

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

moph-chapter-750.com



From the Commander

October Meeting

The October 11 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 Ladies will provide a light meal and drinks. If you have questions call me at 805 565 3759.

Former Army Captain Roger Drue will attend the meeting and speak about his time as a senior officer at an US Army hospital outside Saigon. Roger will speak about the hospital system many of us experienced. Have your questions ready. Coming home Roger build a career building and running major hospitals in Oahu and in California.

Donations welcome for the Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive send checks to me:

Michael Cook - 1016 Fairway Road - Santa Barbara CA 93108-2842

Thank you to our recent generous donors:

Polly Bruskrud and Art and Gloria Petersen. You help us advance.

The New Axxess Book and App for local discounts!

Axxess shares a small per centage of sales with the chapter. I use it. Deals in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Discounts at local theaters, Monterey Bay Aquarium, L.A. Zoo, Universal Studios, Gift Certificates at places familiar to you and many more.

The 2019 Axxess Membership includes the Axxess app, available from Google Play or App Store. There are limited quantities of the books. If you have any questions about Axxess, to the FAQ's page: www.sbaxxess.com - www.axxessventura.com

President Trump Signs H.R. 6897 and S. 3479 into Law on September 29, 2018

A law which contains important provisions for veterans:

Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.

Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.

Extension of temporary expansion of payments and allowances for beneficiary travel in connection with veterans receiving care from vet centers.

In addition, this provides a permanent authority for specially adapted housing assistance for certain veterans with disabilities that cause difficulty with walking and to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses. It also supports an extension of the specially adapted housing assistive technology grant program.

Military Space-A Available for Veterans – Latest Info as of August 15, 2018

When President Trump signed into law the new National Defense Authorization Act, unknowingly, disabled veterans were granted a huge travel perk that has virtually gone unnoticed. This new perk save veterans thousands of dollars.

The Disabled Veterans Access to Space-A Travel Act, veterans with a 100% service-connected permanent disability rating can hop on any scheduled or unscheduled military flight within the continental U.S. and scheduled overseas flights operated by Air Mobility Command (AMC).

Sign Up for Space A Travel: <https://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site/>
Complete AMC Form 140, Space Available Travel Request and e-mail it to your desired AMC Passenger Terminal. The current Form 140 is at end of the newsletter. The nearest AMC Passenger Terminal are Travis AFB, Beale AFB and NAS North Island (San Diego). Option: provide all of the required passenger sign-up information in the body of the email when sending it to the terminal. Terminal info: <https://tinyurl.com/y8l8f8xf>

. Required Sign-Up Info:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Email Address | 7. Travel Status (Travel Eligibility-Category I-VI) |
| 2. Personal Info (Rank/Grade, First Middle Last Name) | 8. Leave Dates (Start-End Leave Dates) |
| 3. Service Branch (AF, Army, Marines, Navy, CG) | 9. Overseas Travel Ready Status (Have Passports/Visas etc.) |
| 4. Status (Active, Guard, Reserve, Retired etc.) | 10. Destinations (Sign-up for up to 5 overseas destinations) |
| 5. Other Travelers (Dependents) | |
| 6. Total Seats Required | |

Travel Destinations for Boating Enthusiasts with on-base I.D.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1: Kaneohe Bay MCB, HI | Hickam Harbor Marina, 808-449-5215 |
| Sailboat Rentals:, 808-254-7666 | 3: San Diego Naval Base |
| 2: Pearl Harbor/Hickam, HI | Fiddler's Cove Marina, 619-522-8680 |

Supplemental Income for Wartime Veterans

Get the Facts on Veterans Pension. The VA helps Veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income through the Veterans pension benefit. This is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to low-income wartime Veterans.

Eligibility: Generally, a Veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a wartime period to qualify for a VA Pension. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during a wartime period. In addition to meeting minimum service requirements, the Veteran must be:

Age 65 or older, OR	Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance, OR
Totally and permanently disabled, OR	Receiving Supplemental Security Income
A patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, OR	

Your yearly family income must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify for the Veterans Pension benefit. Learn more about income and net worth limitation and see an example of how VA calculates the VA Pension benefit.

