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GILA COUNTY - DISTRICT II
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



February 26th, 2015

Gila County
The Honorable Michael Pastor
1400 East Ash Street
Globe, Arizona 85501

Re; Purple Heart County Proclamations

Dear Sir,

As State Commander of the "Military Order of the Purple Heart", I recently addressed the "County Supervisors Association of Arizona" and requested that each County in Arizona proclaim itself as a "Purple Heart County" in an effort to designate Arizona as the first "Purple Heart State".

On February 18th, 2014 the "Coconino County Board of Supervisors" officially became Arizona's first county to become a "Purple Heart County".

It is our hope that you also will pursue this endeavor and honor your distinguished citizens who proudly have been awarded the "Purple Heart Medal".

Our goal is having all of Arizona's Counties signed on for an announcement by the Governor on Memorial Day 2015.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank You for Your Time and Consideration.

Sincerely,

Billy Weldon, State Commander

Military Order of the Purple Heart
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Cc; MOPH Department of Arizona
County Supervisors Association of Arizona
MOPH Chapter 793 Clerk

Military Order of the Purple Heart



Fact Sheet January 2013

The Order's Annual Operating Budget is approximately \$9.75 million of which approximately \$7 million goes to support the Service Program. The majority of the funding is received from the MOPH Service Foundation through either restricted or unrestricted grants. The Service Foundation receives their money through various fund raising activities, such as thrift stores and a vehicle donation program. The Order has a number of national programs which are described below:

National Service Program (NSP)

1. The NSP operates a national network of 77 offices from Guam to Puerto Rico. Over 73,000 veterans and dependents receive expert assistance in obtaining well deserved benefits from the VA from MOPH's Service Staff composed of approximately 140 trained and accredited National Service Officers (NSOs), managers and assistants. In addition to its paid staff, the Order has a dedicated corps of Department and Chapter Service Officer volunteers who also provide assistance to veterans.
2. During the 12 months of FY 2012, MOPH NSOs obtained nearly \$298 million in VA benefits for their clients, submitted over 21,000 claims to the VA, processed 272 appeals, appeared at 170 hearings, and made over 2700 outreach visits to Vet Centers, Hospitals and MOPH chapters. These numbers do not reflect the contacts and visits made by our volunteer Department and Chapter Service Officers.
3. The MOPH Service Program also provides expert legal opinions and representation for veterans before the Board of Veterans Appeal (BVA) and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). MOPH is one of only four Veteran Service Organizations which provide appellate service before the CAVC. And only MOPH represents any veteran regardless of membership or affiliation. The MOPH does not accept government funds for any case brought to appeal.
4. When not assisting veterans directly, the National Service Officers are required to attend local VA training, successfully complete the MOPH On-the-Job Training Program and one week of annual training in order to maintain their accreditation.
5. The MOPH is proud of its in-house automated veterans' case management system, VCMS. Its web-based client database; automated forms and reports provide for rapid client response, and excellent case oversight.

Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)

1. The Hallmark of the MOPH funded activities is our superb VAVS program which assists Veterans in VA facilities, State Veteran operated Homes (SVH) and those veterans that are home bound. These support programs are funded by our MOPH Service Foundation with Service, Welfare and Rehabilitations grants provided to each of our Departments. With these funds we are able to obtain clothing, personal hygiene items and support outings to sporting events, etc. to veterans.
2. The Order has volunteers serving our veterans hospitalized throughout the country; these volunteers donate their time freely at VA Facilities, SVH and, in some cases, in the Veteran's home. In 2012, the Order logged in more than 138,950 hours at over 100 sites. This is equivalent to 68 full time employees (FTE), at a savings of over \$3,023,552 in salaries.
3. MOPH completed its fourth year of awarding Student Volunteers' scholarships. These youth come from all walks of life; they take time out from their studies and activities to bring sunshine into our veterans' rooms and lives. They provide new ideas, methods and boundless energy to our VAVS program.

Americanism

1. MOPH provides materials and Member volunteers to visit classrooms and civic organizations nationwide wherein our Members tell of their experiences in the US Armed Forces, providing historical perspective to world events.
2. Employment opportunities for veterans is made through our association with State and Federal Job Fairs and Programs. In conjunction with the VA, the Department of Labor and the Small Business Administration, MOPH lends support and sponsorship to a wide range of Veteran Employment Initiatives which has led to the hiring of numerous OIF/OEF Veterans.
3. In 2012, the MOPH Scholarship Program awarded 83 scholarships, valued at more than \$250,000. These grants went to recent Purple Heart recipients, their spouses, and to children and grandchildren of MOPH Members, including those Service Men/Women Killed in Action (KIA).

Legislative

1. The Order maintains a constant presence on Capitol Hill voicing its position on numerous legislative issues concerning veterans and the military. The Order maintains membership in many veterans' coalitions to help bring forth a united stance on important legislative issues.
2. The Order has been the lead Veterans' Organization on several legislative issues; one most notable has been the DoD regulation awarding the Purple Heart to POW's who died in captivity.