

# Department of Minnesota

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## Calendar Events

2011

- Feb 14<sup>th</sup>                      Scholarship Deadline
- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>                      George Washington Birthday
- Apr 26-28                      Purple Heart Hand in Hand  
   Branson, MO
- May 25-26                      Department Convention  
   Marriot Minneapolis West  
   9960 Wayzata Blvd  
   St. Louis Park MN 55426
- Aug 7-11<sup>th</sup>                      National Convention  
   Scottsdale, Arizona

## Department Officers 2011-2012

Commander	William Lilledahl
Sr. Vice Commander	Mark Browne
Jr. Vice Commander	Charles A. Jones
Adjutant	Robert Connor
Finance Officer	Larry German
NEC	Wally Lind
Alt NEC	Gary Kinser
Chaplain	Richard L. Jenkins, Sr.
Sgt-at-Arms	Obed Keanaaina
Judge Advocate	Harrinton C. Powers
Inspector	Richard L. Jenkins, Sr.
Americanism	Timothy W. Trebil
Dept. Service Off.	Mark Browne
Welfare Officer	Russell A. Leighton
Legislative Officer	Robert Connor
Historian	David Meyers
Chief of Staff	William A. Wroolie



## Auxiliary Officers 2011-2012

President	Betty Peck
Sr. Vice Pres	Kathy Kinser
Jr. Vice Pres	Lorraine Irmen
Secretary	Miriam Holtan
Treasurer	Pat Capistrant
Chaplain	Sheryl Osburn
Historian	Gloria German
Sgt-at-Arms	Paula Case
Patriotism	Karen Hann
VAVS	Lorraine Irmen



# Military Order of the Purple Heart & Ladies Auxiliary Department of Minnesota

Volume 12 Issue 1

Editor Paul Spyhalski (Assoc. Member)

January 2012

## Commander's Column

By Bill Lilledahl, Department Commander



Happy New Year.

The last few months for me have been very busy. Some of the major events I have attended include the following:

Junior Vice Commander Chuck Jones and I attended the grand opening ceremony of the new Veterans Clinic in Ramsey. There were quite a few dignitaries present including Mr. Kleinglass from the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Al Franken and a few others.

Then there was the fall conference "Hooray." We finally put to rest the who, what and where of the \$2,000.00. It was donated to the Polytrauma Unit at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. The check for \$2,000.00 was presented to Mr. Kleinglass. At the presentation were myself, Bob Connor, Mark Browne, Chuck Jones and Obed Keanaaina.

Back on November 17<sup>th</sup>, Mark Browne and I attended a Vietnam War presentation put on by Chapter 5555 from Winona. They did two presentations that day, one in the Anoka Ramsey Community College and the second in the afternoon in Cambridge, MN. First they show a short film followed by the seven veteran speakers. After each speaker, they took questions from the audience. These seven veterans do what I call a "bang up job."

I want to thank each and every one of them and they put a lot of hours and energy into this. I am enclosing their names so you will all know who they are.

Richard Lande    David Meyers    Gene Barum  
Gordy Nelson    Arlyn Olson    Steve LaValley  
Richard Holdorf

W. Lilledahl  
Dept. Commander

## President's Column

By Betty Peck, LAMOPH President

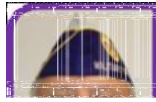
At the Fall conference the LAMOPH focused on how the auxiliary can best help our veterans. We discussed the best use of the money raised at this year's National Convention. We voted on how some of this money should be used. The first was to donate an extra \$50.00 to each of Minnesota's Veterans Homes. Next we discussed how else we could best use the money. One idea was to donate some money to the World War II Freedom Flight Chaperone fund. This would be to help pay for chaperone flights so they could attend with their veteran. Another idea was to donate to the Adult Day Care for the veterans, perhaps where the money could be best spent. The final idea was to also donate to the Central Lakes College Veterans Resource center located in Brainerd, MN. We will vote on these suggestions at the Minnesota MOPH/LAMOPH spring convention in May 2012.

Recently a meeting was held at the Central Lakes College Veterans Resource Center to discuss how to best help the veterans and their families that utilize the center. In attendance were myself Betty Peck and my husband Edgar, Kathy Marshik the *Veterans Resource Center Coordinator*, Don Pfeffer a veteran and also a *teacher at the CCL*, William Wroolie *MOPH*, Steve Rosenow *DAV*, and also Karen Rosenow *DAV Auxiliary*. Don Pfeffer stated that they do have emergency funds for gas cards and personal items. Don stated that if the veteran needs these emergency funds they must provide some community service in exchange. I think this is a very good idea. It is important to get the younger folks involved in the community. We are planning another meeting after the holidays.