Additional Pension Allowances

Veterans or surviving spouses who are eligible for VA pension and are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person may be eligible for an additional monetary payment.

How to Apply: You can apply for Veterans Pension online or download and complete VA Form 21P-527EZ, "Application for Pension". You can mail your application to the Pension Management Center (PMC) that serves your state. You may also visit your local regional benefit office and turn in your application for processing. You can locate your local regional benefit office using the VA Facility Locator

To apply for increased pension based on A&A or housebound payments, write to the PMC that serves your state and provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's report, that validates the need for an increased benefit. Your county veteran service officer can answer your questions.

Survivors Pension

The Survivors Pension benefit sometimes called Death Pension, is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service. The deceased Veteran must have met the following eligibility requirements: For service on or before September 7, 1980, the Veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, with at least one day during a war time period. If he or she entered active duty after September 7, 1980,

generally he or she must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty with at least one day during a war time period. Discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions. Your yearly family income, which must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify.

While an un-remarried spouse is eligible at any age, a child of a deceased wartime Veteran must be: Under 18, OR
Under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, OR
Permanently incapable of self-support due to a disability before age 18

Your yearly family income must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify for the Survivors Pension benefit.

How to Apply: To apply for Survivors Pension, download and complete VA Form 21P-534EZ, "Application for DIC, Death Pension and/or Accrued Benefits" and mail it to the Pension Management Center (PMC) that serves your state. You may also visit your local regional benefit office and turn in your application for processing. You can locate your local regional benefit office using the VA Facility Locator.

Beware of Scams Targeting the Elderly

There have been reports of scammers trying to take advantage of older VA benefit recipients. Learn how to protect yourself by visiting the Department of Justice's Financial Exploitation page. It's packed with resources that will help you identify and avoid scams and report cases of elder abuse. More info: <https://tinyurl.com/ybfb7t7>

You've Got More Than Just VA Looking Out for You

A variety of federal agencies offer benefits, services and support to Veterans. From federal employment, to loans and apprenticeships, to housing programs, these agencies have much to offer our military and Veteran community. Contact the agency for info. Benefits from Other Federal Agencies

Department of Education: Veterans and their dependents get guidance and in some cases education benefits, loans, loan forgiveness, grants and info about college accreditation.

Small Business Administration: training, mentoring, business preparation, government contracting information and other small business resources for transitioning Veterans.

Federal Trade Commission: Veterans with education and resources against unlawful and deceptive practices, scams and imposters and tracks consumer complaints.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: Financial education, complaint monitoring coordinating with other federal/state agencies on military consumer protection measures.

Health and Human Services: The Office of Child Support Enforcement, provides resources in assisting veterans and military families with child support issues.

Housing and Urban Development: Coordinates with federal agencies and organizations that provide veteran-related housing programs and services including helping homeless veterans find permanent housing.

Department of Labor: Provides veterans and their spouses with employment resources and expertise, such as preparing for careers and with protecting their employment rights.

Office of Personnel Management: Provides Federal employment and retirement information, an employment fair and workshop event calendar and employment related links and resources.

Social Security Administration: May expedite the processing of claims for wounded warriors or Veterans who are receiving disability compensation.

Department of Agriculture: Provides loans, grants, training, apprenticeships and employment opportunities for transitioning veterans.

Department of Justice: Legal information, resources and enforcement of federal employment, voting rights and related housing laws. Their Elder Justice initiative combats elder abuse, neglect and financial fraud.

Department of Defense: The Office of Warrior Care Policy supports wounded, ill and injured veterans recover and transition to civilian life through education and employment initiatives, internships, military adaptive sports, recovery service coordination and homeless prevention programs.

Department of Energy: Provides training programs and partnerships for Veterans interested in working with the Department of Energy or in a career in the energy industry.

