



October 2023

Volume 3 Issue 10

Commander's Corner



Fellow Patriots,

We will have a busy month in November with Veterans Day activities throughout the state.

I need your help. We have several positions that need to be filled. We need an Americanism

Officer. Needs to be staffed soon to coordinate the ROTC/JROTC leadership programs in the spring. If interested let us know. Also, the Department Sgt-at-Arms resigned due to health issues. This position has duties at the quarterly department executive committee meetings and the department convention. If interested let us know.

Please 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 Commander's Call is every month on the Fourth Wednesday. A member of the chapter command group must attend. Open to all members.

Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time, Nov 22, 2023

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2842 9701

Passcode: 879117 Dial in: 669 900 6833.

Yours in Patriotism,
Keith Gray
Commander

Junior Vice-Commander



November 11th Veterans Day. Thank you to our **members who received Purple Hearts** while serving our Nation during its times of need. Originally named Armistice Day, it marked the

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

- Nov 11 – Veterans Day Activities
- Nov 22 – Dept Cdr's Call
- Nov 23 – Thanksgiving Day
- Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 16 – Wreaths Across America

Department Adjutant



Fellow Patriots we need your thoughts and prayers for our brothers and sisters but especially these three at this time.

Stu Tracey, husband of Associate Member Carol Tracy, Chapter 691 (formerly of Chapter 790), called today with an

update on Stu who has been in the hospital since

anniversary of the end of World War I. Hostilities were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. In 1954 Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day which honors all military veterans who have served in our Armed Forces. Thank you, Patriots!



Wreaths Across America Dec 17th: Our Chapters and Departments participates in and supports Wreaths Across America at a number of cemeteries throughout the state. Check with your chapter or find a local cemetery to help place wreaths on veterans' graves. You can find participating cemeteries at the [Wreaths Across America website](#).



John R. Moore
Jr. Vice-Commander

[American Dream Ambassador Program](#)

The American Dream Ambassador Program is a MOPH Fund partnership that gives **registered**

August 9th. Stu had a brain tumor operation on Oct 1st and is still fighting to recover. Get well cards may be sent to 907 W Beck Ln, Phoenix, AZ 85023. Carol will respond to calls but is spending most of her time with Stu so the response may be delayed.

Lea Pomush, Jim's wife, is battling cancer and undergoing chemotherapy with all of its associated challenges. Get well cards may be sent to 1732 N Dresden, Mesa, AZ 85203.

Associate Member Kristy Gray (Chapter 691) has had some health challenges and recently spent a couple of nights in the hospital but is home now. Get well cards may be sent to 4143 W Villa Rita Dr, Glendale, AZ 85308.

If you, a family member, or someone you know needs extra help with thoughts and prayers, please notify your Chapter Commander and Department Members at Large can contact me directly (adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com or 623-776-5443).

Quilts of Valor: Department Members at Large please contact Department Adjutant (623-776-5443)



if you'd like to be nominated for one of these quilts. Chapter members notify your chapter commander. Nominate our heroes to receive this well-deserved and special honor. You can have the presentations at your chapters, at home or wherever the veteran may be at the time. Click on the link to read the history of the program and nominate your Patriots.

<https://www.qovf.org/nominations-awards/>

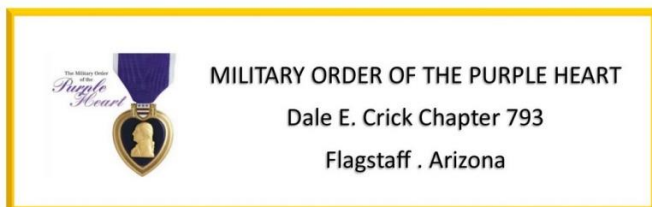
Resource Exchange Association Toolbox for post/911 Veterans: See attached program for eligible post 9/11 combat wounded veterans. Eligible veterans/PH recipients receive a toolbox full of quality tools. **Check the information and or apply through the link:** <https://reainc.org/> Resource Exchange Association (REA) | People Helping People Help People

Purple Heart Mission "Welcome Home" – <https://mailchi.mp/purpleheartmission/october-2021-enewsletter-16923304?e=f04bbee42f>



homeowners' access to deep discounts to products and services needed to renovate or remodel their home. Registration has a one-time fee of \$50! After payment a \$25 tax-deductible donation will be made to the Department of Arizona, MOPH of the USA, Inc in your name. Get all the details and buy your subscription on our website [American Dream Program](#).