What a wonderful year this has been for us in Minnesota. What a spectacular and first rate National Convention we had! (cont. p. 4)

## Adjutant's Corner

By Bob Connor Department Adjutant



This edition won't get out until the tail end of the holidays but let us all be mindful of the troops that are far from their loved ones during the holidays. Almost all Purple Heart Recipients missed a birthday, Easter or a Christmas. As members of our Order we have as one of our principles the value of fraternity. Let us make every effort to show this fraternity to our fellow members. Whenever possible attend the visitation and funeral of our deceased patriots. The funeral ritual in our by-laws is a very sincere and touching ceremony. I would urge Chapters to do a practice ceremony at a Chapter meeting so all can become familiar with it and maybe even determine a team to be available and let all members know to include the request for a service in their funeral plans.

This month the Chapters that complied with all the requirements received a check for their share of the life membership income. We have one of the lowest life membership fees of all organizations. Our dues should not be a deterrent to joining. We are having another banner year of membership growth and I hope all Chapters will continue that effort. As we go forward the numbers of post Desert Storm wounded are nowhere near the over age 60 recipients. So again finding and recruiting the OIF and OEF wounded is crucial to the viability of our organization in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In Minnesota the legislature meets for a shorter term in 2012. Also all legislators and members of Congress must stand for election. Please be alert to the candidate's views on veteran's legislation. With a high unemployment rate and many homeless veterans more needs to be done to improve opportunities to the one per cent of our country that have volunteered to serve in the Armed Forces.

Our 2012 Department Convention site and date have been selected. See the calendar of events for more information. Lastly I want to thank Paul Spyhalski, an Associate member of Prairie Defenders Chapter for his fine work as editor of this newsletter.

A prosperous and Happy 2012 to all of you.

## Chapter Meetings

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### Nels Wold Chapter 5

Commander Rock Marcone (651) 792-2421  
4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month except Jun, Jul and Aug at South St Paul VFW Post #295 on Concord Street at 10:30 AM

### Clayton Carmichael Chapter 8 and Unit

Commander Tim Trebil (763) 476-0081  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 10:30 AM each month at Hopkins VFW on Shady Oak Road (except July and August)

### Duluth Chapter 56

Commander Brad Bennett (218) 722-4589  
Last Monday of each month at 1:00 PM except July and August at Perkins, 1301 Miller Trunk Hwy, Duluth

### McComas-Lunde Chapter 194

Commander Alfred E. Dickey (218) 947-3096  
4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month at 10:00 AM at the Senior Center located at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Kingwood in Brainerd.

### Twin City Chapter 268 and Unit

Commander Obed Keanaaina (952) 440-7052  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month except July and August at 10:30 AM at the Richfield VFW Post 5555 located at 6715 Lakeshore Drive

### St Cloud Chapter 308

Commander Joey Errington (320) 291-8500  
4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month at 10:00 AM at Granite City Brewery; 3945 2nd Street S. in St. Cloud

### C. Lloyd Beck Chapter 745

Commander Syd MaClean (218) 402-0195  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, March – November at 10:30 AM at the 'In Their Own Words' Veterans Museum; 805 Main; Perham, MN

### Prairieland Defenders Chapter 807

Commander Mark Slama (507) 234-5601  
First Saturday of every other month (i.e. Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct) at Holiday Inn in New Ulm. Breakfast at 9:00 and meeting at 10:00 AM.

### North Suburbs Chapter 987 and Unit

Commander Charles Jones (763) 780-7170  
Second Saturday each month at 10:00 AM at Fridley VFW Post, 1040 Osborn Road, Fridley, MN

### Red Wing Chapter 1977

Commander Robert Snitgen (651) 565-2163  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 9AM at Liberty's Café, 303 W Third Street, Red Wing

### Winona Chapter 5555

Commander Dick Lande (507) 429-8200  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 7:00 P.M. at Winona Veterans Center, 302 E Sarnia St. Winona

## David Srock and Derek Farwell

### MOPH National Service Officers

Bishop Henry Whipple Bldg.

1 Federal Drive, Room 183 A

St. Paul, MN 55111

612 970-5667

FAX 612 726-1448

David.srock@va.gov or Derek.farwell@va.gov

## President's Column (cont).

At this time of the year I ask you all to remember all the veterans and service men and women that are serving for our country and can not be with their families. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

God Bless America and all our Veterans.

Yours in Patriotism,

Betty Peck, LAMOPH President



Although the details so far are few, the potential for good times are great. Branson, MO, always provides great vacation opportunities but this one is unique for combat wounded veterans. The dates for this year's Hand in Hand are April 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Almost all events are free for combat wounded veterans, including a one of its kind fishing tournament. In year's past, fishing has been from pontoon boats with all equipment and licenses provided, including commercial guides. Spouses generally pay a nominal fee for events such as the fish fry.

Past years have also included opening entertainment and a fish fry. Last year included the film premiere of the "Last Ounce of Courage" and Purple Heart Motorcycle Run.

For more information on this great event, check back to <http://veterans.branson.com>

### Scholarship Deadline

The Scholarship application package has been posted to the national website. At the website, select "Programs" and then "Scholarships."

In order to be eligible, the applicant must be an active member of MOPH; a direct descendant, spouse or widow of an active member of the MOPH; or a direct descendant, spouse or widow of a veteran killed in action or died of wounds and never had the chance to join the MOPH. Scholarship applications must be **received** by close of business on February 14, 2012.

Help support YOUR newsletter – send YOUR donation of \$25 or more to: MOPH Booster Club  
134 Veterans Service Building  
20 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
St Paul, MN 55155

(Please write your Chapter or Unit# on YOUR check!)

Duane J. Schinn	#56	11-Dec
Richard & Laura Johnson	#1977	11-Dec
Jimmy & Carol Stienberg	#745	11-Dec
Helen Volz	#268	11-Dec
Ken & Lettia Schlasinger	#8	12-Feb
Thomas Homan	#268	12-Feb
Neil & Kathleen Prochnow	#8	12-Feb
Harry & Gaye Klyve	#194	12-Feb
Paul & Christine Caven	#5	12-Apr
Larry & Gloria German	#987	12-Apr
Roger Durgin	#1977	12-Apr
Damus A. Matros	#194	12-Jul
Robert Dressel	#268	12-Jul
Bill & Susan Cochrane	#268	12-Jul
John F. Kelly	#5	12-Jul
Ervin M. Golson	#268	12-Jul
Mary J. Pavlik	#268	12-Jul
Mary Jean Wright	#5	12-Jul
Harry L. Burke	#268	12-Jul
Russ Solberg	#56	12-Jul
Joe Jeanette	#56	12-Jul
Francis & Mary Lou Smith	#268	12-Jul
Irene Kaempfer	#268	12-Jul
Judy Kaempffer	#268	12-Jul
Sharon Carlton	#8	12-Jul
Burton & Audrey Fisher	#268	12-Oct
Pat Murphy	#8	12-Dec
Duane J. Schinn	#56	12-Dec
Vincent Shields	#268	12-Dec
Steven & Marjory Sagstetter	#5	12-Dec
Donald & Karen Thompson	#268	12-Dec
Adeline Kohlman	#268	12-Dec
Joseph J. Markovich	#268	12-Dec



## George Washington Birthday

The logo of the Order references the year 1782. On August 7<sup>th</sup> of that year, General George Washington issued the following order: “The General ever desirous to cherish virtuous ambition in his soldiers as well as to foster and encourage every species of Military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth, or silk, edge with narrow lace or binding.”



With this Order, General Washington established the Badge of Military Merit. On the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of General Washington’s birth (Feb. 22, 1932), the War Department issued General Order #3 establishing the Purple Heart in honor of General Washington’s memory and military achievements.

A group of patriot recipients of the Medal organized and incorporated the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The object of the Order is to perpetuate the memory of our first Commander, General George Washington; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our honored dead; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws.

Each chapter is encouraged to observe his birthday in some way. This year, the Department of Minnesota will not be hosting a statewide dinner.



### Mark Your Calendars

The 2012 Department Convention will be held at the Marriot Minneapolis West (9960 Wayzata Blvd., St. Louis Park, MN) May 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Cell Phones For Soldiers

Cell Phones for Soldiers is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing deployed and returning troops cost-free methods to communicate with family while serving in the United States military. In addition to cash donations, they use the proceeds of recycled cell phones to pay for calling cards.

You can individually donate your cell phones, conduct a one-time collection fair, or organize long term collection effort. For more information, you can visit the Cell Phones for Soldiers website. MOPH also benefits by receipt of calling cards from this program.

