

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

[moph-chapter-750.com](http://moph-chapter-750.com)



### From the Commander

#### March 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup> 6:00-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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### February Outing

Finance Officer Jon Williams organized the outing to the General George Patton Memorial Museum and docent led tour at Palm Springs Air Museum. Great fun for those who attended. The Air Museum was extrabodily with modern facilities and a breadth of aircraft. Jon opted to fly in a WWII P-51 and others crawled though a WWII B-17 bomber. The Patton Museum, in Chiriaco Summit opened in 1988, preserving the story of the Desert Training Center. The museum is on the site of the War II Desert Training Center. During its two years of operation, the DTC trained over a million troops in an area roughly 18,000 square miles. The training area is larger than the states of Maryland and Delaware combined. Sunday morning was the tram ride to snowcapped San Jacinto then the drive home.

#### Ventura County Military Collaborative Tax Assistance

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

#### 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.

**Visit a Veterans Resource Center at a participating public library** to learn about state and federal education, employment, housing, health, disability and other benefits that may be available to you and your family. Call your library to schedule a one-on-one consultation with trained volunteers, many of whom are veterans themselves or who have had professional experience assisting veterans, or just drop by and check out the collection of library books and other library materials selected especially for veterans.

Don't see your library listed here, contact the California Department of Veterans Affairs:  
<https://www.calvet.ca.gov/>

Or call toll free 1-844-SERV-VET for your County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO):  
<http://www.cacvso.org/>

Veteran Resources Centers are available at the following libraries:

City of Camarillo Public Library  
4101 Las Posas Rd.  
Camarillo CA, 93010  
Veterans Resource Center info  
(805) 388-5222  
<http://library.booksite.com/7382/nl/?list=CNL9>

Santa Maria Public Library  
421 S. McClelland Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
Veterans Resource Center website  
805-925-0994 ext. 2254  
<https://www.cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/library/veterans-connect-resources>

San Luis Obispo County Library Arroyo Grande Branch  
800 W. Branch St  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
Veterans Resource Center  
(805) 473-7165  
<http://www.slolibrary.org/index.php/vets>

Ventura County Library - E.P. Foster Library  
651 E. Main St.  
Ventura, CA 93001  
Veterans Resource Center website  
(805) 648-2716  
<http://www.vencolibrary.org/special-interests/veterans-resource-center>

Santa Barbara and Thousand Oaks do not have a Veterans Resource Center so use another library for information. I did inquire at both libraries, but not heard back.

**Affordable Housing for Veterans Breaks Ground near Ormond Beach Oxnard**

Soon construction will be underway for a project that will benefit veterans and their families. The project consists of five three-story buildings to be built lot a few blocks from the beach. Eight of the units will be for chronically homeless veterans, while 10-units will be for disabled homeless veterans and 21-units reserved for low income veteran families. The project has a total of fifteen 1-bedroom units, twenty 2-bedroom units and five 3-bedroom units. Each unit will have a garage and a spacious patio or balcony. Located on Saviers Road, the site is within walking distance to Southwinds Park and the project will also be 1.5 miles from Navy Base Port Hueneme. Information, please visit: [www.Manymansions.org](http://www.Manymansions.org).

**The Virtual Wall Website**

<http://www.virtualwall.org>

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. honors those who died in the Vietnam War. Their relatives and friends leave letters, poems, and photographs at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and on this Website. This Website brings the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to your home to help remember the sacrifices of the fallen and their families.

The Website has the following:

Vietnam War Casualties Listed by Home of Record.

Alphabetical by Last Name

Panels of The Wall by Date

Highest Military Awards

Indexes by Military Unit

Thank you to Art Hershey for this tip.

**New discharge upgrade tool.**

Documentation is required to support an upgrade.

<https://www.vets.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions>

**Chapter Meeting Schedule for 2018**

March 8 – April 12 – May Family Picnic: Date to be determined