Dale E. Crick Chapter 793 – Flagstaff, AZ



Commander: Rodger Ely juggy64@aol.com

Sr. Vice-Cdr: Daniel Reich
daniel_r_reich@msn.com

Jr. Vice-Cdr: Elmer Sangster
sangster333@hotmail.com

Adjutant: William Weldon
baseballbillpaul@npgcable.com

Facebook: [Chapter 793 Facebook](#)

Next Meeting – Contact Chapter

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 and welfare activities throughout Northern Arizona. The chapter proudly Supports Initiatives of the Northern Arizona Veterans Stand downs (NAZVSD)..

You Are Always Welcome to Join Us!

Roger Ely
Commander

Marine Corps Birthday Celebration and 2023 Veterans Day Ball is at the Flagstaff Elks Lodge On November 11th.

Suicide Prevention: “Suicide does not end the chances of life getting worse, it eliminates the possibilities of it ever getting any better.”

- Will YOU talk to 10 Veterans – Take the Pledge
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/bulletins/375106d>
- Buddy Checks:
www.va.gov/initiatives/national-buddy-check-week-talk-to-10-veterans/

Breast cancer awareness: When we think of breast health we think of women however, breast cancer affects males as well. We must all be aware of signs and symptoms that may indicate a problem. I highly encourage everyone to call for your screening today. Take charge and advocate for your health. Check the links below for additional information:

- <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/topics/mammogram-breast-health.asp>
- <https://www.va.gov/columbia-south-carolina-health-care/stories/breast-cancer-something-everyone-should-be-aware/>
- <https://newsroom.tricare.mil/News/TRICARE-E-News/Article/3344218/I-delay-your-tricare-covered-cancer-screenings>
- <https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/mammograms>

The Honor of Service Breakfast Event – Nov 10th: The Phoenix Military Veterans Commission Foundation will host an event to honor veterans who served in Afghanistan. It will be held on the morning of 11/10/23 and go from 9-11. It will be held at the following location:



Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
In front of the Enduring Freedom Memorial

Scan the QR Code to register. We are asking veterans and their families to register for the event so we can have an accurate counter.

The Purple Heart Magazine will be published the first week of November and is our Nov-Dec Issue. As the magazine editor, I want to include lots of



The Missing in America Project laid 15 unclaimed veterans to rest in a ceremony at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Camp Navajo on October 15th.



The chapter and the Purple Heart Truck participated in the Fort Verde Days Parade on October 14th at Camp Verde, AZ.



member input about their most memorable remembrances of Veterans Day or Pearl Harbor Day. Submit yours, preferably with a picture of yourself or your memory, to publications@purpleheart.org by the 15th of the month to make sure they get included.

Larry Leighton,
Department Adjutant

Update Your Contact Information

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

Fort Lowell Chapter 442 – Tucson, AZ



Fellow Patriots:

The chapter is again hosting bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital. The next Bingo session will be held on November 25th. Come join us in hosting Bingo.

In October we provided \$250 of food for homeless veterans housed at the Esperanza En Escalante project.

The chapter donated \$325 for the Turkeys for Troops program to help provide Thanksgiving dinners to needy military families in Arizona.

Members will give Veterans Day talks at several local schools.

In November we will participate in the annual Tucson Veterans Day Parade on November 11th.

We will partner again this year at the Charlie Skuhr Memorial Golf Tournament on November 11. Last year the tournament raised \$13,000.00 for the Tucson VA Hospital.

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

At the last meeting it was discussed having a welcome back cookout on the 15th of October. We have some members that won't be back until November and our November meeting is on the 11th which is the day of the Veterans Day parade. Therefore, we will have the cookout on the 12th of November and have our meeting at Chuck and Sherrie's.