For MOPH to receive credit for your submissions, your Chapter should register. In order to register, go to the MOPH website ([www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org)), pass your cursor over the “Program” link and click on the “Service Program” drop down link. Once on the Service Program page, scroll down and click on the “Cell Phones for Soldiers” link. Once on the “Cell Phones for Soldiers” website, click on “Donate a Gently Used Phone,” click on “All Other Visitors” (red block at bottom), click on “4 or more” under the “Select” drop down. From this new page, “please click here” in response to the question “Would you like to become a Cell Phones for Soldiers Collector?” and follow the instructions for registration.

You can also become an official drop-off site or collection drive or download shipping labels, collection box artwork or flyers by clicking on “Resource Center.” Imagine how you could promote your chapter while also promoting a collection of used cell phones in support of deployed troops.

## Minneapolis VA Plans Housing Initiative

As part of an overall effort to eliminate homelessness among veterans, the Minneapolis VA plans to (re) develop a 4 acre site on the Upper Post of Fort Snelling to provide 58 units for veterans and their families. The estimated \$10.2 million project will preserve the historic qualities of the buildings while providing efficiency and one bedroom units.

## Membership Report

The Department of Minnesota has been busy. We have added 54 members to our Department's rolls. We welcome the following Patriots with thanks to their recruiters:

Patriot:	Chapter:	Join Date:
Schulte, Theodore M.	268	11/1/2011
Keske, David C.	5	11/1/2011
Adams, Llyod G.	987	11/7/2011
O'Dowd, Daniel W.	987	2/8/2011
Kulsrud, James H.	5	11/17/2011
Fife, Zachary P.	5	11/17/2011
Piltingsrud, Kermit T.	268	11/19/2011
Benavidesalvarez, Jose I.	5	11/19/2011
Hamilton, Charles L.	807	11/19/2011
Cobb, Benjamin D.	5555	11/24/2011
Hester, Adam C.	807	11/24/2011
Hanson, Donald D.	56	12/6/2011

### Recruiters

Mark Browne	24
Bob Connor	7
Derek Farwell	7
Dave Srock	6
Larry German	5
Roy Janni	2
Brad Bennett	1
Chuck Jones	1
Mark Slama	1
<hr/>	
Total=	54

### Potential Recruiting Awards

The Order provides a number of recruiting incentives. In addition to a dated recruiter pin for recruiting one new member, the Order also recognizes those that go above and beyond in recruiting by awarding a recruiter medal with a gold medal for the top recruiter in the nation; a blue ribbon for recruiting 26 or more new members; a red ribbon for recruiting 16-25 new members and a white ribbon for recruiting 10-15 new members.

## Legislative Update

Although not much positive can be said about a Congress that teetered at the precipice of shutdown, bungled the "super committee" and stubbed its toe on even a temporary payroll tax cut extension, the National Defense Authorization Act was ultimately signed into law just days before the Christmas break. The Act, along with the VOW Act, marks some significant progress for veterans at least.

The NDAA funds a number of important research programs. It solicits a new report on the treatment of wounded warriors to help the medical community adopt best medical practices. It also solicits more research on the signature wounds of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan -- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Importantly, the Act actually increased funding available for these research programs.

The Act also allows the health care providers to avoid local licensing requirements in order to facility e-health initiatives. This is particularly important in rural areas.

While allowing tricare fee increases, any increases are now tied to the cost of living increases for military retirement pay. This helps to avoid larger increases if linked to other indexes.

In November, Congress managed to pass the only jobs related bill of the year, the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act. The VOW Act is targeted at the extremely high rate of unemployment for veterans by creating tax breaks for businesses that hire veterans, extends vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits for disabled veterans, and allows service members to begin the federal employment process prior to separation.

Despite these advances, the failure of the "super committee" may reverberate on through 2012 due to the need to find "savings" by cutting. As such, it is still critical that you stand ready to contact your legislators if and when the need arises.

A March on the Hill is also being considered by the National Executive Board. More information will be provided when announced.

## MOPH Extends Thanks to Steven Kleinglass for Many Years of Service to our Patriots

December 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the retirement of Steven Kleinglass as Medical Director of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. He was appointed to the position of Director in January of 2002.

A good friend of MOPH, he has been our guest at numerous Department events including Department Conventions and our most recent Fall Conference. As Medical Director, he has been responsible for the overall medical care for so many of our friends and fellow Patriots. While his retirement is well deserved, he will be sorely missed.

Department Commander Bill Lilledahl and Vice Commanders Mark Browne and Chuck Jones were able to present him with a small token of our Order's appreciation for his many years of caring for our Patriots and friends.



## Homes4Wounded Heroes Program

The Military Warriors Support Program is providing free homes to veterans who qualify and are now accepting Open Applications for this program. If you are a combat wounded veteran injured during the OEF/OIF conflicts and do not currently have a mortgage, you may be eligible.

