

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

moph-chapter-750.com

“To care for him who shall have borne the battle...”
Abraham Lincoln’s second inaugural address March 4, 1865.

Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid.
They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.
Harry S. Truman, April 16, 1945.



From the Commander

In Lieu of Our Regular February Meeting

Finance Officer Jon Williams organized a February outing to the General George Patton Memorial Museum near Indio and Palm Springs Air Museum. Call Jon if you plan to attend: 805-216-8625. Arrive Feb. 2nd depart Feb. 4th. Jon has a reasonably priced hotel.

Itinerary: Friday Feb. 2nd arrive at hotel.

- Saturday 10-AM to noon, a docent led tour at the Palm Springs Air Museum.
- Lunch
- Saturday afternoon group caravan to General Patton Memorial Museum.
- Saturday evening reception former AF Col. Jerry Schmidt’s home, a friend of Jon’s.
- Sunday tram to snowcapped (maybe) San Jacinto and drive home.

March 8th Meeting

Thursday March 8th 6-P.M. This is a unique, generous invitation and great opportunity to visit a private lifetime collection of militaria which consists of artifacts from worldwide militaries that our hosts John and Hazel Blankenship collected for their historical significance. Such as include firearms, swords, knives, autographed portraits and other equipment such as ancient and 19th and 20th century helmets, uniforms and decorations and insignia. There are many military antiquities and military antiques. A great gift of John and Hazel who are co-founders of the Pierre Claeysens Military Foundation. A light meal will be served coordinated by Unit 750. It is a courtesy to RSVP if you wish to attend. Call me at 565-3759. The address is 1041 Camino Viejo in Montecito. 101 southbound exit is Hot Springs Road and northbound exit is Olive Mill.

Victims of Thomas Fire and Related Fires and Montecito Mudslide

MOPH California Commander Jim Anderson said National MOPH may have funding to provide to assist those who suffered damage to their home. Please contact me if you have a claim. I did tell Dept. Commander Anderson the only concern I am aware of is cleanup.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Recipients who are already receiving veterans compensation, pension and education benefits through direct deposit may change their account information by calling 877/838-2778, M-F, 7:30 to 4:50 CST or <http://www.ebenefits.va.gov>. Be prepared to provide your current and new financial institution's 9-digit routing number, your new account number and type of account (checking or savings).

VA education, compensation, pension, and survivor's benefits are paid on a monthly basis. Normally, benefits for a particular month are paid the first business day of the following month. When the first business day of the month falls on a non-business day or a holiday, VA benefits will be paid on the last business day prior to the first of the month.

You can check your latest VA benefit payments online at www.eBenefits.va.gov. Visit www.mymoney.gov and www.consumer.gov for helpful financial information.

Veteran Survivor Benefits

If you have not received the V.A. publication on survivor benefits, please come to a meeting and get a copy. This is important material. Additionally, if you do not have the V.A. form VA40-10007; Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in A V.A. National Cemetery, it was part of the December newsletter. Please contact me if you need it resent.

Ventura County Military Collaborative Tax Assistance

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) will be starting January 31st and going through April 30th. Contact Jesse J. Hernandez, Employment Services Program Manager, Ventura County Human Services Agency. (805) 289-8117. See attachment.

Panel Discussion February 10th: *The Vietnam War: What It Means for Us Today*

Saturday, February 22, 10:00 am, Rancho Campana High School, Camarillo. You, family members and friends are invited the 5th in a series of events about Vietnam service. Seating is first-come, first-served. Panelists will speak to the legacy of the Vietnam War and its impacts on our country. Q&A after discussion. Refreshments served. Panel participants: Ted Bagley, Vietnam veteran; Scott Corbett, CSU History Lecturer and Larry Hawley, Vietnam veteran. POW and PH recipient Navy Captain Charlie Plumb is invited. Information, Kathy Talley (805) 388-5312 - ktalley@cityofcamarillo.org, or www.cityofcamarillo.org.

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

California MOPH Midterm Meeting Report by SVC Steve Maline.

January 22-23 in Clovis.

- Fishing Trip, \$1,200 was approved for a northern California event at Markley Cove; may be an annual event.
- Combat Wounded Parking Signs: Commander Anderson requested that proof is needed with photos and a writeup of installed signs.
- IRS Issue: the ongoing problem will be solved with hiring a CPA firm.
- Guests: National Vice Commander, Felix Garcia, Region VI Commander Billy Weldon.
- Presentation of Gavel to Susie Pitman MOPHA.
- Sergeant of Arms, Daniel Calderon approved to replace deceased Art Horn.
- The Department's 501(c)(3) is in a problem with the IRS and to resolve problem \$1,500 was approved to hire a CPA Firm to resolve the issue with IRS.
- If chapter meeting quorum not met, phone calls to members are acceptable.
- Resolution was presented and passed by National, the LAMOPH will now be recognized as Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary, MOPHA.
- MOPH Float in Rose Parade: Question of why MOPH Members were not invited to participate in decorating the Float as it was to recognize the MOPH Order. Explanation was that it was an Odd Fellows Float. Members were not happy about the answer.
- ROTC and JROTC Program Costs. \$2000.00 was approved for the Program Award Package to recognize outstanding cadets at various levels.
- Disaster Relief Fund, fund established to assist MOPH Members as a result of disasters.
- Financial State of national MOPH is unhealthy. National had in excess of \$25-million, now we have \$5-million. Junior Vice Commander Felix Garcia addressed this issue saying that national is working to raise money.
- Annual Convention, motion to rescind location from Clovis for the annual convention to Bakersfield was approved. Convention to be held May 14-16 at Four Point Hotel.
- Sorry that more members of Our Chapter were not able to attend the Conference again.

Flu Season is still with us. Get a NO COST flu shot at a Walgreens Pharmacy.

Vaccinations are available through March 31. Veterans simply need to present a V.A. I.D. card and the photo ID. If needed, the Group ID is: VAFLU.

Calling All Artists: Veterans Day Poster Contest is underway.

Each year the Veterans Day National Committee publishes a commemorative Veterans Day poster. The poster is selected from artwork submitted by artists nationwide and is distributed to VA facilities, military installations around the world and to U.S. cities and towns. It forms the cover of the Veterans Day program at Arlington National Cemetery. 2018 marks the Centennial Commemoration of the end of World War I on November 11, 1918. The theme for the 2018 Veterans Day Poster is: *The War to End All Wars*. For details, contact the Veterans Day Coordinator: vetsday@va.gov or Veterans Day National Committee in Washington, DC 20420. The submissions deadline is April 1, 2018.

Army Medical Command - The U.S. Army is notifying veterans that they may be eligible to receive medical care if they participated in U.S. Army chemical or biological substance testing from 1942 to 1975 and have an injury or disease that they believe was proximately caused by their participation. Recently a class action lawsuit filed by the Vietnam Veterans of America required the U.S. Army to provide medical care to veterans who volunteered to contribute to the advancement of the U.S. biological and chemical programs.

California Veterans Affairs: Below is the contact information for adding names of California Vietnam Veterans who have passed away from the effects of their service in Vietnam. Thank you to Patriot Richard Camacho.

Cathy Kenny, Communications Manager
California Department of Veterans Affairs
1227 O Street, Third Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: Cathy.Kenny@calvet.ca.gov
Phone: 916-503-8091

Chapter Meeting Schedule for 2018

February 2-4 – March 8 – April 12