Wreaths Across America: On December 16th, we will be having a ceremony at the Mountain View Cemetery 7900 E. Main Street, Mesa, AZ 85207. This will be our 3rd year of honoring Veteran's graves in the East Valley! We have a special program which will start exactly at 9:30am sharp! The AJHS JROTC will be presenting the colors, Rev Phil Erickson with the VFW Post 7968, Debbie Kent will be singing our National Anthem, Special music by the Mesa Fire and Medical Dept Pipes & Drums; and we have a fantastic dual trumpeter, Ailish Murphy and Rodrigo Moreno students of the AJ High School Marching Band will perform. Our Keynote speaker will be Command Sergeant Major Rick Kreiberg (ret) and founder of the Veterans Affinity. Mrs. Hickman 6th graders from Patterson Elementary School will assist in honoring the branches of services. Then at 10:00am we will start laying wreaths at each Veteran's grave. A Special Thank you to all who for the third year in a row have stepped up to help sponsor a wreath. Our major sponsors are American First, Crescent Crown,

Our chapter website has closed. The new website will be up and running soon. We will post the address next month. In the meantime, our Facebook page is the best place to get information: [Chapter 442 Facebook](#)

Our next meeting will be on November 20th.

Yours in Patriotism,
Mike Dyer
Commander

Commander Mike Dyer – mrduer@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://mophtucson.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.

The Missing in America Project laid 14 unclaimed veterans to rest in a ceremony at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Marana on October 28th. Patriot Dave Bertagnoli represented the chapter.



Guild Mortgage, Pima/Maricopa Indian Community, **Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 2560**, Mountain View Cemetery and Texas RoadHouse. If you would like to come out to help on Friday to remove the wreaths from the boxes or on Saturday to attend the ceremony as well as help decorate a veteran's grave, please call Nancy Fassbender at 520-280-4715. Please bring a lawn chair for the ceremony and gloves to handle the live Wreaths. **We are still short about 500 wreaths.** If anyone would like to help sponsor a wreath for \$17 each, please go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org/AZ0190P or contact Military Order of the Purple Heart #2560, VFW 7968 or 9399; Daughters of the American Revolution or Army Aviation Heritage Foundation. Our mission is to cover all the Veterans who are interred at Mountain View Cemetery. Any questions, please call Nancy at 520-280-4715.



The Tucson Veterans Day Parade will be held on November 10th at 11:00 PM in downtown Tucson. Vehicles will stage at 8:00 AM. Come out and enjoy the parade. See parade route map at the parade's website: <https://tucsonvdpf.org/parade-route>

WREATHS *across* AMERICA

National Remembrance Day
Community is Invited!

Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 9:30am
Mountain View Funeral Home & Cemetery
7900 E. Main St., Mesa, AZ 85207

Please scan the QR Code below to sponsor or to volunteer—you can also visit:
www.wreathscrossamerica.org/AZ0190P

THANKS TO OUR 2023 Sponsors

Wreaths Across America gives back \$5.00 or every wreath sold to support local Veterans in our community!

Did you know?
Worcester Wreath Co. makes 90,000 wreaths per day for 52 days to supply WAA!

Make checks payable to "Wreaths Across America" and mail to
4657 S. Desert Dawn Dr.
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118



2023
Tucson Veterans Day Parade
November 10, 2023
11 AM

Tucson Convention Center Perimeter



The Annual Veterans Feast at the North Star Neurology will be held on November 9th. See flyer below.





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)

Meeting time: 10:00AM

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

Department Purple Heart Brick Program



Order a 4"x8" Purple Heart Brick to be Placed at Wesley Bolin Plaza at the state capitol to commemorate being a Purple Heart recipient

or to order one to commemorate a family member or friend who received the Award. The cost of the

NORTHSTAR NEUROLOGY
 PRESENTS

★ ★ ★

ANNUAL VETERANS FEAST

A charity event to help raise funds for our veterans in need of support.

COME LEARN ABOUT OUR VETERANS PROGRAM AND HOW HBOT HELPS HEAL OUR HEROS

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Any donations are appreciated
 Please visit
www.healingarizonaveterans.org

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THURSDAY
 9 NOV 2023
 12:00 PM

7596 N La Cholla Blvd Tucson AZ 85741
WWW.NORTHSTARHBOT.COM

★ ★ ★

FOOD & DRINKS WILL BE SERVED.

