

Newsletter for SGT Michael A. DiRaimondo Chapter 750 Military Order of the Purple Heart

moph-chapter-750.com

The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation. George Washington.



From the Commander

April 12th Meeting

6:30 P.M. at the Santa Barbara at the Veterans Memorial Building on West Cabrillo Boulevard at the beach: 112 W Cabrillo Boulevard (Chapala Street); Tele. (805) 568-0020. Park on W. Mason Street one block above Cabrillo. The building does not allow pets without a doctor's authorization. We will elect incoming officers for 2018-19 so please attend and step up to run for office. It is a courtesy to let those know who are providing your meal and beverages that you and guest(s) are attending. Please let me know if you are joining us.

The March meeting was at the Blankenship Bunker, a lifetime effort in accumulating militaria. Everything was selected, collected, organized and dusted by John and Hazel Blankenship. John and Hazel, from Chapter 750, thank you for hosting us, it was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Jane and David Hieter for suppling the great pulled pork meal and thank you to the Malines for baked beans, Jim and Kitty lemon cake and Sally for potato salad.

May Meeting is our Annual Family Picnic

Jon Williams has offered his home for our Family Picnic on Saturday May 12 at his lovely home in Camarillo. The auxiliary will plan the menu. Food volunteers welcomed.

Bard Lunch the Third Thursday in April?

Weather kept us away March 22. How does April 19 work for you? Please let me know.

MOPHA Scholarship Application

Attached please find the 2018 Department of CA MOPHA Scholarship Application. The last page includes information about the Debbie Sweet Memorial Scholarship.

Ventura County Honoring Vietnam Veterans

March 27 10:30 A.M., Hall of Administration building at 800 S. Victoria. The board will honor Vietnam Veterans. Get there early, parking is a problem. Info: Mike McManus, Veteran Services Officer (805) 477-5480, Website: www.vchsa.org/veterans
Hat tip: Richard Camacho.

San Luis Obispo Traveling Vietnam Wall

The SLO Veterans Services Office needs volunteers to help at the Wall That Heals to be located at Madonna Meadows in SLO. Sign up for a four-hour shift between March 28 and April 1. Coverage is needed round the clock from March 28 through April 1.

Volunteer training is on March 28 at Madonna Meadows from 6-7 p.m. Duties include standing at the Wall directing visitors to the displays, assisting visitors in locating names on the exhibit and providing handouts. Please support The Wall That Heals by signing up as a volunteer by contacting Tabitha Castillo, 805 781 5766.

Hat tip to Hap for this info.

California MOPH and MOPHA Annual Convention

Attached is registration form and hotel information.

Dates: May 15 & 16, 2018

Hotel: Four Points by Sheraton, Bakersfield

Room Rate \$79.00 per night plus applicable taxes

Reservations must be made by April 30, 2018 to receive discounted rate

National MOPH and MOPHA Annual Convention

Spokane Washington July 30th - August 3rd, 2018

Hotel Reservations: <https://tinyurl.com/yanf8tcm>

Convention Registration for MOPH & MOPHA: <https://tinyurl.com/y9ddr54g>

Hotel \$119.00 Per Night Per Room; Registration \$55.00

Complete info: <http://www.mophnationalconvention.org>

Secondary Claim for Disability Compensation

Have a condition that was directly caused by or has gotten worse because of your service-connected disability? You can file a secondary claim for compensation. File it as a Decision Ready Claim (DRC) which means you can get a decision on your claim in 30-days.

Go to a Veterans Service Organization to determine if the DRC Program is right for you and your secondary claim. Your VSO can then help you gather and submit all relevant and required evidence so your claim is ready for us to make a decision when you submit it.

You can also file these other types of compensation claims through the DRC Program:

- Direct Service Connection Claims
- Presumptive Service Connection Claims
- Increased Disability Claims
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (for surviving spouses)

To learn more about the DRC Program contact your Veteran Service Officer. To learn the eligibility requirements, what medical evidence you need to submit, and how to find an accredited VSO at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/drc.asp>

Property Tax Relief for 100% Ratings

Register now. Contact:

Santa Barbara 568-2550; Joseph Holland
105 East Anapamu Street, Rm. 204,

Ventura 654-2181, Dan Goodwin
800 South Victoria Avenue

California Statewide Relief Bill in the Works for 100% Ratings

There is a bill in Sacramento to increase the tax relief for 100% ratings, the bill is AB 2254: Property Tax: Disabled Veterans' Exemption. This bill will increase property tax relief. Exempts the full value of principal place of residence of a qualified veteran or veteran's spouse and unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran.

If you want to support the bill, following is text you can adapt and send an e-mail or letter.
E-mail: assemblymember.burke@assembly.ca.gov

Date, 2018

The Honorable Autumn R. Burke, Chair
Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
1020 N Street, Room 167A
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Support for AB 2254 - Property Tax: Disabled Veterans Exemption.

Dear Chair Autumn R. Burke:

According to the V.A. 53,000 California veterans are 100% disabled. Veterans who return home and receive a full disability have sacrificed livelihoods to protect our country. The Board of Equalization estimates 45,000 disabled veterans qualify for the current property tax exemption, which reduces the property tax for qualified veterans who have been rated 100% disabled or are being compensated at the 100% for unemployability.

According to a 2015 Legislative Analyst Office report, an average California home costs \$440,000, about 2½ the average national home price. Though current legislation allows for a partial property tax exemption, based on the cost of an average home in California, it is evident that the disabled veterans' property tax exemption is not the severe needs of these veterans which this exemption will help.

The rising costs of home prices are driving veterans out of California. As such, we support the leadership of Assembly Member Lackey in introducing AB 2254 which would expand financial support for disabled veterans who have sacrificed much for their countrymen. AB 2254 will help ensure veterans stay in California and are not forced to move to other states.

Sign your name and with all your contact info.

Ventura County Military Collaborative Tax Assistance

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is available through April 30th. Contact Jesse Hernandez, Ventura County Human Services Agency: (805) 289-8117.

Survey that Needs You

Potentia is an internet learning platform that teaches emotional wellness skills. They are working with the V.A. to create a program for veterans. While building this application, Potentia wants to connect with Veterans who can provide design feedback. Feedback will help shape the final application. If you are interested in being a part of the project and willing to talk with our developers on an ongoing but relatively infrequent basis, we will consider you a design partner. This partnership would include providing your feedback through short surveys, brief phone conversations, and online prototypes of the application.

We value your time and guidance and would be honored to work with you. Potentia would like to offer you a \$50 Visa gift card and grant you access to our beta program, once it is released in June of 2018. Contact: Stephanie Wykoff, Head of Design, Potentia Labs, Inc. steph@potentiaapp.com, Tele. 978.204.1151

National Website Change

It is now: <http://www.mophhq.org>

Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive

We need organizers for Santa Barbara and Ventura. Step up now and planning is easier. Volunteers welcome for each planning committee.

Lastly

It looks like the Dodgers want us back this year. Simon Camarillo was not as rowdy as I imagined and so they didn't kick us out. Nothing is definite, but it looks like a night game on May 28, Memorial Day. You will be the first to know when details come in.

Chapter Meeting Schedule for 2018

April 12 – May 12 Annual Family Picnic – June 14