



# The Purple Heart Herald

## Greater Washington Chapter 353 Department of Virginia, MOPH

*Serving Combat Wounded Veterans of the Military Order of the Purple Heart*



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### **PURPLE HEART DAY 2003**

The month of August is a memorable month: the 213th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Coast Guard; the 228th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill in the War of the American Revolution; and the 58th anniversary of the Japanese surrender ending World War II. For we Purple Heart recipients, the month of August is extra-special for it was on the 7th of August in 1782 that the then Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, General George Washington, published general orders establishing the Badge of Military Merit, the forerunner of the Purple Heart medal as we know it today.

Beyond the three known members of Washington's Army of 1782 who received the Badge of Military Merit, the establishment of the Purple Heart by General MacArthur dramatically broadened the scope of awards: 250,000 eligible from World War I wounds; 950,000 given to World War II battle casualties; 137,000 awarded as a result of Korean War battle casualties; almost 212,000 in the Vietnam War; and under a thousand since Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm, and Iraqi Freedom. Thus we see that our nation has witnessed almost 1,550,000 eligible recipients of the Purple Heart medal. Today we have over a half million recipients of this special medal still living (along with their dedicated family members).

In keeping with a long-standing custom on behalf of the Military Order of Purple Heart of the USA (MOPH) and Purple Heart medal recipients living and deceased, Greater Washington Chapter 353 of the Department of Virginia MOPH held a memorial service at Mount Vernon, VA (the home and tomb of George Washington) to commemorate the 221st anniversary of the Badge of Military Merit (later to be the Purple Heart as designed and established by General Douglas MacArthur in Army General Orders on the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of General Washington, 22 February 1932).

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*From left to right: (front row) George Gallagher, Master of Ceremonies and Adjutant, Chapter 353, MOPH; Michael Tomsey, PNC and Director of MOPH National Service Foundation; (back row) Joseph Jimenez, Chaplain, Chapter 353, MOPH; Cyril Kammeier, MOPH National Public Relations Director and Editor of the Purple Heart Magazine; and Edward Schnug, Acting Commander, Chapter 353, MOPH, listening to Stephen Cobb, Keynote Speaker and Jr. Vice Commander, Chapter 353, MOPH. Photo by Tanya Cobb, Technical Editor, Unit 1964, LAMOPH.*

The poignant ceremony included participation by Patriots Joseph W. Jimenez as Chaplain; George Gallagher as Master of Ceremonies; Edward Schnug as Acting Commander and Americanism Officer; and Stephen Cobb as the Keynote Speaker. A Purple Heart wreath was laid by Patriots Cyril L. Kammeier, MOPH National Public Relations Director and Edward Schnug. Special thanks was given to Past National Commander, Michael Tomsey, representing the MOPH National Commander, William A. Wroolie; the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association acting as co-host; the MOPH Ladies Auxiliary; Norman J. Jasper, Jr., Commander of the Department of Virginia MOPH; the Ladies Auxiliary of the MOPH, to include Mrs. Melitta Gallagher as contributing photographer, and Mrs. Tanya Cobb in charge of welcoming (both of Unit 1964). The Gold Star Wives of America were also a significant support group.

The ceremony was enriched by the dynamic presentation of the speaker for the occasion, Patriot Stephen Cobb, Junior Vice Commander of Chapter 353. Patriot Cobb came to the ceremony having extensive experience in the legislative arena (having been a member of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the state of Hawaii); an extensive traveler in Russia, the Republic of Belarus, and countries of Europe and Asia; and as having been a veteran of the Vietnam War who was wounded four times and decorated five times, being awarded the Silver Star for rescuing six wounded comrades under fire, and given the Purple Heart medal for wounds in battle.