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY PORTRAITS WILL BE TAKEN IN FRONT OF THE FLAG

The Traveling Wall will be at Casino Del Sol in Tucson from November 9th – November 12th. Come out and honor the fallen.



PLEASE JOIN US NOVEMBER 9-12TH

Viewing open Daily from 10am - 5pm

*Wall breakdown on the 12, late afternoon

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

MOTORCYCLE ESCORT

Location: Loves Home Improvement (Southeast Entrance)

1800 W. Valencia Rd, Tucson, AZ 85746

Time: Staging begins at 8am
 Escort departs 10am

Thursday, November 9, 2023

OPENING CEREMONY

Location: Casino Del Sol Resort Pool Lawn

Time: 10am

Join us for Posting of Colors, Dignitary
 Speakers and Public Viewing of the Wall

Saturday, November 11, 2023

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Location: Casino Del Sol Resort Pool Lawn

Time: 10am

Blessing, Messing of the Colors, Three
 salute fireworks, Taps, Gun Salute



For questions regarding the opening ceremony on November 9, contact: Jessica Savare 520.324.9003.
 For any additional questions contact David Ramirez at 520 358-4692,
 Alex Alvarez at 520 358-5918 or Carmen Rivera at 520 373-1787

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](#)

Purple Heart Scholarships

Applications for the scholarship program are due every July. Information is available on the Purple Heart Scholarship Program at this [link](#).



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](#)

Arizona Veterans Survey

2023 Arizona Veteran Survey gives Arizona’s military and veteran community a voice.
WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Michael E. Mahoney Chapter 691 – Surprise, AZ



With sadness, I report the passing of one of our comrades, Patriot David Leonard Ney. David’s son, Michael called me today to let us know David passed away on Tuesday, October 17th from complications related to heart disease and strokes. Condolence cards may be sent to 41716 N Miles Ct, Anthem, AZ 85086. Please keep David’s family in your thoughts and prayers.

On October 25th the Missing in America Project honored approximately 40 veterans whose remains had been unclaimed. The ceremony was at the Phoenix Veterans Cemetery (23029 North Cave Creek Road, Phoenix, AZ 85024).

Yours in Patriotism,
Larry Leighton Commander

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](#)

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.

Chapter 691 will be collaborating with the Sundome Merchants, Corte Bella Vets and

The survey is open to all:

Service Members

Veterans

Family Members

Providers

Community Supporters

Participants must be ages 18 and older

TIME

The survey is open from September 30, 2023 – February 29, 2024. The survey will likely take you 20 minutes. Once you start, you must complete the survey in one sitting. It is very important to finish the survey if you can.

IMPORTANT: Only use the Next and Prev buttons at the bottom of the page to move through the survey, not the forward and back arrows in your browser. There are only a few required questions throughout the survey, all other questions are optional, and your responses are anonymous. If you have questions, please contact the survey team at:

survey@arizonacoalition.org

CONNECT TO SUPPORT

It is possible that some of the questions may be triggers for some people. If you need support at any time, you can call the National Veterans Crisis Line at 988 (Option 1) or if you need connection to resources, contact Arizona's Be Connected Support Line at 1-866-4AZ-VETS (429-8387).

The Arizona Veteran Survey is a project of Arizona State University College of Health Solutions and Arizona Coalition for Military Families, on behalf of our public and private sector partners. For full details on the purpose of the survey, how the information will be used, and to take the survey please visit:

www.ConnectVeterans.org/survey


AZ Department of Veterans' Services

Support the Stories of Our Heroes Project. See info below.

American Legion Post 94 in support of the annual Angel Tree Program for Veterans. Sr. Vice Commander Jim Starkman will lead this effort. Christmas Trees will be placed in front of several businesses located at the Sundome Plaza at 13527 W Camino Del Sol in Sun City West from November 1 through December 15, 2023. The gifts collected will be delivered to Veteran's First, M.A.N.A., US Vets, VA Community Center in Phoenix, and the VA Hospital in Prescott. In past years all the delivery locations including volunteers and employees were filled with tears of joy that our Veterans were not forgotten. Last year we collected 2,297 gifts (including gift cards) for an estimated value of \$80,000. Every year we strive to increase our volume.



