

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART NEWSLETTER

CHAPTER 758, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA



OCTOBER 2012

VOLUME ONE, NUMBER TWO

OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF AUGUST 7TH AS PURPLE HEART DAY IN FLORIDA



Florida Purple Heart recipients along with Gold Star Mothers and their families gathered at the State Capitol on August 7th with Governor Rick Scott and his Cabinet to officially proclaim and designate every August 7th as Purple Heart Day in the State of Florida. This ceremony culminated legislative action wherein both houses of the Florida Legislature unanimously approved legislation proclaiming Florida's Purple Heart Day. In accordance with The LAWS of FLORIDA, Section 683.146, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 683.146 Purple Heart Day.—

(1) August 7 of each year is designated as "Purple Heart Day."

(2) The Governor may annually issue a proclamation designating August 7 as "Purple Heart Day." Public officials, schools, private organizations, and all residents of the state are encouraged to commemorate Purple Heart Day and honor those wounded or killed while serving in any branch of the United States Armed Services.

(3) This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor May 4, 2012.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE AUGUST 7TH CEREMONY



Patriot John Haynes, (USMC-Ret) & a member of Chapter 758 MOPH, reads the now infamous prayer given at the grave site of the deceased Marines on Iwo Jima as the surviving Marines of the 5th U.S. Marines prepare to depart. A copy of the prayer is available through Chapter 758 MOPH in Tallahassee.



Florida Representative Jimmie Smith, a cosponsor of the Purple Heart Day legislation, addresses the guests and dignitaries at the State Capitol during the official ceremony on August 7th.



Marion McMackin, mother of CPL Julian Woodall USMC, who was killed in action in May 2007, points to the photo of her son while she stands beside the traveling Iraq/Afghanistan memorial display honoring our fallen heroes.



Mike Ford, Commander of Chapter 758 presents an award of appreciation to Senator Maria Sachs, a cosponsor of the Purple Heart Day legislation in the Florida Legislature.

FIRST ANNUAL FLORIDA PURPLE HEART DAY BANQUET

The very first annual Purple Heart Day Banquet was held in the Elks Club Ballroom in Tallahassee, Florida on the evening of August 6th, 2012. The event was well attended and received a multitude of complement for its outstanding success.



Banquet Honor Guard provided by the Leon High School Marine JROTC.



Chapter 758 Commander, Mike Ford addresses the attendees at the first Florida Purple Heart Day banquet.



Banquet head table podium with picture of George Washington.



Gold Star mother Mary Neiberger holds a discussion with: (L to R) Jim Brodie, Veterans Legislative Affairs Officer, COL Prendergast Director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs and Jeff Atwater, Florida's Chief Financial Officer and member of Governor Scott's Cabinet,

NATIONAL PRISONER OF WAR (POW) AND MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) RECOGNITION

The United States National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on the third Friday of September each year. Many Americans take the time to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families.

On Saturday, September 22, 2012, former Prisoner of War in Vietnam, Major (Ret) Bruce Archer (USMC-Ret) was the guest speaker at the National Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day observances held on the grounds of the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee, FL. The event was hosted by "M" Chapter, Vietnam Vets and Legacy Vets MC, Inc.

Major Archer told the audience how he was captured by elements of the North Vietnam Army (NVA) after the helicopter he was flying was shot down in South Vietnam on March 28, 1968. He spent 1815 days (5 years) as a prisoner of war, with most of the time being spent in the infamous Hanoi Plantation Prison Camp.

Major Archer was awarded several decorations including three (3) Purple Heart Medals. He is a Charter member of Charter 758, Military Order of the Purple Heart in Tallahassee.



Former Vietnam POW Bruce Archer and his wife Carolyn relaxing on the Capitol Grounds prior to his presentation.

FIRST MEDAL OF APPRECIATION AWARDED

The very first award of Chapter 758, MOPH Medal of Appreciation was presented to Chapter Commander Mike Ford for his outstanding leadership, guidance and coordination in managing all of the activities and planning essential for the successful execution of the First Florida Purple Heart Day ceremony at the State Capitol with Governor Scott on August 7, 2012.

Mike's efforts also included the coordination of the multitude of actions required to guarantee the highly favorable outcome of the First Florida Purple Heart Day Banquet held in the ballroom of the Elks Club in Tallahassee on the evening of August 6, 2012. Accompanying the award was also a Certificate of Appreciation signed by all members of the Chapter 758 event planning committee.

The Medal of Appreciation is an exclusive and unique award created specifically for Chapter 758, Military Order of the Purple Heart.



TALLAHASSEE DESIGNATED FIRST PURPLE HEART CAPITAL CITY IN THE UNITED STATES

On September 12, 2012, the City of Tallahassee Mayor John Marks and the city commissioners unanimously decreed that Tallahassee will be designated as a Purple Heart Capital City. This marks Tallahassee as the very first capital city in the nation to be designated as a Purple Heart City.

In his remarks on the day of the official ceremony, Tallahassee Mayor Marks made a pledge to contact every mayor of each capital city in the U.S. to ask them to also make their cities Purple Heart cities.

CHAPTER 758 MOPH DISTINGUISHED MEMBER



In this issue of the newsletter, we recognize MOPH and Chapter 758 life member, C. Paul Nelson. Paul was a Navy Corpsman and served with the United States Marine Corps during World War Two and received his medical training at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

As a young medic, Paul participated in combat operations during the invasion of Guam and Okinawa and was one of the first foreign military personnel to occupy Japan in over 100 years!

Paul also became airborne qualified and served as a medic with the 307th Airborne Medical Battalion as part of the 82nd Airborne Division during the Korean War.

Paul lives with his wife Shirley in Tallahassee and is an active member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 758, here in Tallahassee.

PATRIOT JOHN HAYNES IS ELECTED GRAND MARSHALL

On Monday September 24, 2012, at the VET, Inc (Now, Vet Events Tally) meeting, John Haynes was elected and he accepted the position as the **Tallahassee 2012 Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshall**. Congratulations to John!



THANK YOU



A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU IS GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN TALLAHASSEE WHO STEPPED FORWARD WITH FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE THE FIRST FLORIDA PURPLE HEART DAY CEREMONY AND BANQUET A COMPLETE SUCCESS. THESE EVENTS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THEIR CONCERN AND SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS.



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**Don't
FORGET!**



REMINDER

Chapter 758, MOPH regular meetings are held starting at 7 pm on the third Tuesday every month (excluding December), at "The Hooch" on Lake Ella off of North Monroe Street in Tallahassee.

Our next meeting on October 16th will be an informal dinner meeting at the Golden Corral Restaurant located on North Monroe Street in Tallahassee. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend.