

PREAMBLE

We, combat veterans of the wars of the United States and recipients of the Purple Heart medal, awarded by the United States Government and founded by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, at a critical time in our history, drawn together by bonds of respect and mutual suffering, have established the Military Order of the Purple Heart, chartered by the Congress of the United States, in order to perpetuate the principles of patriotic allegiance to the United States of America, fidelity to its Constitution and laws, the security of civil liberty, and the permanence of free institutions.

Through this organization and our membership in it, we hope to be able to preserve and perpetuate those ideals of liberty, justice, and the general welfare which are the very foundation of our way of life. We further pledge to foster and enhance those principles which, from the beginning of our national history, have served as a beacon of hope and salvation to the peoples of all nations.

HONORARY NATIONAL COMMANDER - IN - CHIEF

The President of the United States of America shall be the Honorary National Commander - in - Chief of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I ~ NAME

This organization shall be known as the MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED (hereinafter variously referred to as: Military Order of the Purple Heart; Corporation; Organization; Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.; or M.O.P.H. of the U.S.A., Inc.).

ARTICLE II ~ PRINCIPLES

The principles underlying the Corporation are patriotic allegiance to the United States of America, fidelity to its Constitution and laws, the security of civil liberty, and the permanence of free institutions.

ARTICLE III ~ OBJECTS

The objects of the Corporation are educational, fraternal, historical, and patriotic, perpetuating the principles of liberty and justice which have created the United States of America. These objects may be carried out in various ways, including: by

- (1) commemorating all national patriotic holidays;
- (2) maintaining true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and laws;
- (3) preserving and strengthening comradeship and patriotism amongst its members; (4) assisting, comfort ing, and aiding all needy and distressed members and their dependents;
- (5) giving needed hospital and service work through its Veterans' Administration certified Service Officers;
- (6) cooperating with other civic and patriotic organizations having worthy o bjectives;
- (7) keeping alive the achievements and memory of our country's founders; (
- 8) ever cherishing the memory of General George Washington, who founded the Purple Heart, at his headquarters at Newburgh - on - the - Hudson, on August 7, 1782; (
- 9) influencing and teaching our citizenry, in a loyal appreciation of the heritage of American citizenship, with its responsibilities and privileges; and
- (10) preserving and defending the United States of America from all enemies whomsoever.

ARTICLE IV ~ ORGANIZATION

The several constituted bodies of this Corporation shall consist of: (1) Subordinate organizations to be known as (name) Chapter No. _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America. However, no Chapter hereafter organized shall adopt the name already adopted by any Chapter in good standing, nor the name of any living person. (2) Department organizations to be known as Department of _____, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America; and (3), Auxiliary bodies which may be formed, will be subject to the Bylaws which may be hereinafter adopted.

ARTICLE V ~ MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 -- All persons of good moral character who are, have been, or may become members of the Armed Forces of the United States or any foreign country of whatever rank, who have received or who may hereafter receive the Purple Heart for wounds received during military or naval combat against an armed enemy of the United States, shall be eligible for active membership in the Corporation.

Section 2 -- Each member of the Corporation, other than associate members, shall have the right to vote on each matter submitted to a vote at all meetings of the Corporation.

Section 3 -- Each Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America shall be the judge of the admission of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI ~ PRINCIPAL OFFICE: SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

Section 1 -- The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in Washington, District of Columbia, or in any such other place as may later be determined by the national convention, but the activities of the Corporation shall not be confined to that place and may be conducted throughout the various states, territories, and possessions of the United States.

Section 2 -- The Corporation shall have in the District of Columbia at all times a designated agent authorized to accept service of process for the Corporation; and a notice to or service upon such agent, or mailed to the business address of such agent, shall be deemed notice to or service upon the Corporation.

ARTICLE VII ~ AMENDMENTS

Section 1 -- This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a roll call of two - thirds vote of the regularly elected and qualified delegates thereat, provided the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the National Adjutant to the members of the National Executive Committee, by mailing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention. And, provided further, no proposed amendment shall be submitted through the National Adjutant to the members of the National Executive Committee unless said proposed amendment shall have been first submitted by a Department Convention, Department Executive Committee, or the National Executive Committee.

Section 2 -- This Constitution may also be amended by unanimous vote of the regularly elected and qualified delegates at any National Convention, provided the proposed amendment shall have been read to the National Convention at least one calendar day before it is voted upon.