The Phoenix Military Veterans Commission Foundation is hosting an event to honor veterans who served in Afghanistan on Nov 11th. See flyer for details and to register.



Stories of Our Heroes:

Keeping the legacies of Arizona Veterans alive



At the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, we want to keep the stories of our Veterans alive so that their legacies continue to be told.

ADVS is asking loved ones to share stories, memories and photos of their Veterans who have been laid to rest at one of our three Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries.

- Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Marana
- Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Camp Navajo
- Southern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

The Stories of Our Heroes will be featured on all ADVS social media platforms and our website.

To submit your Veteran's story, scan the QR code below:





For more information or questions, please contact socialmedia@azdvs.gov

Phoenix Military Veterans Commission Foundation

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Veterans Organization

presents

Scan to register for this free event

A THANK YOU BREAKFAST EVENT

"The Honor of Service"

Friday, November 10th
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. • Wesley Bolin Plaza
Near the "Enduring Freedom" Memorial
1700 W. Washington Street Phoenix 85007

Join us to honor service members and contractors who served in Afghanistan, and their families.

Veteran service providers and vendors will be onsite to offer information and access to services

Phoenix Military Veterans Commission Foundation 501(c)(3)

Questions, please contact **Corey Harris** at coreyharrisaz@gmail.com or 480-776-9526

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AND OUR VETERANS

The Arizona Talking Book Library

A good resource for visually impaired veterans is the AZ Talking Book Library. They provide free audio book delivery/downloadable services to the visually impaired, physically limited, and print disabled throughout the state; any person who cannot read standard print, hold a book, or turn pages is eligible for this free service. For information go to url:

www.azlibrary.gov/talkingbooks

All business is conducted by phone, email, fax, and USPS postal service. Each person has direct access to their own personal librarian, and receives materials, including the player and headphones, free of charge. The Talking Book Library is a full-service library. Materials either come in audio or braille formats. Medical or education professionals can certify the application for service. Once an application is completed and signed, please email it to apply@azlibrary.gov.

Christine Tuttle
Outreach & Community Engagement Librarian
Talking Book Library
Email: ctuttle@azlibrary.gov

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/>

Bills in Congress

H.R. 5530: the "VA Emergency Transportation Access Act." Beginning in February, the VA is scheduled to slash reimbursement rates paid when a veteran faces a medical emergency and is transported via air or ground ambulance. That could mean veterans having to shoulder more of the bill. This will adversely affect Veterans in rural areas or long distances from health care. This bipartisan legislation will protect veterans' emergency medical services by blocking the VA from cutting reimbursement rates before the agency has fully reviewed all impacts to veterans' health care and sought input from veteran advocacy organizations

Office: 602-255-5578

Fax: 602-286-0444



MESSAGE FROM THE VA DEPUTY SECRETARY

Planning for Potential Lapse in Funding:

As many of you are aware, annual funding for much of the Government expires on September 30, 2023. The Administration will continue working with the Congress to complete appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024. We at VA are preparing for all contingencies, including the possibility that a lapse in funding could occur. A lapse would mean that certain Government activities would cease due to a lack of appropriate funding, and that designated pre-notified employees of this agency would be temporarily furloughed. We've prepared a contingency plan to execute an orderly shutdown of activities that would be affected by such a lapse. After the lapse ends, furloughed and excepted employees will receive retroactive pay for the furlough period as soon as possible. Most VA operations will continue without interruption if there is a shutdown. Health care through the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and mandatory benefit payments to Veterans are funded through an advance appropriation. In addition, certain programs meet legal requirements to continue performing their designated duties and are considered "excepted." These include benefits processing at the Veterans Benefits Administration; interments through the National Cemetery Administration; and certain information technology functions at the Office of Information and Technology. The Department's Fiscal Year 2024 projection is that 97% of VA employees would be fully funded or continue to perform excepted functions during a shutdown. 407,599 (out of a pre-shutdown total of 456,067) VA employees are VHA employees funded by advance appropriations or multi-year appropriations. Others are considered "excepted." The total projected number of employees who would continue to report to work is 440,437. The 15,620 employees that are not exempted will continue to work until

and industry experts. Urge your congressman to support this legislation.

