



THE PURPLE MOUNTAIN QUARTERLY



Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 423

Volume 7, Edition 3

Oct-Dec 2023

Welcoming the Holiday Season

Welcome Autumn and Winter, and all of the holidays and events we share as a Purple Heart family with our community. From the fun and joyful celebrations of Halloween and Christmas, to the time of reflection and gratitude of Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving, please know that we celebrate each occasion with you. Thank you for your service to our great nation, and we wish all of you - from our homes to yours - a happy holiday season!

We have lots of great events this holiday season, including our MOPH float in the Colorado Springs Veterans Day parade, our gathering at Memorial Park for Veterans Day, and - on Saturday, 09 December) - our annual MOPH holiday potluck dinner on Saturday, 09 December. Please bring the whole family for a feast of turkey, ham, and all the fixings (and a free gift from Santa Claus!).

No matter where this holiday season finds you, please accept our sincerest appreciation for your service and your sacrifice. Happy Holidays, Patriots!



Connect With Us

Email: moph423@gmail.com
Website: www.moph423.org
NEW PHONE #: (719) 800-1782

Quote of the Quarter:

"It was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, 'God bless us, every one!'"

- Charles Dickens,
A Christmas Carol

Newsletter Goes to Online Only Format

To paraphrase Olivia Newton-John's 80s hit: "Let's get digital!" [I bet you're now humming the song "Let's Get Physical! Physical!" in your head right now - you're welcome...]. With the skyrocketing costs of printing ink, paper, stamps, bulk mailing permits, and everything else related to publishing and mailing the newsletter, it makes financial sense for us to move the newsletter online to our website and via email. We'll continue to offer the newsletter in a printed format for those who specifically request it (it's a lot less expensive to mail a few copies than to bulk mail 200+ copies). Folks, switching to an online-only format will save us over \$1000 each year. So please consider hard if you really need a hard copy mailed to you. If you decide you want a hard copy of the newsletter, please email us at moph423@gmail.com or call the chapter at (719) 800-1782 and let us know. Otherwise, we'll see you online!

In This Issue

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MOPH Mission: 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.



Looking for volunteers to help with bingo!

Bingo: Party Every Wednesday

Our small cadre of bingo volunteers continue to crush it, raising tens of thousands of dollars that help veterans and their families in need. But five of us can't do it all by ourselves week-in and week-out. We need your help, please. If you're retired, between jobs, or on a break from school, we'd love to have you join us at bingo. It's neither physically or mentally demanding, and we have a great group who will welcome you and get you up to speed on how we operate the games.

The money we raise through bingo pays for our chapter operations, funds our annual scholarship program, and helps needy veterans and their families in our community.

Please reach out to us at moph423@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering. There's no big commitment or extra training involved. Come out when you can and have a great time! Your giving ensures we keep helping the community.

Way to Go, Joe!

Frankly, our back fence line was so overgrown that Fort Carson could've used it for jungle warfare training... With inflation being so crazy, the cost of tree trimming and landscaping would've emptied half of our bank account. Superstar patriot Johannes Albrecht stepped up in a major way to beat back the overgrowth and make our chapter's landscape look amazing! Our neighbors are also thrilled!

Before:



After:



Veterans Day 2023:

Two Events:

Saturday, 04 November: Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade

Veterans Day 2023 events kick off with the annual parade in downtown Colorado Springs. Our chapter has a float that fits 12-15 patriots and their family members. We will meet around 9:00am at the parade starting point, with the parade starting at 10:00am. This is a wonderful experience, especially for our families with younger children as they get to be part of the parade and have fun greeting all of the folks lining the street to thank us. You can sit or stand on the float, and we are very casual in our attire (dress for warmth and comfort!). Details to follow in an email as we get closer to the event!