ARTICLE VIII ~ NATIONAL INCORPORATION

This Constitution is adopted to conform with the Act of Congress of the United States of America, Public Law 85 - 761, of August 26, 1958.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

1932-33	*Frank J. Cushner	Connecticut
1933-34	*Frank J. Cushner	Connecticut
1934-35	*Howard J. Lepper	New Jersey
1935-36	*Frank A. Schrepfer	Pennsylvania
1936-37	*Heinrich A. Pickert	Michigan
1937-38	*Thorvald M. Thompson	Minnesota
1938-39	*Charles O. Carlson	California
1939-40	*Wendell A. Lochbiler	Michigan
1940-41	*Herbert A. Church	Dist. of Columbia
1941-42	*Harry B. Weinburg	Michigan
1942-43	*William M. Thomas	New York
1943-44	*Elmer J. Keys	Wisconsin
1944-45	*Harold M. Hamilton	Pennsylvania
1945-46	*Harold M. Hamilton	Pennsylvania
1946-47	*Ray Dorris	Oregon
1947-48	*Verne S. White	Ohio
1948-49	*Clifford A. Parmenter	California
1949-50	*Frank J. Schneller	Illinois
1950-51	*John D. Goodin	Tennessee
1951-52	*Victor F. Kubly	Massachusetts
1952-53	* Robert W. Schroeder	Wisconsin
1953-54	*Anton D. Kneller	Pennsylvania
1954-55	*Walter C. Bowman	California
1955-56	*Aloysius J. Healy	Wisconsin
1956-57	*William B. Eaton	Michigan
1957-58	*Richard P. Golick	Illinois
1958-59	*Lloyd E. Henry	Maryland
1959-60	*Harry E. Heiser	Pennsylvania
1960-61	*Victor N. Lukatz	Ohio
1961-62	*Edward F. Holiday	New Jersey
1962-63	*Lester J. Hawkins	Oregon
1963-64	*Robert T. Schumack	Pennsylvania
1964-65	*Carl A. Falkowski	Minnesota
1965-66	*Clair Voss	Wisconsin
1966-67	*John H. Burgess	Florida
1967-68	*Earnest P. Slaughter	Pennsylvania
1968-69	*Earnest P. Slaughter	Pennsylvania
1969-70	*Shaffe T. Courey	California
1970-71	*Ronald A. Beattie	Rhode Island
1971-72	*Harvey Thiede	Michigan
1972-73	*Robert H. Betts	Florida
1973-74	*John E. Binnion	Ohio
1974-75	*John R. Eletto	California

*Deceased

1975-76	*John M. Duchessi	New York
1976-77	*Richard F. Flanders	Illinois
1977-78	*Douglas H. McGarrity	Michigan
1978-79	*Raymond F. Warren	California
1979-80	James Durkin	New York
1980-81	*Jerry Searles	Minnesota
1981-82	*Duane Brigstock	Michigan
1982-83	*Donald Arthur	Florida
1983-84	*Wendell R. Lowe	Illinois
1984-85	*Thomas F. Sharpe	New York
1985-86	*Edward Chastain	Georgia
1986-87	Jules Carvalho, Jr.	California
1987-88	*Donald M. Skinder	Virginia
1988-89	Frank A. Athanason	Maryland
1989-90	*Ernest E. Brown	Michigan
1990-91	*Leonard A. Carlton	Minnesota
1991-92	Joseph R. Hems	New Jersey
1992-93	*Robert C. Padgett	Florida
1993-94	Michael Tomsey	Virginia
1994-95	*John C. Loberg	California
1995-96	*Carroll M. Fyffe	Arizona
1996-97	James M. Blaylock	Georgia
1997-98	*Louis C. Tebbe	Michigan
1998-99	Boyd L. Barclay	Oklahoma
1999-2000	*Richard H. Esau, Jr.	New York
2000-01	Frederick A. Taylor, Jr.	Indiana
2001-02	Richard L. Spinelli	New Jersey
2002-03	William A. Wroolie	Minnesota
2003-04	Al Silvano	South Carolina
2004-05	*Robert N. Lichtenberger	Texas
2005-06	James D. Randles	Georgia
2006-07	*Tom Poulter	California
2007-08	*Henry J. Cook III	Mississippi
2008-09	Jeffrey A. Roy	Colorado
2009-10	James M. Sims	Washington
2010-11	Clayton Jones	Missouri
2011-12	Bill Hutton	California
2012-13	Bruce McKenty	Washington
2013-14	Ron Siebels	Alaska
2015-16	J. Pat Little	Delaware
2016-17	R. J. Puskar	Arizona
2017-18	Hershel W. Gober	Florida

*Deceased