H.R. 2818, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act, would increase the amount of funding available to disabled veterans for improvements and structural alterations provided to them for home improvements related to their disability. Rates have not been adjusted since 2010. However, the cost of home modifications and labor has risen more than 40% since then.

This legislation would increase the amount of funding for VA grants for disabled veterans to make necessary modifications to their homes to fit their needs, including wheelchair ramps, structural changes, medical equipment, and would adjust the amount to account for inflation.

Please contact your representatives and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 2818, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act.

The Purple Heart Fund



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.



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 on the left or scan the QR Code.



the carryover funds are depleted, then be furloughed.

More details on VA's Contingency Plan for a potential lapse in appropriations can be found [here](#).

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and patience through this process, and for all that you do for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Tanya J. Bradsher
Deputy Secretary

VETERANS FIELD GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN
As of October 1, 2023

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to provide quality, consistent care and services to Veterans, families, Caregivers, and Survivors. VA's mission allows no exception to this standard even when operations are limited by the absence of appropriations (commonly known as a "Government shutdown").

SERVICES TO VETERANS NOT IMPACTED:	SERVICES TO VETERANS IMPACTED:
VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers will be open.	VA will not provide veteran career counseling or transition assistance program activities.
VA benefits will continue to be processed and delivered, including compensation, pension, education, and housing benefits.	VA education benefits contact center (GI Bill Hotline: 1-888-GIBILL-1 or 1-888-442-4551) will be closed.
Burials will continue at VA national cemeteries.	VA benefits regional offices will be closed.
Applications for headstones, markers, and burial benefits processing will continue.	Public affairs and outreach to Veterans will cease.
The Board of Veterans' Appeals will continue decisions on Veterans' cases.	No grounds maintenance or placement of permanent headstones at VA cemeteries.
VA Contact Centers (1-800-MyVA411) and the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial 988, Press 1) are open 24/7.	Applications for pre-need burial at VA cemeteries will not be processed.
	No printing of new Presidential Memorial Certificates.
	No outreach to state, county, tribal, municipal, faith-based, and community-based partners by VA Central Office.

HAVE A QUESTION? CALL US!
The one number all Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors can use to access VA resources 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year.
1-800-MYVA411 (1-800-698-2411)

In the event of a prolonged shutdown, VA will continue to review and update its plan in conjunction with the applicable legal requirements and circumstances. Please visit www.whitehouse.gov/omb/ or www.VA.gov for updated information.

Whitehouse VA Hotline

The Whitehouse VA Hotline and MyVA411 have merged. **1-800-MyVA411 (698-2411)** is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to serve veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Recipe of the Month

Send us your favorite recipes and we will select



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)

Purple Heart License Plates

HB 2062 Vehicle license tax exemption for PH veterans: Many of our members are still not aware of this benefit.



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.

Pet of the Month

Send photos to us and we will select one as the pet of the month. This is **Cheech, Patriot Sylvestre Primous's** Papillon. If you have seen Sylvestre at chapter or department meetings Cheech is his constant companion. Cheech is 8 years old. Sylvestre's greeting on correspondence is Sylvestre "a Currahee Brother" and Cheech.



one to feature each month. This is Becky Moore's (spouse of Patriot John Moore) Old Fashion Custard Pie.

- 1 unbaked pie shell (Marie Callendar's deep dish)
- 3 large eggs
- ½ cup of granulated sugar
- ¼ teaspoon of salt
- ½ teaspoon of nutmeg
- 2 & ½ cups of whole milk
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- Ground nutmeg for garnish

In a mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, granulated sugar, vanilla extract, and salt until well combined. Gradually add the whole milk and whisk until the mixture is smooth. Pour the custard filling into the prepared pie crust. Sprinkle ground nutmeg evenly over the top for a classic touch. Place the pie in the preheated oven and bake for 45-55 minutes or until the custard is set, and the top is lightly golden. Remove from the oven and allow the pie to cool completely on a wire rack.

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

Classic Vehicle of the Month

Send photos to us and we will select one as the classic of the month. This is **Patriot Jim Zimmerman's** 1964 Pontiac GTO. Jim runs a 455CI engine which was swapped out for the original 389CI & he just recently repainted the car. Jim took the car on the 2018 National Hot Rod's Cross-Country Power Tour.