*MOPH Patriots, LAMOPH Ladies, and their guests listening to Stephen Cobb, Keynote Speaker and Jr. Vice Commander of Greater Washington Chapter 353. Photo by Tanya Cobb, Technical Editor, Unit 1964, LAMOPH.*

Patriot Cobb's address was titled, "A Call to Arms for Combat Wounded Veterans," and centered on the history of the Purple Heart; the unique and exclusive organization of Purple Heart veterans; the multitude of promises not kept by the current Administration (especially the Department of Defense), to include: concurrent receipt, full lifetime medical care, and full Tricare and Medicare funding. In closing, he said, "We who have fought and bled for America's wars, are now asking for YOUR help on another battlefield called the "Legislative Process" and our area of operations is now in the halls of Congress. We are joined in this fight by veterans from across America, members of our Ladies Auxiliary, and sympathetic supporters, many of whom are not military veterans, but who recognize what is right and just for our veterans."

George Gallagher  
Adjutant  
Chapter 353, MOPH



*“United We Stand”: J. Gary Wagner, USAF (Ret.), Commander (2003-2004), Post 3150, VFW (left), Stephen Cobb, USA (Ret.), Jr. Vice Commander, Chapter 353, MOPH (center), and Kenneth Foran, USMC (Ret.), Vice President, Chapter 917, VVA (right). Photo by Tanya Cobb, Technical Editor, Unit 1964, LAMOPH.*

*Remarks of Stephen H. (Steve) Cobb, Colonel and Senator Retired, for MOPH Chapter 353  
PURPLE HEART DAY OBSERVANCE at Mount Vernon, VA, on Thursday, August 7, 2003*

## A CALL TO ARMS FOR COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS

Thank you for the honor to be invited as your speaker to honor the 221<sup>st</sup> Anniversary since three great American heroes were awarded the first Purple Heart, then called the **Badge of Military Merit**: Sergeants Elijah Churchill, William Brown, and Daniel Bissell, Jr. In 1782, the **Badge of Military Merit** was a **simple figure of a heart, cut from purple cloth of silk edged with narrow lace of binding**. Today the Purple Heart Medal has become the most widely recognized decoration in the USA for being wounded in combat.

It was General Douglas MacArthur, as the new Chief of Staff of the Army, who revised the **Badge of Military Merit** to be in the form of a **Purple Heart**, in honor of the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of George Washington, on February 22, 1932. Upon receiving the draft of the implementing general orders, he crossed out “Badge of Military Merit” and wrote in “Purple Heart” instead. He then issued War Department General Orders No. 3, reading as follows: **“Purple Heart. — By order of the President of the United States, the Purple Heart, established by General George Washington at Newburgh, August 7, 1782, during the War of The Revolution, is hereby revived out of respect to his memory and military achievements.”**

The **Purple Heart** has continued to this day as the **ONLY** medal awarded for wounds received in combat. The criteria for those eligible has been changed several times over the years since 1932. Shortly after the Purple Heart award was revived, a group of combat wounded veterans founded the **Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)**, which was finally chartered by Congress in **1958** to represent the interests of veterans before Congress and other agencies, working with other veterans organizations as needed.

Most importantly, the credit goes to each of **YOU** - the recipients of the Purple Heart Medal, and your family members - who have kept alive the **Military Order of the Purple Heart** for all these many years. You have made a commitment to continue the legacy, and you have made the effort to be here today, for which we all thank you.

We, who wear the Purple Heart Medal of today, have fought, and bled, and in too many cases, have died for our country. We belong, **involuntarily**, to one of the most **exclusive** organizations today - the group of people who were wounded in combat as a **DIRECT** result of **armed** enemy action. We love our country, and we have **proven** this love on the battlefields of America's wars. We would willingly do so again, wherever and whenever the need may arise. As defenders of freedom, we also claim the right to speak freely, and today I intend to exercise that right, as a **celebration of freedom**.

At the risk of being controversial, I think the time has come to comment about promises **NOT** kept to our veterans, by our government, including the President, the Department of Defense, the Justice Department, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. My remarks are entirely my own, and not on behalf of any organization. However, I believe many veterans will agree with what is said today.