Saturday, 11 November: Colorado Springs Veterans Day Ceremony

The formal event to recognize our nation's veterans is held at the Veterans' Memorial at Colorado Springs Memorial Park. The formal event commences at 11:00am (to mark the time, day, and month of the WWI armistice). We will meet at the Purple Heart marker next to the Veterans' Memorial at 10:30am. We will have chairs available for all patriots who need to sit. Formal attire (suit, tie/ bolo, and MOPH garrison cap) preferred, but any comfortable and warm attire is fine (we'd rather you join us than stay at home because you don't have a suit!).

Wherever this Veterans Day finds you, please accept our deepest gratitude for your service and sacrifice. We combat wounded veterans know all too well the price paid for freedom and democracy. While the original meaning of Armistice Day marks the close of WWI - the war to end all wars - we know that peace is ever elusive, and that freedom requires us to remain ever vigilant and poised to fight for it. Veterans Day allows our community the opportunity to recognize and appreciate the high cost that comes with service to our country. Veterans of all eras, whether they served in peace or war, have an opportunity to come together in humility and grace to acknowledge the gratitude of our nation. While we hope that you join us at one or both of our Veterans Day events, please know that we're thinking of you. Thank you!

Chapter 423

MOPH Officers

Commander:
Dr. David Andrews

Senior Vice Commander:
Nikki Gibson

Junior Vice Commander:
Larry Hathaway

Finance Officer:
Michael Epper

Sergeant-at-Arms:
Joe Albrecht

2-year Trustee:
Bobby Browning

1-year Trustee:
Steve Zerger

Adjutant: Ed Armstrong

Chaplain: Glen Cooper

Chapter 423

MOPH Auxiliary Officers

President:
Karen Lindquist

Vice President:
Paula Cooper

Treasurer/Secretary:
Patricia Andrews

Parliamentarian/Sgt-at-Arms:
Ursula Price

Commander's Corner:

Halfway through the Year - My Report

- Dr. David "Doc" Andrews

Halfway through my term as your elected commander, I want to share my assessment of where we are and where I hope to guide us before I hand over the commander's gavel next Spring. We are blessed with an amazing core of patriots and auxiliary members who give so much of themselves to excel at our MOPH mission: foster camaraderie, give to those in need, and preserve the heritage of George Washington and the Purple Heart Medal. Of particular note are Patriots Steve Zerger, Bob Perez, Larry Hathaway, Ed Armstrong, Glen Cooper, Johannes Albrecht, Michael Epper, and Nikki Gibson (who's now living in Georgia). These patriots constantly give by volunteering at chapter events, including our weekly bingo sessions which funds so much of what we do. And our Auxiliary, led by President Karen Lindquist, continues to be the backbone of our chapter (as our families are the backbone and motivation for us as combat wounded veterans).



We've had some fantastic, ground-breaking successes this year, with the Purple Heart Day Open-House being of notable success. Much of our work - and expenses - have gone to maintaining the building, reinvigorating programs, and streamlining processes to ensure our hard-earned funds go to where they are needed and can do the greatest good.

What does the rest of the year look like? Much of that depends on you, dear reader. As I wrote in my first reconstituted newsletter (Spring Quarter, 2023), the question is simple: are you here to serve or to be served? If you want a scholarship for you or a family member, I have to ask how much do you participate in and contribute to chapter events? If you show up for only the annual dinners, I have to ask: aren't you able to come to one of the 11 other meetings we have during the year? This isn't to put you on the spot as you read this, but - just like you - many of us who do participate also juggle careers, young families, and other obligations and needs. I encourage you to PLEASE join us at a meeting or event between now and April 2024 (when we hold the next election). We'll never ask you for money. Instead, we'll offer you a handshake and a chance to make a positive difference.

