

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

moph-chapter-750.com



From the Commander

Next Meeting January 12, 2017: The meeting will be in Santa Barbara at the Veterans Memorial Building on West Cabrillo Boulevard at the beach: 112 W Cabrillo Boulevard (at Chapala Street); Santa Barbara CA 93101; Tele. (805) 568-0020. Park on W. Mason Street one block above Cabrillo; walk through a small park toward the beach. The meeting is at the regular day and time: 2nd Thursday at 6:00 P.M. Please respond if you intend to attend, it is simple courtesy to extend to the ladies who are contributing to the dinner and tell them you are coming. Let me know if you are coming to the meeting. Thank you to Patriot Jon Williams for providing our Christmas Dinner.

If have not attended a meeting for a while this is the one meeting to come to and hear our speaker, General William Begert USAF (Ret.). When many of us were on the ground and experiencing air support, Bill was up there looking after us, the ground troops. This is why I invited him, he respects what we were going through and I know he did his utmost to throw whatever he could to repel the enemy, he has that degree of integrity. Bill is smart, connected and well worth listening to.

Bill graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1968. During the Vietnam War, he was a forward air controller out of Da Nang Air Base. Bill flew more than 300 combat missions over Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, logging more than 875 combat hours. His last assignment in 2001 was Commander, Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii and Bill retired in 2004. The format for speaking is Bill will give his perspective on air support and we are free to ask questions. This is one meeting I do not want to miss. God bless air support. Jody, his lovely wife, will join us as well.

Unit 750 LAMOPH

I hope to see you at our January 12th meeting in Santa Barbara at the Veteran's Memorial Building. We will be joining the Patriots meeting with a special guest speaker. A potluck dinner will follow and volunteers are needed for snack, salad and desserts. Planning goes into the dinners so be kind and let me know that you are attending.

The February meeting will be a fun 750 group outing to the Nixon Presidential Library, Saturday February 11th. Mark your calendars and watch for all the details to come. I hope this is an opportunity for some of our Unit's southern members to join us in what promises to be a very fun day.

The mid-term LAMOPH Department of CA conference is scheduled for January 18-19, 2017. President Vicky Manjarrez is planning educational sessions and it is a great way to learn what are other Units are doing to lend support to our Patriots and assist Veterans. Dept. Jr. Vice MaryLee Maline will be leading the Department's raffle that benefits scholarships. If you wish to contribute an item for the raffle, please contact MaryLee or me. The scholarships are available to Members of LAMOPH or MOPH – if you or your children and grandchildren are pursuing higher education watch for more details on the program in early 2017.

National Jr. Vice Diane Petrini is leading a fundraiser for “Ways and Means” with the sale of soft, warm Pashmina scarves – a generous 28 X 70 inches with fringe at a cost of \$10. They are just the right color of purple and you may just want a couple for gifts! Send me an email or call so I can submit the Unit’s order before the Department’s meeting in January.



Our December Christmas dinner was great fun – thank you to Jon Williams for bringing delicious lasagna and salad and to all who brought beverages, snacks and desserts and decorations – all very festive and so good to have time together. Kitty and MaryLee greeted the residents of the Ventura Vet Home with snowman ornaments handcrafted from Purple Heart wine corks. A few remaining ornaments were available and the Unit is grateful for the kind donations from members of 750.



Thank you, ladies, for all that you do in supporting our Patriots and caring for all Veterans. Questions or ideas you’d like to share – call or email me at 805-565-3759 or ms@west.net. Sally Irving, Unit 750 President.

2017 Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive

As you read in the December Newsletter, the Thanksgiving Food Basket Program was a huge success and the good news for 2017 is it will be doubled in scope and reaching even more veteran families in need. Our generous donor contributed again to enable the Program to continue. Once again, we need Patriots and Ladies to step up and lend a hand organizing and executing the plan. David and Jane Hieter did a magnificent job in 2016 along with Jim Daniels and Jon Williams who coordinated with Port Hueneme. I must send a thank you to MOPH Chapter 549, Monterey, who organize food basket drives in the Monterey area and who cooperated with Dave with advice and shopping lists for food basket contents. So, thank you Jerry Pitman and John Gay of Chapter 549.

Dave and Jane came up with the idea of the Costco all-in-one turkey dinners and expanded it with side dishes, deserts and Trader Joe gift cards. All this was placed in a plastic storage bin which recipients would keep, Steve Maline came up with this idea.

Free Financial Advice

A Chap. 750 supporter and professional financial adviser, Greg Fortner, is offering Chap. 750 members answers to their financial questions over the telephone. Call Greg at 818.991.6124. Greg has offices in Westlake Village. He is not versed in V.A. disability claims.

Department of California MOPH January Conference

January 18-20 in Clovis. Reserve quickly. Info on the Website calpurpleheart.org

No Cost Flu Shots Outside the V.A.

The V.A. teamed up with Walgreens to allow all veterans in the VA healthcare system to walk into Walgreens and get a vaccination. Available through March 31. You have to present your VA ID card and a photo ID. Locate a participating Walgreens: call 800-925-4733 or use the Internet.

To Ponder

Coincidence or not?

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Equals

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Then

K+n +o+w +l+e+d+g+e

11 14 15 23 12 5 4 7 5 = 96%

H+a +r+d +w +o +r +k

8 1 18 4 23 15 11 18 = 98%

Both are important, but fall short of 100%.

BUT!

A+t +t +i+t +u+d+e

1 20 20 9 20 21 4 5 = 100%

Support the Purple Heart Service Foundation and it does not cost you one penny

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice, like the PH Service Foundation. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support PH SF by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com. About AmazonSmile and how to sign up: <http://tinyurl.com/o6v1mza>

I have been using AmazonSmile for the PH SF for several years and brought it to the floor at the MOPH convention in Las Vegas two years ago.

A second way is a car donation. What you need: vehicle title in hand, your vehicle make, model, year, condition and current location of the vehicle. This is all the Foundation needs. Then call 888-414-4483. Or go online at <http://cardonation.purpleheartcars.org> and you can donate your vehicle today in 3 easy steps:

90-Second Form: Complete the form and a representative will call you at the best time for you. Please have your vehicle title ready for quick and easy processing.

Fast & Free Pickup: Vehicle tow service will call to arrange pickup at your location at time convenient for you. You will receive a donation receipt on the spot.

Tax Deductible: If your vehicle sells for more than \$500, you will get an IRS tax receipt.

Chapter Meeting Schedule for 2017

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
January 12 – February 11 (Nixon Library) – March 9