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Our Continental Army Commander and First American President **George Washington** said, **and I quote**: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceived veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation."

The day before his inauguration, on January 19, 2001, President-elect George W. **Bush** said, and **again I quote**: "In order to make sure that morale is high with those who wear the uniform today, we must keep our commitment to those who wore the uniform in the past... We will make sure promises made to our veterans will be promises kept."

**I say to you today, Mr. President, those promises have NOT been kept.**

The 3 major issues of most concern to retired and soon-to-be-retired veterans, **NOT** in any order of priority, today are: **1- Concurrent Receipt**; **2- Full lifetime medical care**; and **3- Full TRICARE and Medicare funding, with FULL survivors' benefits**. A brief history of issues 1 and 2 may be very educational.

The Bush Administration and Justice Department sent its legions of lawyers to argue AGAINST the class action suit to restore full lifetime medical care for our veterans who had been promised such a benefit for 20 years of dedicated service to our country!

The Class Action Group (**CAG**) of those seeking full lifetime medical care **as promised** by our government and military recruiters, led by COL "Bud" Day, a retired Air Force Medal of Honor recipient, said in a **DIRECT** message to the President and Congress, on June 27, 2003, as follows, **and I quote in part**:

"One might ask President Bush, "Mr. President how can you demand other nations adhere to promises and commitments when you and our Congress won't keep promises and commitments made to your own military retirees and veterans? Your White House fought our medical care promise all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Congress is delaying, denying or otherwise ignoring benefit commitment obligations made to our retired veterans."

**"Our government has failed, and broken faith with its warriors in time of need - it has not honored its word - you have not honored your word Mr. President."**

"We love our country and would fight for her again in a minute but we are disgusted with greedy, self-serving, politicians. Mr. President, you, Congress and the Supreme Court have led retired military veterans down a long road of denial, delay, deception and selfish betrayal. It must stop; commitments to our retired veterans must be fulfilled." (**End of Quote**)

In the Independence Day message for 2003, the **CAG** represented by Harry Riley for COL "Bud" Day said, and **again I quote in part**:

**"What** we have been doing and continue to do, what our fight for military retiree medical care stands for, is all wrapped up in the integrity, strength, truth, courage, and **HONOR** represented in our flag and the bedrock laid by our founding fathers. **Truth and justice does matter...still.**"

"We want our present generation of troops to know that our fight is for them too, as they fight, and yes, die for us. A special thought today to our widows, widowers, and spouses who have and continue to fight the good fight." (**End of Quote**)

I think it is a **NATIONAL DISGRACE** for the Secretary of Defense to threaten (again) a veto if full **Concurrent Receipt** or an expansion of **TRICARE** is passed by the Congress, as reported in the Military Officers Association of America (**MOAA**) Legislative Update for Friday, **July 11, 2003**. In a way, I hope such a veto is made this year, because then we as veterans can learn who our friends really are **under fire** in the Congress of the United States. I will say more on this later.

On the legislative front, there is currently a drive in Congress for a **Discharge Petition** to force the removal from Committee of a bill for full Concurrent Receipt.

(From the Military Officers Association of America (**MOAA**) Legislative Report for June 27, 2003.) **I quote in part**: "**Some are trying to make this a partisan issue, but there should be nothing partisan about relief for disabled retirees.**"

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**"Unfortunately, the Republican leadership in the House has expressed opposition to the maneuver (recognizing continuing White House opposition), and is urging its members not add their names."**

**"We couldn't disagree more.** This is only a partisan issue if politicians choose to make it so. **It's not partisan in any way, shape or form to expect legislators of both parties to back up these words with action."**

"If we are to overcome that opposition, we have to remind legislators that **their first duty is to their constituents, not to their party leaders.** The only way we're going to move forward is to generate an avalanche of mail to Capitol Hill, and make those who say they support disabled retirees realize that they can't have it both ways."

