

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

<http://moph-chapter-750.com>



From the Commander

Next Meeting is August 11 in 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; walk through a small park toward the beach. The building does not allow pets without a doctor's authorization.

Chap. 750 WWII Member Sandy Lebman Passes On



Sandy was a T5 in Cavalry Recon. Troop with the famed 42nd Rainbow Division. He received the Purple Heart with two clusters and the Bronze Star for carrying his wounded sergeant back to camp after being fatally wounded. He was also in the first group of reconnoiters who discovered Dachau Concentration Camp on April 29, 1945. His wife Lois and Sandy were married nearly 69 years, have four children, five grandchildren & nine great grandchildren. For wonderful stories in the *Ventura Star*, go to: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/synagogue-member-recalls-liberating-dachau-ep-363659588-352090411.html>
<http://www.vcstar.com/news/ventura-man-one-of-first-us-soldiers-at-dachau-concentration-camp-ep-365076385-341656511.html>

August 7 Purple Heart Day in the State of California

State Senator Janet Nguyen is proud to announce the introduction of Senate Concurrent Resolution 159(SCR 159) which would declare August 7, 2016 as Purple Heart Day in the State of California. As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee and appointee to the Governor's Military Council, Senator Janet Nguyen is honored to join Senator Mike Morrell, author of SCR 159, in bringing forth a resolution that seeks to recognize the brave sacrifices made by honorable men and women in uniform. Purple Heart Day is on the anniversary of the creation of the Purple Heart decoration by General George Washington on August 7, 1782

Nguyen represents the residents of California's 34th State Senate District. The district encompasses parts of Los Angeles County and Orange County, including Santa Ana, Little Saigon, Westminster and beachfront communities.

Telephone Scam to Be Aware Of

Phone Number 1-352-516-2512.

They are cold calling on the behalf of MOPH and using the name of National Commander Robert Puskar in soliciting political contributions. Block the number and don't answer the phone when this number calls.

Unit 750 LAMOPH

At the July meeting the Unit voted unanimously to request a \$500 Service Welfare and Rehabilitation grant from LAMOPH Dept CA. The grant will fund a new games and supplies for a crafts program for the residents of the Veterans Home of California-Ventura. There was also discussion of ways in which the Unit could help with special needs of Port Hueneme Naval Base active duty and their families. Kitty Hurliman identified one such program for E3's and below who needed an occasional assist. The Unit voted unanimously to donate \$500 to this cause from the Unit's General Fund. The Unit also approved a \$25 donation for the LAMOPH National welfare raffle. Suzy Seydel-Pittman has generously donated \$25 to the Unit for this purpose – thank you very much Suzy!! MaryLee Maline shared ideas for fundraiser raffle items. Thoughts were also shared on items to tuck in the Chapter's Thanksgiving food baskets. A fun potluck with the Patriots followed the meeting. Thank you to Kitty and Jim for taking the lead on dinner and to all of you who helped.

On the Unit's agenda is to resume the discussion at the July meeting on the Unit support for the Chapter's Thanksgiving food baskets and ideas for fundraising to fulfill our mission of assisting Veterans. I will lead the August meeting's potluck with smoked meatloaf and potatoes. Who can help with a green salad, dessert, beverages or snack? Planning and effort go into the dinners so please let us hear in advance that you will be attending. Thank you ladies for all that you do in caring for our Patriots and veterans. Questions or ideas you'd like to share – call or email me at 805-565-3759 or ms@west.net. Sally Irving, Unit President.

Update Purple Heart Trail – Santa Barbara County

Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation reimbursed the Chapter for the cost of the sign installation which is \$2,900 and the check was deposited (there is a possible add-on charge Caltrans later). Do we want a media event and dedication ceremony? If so, it will be at Rincon Park. The chapter will have to cover expenses.

Committee Members Needed

The chapter has a food basket program. We need volunteers and worker bees. David Hieter, Hugh Clabaugh, Tony DiRaimondo and Bill Hutton have stepped up. The food basket program committee has ordered Costco Thanksgiving turkey meals.

Camarillo MilVet Expo Event

Saturday August 27; 0945-1400 at the Camarillo Community Center; 1605 Burnley Street.

The MilVet Expo is a free annual event to introduce active military, veterans and their families to emergency services, benefits, VA, counseling, legal help and family friendly fun available in Ventura County. MVE is open to all branches of the military and veterans and highlights the many free programs, opportunities, agencies and employers who assist the military and veteran community.

Veteran Free Lunch

Sign up below for your free lunch at Expo. Sponsored by Carls Jr.
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d48aeab28a46-expo>

Volunteer

Expo is staffed by volunteers. Come join us in providing a day of fun, information and camaraderie. Sign up below to volunteer.
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d48aeab28a46-volunteer>

Expo Booth

Do we want a booth at Expo? Then we need two or more volunteers to talk with expo attendees.

Who wants to volunteer?

Details: <http://www.vcmilc.org/milvet-expo.html>

The Ventura County VCMilC Legal Clinic

Next event: October 7, 2016.

Where: The Military and Veteran Free Legal Clinic is held at: National University 1000 Town Center Drive Oxnard, 5th floor, Room 502.

Free for all military and veterans, a 30-minute consultation for education and resources. The volunteer attorneys and staff donate their time at the clinic. The Legal Clinic assists with information on: DUI's, family law, credit issues, bankruptcy, wills and trusts, child support, discharge upgrades, landlord-tenant, criminal complaints, power of attorney, divorce and workers compensation.

You can seek out this information plus on-site representatives from:

Veteran Services Office: V.A. enrollment, rating appeals/upgrades, discharge upgrades, as well as state and federal benefits.

- Child support: assist with all issues and questions.
- Homeless outreach for veterans: information on immediate housing assistance.
- Financial planning and coaching.
- Public Defenders Office/Vet Court Representative: help with criminal complaints.

Make an Appointment

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d48aeab28a46-appointment/>

Download Clinic Application

http://www.vcmilc.org/uploads/6/4/1/6/64168577/mvlc_application_packet_2016.pdf

If you received a Purple Heart in Vietnam, you could be one of nine vets to win VFW's *Return to Vietnam* tour. The trip is from April 20-May 3, 2017, includes Hanoi, Saigon, Khe Sanh, Hue, Da Nang, Hoi An, Marble Mountain, Cu Chi and Tay Ninh. Airfare, accommodations and meals are included. Non-members of VFW can submit an entry form.

Entries must be received prior to December 2, 2016 and entry forms can be found in the current VFW magazine or online:

<http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/Home/2016VietnamTripForm.pdf>

Chapter Meeting Schedule for 2016

Need a ride to the meeting? Contact me. Members may be able to car pool with you. Meetings are generally on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Veterans Home of California, Ventura (805-659-7500). LAMOPH meets same time/same place as the Patriots.

Upcoming Meetings

August 11 - September 8 - October 13