

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 September 8 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.

Unit 750 LAMOPH

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At the August meeting the Unit voted unanimously to help fund a raffle item for the annual "Country Store" fundraiser at the Livermore VA Clinic. Thank you to Juanita Fox and Vicky Manjarrez for your leadership on this project. Thoughts were also shared on items to tuck in the Chapter's Thanksgiving food baskets and fundraising ideas. A fun potluck with the Patriots followed the meeting. Thank you to Jane for terrific cheesecake and to all of you who helped.

Please join me in congratulating Diane Petrini who was elected National LAMOPH Jr. Vice and Cheryl Perez taking on Region VI President. Diane and Cheryl are both members of Unit 49 (San Diego) and have held leadership positions with Dept. of CA. Vicky will be sharing news from the National convention soon.

Our September 8th meeting will be at the Santa Barbara Veterans Memorial Building at 6 p.m. On the Unit's agenda is pre-planning of the holiday party, leaders for October and November potlucks and discussion of ideas for fundraising to fulfill our mission of assisting Veterans. Michael and I will lead the September meeting's potluck. Kitty is bringing sodas. Who can help with a green salad, dessert, water 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.

Chapter 750 Member Richard Camacho Honored

Patriot Camacho was selected as California 44th Assembly District's Veteran of the Year Veteran of the Year. Richard is a founder of the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura. See page six of this newsletter for the newspaper story.

Veterans Crises Hotline

The VA has a Crisis Line at 800-273-8255. The VA has specially trained professionals to help. They can also refer you to local help at no cost to the veteran.

Letter from Hershel Gober, newly elected MOPH National Commander

Dear Patriots, Associate Members, LAMOPH Members, and Friends:

As you may have heard, Louisiana has been the victim of a catastrophic flood that has devastated much of the State. According to the Red Cross, it is “the worst natural disaster to strike the U.S. since Hurricane Sandy four years ago.” Thousands of residents have lost everything. At least five of our Patriot Members have lost almost everything and need our help.

Just as we move quickly to assist those in need in our local communities, so too should we assist our fellow Patriots in this time of need. At this point, all emergency supplies and necessities are being taken care of by Red Cross and other donations of goods. Tons of water, cleaning supplies and used clothing have already been donated. However, they will need assistance with other necessities of resuming normal life. Unfortunately, almost none of those affected were covered by flood insurance because this area was designated as a sheltering area when Katrina hit. Most areas were north of I-10 and I-12, which in Louisiana is basically the designated line by FEMA and insurance companies as the safe line, and flood insurance is not required.

With assistance and guidance from the MOPH National HQ, The Department of Louisiana has set up a special account and Committee to receive donations, evaluate needs, and distribute assistance to those who need it most. The Department will verify the need prior to sending any monies out, and no administrative costs will be taken out of any donated funds. The total (100%) of donations will go to Patriots in need. The Department will keep a strict accounting of who makes donations and checks will be written to Patriots and LAMOPH members on an equitable basis. The entire process will be monitored by the MOPH Leadership, the MOPH National Judge Advocate, and the MOPH Finance Officer who is tasked to ensure strict accountability. All Departments, Chapters or individuals who would like to make a donation should make their check payable to “**Department of Louisiana, MOPH.**” Checks should be mailed to **Department of Louisiana MOPH; Alton Rock; 217 Leeds Street; Slidell, LA 70461.** Each entity making a monetary contribution will get an accounting of how and where the money was spent. Please help our brothers and sisters in need!

Yours in Patriotism,
Hershel Gober
National Commander

VA's Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

The VA's Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry allow eligible Veterans and Service members to document their exposures and report health concerns online. Eligibility: Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Djibouti, Africa September 11, 2001 on, Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm, Southwest Asia Theater of operations August 2, 1990 on.

Allow 40 minutes to complete the questionnaire. Do it in one session or save it and return later. Website for questionnaire: <http://tinyurl.com/z7bwhz4>

Folds of Honor Foundation

Folds of Honor Foundation provides scholarships for spouses and children of Purple Heart recipients. See their website for details at: <http://www.foldsofhonor.org/scholarships>

Purple Heart Magazine

Submit change of address through Chapter 750. Not getting your magazine? Call or write:
MOPH Headquarters
5413B Backlick Road
Springfield VA 22151-3960 Tele. (703) 642-5360

New Column in the Newsletter Needs a New Writer:

The Chaplain's Corner. Sample: Cowardice asks, *Is it safe?* Expediency asks, *Is it politic?*
Vanity asks, *Is it popular?* But Conscience asks *Is it right?*

“And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must do it because Conscience tells him it is right.” Martin Luther King.