The homes are donated by banks and are renovated to be as accessible as need be. During the first three years of occupancy, the nonprofit holds the deed to the house while the veteran demonstrates an ability to adapt, be financially responsible and substance and crime free. Financial counseling is provided.

A list of homes is available at [www.militarywarriors.org](http://www.militarywarriors.org) but veterans in other areas are encouraged to apply as well. For more information, contact Jana Wyze at (210) 615-8973 or email [support422@militarywarriors.org](mailto:support422@militarywarriors.org).

## Calling All Marines from Vietnam

Headquarters Marine Corps, Division of Public Affairs, is currently organizing a series of commemorative events in honor of the 50th anniversary of Operation SHUFLY, the first U.S. Marine Corps engagement in combat operations leading to the Vietnam War.

In an effort to honor all Marines who served in support of Operation SHUFLY, our office is in the process of locating Marines from the squadrons that participated in this Operation. If you served in one of the squadrons listed below as part of this Operation, DivPA is interested in speaking with you to discuss your possible participation in a commemorative event in 2012.

Interested Marines should contact Jeanette Casselano at 703-614-1034 or by email at [jeanette.casselano.ctr@usmc.mil](mailto:jeanette.casselano.ctr@usmc.mil)

### USMC Squadron Time of Rotation

MABS-16, Sub Unit 2 9 Apr 1962 – 30 Nov 1964

HMM-362 9 Apr 1962 – 31 Jul 1962

HMM-163 1 Aug 1962 – 11 Jan 1963

HMM-162 12 Jan – 6 Jun 1963, 1 Jul – 7 Oct 1964

HMM-261 7 Jun 1963 – 30 Sep 1963

HMM-361 1 Oct 1963 – 31 Jan 1964

HMM-364 1 Feb 1964 – 30 Jun 1964

HMM-365 8 Oct 1964 – 30 Nov 1964



As MOPH members, you are all eligible for membership in the DAV and your membership in both gives credibility to both organizations. If interested in beginning the process, simply call Dean Ascherman, Past State Commander at 612-481-1510 or fax a membership application to FAX# 651-291-0015. A membership application can be printed at: <http://www.dav.org/membership/documents/MembershipApplication.pdf>

**Please Notify Your Department Service Officer if your veteran is staying at the VA Hospital so your veteran will be visited by MOPH**  
**Mark Browne**  
Office (612) 970-5667  
Cell (612) 232-6097  
[Blackhorse1951@msn.com](mailto:Blackhorse1951@msn.com)

**For the Good of the Order:**



**2011 MOPH Youth/Student Volunteers  
Minneapolis VA Medical Center**

FRONT ROW (L to R): Carrie Lindberg, Helen Korbel, Michael Jacobson, Hope Johnson, Hannah Brummund, Brian Liepa. BACK ROW (L to R): William Lundgren, Sereen Waletski, Sarah Lundgren, Nadeen Waletski, Mondraya Howard, Alex Brummund, Caitlin Schweiger, Julie Quinn – Voluntary Assistant/Student Volunteer Coordinator, Taylor Sorenson and Mark Browne, Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Officer.



On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Chapter 8 facilitated the donation of \$3,000 to the Minneapolis Veterans Home for the purchase of TV sets. Thank you also to Edina Realty for donating funds.



The Order provided a \$2,000 donation to the Minneapolis VA polytrauma unit. From left to right, Obed Keanaaina, Chuck Jones, Bill Lilledahl, Steven Kleinglass, VA Medical Director, Mark Browne and Bob Connor.



The Order presented funds to Kathy Ryan to support the Homeless Veteran Program. Presenting are Commander Lilledahl, Sr. Vice Mark Browne, Past Commander Wally Lind, Jr. Vice Chuck Jones, and Adjutant Bob Connor.



Chapter 807 Prairieland Defenders present a check to Kathy Ryan, Minneapolis VAMC Director of Volunteer Services. Presenting are Commander Mark Slama and Adjutant Roy Janni.



NSO David Srock and DSO Mark Browne during a VA Outreach on October 27th



The Chapter 5555 Vietnam War Presenters in Action



Chapter 268 Patriot Ken Henrickson along with former Commander in Chief George W. Bush during a practice round for the Warrior Open in Texas. The Open was organized by the Bush Center for service members severely wounded during the war on terror.

Please forward your chapter's events and event photos to David at the site as well as the Informant Editor at [prspyhal@yahoo.com](mailto:prspyhal@yahoo.com)