"Even if you have already done so, please take a moment to write your representative and ask him or her to sign the discharge petition. (This can be done at ANY time.) You can also ask personally. "The question you ask can be simple, short, and to the point. **"If you support concurrent receipt, and co-sponsored H.R. 303, why don't you sign the (Discharge) Petition?" (End of quote)**

So what more can we do as citizens and veterans to help on veterans' issues? We can **boycott** the ceremony, parade, or home appearance of those Members of Congress who do NOT support our issues. Or, better yet, we can **show up** at their ceremony, parade, or home appearance with **placards and picket signs** and ask the hard questions of WHY the Congressperson does NOT support veterans. Then we can explain **in detail** to the news media present exactly **WHY** that Congress Member does NOT support veterans, despite claims he/she has made.

A long time ago, I learned the legislative lesson on the difference between being **INVOLVED** and being **COMMITTED**. It is like the difference between ham and eggs: The chicken is **INVOLVED** in that process, but ah, the pig is truly **COMMITTED** to the issue. In short, he gave his all. Now we should ask our Members of Congress to be more than just **involved** by co-sponsoring or saying they support our bills, but to be truly **committed** on our veterans' issues by voting **under fire** as outlined in my political rating chart. This needs to be done in every state and in every congressional district. That is where our grassroots veterans can play a crucial role by keeping the pressure on **THEIR** Member of Congress, and **VOTING as a block** based on **PERFORMANCE** in the next election. As former President Reagan often said to the Soviets: **"Trust, but verify!"**

We must remember, it was the Department of Defense (DoD) under a **Democratic** administration that recommended cutting the lifetime medical benefits of retirees in **1995**, and a **Republican** administration that opposed both **Concurrent Receipt** and the restoration of **full lifetime medical care** in **2002**, and **AGAIN this year**. Therefore, **both** political parties have screwed veterans with equal abandon. We should be equally bi-partisan in our efforts. So please, Mr. President, **bring on your veto** this year, and let us find out who our friends really are, **under fire** in the **veto override** process.

For me, there is **no personal benefit** in either **full lifetime medical care** or **Concurrent Receipt**. I enlisted in the Army long after the December 7, 1956 cut off date. After my service in Vietnam, where I was wounded, I waived in writing any disability claim to continue serving our country in the US Army Reserve. So, I am **not eligible** for **Concurrent Receipt**, however it is defined.

As for **TRICARE** and **Medicare**, we cannot stop the aging process. But, as an officer and leader, I have been responsible for taking care of my soldiers, and I am joining thousands of other officers and leaders to fight for our troops in another battlefield called "the legislative process" also known as Congress. As a retired State Senator, I also know first-hand the **devious** nature of the legislative process.

I was deeply touched when reading an E-mail account of a hospital visit by the President, who prayed for a wounded veteran who lost his right hand in combat in Iraq. The President then kissed the forehead of the veteran, said that he loved him, and thanked him for his service. Yet, at the same time, this **SAME** President will deny that veteran the fairness of **Concurrent Receipt** for the disability because of his wound.

We, who have fought and bled in America's wars, are now asking for **YOUR** help on another battlefield called the **"Legislative Process"** and our area of operations is now in the halls of Congress. We are joined in this fight by veterans from across America, members of our Ladies Auxiliary, and sympathetic supporters, many of whom are not veterans, but who recognize what is right and just for our veterans.

As John Fitzgerald Kennedy said at the close of his inaugural address: "Let us go forth to lead the land we love, knowing that here on earth, God's work must truly be our own." Thank you, God Bless all of YOU, and God Bless America.

## **STEVE COBB: Military and Legislative Background**

Steve Cobb served as an elected Member of the House of Representatives from 1972 to 1978 and as a Senator of the State of Hawaii from 1978 to 1992. He was elected a total of 7 times with victory margins as high as 77%. He also served as an informal advisor to President Bill Clinton on Russia, and briefed the President personally on economic and political developments in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), formerly known as the Soviet Union.