Internal Revenue Service: Tax information on special credits, deductions, exclusions and rules, how to manage federal taxes. Benefits.gov offers information on benefits and services available from 17-federal agencies and organizations. I encourage you to visit their website at <https://www.benefits.gov>

Stay up to date on Veteran employment information:

Get stats delivered directly to your inbox by subscribing to the VETS monthly Veteran Employment Update <https://tinyurl.com/nxcy6mf>

Or view the latest Veteran unemployment numbers: <https://tinyurl.com/yd2taj5t>

Santa Maria Fairpark Stand Down Saturday October 20,2018 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- Registration recommended.
- Free shuttles available.
- Registration recommended
- Shuttle schedule available at

Flyer attached or go to sbcountystanddown.com

WWII Marine Patriot Maury McGuire Goes to Washington D.C.

Next month the newsletter will have a report on Maury's Honor Flight with photos. Bill Hutton donated \$500, an anonymous donor gave \$500 and Chap. 550 donated \$500; \$1,500 total for Maury to bring a required companion. For Maury's story, watch for the November newsletter. If you are interested in applying for an Honor Flight, the Chap. 750 July newsletter had all the details for the Honor Flight Veteran Application. If you need a copy of the newsletter please let me know and I will forward it to you.

September 20 Chili Cookoff

The Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation paired with Chap. 750 for a chili cookoff benefiting Santa Barbara's Navy League. Sally Irving's gastronomic talent along with PCVF co-founder Hazel Blankenship created *Pierre's Belgian-American Chili*: a 7½-pound slow smoked brisket, Belgian beer, not hot-spicy, with lots of chiles and big flavor. We lost. A winner in my book.

There were probably 13-organization entered and the winners were Highway Patrol, Department of Fish and Wildlife and Vandenberg Air Force Base. Congratulations.

The Navy League raised \$50,000. I don't know what their expenses were, but the outdoor venue was jammed with 226-ticketholders (\$15 – \$40). Valet parking was \$10/vehicle. There were several high value live auction items and sponsorships up to a \$5,000 level.

Friend of the Unit and Chapter, Debbie Berry, drove up from Simi Valley and enjoyed the evening.

Anyone in the chapter and unit interested in developing an event?



Hazel Blankenship

MOPHA President Sally Irving

Chap. 750 Next Meeting

Will be in Santa Barbara at the Veterans Memorial Building.

Monthly meetings generally are the 2nd Thursday at 6:00 P.M.

Chapter Meeting Schedule for 2018

October 11 – November 8 – December Christmas Party

SPACE-AVAILABLE TRAVEL REQUEST		INSERT HERE	
<p>This information is required for Space-Available travel registration. Upon completion, place the upper right corner of this form, and the back of your leave form into the date/time validator. Be sure to deposit one copy of this request into the box; retain a copy for the Space-A roll call. Space-A sign-up is good for a 60-day period, or when your leave expires, whichever comes first. For facsimile (fax) requests, telefax header will establish date/time of sign-up.</p>			
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY			
1. RANK/GRADE			
2. LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI	3. SEATS REQUIRED
4. TRAVEL STATUS <i>(Type of Leave)</i>			FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL:
<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY I -- Civ, Mil and Dependent on Emergency Leave			Border Clearance Documents Current? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY II -- Environmental Morale Leave (EML)			
<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY III -- Active Duty on Ordinary Leave / House Hunting			
<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY IV -- (EML) Unaccompanied Dependents			
<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY V -- Permissive TDY or TAD / Student Travel / Overseas Command - Sponsored Dependents			
<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY VI -- Retired Mil / Reserves / 100% Disabled - DAVPRM			
5. SERVICE: <input type="checkbox"/> ARMY <input type="checkbox"/> NAVY <input type="checkbox"/> AF <input type="checkbox"/> MARINES <input type="checkbox"/> COAST GUARD <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER			
6. DATE LEAVE BEGINS <i>(Active Duty Only)</i>		7. DATE LEAVE ENDS <i>(If extended, you must notify PSC before this date)</i>	
8. COUNTRY CHOICES <i>(List up to 5)</i>			
9. LIST NAMES OF DEPENDENTS TRAVELING AND TYPE OF PASSPORT <i>(US or Foreign)</i>			
<p>10. You must be on leave or pass status at the time you register for Space-Available travel and must remain in such status when awaiting and/or have been accepted for Space-Available travel. Transportation via DOD-owned or controlled aircraft cannot be for personal gain, or in connection with business of any nature. Any violation of the above could result in billing and/or punitive action.</p>			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> NOTE: BORDER CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS VARY BY COUNTRY. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR DESIRED DESTINATION, CONTACT THE NEAREST AMC PASSENGER TERMINAL FOR ASSISTANCE. </div>			

