down Dr.
Chandler, AZ 85249-7339

or

Download Order Form: [PH BRICK ORDER FORM](#)

Fort Lowell Chapter 442 – Tucson, AZ



Fellow Patriots:

The chapter will be dark for August. The board of officers will be available by email and will act on requests that come up. The chapter is again hosting bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital. The next Bingo session will be held on Aug 26th. Come join us in hosting Bingo. In July we provided \$250 of food for homeless veterans housed at the Esperanza En Escalante project.

On Purple Heart Day on August 7th the chapter will hold a ceremony at the Arizona State Veterans' Home to honor the residents who are Purple Heart recipients.

Our chapter website will be closing on 23 August. The hosting service is changing their business model. Once we have a new website up and running, we will post the address. In the

address or mailing addresses that we know are incorrect.

Life Member Verification is important for several reasons.

- When hard copies of Purple Heart Magazine can be again produced and mailed, we don't want to waste money having to pay for undeliverable mail.
- Getting digital news from all levels, National, Department, and Chapter relies on accurate email addresses.

Larry Leighton
Department Adjutant

Michael E. Mahoney Chapter 691 – Surprise, AZ



Chapter 691 Patriots,

July was a quiet month around the Chapter.

Attendance at our social gathering at Oregano's in Surprise was small but all who did attend had a great

time! We are looking forward to the August event.

July was an eventful month for Veterans and our serving military. I hope everyone enjoyed their fireworks on Independence Day, even if was only in front of the television with a "cold one" (or two).

Cdr: Larry Leighton
commander691moph@gmail.com

Sr. Vice-Cdr: James Starkman
karen4357@att.net

Jr. Vice-Cdr: Kenneth Burns
ameriken81@gmail.com

Adjutant: Larry Leighton
commander691moph@gmail.com

Meeting date: 2nd Saturday

Meeting time: 9:00 AM

Meeting location: Sands Chevrolet Surprise Conference Room (16991 W Waddell Rd, Surprise, AZ 85388) Enter parking lot from N Cotton Lane.

Website: <http://691.mophaz.org/>

Facebook: [Chapter 691 Facebook](#)

meantime, our Facebook page is the best place to get information. [Chapter 442 Facebook](#)

Our next meeting will be on September 18th.

Yours in Patriotism,
Mike Dyer
Commander

Commander Mike Dyer – mrdyer@comcast.net

Sr. Vice-Cdr Richard Perkins

rperkins823@gmail.com

Jr. Vice-Cdr John Grand – jgrand5@cox.net

Adjutant John Moore –

mophchapter442@comcast.net

Website: <https://mophchapter442.webs.com/>

Facebook: [Chapter 442 Facebook](#)

Donate online: [Donations Appreciated](#)

Meeting date: 3rd Monday (no meetings June, July, or August)

Time: 5:00 PM

Meeting location: Bridge Church at 8150 N Sandy Desert Trail, Tucson, AZ 85741. This is just off I10 & Cortaro Farms Rd. Go east on Cortaro Farms Rd to N. Sandy Desert Trail.

Chapter 442 hosted bingo on July 22nd at the Tucson VA Hospital.



Patriot Dave Bertagnoli calls Bingo.



Note: Meetings will also be via Zoom. Enter the meeting ID (842 2842 9701) and the password (879117). By phone, call 719 359 4580 and enter the id/password.

Commander Leighton did a “recon” of the St Mary’s Foodbank on their July 12th Day of Service. Commander Leighton now has a better understanding of St Mary’s operation and the Surprise Days of Service program. **Chapter 691 will participate in the August 16th Day of Service** – open toe shoes are not allowed.



Chapter Commander Leighton and Surprise Community Days of Service coordinator, Larry Garcia.



In addition to putting up with the record heat, we recognized July 27th, with the rest of the country, as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. We have 11 Korean War Veterans in the Chapter (55 in the Department). We remembered them with a special message to all our members.

As we all know, August 7th is National Purple Heart Day. We’ll be enjoying our comradery inside the cool and **KOOL FatCats in Surprise!** We’ll enjoy bowling, “glow golf”, and arcade games. If

Jean (pictured with **Patriot Danny Lemon**) served as Navy Corpsman. She turned 105 in July and is getting assistance during bingo.



