

The Prairieland Defenders



Call to Arms

A Publication of Chapter 807 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc. May. 2011

MOPH VISION STATEMENT

“MOPH is to undertake a Pro-Active Representation in all forums of public opinion that will consistently seek to improve the status and stature of its Veteran Members, their dependents, families and survivors.”

PATRIOTS AND FAMILIES IN DISTRESS

Please have all of our deploying soldiers and their families in your prayers. We also pray for all of our service members in harm's way that they return home as soon as possible.

A rose is placed for our departed Patriots:



Our prayers for all Patriots in Distress.

Next Chapter Meeting

June 4, 2011 at 10 am

@ Holiday Inn – New Ulm

Due to remodeling, our meeting room has changed to the former Christmas Room

2101 S. Broadway

Meeting at 10 am; Breakfast at 9 am (optional)

Commander's Call

I want to start off with a VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Department Commander Wally Lind and Senior Vice Commander Bill Lilledahl for attending our April meeting and installing our Chapter Officers for 2011 – 2012. I am very proud of all of our chapter officers for agreeing to serve another year; all of you are outstanding Combat Wounded Veterans.

Thank you Prairieland Defenders who took time out from your busy schedules to attend the "National Guard Send Off" after our last meeting. We will not forget the sacrifices that these Soldiers & their families are making to make this World a safer place for all of us.

The last Monday in May is always "Memorial Day", a day that we take time to remember all casualties of war or military action. This day is also a very special day for the Purple Heart organization as we remember the casualties of war who have earned the Purple Heart medal, both dead and alive. Those of us who are Combat Wounded are a living example of the cost of war as we live with our handicaps on a daily basis.

Please help out with the Cashwise Food Stand Fundraiser this summer and do not forget about Purple Heart Day on August 7.

Your Commander, Mark Slama
E-mail meslama@hickorytech.net

CHAPTER OFFICERS ELECTED

Thank you to Mark Slama, Leonard Heiderscheidt, Leland Haugen, Roy Janni, Larry Murphy, Roger Pederson, Dennis Garms, Don Lage and James Mason for continuing to service our Chapter as Chapter Officers. Thank you to Department Commander Wally Lind and Senior Vice Commander Bill Lilledahl for installing our officers.



We have openings for the following appointed positions:
Americanism, Service Officer and Welfare Officer.

BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON

This Memorial Day will have additional meaning for many families in our area as the 1st BCT, 24th Infantry prepares for its deployment. As combat veterans, you have unique insights into the needs of soldiers potentially in harm's way. Please consider joining a local BTYR committee.

On April 2nd, we were privileged to attend the departure ceremony for New Ulm's 1/125th Field Artillery is April 2nd. Shown are Commander Slama, Dennis Garms, Roger Pederson and Anthony Schauman.



VA CBOC CLINICS DEDICATED IN MANKATO AND ST. JAMES

The new VA Community Outpatient Based Clinics were officially dedicated on April 30th. In addition to Congressmen Walz and VA officials, hundreds of veterans were on hand to celebrate the opening.

Both clinics will offer primary and mental health care at each location. The Mankato facility is located at 1961 Premier Drive, Suite 330. The St. James Satellite is at 1212 Heckman Court, St. James.

The opening of these facilities may impact your mileage reimbursements if travelling to Minneapolis or St. Cloud if that same service is offered in Mankato or St. James. Veterans currently receiving care at Sioux Falls or St. Cloud can follow this process to utilize these new services:

1. Call Minneapolis VAMC at 1-866-414-5058, ext. 2071 – tell them you want to “transfer your care to Minneapolis VA Medical Center.”
2. Once you receive notification that your care is transferred, you should call 1-866-414-5058, ext. 1100, press option 4 and request an appointment at the Mankato Clinic or the St. James Clinic.

MEMORIAL DAY'S MEANING

Memorial Day has many meanings for many people. For those of it that use it as a time to remember, the World War One Museum in Kansas City shares this great reminder as each poppy placed in this replica poppy field represents 1,000 combatant deaths during that war.



Cash Wise Fundraiser

The New Ulm Cashwise will again allow us to raise funds by working their food stand **on June 1st and 2nd**. We need volunteers (spouses are welcome to work as well) to work at least one shift for us. The funds we raise allow us to help veterans and their families. If you can work, please contact Roy at 507-354-2881.

Focus on Membership

We now roster 124 members. We welcome **Anthony Schauman** (Army, Afghanistan) of St. James as our newest active member. **Winslow Scott** of Redwood Falls will also be transferring to our Chapter. Membership applications are included for your recruiting.

Local Remembrances

The *Corey Goodnature Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Classic*, Dinner and Auctions will be held at Green Lea Golf Course in Albert Lea on Saturday, June 25th. Corey's MH-67D helicopter was shot down answering the emergency call placed by Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Michael P. Murphy. More information and registration forms can be found at www.coreygoodnature.org.

The *SFC Matthew R. Kahler Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Fundraiser* will be held at the North Links in North Mankato on Saturday, July 23rd beginning at 1 pm. Matthew died as a result of small arms fire near Waygul, Afghanistan on January 26, 2008. More information on this event can be obtained from his father, Ron Kahler at 13136 Main Street, New Ulm, MN 56073.

If you are aware of other events, please forward them to the Adjutant Roy or the editor.

National Convention

St. Paul will be the site of the 2011 National Convention. Being this close by, it is a tremendous opportunity to attend your first convention. The St. Paul Crowne Plaza Riverfront will be the host hotel.

In order to put on a great convention, the Department needs volunteers to help prepare convention bags, help National staff, greet attendees and staff the hospitality room. A sign-up sheet can be found at the Department website.

Please note the early bird registration deadline to avoid paying extra to attend. Even if you cannot attend, you can help with some of the cost of convention by purchasing a convention pin for \$5.

Honor Flights

If you are eligible for an Honor Flight, please register as soon as possible. A few photos from recent Honor Flight Welcome Homes at Rochester, MN:



The Order exists to provide service to all veterans and their families. Because we cover such a large territory, please bring any needs, financial and/or service hours, to the attention of the chapter officers so we can help more veterans.

THE PRAIRIELAND DEFENDERS

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RECYCLE – Share with a Veteran

The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among Combat Wounded Veterans, promote Patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families.

Upcoming Events

Jun 1-2 Cashwise Food Stand Fundraiser
Jun 4 10 PRAIRIELAND DEFENDERS @ New
Ulm (9am breakfast)
Jun 11 Military Family Appreciation Night
Mankato Moon Dogs Game 6:05pm
July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
Aug 6 10 PRAIRIELAND DEFENDERS @ New
Ulm (9am breakfast)
Aug 7 PURPLE HEART DAY
Aug 9-13 MOPH National Convention in St. Paul
Oct 1 10 PRAIRIELAND DEFENDERS @ New
Ulm (9am breakfast)
Dec 3 10 PRAIRIELAND DEFENDERS @ New
Ulm (9am breakfast)

Chapter Officers

Commander	Mark Slama
Sr. Vice Commander	Leonard Heiderscheidt
Jr. Vice Commander	Leland Haugen
Adjutant / Finance	Roy Janni
Judge Advocate Chaplain	Larry Murphy
Sgt.-at-Arms	Roger Pederson
Trustee	Dennis Garms
Trustee	James Mason
Trustee	Don Lage