



Military Order of the Purple Heart & Auxiliary

March 2019

Department Commander

Special points of Interest:

- ♥ Department Commander
- ♥ Officer articles
- ♥ Grayling convention registration information
- ♥ Deadline for next newsletter
May 20th, 2019

Patriots,

It's that time again for a Newsletter and I have a lot to share.

I want to tell you about two of my good friends from High School, we did have the opportunity to Visit the Traveling Wall in Howell Township. I met up with Ron Eckhout and Fred Radloff. Both served in the Military, Ron in the Marines with two Purples Hearts (I Corps Vietnam Veteran)

and Fred was in the Navy. Since then my good friend Fred lost his Battle with Cancer. It was special to have been with Fred before he would be at Parade Rest with out any more sickness or pain. (Lt to rt) me, Fred & Ron E)



Those of you that have experienced the Annual VN Veterans Reunion in Kokomo, Indiana, can attest to why it's called "The Healing Field". One of these years you might like to take a 3 or 4 day camping trip on the campgrounds or for others that are not able to camp there are hotels. Just a little 'heads up' if you decide on that, make your reservations early. It never surprises me when I see Thousands of Vietnam Veterans together in one place. *Continued*



Dept Commander cont.



(Kokomo cont.) Since the VN Veteran numbers are falling at a fast rate, this Healing Field will be turned over to the Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom Veterans. After all is said and done, it's still a Healing Field for all Veterans. Kokomo is genuine and a place all veterans should visit.

On a lighter note my wife, Janet and I did some Bingo for Debby Weaver during their get away for a few months. Janet said she would give it a try. After one dry run with Debby at the Ann Arbor V.A. Hospital, she told me that when Debby returns, she would like to give her a helping hand, only if Debby says it's okay :-)



On Veterans Day Janet and I met with Sam at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Honoring our Veterans. It was a very cold day as you can see by the Pictures that I took at the Event. There was a hand full of Dignitary's that gave our Veterans an inspiring message. I must say, it was good to get out of the cold and the warmth of my car. There was a meal provided at the end of the ceremony at a Local Restaurant.

Dept Commander cont.

In November I went with Janet (MOPH) (MOPHA) for a dinner Meeting for Chapter 459. It was a great meeting and it was also good fellowship with fellow Patriots and their families. At this meeting our grandson Brendan was awarded a \$500 Scholarship. This year is his second year at U of M University, and Brendan committed to keep up his Grades. He was brought up in a family of very smart mother and father.



In January there was a Fisher House Presentation from the Detroit Tigers Foundation, it was a very nice presentation. Patriots, I don't know the names of individuals in the photo, but if you are a Loyal Fan of the Detroit Tigers, you may recognize their faces better than I could. The VFW had a big showing at this event, along with a room full of other guests at the V. A. John D. Dingell Hospital.



There are a few more events I will be attending and one of those will be the JACKSON, MICHIGAN JROTC MILITARY BALL in April. If there is any other events between now and our Convention, I'll save it until then.

It's been a great year as Commander, and I would like to thank all of you that have given your support in many different ways. You have served well and I'm assured you all will be able to give your individual reports as well. So, until we meet again at our Convention in May, be safe. I can't tell you enough how much I appreciate being part of making Michigan MOPH the best in the Nation.

Ronnie Gainer, Department Commander
Department of Michigan



Dept Sr Vice Commander

One of the most enjoyable things I did this year for the MOPH was the trip I took to the U.P. with Sharon Paul, Aux President, Ron Gainer our Commander, his wife Janet and last, but not least, my wife Bobbie. They say three's company, four's a crowd, but for us, five was just right.

It all started by renting a car in Battle Creek, we drove to Marshall and picked up Sharon Paul. From there we drove to Jackson and picked up Ronnie and his wife Janet where he took over the wheel and drove and drove and drove. Since I don't like driving it suited me just fine. We set up an arrangement to share the expenses where I paid for the car and Sharon and Ronnie paid for the gas. Everything worked out just in time. After a good 5 hours of driving we arrived at Marquette in the U.P. where Dale and Bonnie LaPalme had arranged a Motel for us. They were absolutely the best host and hostess any one could have wanted for this trip.