Chapter 2560 – Apache Junction, AZ



Cdr: Michael Overmeyer
moverme48@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Cdr: Chuck Byers
seagb@cox.net
Jr. Vice Cd: James King
kingjs6@live.com

Adjutant: Michael Overmeyer
moverme48@gmail.com

Meeting date: 2nd Saturday of the month.
Meeting time: 10:00 AM
Meeting location: Mesa Buckhorn Elk Lodge
#2656 at 6718 E Avalon St, Mesa, AZ 85205

Chapter 472 –Mesa, AZ



Cdr: James Pomush
landjpomush@gmail.com
Sr. Vice-Cdr: Ramiero Del Rio (602) 818-0796
Jr. Vice-Cdr: Matthew Beatty

matthewcbeatty@yahoo.com

Adjutant: Jason Duren
jason@cidercorpsaz.com

Meeting date: Last Thursday of the month (No meetings: Jun Jul & Aug)

you are in the area on the PH Day, and would like to join us, give me a call for details.

National Senior Vice Commander Carder Ferguson, accompanied by Chapter 691 Commander Larry Leighton, (both are VFW members) attended the VFW National Convention in Phoenix to continue building the relationship between members of the MOPH and VFW National Command teams.



Happy Birthday to our Coast Guard Brothers and Sisters (Aug 4th) and our Marine Corps Brothers and Sisters who served or are serving in the Marine Forces Reserve (Aug 29th).

Yours in Patriotism,
Larry Leighton
Commander

Dale E. Crick Chapter 793 – Flagstaff, AZ



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART
Dale E. Crick Chapter 793
Flagstaff . Arizona

Commander: Rodger Ely juggy64@aol.com
Sr. Vice-Cdr: Daniel Reich
daniel_r_reich@msn.com
Jr. Vice-Cdr: Elmer Sangster
sangster333@hotmail.com

Meeting time: 10:00AM

Meeting location: American Legion Post 26
505 W 2nd Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85210-1202



The MOPH Fund, Inc., (“the Fund”) a 501.c.3 non-profit public charity, is separate and not subordinate to the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The Fund Inc. is the official fundraising arm of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (the Order). Our sole purpose is to raise funds for programs executed by the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The Fund has an eleven-person Board of Directors of which all but one are Purple Heart recipients and members of the Order. While separate from the Order, the Fund’s bylaws require the National Commander, National Senior Vice Commander, the National Junior Vice Commander, and the six Region Commanders to be Directors on our Board.

We have engaged professional grant writers and just this month have submitted proposals totaling \$600K to different nationally recognized organizations. The Fund tries to ensure we find programs that will **DIRECTLY BENEFIT CHAPTERS** and the National Headquarters programs. While not every program will have the same revenue sharing formula, the Fund’s programs are designed to reward the Chapters for the work they do to make the programs work.



We in the Fund hope the Order’s members and associate members will embrace the Fund’s programs to raise funds for **CHAPTER** and National

Headquarters programs.



To learn about the specific Fund’s fundraising projects currently available, simply click on the logo at the left or scan the QR Code.

Adjutant: William Weldon

baseballbillpaul@npgcable.com

Facebook: [Chapter 793 Facebook](#)

Next Meeting – Sep 27

Meeting time: 12:30PM

Meeting location: VFW Post 1709

409 W Santa Fe Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Meeting date: Bi-monthly on 4th Wednesday.

MOPH 793 participates in patriotic activities throughout Northern Arizona. The chapter proudly Supports Initiatives of the Northern Arizona Veterans Stand downs (NAZVSD) which included a new stand down in June at Twin Arrows Navajo Resort Dine’ Conference Center in Twin Arrows, AZ. Stand-Downs provide veterans with essential information about services available to them within the Community including VA Enrollment & Services, Mental Health, Dental Hygiene, Veterans Court, Legal Services, Haircuts, Health Insurance, Medicare, Employment Opportunities & Job Fair, Surplus Distribution, Hot Food and much more...

You Are Always Welcome to Join Us!