In 1989 and 1990, Steve traveled to Russia to meet with and help *Afghantsi*, Soviet veterans of the Afghan war. The purposes of his visits were to help fellow veterans adjust to civilian life and find jobs after returning home from an unpopular war. He and other Vietnam veterans served as older brothers and advisors to their comrades in arms. Steve is a Vietnam veteran, wounded 4 times, and decorated 5 times, including the Silver Star Medal for rescuing 6 wounded comrades under enemy fire from 3 sides. For his heroism, he also received a battlefield promotion to the rank of Captain.

From 1991, Steve lectured extensively at Moscow State Lomonosov University in Russia, and many other cities of the USSR. He was invited as a guest lecturer on the subjects of international investments, economics, banking, computers, political science, and fiber optic technology. He was a leader in lifting the American embargo on fiber optic cable to the former USSR. He lived in Minsk, Belarus for 6 years, and lectured at both Moscow State University and the Joint Military Intelligence College (JMIC) of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) for over 6 years. His military experience includes specialized training in nuclear defense and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

In 1992, Steve first visited the Republic of Belarus and toured factories that manufactured the weapons, which caused 2 of his 4 wounds and killed 6 of his 10 friends in Vietnam. He helped those factories successfully convert to making instruments of peace, such as hair dryers, vacuum cleaners, and household electrical parts. His Belarussian friends have said he is living proof it is better for us to trade and talk with each other than to shoot each other.

In 1992, Steve VOLUNTARILY gave up his Senate seat to move to Russia and the CIS to help with economic development after the breakup of the USSR. He has traveled extensively in all Republics of the CIS, the successor of the former Soviet Union.

In the private sector Steve has worked as Corporate Policy Director for a large Hawaii energy firm and Director of Administration for a major health food company. From 1992 to 1995, he led the delivery of anti-radiation enzyme products to the people of Belarus who suffered extensively from the fallout of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Steve works and meets periodically with over 20 private investor groups in the USA and Pacific Region. He recommends investments as well as legislation to promote a favorable investment and business climate. He provides counter terrorism consulting, international investment, and economic analysis. Steve is an active member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA).

Please welcome retired Colonel and Senator Steve Cobb.

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PURPLE HEART  
TRAIL



GEORGE M. GALLAGHER  
**NATIONAL PURPLE HEART TRAIL COORDINATOR**  
MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART  
2312 Glade Bank Way  
Reston, VA 20191-2717



August 21, 2003

Secretary of Transportation  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. BOX 1475  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I make reference to your letter to me dated November 5, 2002 regarding the improper reference to *The Purple Heart Memorial Bridge* over the Occoquan River at Interstate 95 near Occoquan, VA.

I have to report that traffic reporters used by radio station WMAL in Washington, DC (presumably the same traffic reporting organization your staff worked with before: National Director of Marketing for Metro Networks in Bethesda, MD) have indeed reverted to their careless--and hopefully not intentional--use of the term "over the Occoquan bridge" rather than referring to the **PURPLE HEART MEMORIAL BRIDGE** over the Occoquan. As of this writing, the latest intentional non-use of the term was at 4:30 p.m., August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003. (See Enclosure 1 for a map showing this name). The broadcasting of incorrect traffic information into the Commonwealth of Virginia can certainly have a negative impact on I-95 traffic going north or south near the Woodbridge area when the wrong information is imparted.

You should know that the "Purple Heart Memorial Bridge" is part of a nationwide program by the Military Order of Purple Heart of the USA to implement a national **PURPLE HEART TRAIL** in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. All the honorable governors of the Commonwealth of Virginia, from Governor Wilder on up to the honorable Mark Warner, our current governor, have supported legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly to designate all of I-95, I-64, and portions of VA Route 3, US Route 1, and the Mount Vernon Parkway as "The Purple Heart Trail." The "Purple Heart Memorial Bridge" over the Occoquan is an integral part of the "Trail" system. (Every state in the Union is now working to implement the "Purple Heart Trail" system similar to Virginia. Many are up and running.)