The homestretch of our year (April 2023 - March 2024) will focus on our major annual event: the George Washington Annual Dinner (February 2024), where we will cater the event and host several distinguished guests (e.g., political dignitaries, prominent military leaders, notable contributors to veterans' issues). The George Washington dinner is a formal event (business attire) and is dedicated to one of our core missions: honoring General Washington and the Purple Heart medal. There are plenty of opportunities for you to participate in the planning process and the dinner. Please reach out to me at (719) 800-1782 or moph423@gmail.com if you want to nominate someone in our community for recognition at the dinner. We have lots of options to recognize and support the people in our community who do amazing work to help veterans, particularly our Purple Heart family. Remember: it's the contribution that matters, not titles, rank, or position in the community. This is a chance for us to recognize someone who may otherwise go unheralded for all the great work they do. Here's a chance for you to jump in and make a positive difference.

2023 MOPH Holiday Dinner!



Okay, people, it's time to break out your "fat" pants because we're going to celebrate the holidays in style with our annual MOPH Holiday Dinner. As with years past, the holiday dinner is a "potluck plus" as our chapter will provide the turkeys, ham, drinks and desserts, and our members bringing the side dishes. And, no, Marines, C-rations or an MRE does not count as a side dish (though, admittedly, it'd be funny if someone brought an MRE...). This is more of a "break out and show off your grandmother's best recipe" type of affair. We'll present our 2024 MOPH Scholarships at the dinner. We'll also have presents for everyone. Please bring your families as it's a wonderful way for us to gather together and honor the season.

Date & Time: Saturday, 09 December; Social Hour starts at 11:00am; Dinner starts at noon.

Location: MOPH Chapter 423, 2 Carson Circle, Fountain, CO 80817

Attire: Business attire preferred (suit, tie/bolo); dress casual acceptable (it's more important to have you and your family there with us, so don't stress it if you don't have a suit, etc.).

PLEASE RSVP no later than Saturday, 02 December, so we ensure we have enough food and gifts for everyone. RSVP to Auxiliary President Karen Lindquist at (719) 545-7651 or karenlindquist2@yahoo.com.

Recipe of the Quarter Grilled Brats with a Spicy Mango Salsa

Autumn means football, tailgating, and grilled sausages. And in Colorado, we NEVER stop grilling (show of hands: who's grilled in a blizzard just to say you've done it?). Beloved MOPH Auxiliary member Ursula Price brings us this fantastic recipe. And Ursula, who originally hails from Germany - the land of brats and beer - is an amazing cook! Ursula's got it going on with this amazing balance of sweet, heat, and savory. Serve this one at your next tailgate party.

Ingredients:

For the salsa:

- 2 Mangoes (peeled, pitted, and roughly chopped into 1/4 inch pieces)
- 1 Red bell pepper, diced into 1/4 inch pieces - the same size as the mango pieces)
- 1/4 Red onion, diced into 1/4 inch pieces - the same size as the mango and bell pepper pieces)
- 1 small jalapeno, seeded and finely diced
- 2 Tbsp fresh squeezed lime juice
- 1 Tbsp fresh cilantro, finely minced
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise (Best Foods or Hellman's is preferred)
- 2 tsp sriracha (though you can substitute Frank's Red Hot Sauce)

For the sandwiches:

- 4 grilled bratwurst (Johnsonville is preferred) or Italian sausage if you prefer
- 4 good quality hoagie rolls (forego hot dog buns as they're too small and will fall apart)

Directions:

Make the salsa ahead of time (at least two hours) by combing all salsa ingredients in a small bowl until thoroughly blended. Cover the salsa and refrigerate at least two hours in advance, though it can also be made the day before and stirred before serving.

Grill the brats on medium heat on indirect heat (i.e., not directly over the flame) so the brats cook without bursting their casings. When the brats are fully cooked, place them on the hoagie rolls and put a heaping dollop of the mango salsa on top. Serve immediately so the heat of the brats balances with the coolness of the salsa. Great sides for this dish include potato chips or potato salad, fruit cups or cold peaches, and - of course - a dill pickle. Not a fan of bratwurst? We'll you can easily substitute a spicy Italian sausage in for the brat.

Thanks, Ursula! Got a recipe you'd like to share with the Chapter? Please send a copy of the recipe to MOPH423@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you and share your recipes!