AMC FORM 140, 20180820
 Prescribed by: AMCI24-101V14

AMC COPY

SPACE-AVAILABLE TRAVEL REQUEST		INSERT HERE	
<p>This information is required for Space-Available travel registration. Upon completion, place the upper right corner of this form, and the back of your leave form into the date/time validator. Be sure to deposit one copy of this request into the box; retain a copy for the Space-A roll call. Space-A sign-up is good for a 60-day period, or when your leave expires, whichever comes first. For facsimile (fax) requests, telefax header will establish date/time of sign-up.</p>			
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY			
1. RANK/GRADE			
2. LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI	3. SEATS REQUIRED
4. TRAVEL STATUS <i>(Type of Leave)</i>			FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL:
<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY I -- Civ, Mil and Dependent on Emergency Leave			Border Clearance Documents Current? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY II -- Environmental Morale Leave (EML)			
<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY III -- Active Duty on Ordinary Leave / House Hunting			
<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY IV -- (EML) Unaccompanied Dependents			
<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY V -- Permissive TDY or TAD / Student Travel / Overseas Command - Sponsored Dependents			
<input type="checkbox"/> CATEGORY VI -- Retired Mil / Reserves / 100% Disabled - DAVPRM			
5. SERVICE: <input type="checkbox"/> ARMY <input type="checkbox"/> NAVY <input type="checkbox"/> AF <input type="checkbox"/> MARINES <input type="checkbox"/> COAST GUARD <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER			
6. DATE LEAVE BEGINS <i>(Active Duty Only)</i>		7. DATE LEAVE ENDS <i>(If extended, you must notify PSC before this date)</i>	
8. COUNTRY CHOICES <i>(List up to 5)</i>			
9. LIST NAMES OF DEPENDENTS TRAVELING AND TYPE OF PASSPORT <i>(US or Foreign)</i>			
<p>10. You must be on leave or pass status at the time you register for Space-Available travel and must remain in such status when awaiting and/or have been accepted for Space-Available travel. Transportation via DOD-owned or controlled aircraft cannot be for personal gain, or in connection with business of any nature. Any violation of the above could result in billing and/or punitive action.</p>			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> NOTE: BORDER CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS VARY BY COUNTRY. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR DESIRED DESTINATION, CONTACT THE NEAREST AMC PASSENGER TERMINAL FOR ASSISTANCE. </div>			

AMC FORM 140, 20180820
 Prescribed by: AMCI24-101V14

PASSENGER COPY

Santa Barbara County

VETERANS STAND DOWN

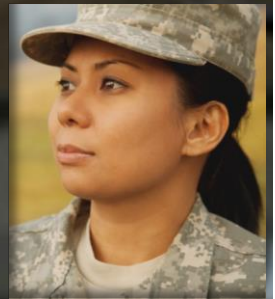
**SANTA MARIA
FAIRPARK**

Saturday

Oct. 20, 2018

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- Registration recommended.
- Free shuttles available.
- Registration form & shuttle schedule available at:
www.SBCountyStandDown.com



SERVING MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN

LIMITED TO 500 VETERANS, LEGAL SPOUSES & DEPENDENTS UNDER AGE 18

**A SAFE PLACE FOR VETERANS
GET THE HELP YOU NEED**

- Transportation provided
- Get into recovery
- Resolve legal issues
- Seek employment
- Access health services
- Connect with the community
- Get off the street
- Pets welcome: grooming/vet services
- Readjustment and crisis counseling
- On-the-spot assessment & follow-up
- Resources & enrollment
- Learn about free programs & services
- Medical screenings
- Alterations & mending

BREAKFAST • BARBECUE LUNCH • SHOWERS • HAIRCUTS • CLOTHING

To the American Veteran...you protect our freedom, we are forever in your debt.