Survey

Dear Patriots and Ladies please take a few minutes and complete this survey about this newsletter. Your input is invaluable. Bring your completed survey to the meeting, email it to michael-cookmoph@gmail.com or mail to: Chapter 750 1016 Fairway Road; Santa Barbara CA 93108.

Rating: Zero is awful, 9 is good.

1. How interested are you in the Chapter's newsletter?
From 0 to 9
 2. How important is the newsletter?
From 0 to 9
 3. Are issues covered important to Chapter and Unit members?
From 0 to 9
 4. Overall, how satisfied are you with the newsletter?
From 0 to 9
 5. What, if any, section(s) should be removed from the newsletter?
From 0 to 9
 6. What, if any, information or sections would you like to
7. see included in the future?
 8. How satisfied you are with the following items:
 - The practicality and usefulness of the information in the newsletter?
From 0 to 9
 - The overall content?
From 0 to 9
 - The timeliness of the information?
From 0 to 9
 - The layout of the newsletter?
From 0 to 9
 - Your ability to submit information or articles in the newsletter?
From 0 to 9

You are currently receiving this newsletter in hard copy; please contact me if you have email. If so we will send the e-mail newsletter and flash notices in-between. The goal is to reduce costs and put those same dollars to better serving our fellow veterans.

Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation for the Santa Barbara Granada Theater Events

The cost is \$10 for theater events and \$5 for the movie series. Let me also know if you want a ticket(s) and / or need assistance at the theater.

All requests must be received by me before August 30.

Date & Time Performance

9/10/16 8:00 PM Chris Botti Granada Theater Concert Series
 9/11/16 3:00 PM El Rey del Barrio Cine en Domingo Film Series
 9/12/16 7:00 PM In Plain Sight Movies that Matter
 9/13/16 7:00 PM Stop Making Sense Granada Theater Film Series
 9/26/16 7:00 PM The Man with the Golden Arm Elmer Bernstein Memorial Film Series

10/15/16 8:00 PM Beethoven 9 SB Symphony
 10/16/16 3:00 PM Beethoven 9 SB Symphony
 10/17/16 3:00 PM Say Amen Somebody Movies that Matter
 10/22/16 7:30 PM An American Tango State Street Ballet

11/4/16 7:30 PM Carmen Opera Santa Barbara
 11/6/16 2:30 PM Carmen Opera Santa Barbara
 11/11/16 8:00 PM Vocalosity Granada Theater Concert Series
 11/13/16 3:00 PM Macario Cine en Domingo Film Series
 11/19/16 8:00 PM Piano Favorites Saturday SB Symphony
 11/20/16 3:00 PM Piano Favorites Sunday SB Symphony
 11/21/16 7:00 PM The Letters Movies that Matter
 11/26/16 3:00 PM Peter & the Wolf SB Symphony
 11/29/16 7:30 PM Broadway Christmas Wonderland Theater League
 11/30/16 7:30 PM Broadway Christmas Wonderland Theater League

Chapter 750 is Live on eBay.

Have anything to donate and we'll put it on eBay. All we need is an accurate description and digital photos that accurately depict the item.

"Proud to Be an American," contemporary fine print is our first listing, thanks to Patriot Tony Dean. It is by Camarillo artist J.J. Prescott. See the photo on the next page.

We'll put anything on eBay if you think it will sell. But you still have to store it until it sells.

Local Services for Veterans Santa Barbara County

Veterans Service Officer, Santa Barbara	Benefits Assistance	Joe Fletcher (805) 681-4500
Veterans Service Officer, Santa Maria	Benefits Assistance	Rhonda Murphy (805) 346-7160
Veterans Service Office, Lompoc	Benefits Assistance	Arlyn Sandoval (805) 737-7900
Santa Barbara VA Outpatient Clinic	Medical Assistance	(805) 683-1491
Santa Maria VA Outpatient Clinic	Medical Assistance	(805) 354-6000
Employment Assistance	Frank Campo	(805) 588-1006
VA HUD-VASH Housing Issues	Michael Ulloa	(805) 705-0350
Dream Foundation Veterans Dreams	Kristy Raihn	(888) 437-3267
Congresswoman Capps	Wendy Motta	(805) 730-1710



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
September 8 - October 13 – November 10