THE PURPLE PULPIT

The holidays are upon us once again, and I hope this finds you in peace and prosperity.

Longtime chapter chaplain Melvin Postlewait has passed the pulpit to Glen Cooper this year. How do you thank a patriot who's served the chapter for several decades as our spiritual guide? Melvin, we thank you and honor you and appreciate you for all you've done to comfort our patriots in need. Semper Fi!

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

Luke 2: 8-12

My God grant you peace, dignity, grace, and honor as you walk the path of recovery. Please remember that you are never alone. We are here for you just as we know you are here for us. God bless you!

Auxiliary President's Page

Greetings from your MOPHA! It seems as though we have arrived at another busy time of the year—HALLOWEEN with all its ghosts and goblins, Thanksgiving with yummy turkey and get togethers with family and friends, and lastly Christmas again with yummy food, family, and friends. In all our hustle and bustle of the Christmas season let us not forget the true meaning of the season!

In August, MOPH/MOPHA held an open house at the Chapter. We had plenty food and games. More so, a great attendance!—the Mayor of Colorado Springs, representatives from our local government, representatives from the Remount Foundation, other Veteran groups, players from our Wednesday Bingo, members of the Fountain fire and police departments, our own members, and guests, some who have joined our organization. Huge kudos for Commander Dave for all the preparation in putting this entire open house together plus all the food. He did an immense job!!!! Also Patty and Mike for helping new members fill out their applications for membership. I think we have about 12 new members and we are happy to WELCOME them. And for Ed for all his help in the food distribution. Glen as an overseer of everything. Nikki for assisting with the Veterans groups. Steven and Larry for managing the prizes. My apologies if I missed someone, I know there were those who worked behind the scenes. THANK YOU.

The Auxiliary meeting in September was attended by 5 members. Sec-Trea Patty A. is working on the the final information for our new members. If information is completed will do initiation at the October 14th Meeting. We are working on a project to help Gold Star Mothers with money for their convention to be held this summer 2024. Patty will make contact to get it okayed. At the request of one of our new members I am getting her uniform vest made.

The Commander and I are working on updating our mailing list for newsletters. If you are receiving a newsletter in the mail, in this letter you will find some update information. Please take the 5 minutes to attend to it. We greatly appreciate it!! Also you may have noted a change in the frequency of getting a newsletter. We have changed to a quarterly newsletter. Any comment or input regarding this change will be welcome. Send to MOPH 2 Carson Circle Fountain, CO 80817.

Our next meeting will be held Saturday October 14th, 10:30a at the Chapter 2 Carson Circle. It will be a "meet and eat" meeting as Commander Dave and Junior Vice Commander Larry Hathaway are fixing breakfast. Come hungry. Colorado Dept members may also be attending this meeting to have our dept meeting.

Yours in Patriotism,

Karen Lindquist, President

KarenLindquist2@Yahoo.com

719-545-7651



Mark Your Calendars

14 October (Saturday): Chapter Meeting

Time: 1030-1130, Meeting & Eating as we enjoy a buffet breakfast while we meet
Location: MOPH Chapter 423 bldg., 2 Carson Circle, Fountain, CO 80817

04 November (Saturday): Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade

Time: Parade starts at 1000; we will meet earlier (0900ish), details to follow via email
Location: Downtown Colorado Springs; MOPH meet-up location details to follow via email

11 November (Saturday): Colorado Springs Veterans Day Ceremony

Time: Please arrive at 1030; ceremony begins at 1100
Location: MOPH Chapter 423 bldg., 2 Carson Circle, Fountain, CO 80817

09 December (Saturday): MOPH Annual Holiday Dinner (Potluck+)

Time: Social hour starts at 1100; Food served at 1200
Location: MOPH Chapter 423 bldg., 2 Carson Circle, Fountain, CO 80817

Contact Us

We welcome your feedback, contributions, and—most importantly—your fellowship.

MOPH Chapter 423

2 Carson Circle
Fountain, CO 80817

(719) 800-1782
moph423@gmail.com