The next day we started out at the Jacobetti Home for Veterans where we were met by Bonnie LaPalme and received a full tour of the place which I thought was very educational. Afterwards, we drove to Iron Mountain V.A., where we were once more met by Dale and Bonnie. After a meeting there with the director and all our questions being answered, we received a interesting tour of the facility with the last stop being at the facilities veterans store. I bought a jacket there that I've become very fond of. After that we went to eat at a Mexican Restaurant across the street from the Hospital.

Bob Eaton, Sr Vice Commander

Dept Jr Vice Commander

Dear patriots

Hope everyone had great Christmas and New Year. My family and I spent holidays down south, weather was 70 degrees.

Conversing with some Texas and Indiana Veterans this year sounds like the same song and dance getting harder on disability increases and getting in for appointments less than 30 days.

Veterans coming back home are getting in within a few days—that's ok with me. My schedule for this year has been filling fast. I might need to cut back on few. Sending my very best for the Order in coming years.

God Bless

Alex Valenzuela

Dept Adjutant

Fellow Patriots,

As many of you were informed at the Fall Convention in Grayling, Your Election and Finance reports are due before March 31, 2019. Many of you normally do not meet during the winter months, but can have a conference phone meeting. National has made the announcement of the current reports being required by the above date. We all should make every effort to comply. The forms are online now. If you have any problem please give me a call.

Some chapters, 18, 459, 799 and 1818 have their I.R.S. 990-N due now, because your fiscal year begins in January. The balance of the chapters start coming due in July of 2019. If you all enjoy the grant funds from the Department of Michigan, please make sure your reporting is complete, have a member at both conventions and this year requires a scholarship to be given away in your community and the amount of the scholarship and individuals name must appear in the chapter written report to me by May 1, 2019.

Ron Knapp P O Box 150 Six Lakes, MI 48886 231-348-8331

Department President

Auxiliary members,

It's been a crazy, extra cold and extra snowy winter so I'm extremely grateful that I did my travel and visits during the summer months. I am really looking forward to spring this year.

The time to get your reports completed and out to the Department Chairs is fast approaching. From there each Department Chair will complete their report for submitting to National. I will have reports and Chair information in my next General Orders to help assist in getting those done.

While we are all waiting to thaw out here, please consider helping with one of our committees. We are still in need of help in the Hospitality room and at registration. To date, we have Terri and Chris on Hospitality and Debby on Registration. If you can help with one of those please let me know. Thank you in advance for volunteering for one of those.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Grayling. Please join us. See pages 6-7 for information.

Sharon Paul, President
Department of Michigan

VA Announces Top Priority for Purple Heart Recipient Claims

WASHINGTON – Veterans awarded the Purple Heart medal for wounds in combat will receive top priority for their claims with the Veterans Affairs Department, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie announced Tuesday.

Beginning in April, veterans with the Purple Heart medal will be placed in the department's top-priority category for disability benefit claims, along with Medal of Honor recipients and those with severe, service-related disabilities.

"I will be announcing that for those who hold the Purple Heart, the recognition of wounds taken in battle, that we will now place those who hold that decoration at the front of the line when it comes to claims before the Veterans department," Wilkie told a House Appropriations Committee hearing.

Veterans with Purple Heart medals are now assigned to the third of eight priority groups. The third group includes former prisoners of war, and those with a service-connected disability of between 10 percent and 20 percent.

Purple Heart recipients are exempt from copayments for their medical care, according to the VA. "The VA's mission is to take care of America's wounded, ill and injured servicemen and women," said Joe Davis, a spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "Despite some questions regarding implementation, the VFW sees this as VA honoring its assigned mission by ensuring those who shed blood defending our nation receive priority service."