Roger Ely
Commander

Chapter 793 participated in the Town of Williams 4th of July parade. Elvis was in the house.



If you have any questions about the Fund or the Fund's fundraising projects, please contact me.



Larry Leighton
Treasurer, MOPH Fund, Inc.
treasurer@mophfund.org
844-MOPHFUND (667-4386)

Bills in Congress

H.R.4566, the Providing Radiation Exposed Servicemembers Undisputed Medical Eligibility (PRESUME) Act would eliminate VA's current practice of requiring radiation dose estimates for veterans claiming diseases related to radiation exposure. Currently, VA requires proof of the veteran's onsite participation at a radiation risk activity, but also radiation dose estimates from the Defense Reduction Agency and a medical opinion indicating the dose estimate caused the claimed presumptive disease.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Radiation Exposure Claims Act (RECA) program does not require claimants to prove causation of the diseases related to the radiation exposure, nor does it require dose estimates of exposures. Veterans who were exposed onsite can receive compensation from the government without dose estimates and without proving that the claimed disease is directly caused by the dose estimate of radiation exposure.

Radiation exposed veterans are held to a higher standard by the VA, than the DOJ for civilians exposed to radiation. This unfair practice must be halted. Urge your representatives to support HR4566.

The Maternal Health for Veterans Act (S. 2026) would strengthen oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) maternity care coordination efforts while authorizing new funding to make sure VA has the resources it needs to provide women veterans with access to the maternal care they've earned through their service. The legislation also requires the VA to



PACT Act

The **PACT Act** is a law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. There's no deadline to apply for PACT Act benefits. But if you file your PACT Act claim or quickly submit your intent to file by **August 9, 2023**, you may receive benefits backdated to August 10, 2022. So don't wait, apply today.

<https://www.va.gov/res.../the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

VA Co-Pay Exemptions for Native Americans

Beginning April 4, 2023, eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans no longer must pay a copay for VA health care services and urgent care. And we'll review copays we received for

report data on maternal health outcomes of veterans who receive medical care at a VA health facility or community care provider. Additionally, it requires recommendations by the VA to improve the maternal health outcomes of veterans. Urge your senator to support S. 2026.

The Major Richard Star Act (S. 344) is bipartisan legislation that would authorize concurrent receipt of Department of Defense (DoD) retired pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation for those injured in a combat zone and medically retired under Chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code.

In April, we asked for your support on this stand-alone bill. Now, we need you to contact your Senators to vote for adoption of Amendment 142 provisions from the Major Richard Star Act so it can be included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This benefit would eliminate this unjust offset of disability compensation for combat-injured military retirees.

S. 1635/H.R. 3718 calls for updated training for Department of Veterans Affairs claims processors who review claims for service-connection for post-traumatic stress disorder. Training would include instruction on stressors development and verification and be standardized across VA regional offices. The legislation would also require VA to establish a formal process to review claims decisions annually to determine if updates to the training program are warranted. Urge your senator & representative to support this legislation.

The Love Lives on Act in the Senate now has a companion bill in the House of Representatives, **H.R. 3651—the Love Lives On Act**. This legislation would eliminate the remarriage age for survivors in receipt of Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC). For decades, surviving spouses were not able to maintain their DIC if they remarried prior to the age of 55. The payment of DIC benefits provides surviving spouses with the means to maintain some semblance of economic stability for themselves and their families. Please contact your Representative to co-sponsor and support H.R. 3651.

covered services on or after January 5, 2022. Go to [VA Resources & Support](#) website.

Purple Heart License Plates

HB 2062 Vehicle license tax exemption for PH veterans:



On registration of a vehicle, if the veteran submits satisfactory proof to ADOT that the person is a veteran and a bona fide purple heart medal recipient and was honorably discharged vehicle registration tax fee is waived. Can only be used on one vehicle. Specialty plate and personalization fees still apply.

Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of AZ



The Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of Arizona is our department 501c3 entity. If for tax purposes, you or a donor is required to donate to a 501c3 use our online portal to make your donation. Funds designated for a chapter will go in their entirety to the chapter. **Use the “Add/Write NOTE” field to specify the purpose of your donation.** Thank you in advance for supporting Veterans! **Donate Online:** [Donations Appreciated](#)

The Purple Heart Hall of Honor



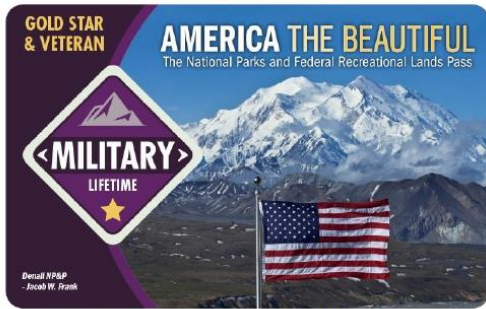
Add your story to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor. Enroll at the url below: <https://www.thepurpleheart.com/enrollment/>

Missing in America Project

10:00 AM on September 30, 2023 the Missing in America Project will lay to rest and inter the remains of 20 unclaimed Veterans at the Arizona

Free National Park Passes

More information is available at the National Parks Service [website](#).



New life time pass available for Military Veterans

Purple Heart Scholarships



Information is available on the Purple Heart Scholarship Program. Applications are due each July. Information and application are at this [link](#).

Newsletter Information

Please send information & photos that you would like included in the newsletter to mophchapter442@comcast.net. We would like to get the newsletter out on the last day of the month. Get me news information & photos by the 15th of each month.

John R. Moore
Jr. Vice-Commander



Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Marana, AZ. 15950 N. Luckett Rd, Marana, AZ 85653. Help honor these departed Veterans.

From the Archives

Evening Star
22 Feb 1932, Mon · Page 3

HONOR MEDALS, FIRST. GIVEN BY WASHINGTON, REINSTITUTED

Hoover Orders Army Chiefs
to Revive Order of
Purple Heart.

Wounds and Acts of Merit to
Win Recognition Envis-
ioned in 1782.



Order of **Purple Heart.**

Recognition for All.

By direction of President Hoover, the War Department today reinstituted the ancient Order of the **Purple Heart**, established by Gen. George Washington at Newburgh, N. Y., August 7, 1782, during the War of the Revolution.

The 200th anniversary of Gen. Washington's birth was selected as the most appropriate occasion for the revival of the **Purple Heart** decoration, the first honor badge in the history of the United States Army provided for the enlisted man and the non-commissioned officer.

Under the liberal ruling of the War Department thousands of soldiers and ex-soldiers will become eligible for this honor, which has been awarded in the past to only three men for meritorious acts and service. These men were Sergt. Daniel Bissell of the 2d Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Line, Sergt. Daniel Brown of the 5th Connecticut Regiment and Sergt. Elijah Churchill of the 2nd Continental Dragoons, which also was a Connecticut regiment.

Wounded to Get Award.

Under changes in Army regulations, award of the **Purple Heart** is authorized to persons who "while serving in the Army of the United States perform any singularly meritorious act of extraordinary fidelity or essential service." Wounds received in action are included in this category. It must be awarded within three years of the performance of the act and is not to be awarded posthumously.

For service prior to February 22, 1932, the **Purple Heart** will be awarded to men who earned the meritorious service citation certificate during the World War and to those who also are authorized to wear wound chevrons.

The revived decoration consists of a heart-shaped medal, its face gold bordered and its center of purple enamel. On the obverse is a relief bust of George Washington in the uniform of a general of the Continental Army. Its reverse is gold with the inscription "For Military Merit." The Washington coat of arms is incorporated in the ring which attaches it to a purple ribbon, bordered with white.

General Orders No. 3, under which Washington established the **Purple Heart**, read as follows:

"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. Before this favor can be conferred on any man, the particular fact, or facts, on which it is to be grounded must be set forth to the Commander-in-Chief, accompanied with certificates from the commanding officers of the regiment and brigade to which the candidate for reward belonged, or other incontestable proofs, and upon granting it, the name and regiment of the person with the action so certified are to be enrolled in the Book of Merit, which will be kept at the orderly office. Men who have merited this last distinction to be suffered to pass all guards and sentinels which officers are permitted to do.

"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 to be considered as a permanent one."