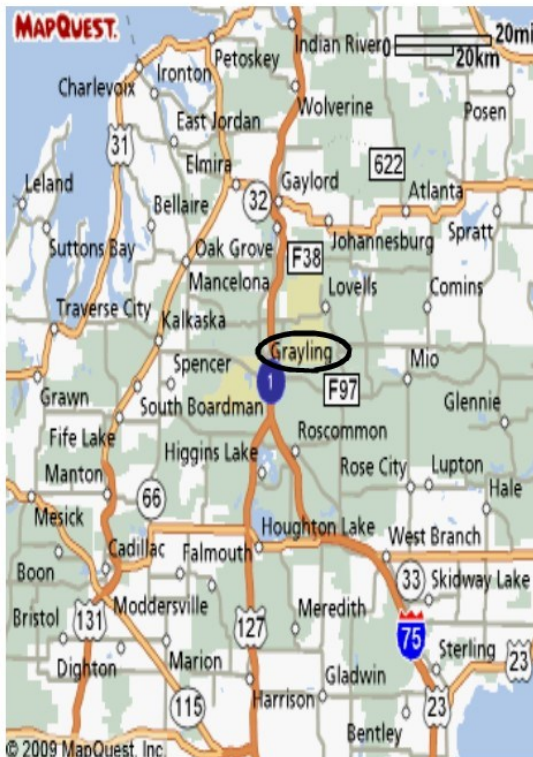
The Purple Heart is the oldest U.S. military decoration. General George Washington awarded the first version to wounded soldiers in the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

The Pentagon does not maintain a record of the number of troops who have received a Purple Heart medal, according to a report by the Congressional Research Service in January. The report cites estimates of more than one million by military historians.

*Military Order of the Purple Heart
Department of Michigan
84th Convention*



*Please join us May 17 & 18, 2019
Hosted by the
Department of Michigan
Auxiliary*



Convention Location

**Ramada Inn
2650 I-75 Business Loop
Grayling, MI 49738**

Room Rate \$81.00 including taxes

Visit their website at
www.ramadagrayling.com for
more Hotel information

*For Group Rate, call
(989) 348-7611 (code Purple Heart)*

Reservation deadline April 28, 2019

*All rooms are non-smoking
Pet rooms available upon request*

*Directions from the South (North Bound on I-75): I-75
Exit 254 then immediately after off-ramp on left. Directions from the North (Southbound on I-75) take exit 259
(North Down River Road) Turn right then left onto Mich-
igan Avenue (about 1/2 mile) Go straight thru 3 lights
about one mile and the Ramada Inn will be on your
right.*

Hospitality Room will be available each evening

Registration \$10—Banquet \$30

Deadline for Registration & Banquet April 28, 2019

Make check payable to MOPHA Department of Michigan, c/o Tammy Reilly,
4520 West Jefferson, Ecorse, MI 48229

If you have questions, please contact Jan at (231) 881-0735
or by email at jknapp@purpleheartmi.com

Department of Michigan 84th Convention Registration Form

Convention Location

Ramada Inn, 2650 I-75 Business Loop

May 17 & 18, 2019

Deadline for registration and banquet is April 28th, 2019

Name

Title

Chp/Unit #

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Registration: \$10.00 per person \$ _____

Banquet: \$30.00 per person \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Remit total to MOPHA, Department of Michigan, c/o Tammy Reilley,
4520 West Jefferson, Ecorse, MI 48229

Department of Michigan 84th Convention Advertisement Form

Convention Location

Ramada Inn

May 17 & 18, 2019

Deadline for ads is April 28, 2019

Full page \$100.00 ♥

Half page \$50.00 ♥

Quarter page \$25.00 ♥

Business Card \$10.00 ♥

Ad Name (Chapter/Unit/Company/Individual) _____

Contact Person (if needed) _____ Ph# _____

Check # _____ Total amount \$ _____ Ad size _____

Remit total with Copy Ready Advertisement to MOPHA, Department of
Michigan c/o Tammy Reilley, 4520 West Jefferson, Ecorse, MI 48229