This nation has had over 1,550,000 Purple Hearts given to military men and women killed or wounded in action in defense of the United States and its security. Tragically, today, as you know, the war in Iraq is creating *more* Purple Heart recipients. In this regard I am providing you with a copy of a monograph I wrote on the "The Heritage of the Purple Heart" which was published in the August, 2003 edition of the *ARMY Magazine*. As you can see, our nation has mourned for the victims of war. (Enclosure 2) Consequently, it is not just "patriotic" to refer to the bridge over the Occoquan as the "Purple Heart Memorial Bridge," but it is, indeed, in *reverence* to the blood being shed by our military members, scenes of which have been shown on TV on the battlefield, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and the very rescue of our prisoners of war in Iraq!

This letter is being written on half of the over 750,000 military veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the over 2,000,000 in the metropolitan area (with about 200,000 being Purple Heart recipients overall and about 75,000 in Virginia). The Congress of the United States, the Governors and legislative members of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and we Purple

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Heart recipients and family members believe in honor, duty, and country. One would hope that the traffic reporters and WMAL would believe the same, as it is those very Purple Hearters that have shed blood so that they can be in business in a free republic!

We have avoided going to the press, and other media in the Washington area, hoping that this negative situation can be avoided by "doing the right thing." Senator Toddy Puller of the Virginia Senate is the widow of Patriot Lewis Puller, Jr., a Purple Heart recipient for wounds in Vietnam, who was the "keynote" speaker at the grand ceremony put on by your office in July 1992. She is a gallant lady indeed!

So, good sir, I ask your help in again (and, hopefully finally) impress on those violating the agreement made previously to renew their pledge and do what is right. After all, they have never slipped up in the use of the term *American Legion Bridge*, referring to that bridge over the Potomac River on I-495 between Virginia and Maryland. You should feel free to provide Metro Networks of Bethesda with the facts contained in this letter. If you think it necessary, I will provide a "fact sheet" for them so that they have a thorough understanding of the position of the Military Order of Purple Heart of the USA. I am attaching various documents that you may find of interest in this matter.

Thanking you for your assistance in this matter of great concern to military veterans, I remain

Sincerely,



GEORGE M. GALLAGHER  
Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)  
Purple Heart Recipient (Vietnam '64) and  
National Coordinator of the  
MOPH Purple Heart Trail

Enclosures:

1 and 2 as stated above



**PURPLE HEART MEMORIAL BRIDGE**



## NEWS FROM YOUR LADIES' AUXILIARY

Dear Patriots! Arlington Memorial Unit 1964 now has four members. Nevertheless, we need at least 12 active members to become a fully functional and officially chartered Ladies' Auxiliary Unit.

Gentlemen, we have been supporting some of you through your daily challenges. We have been standing side by side with many of you at commemorative ceremonies, Viola Drives., and other important events. Some of us have been active participants of your monthly meetings and generators of creative ideas. Now, we would like to ask you for help.

Please tell your wives, daughters, granddaughters, stepdaughters, and step-granddaughters (over 14 years of age) about the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (LAMOPH). Invite them to join our Unit and help us grow.

If your ladies ask you why they should join us, please tell them that it is an excellent opportunity for them to show you that they care about you and things that have a special value for you. It is also their chance to meet some of your fellow veterans, make friends with other ladies, and have fun while making a difference.

If your ladies have questions about the Ladies' Auxiliary, our Unit, membership eligibility, types, and fees, or would like to join us, we will be glad to help. Please ask them to contact us. We are just a phone call or e-mail message away.

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webmaster@purpleheart353.com

Mickey Gallagher  
(703) 620-9177 • Mickeylein@aol.com

Patriots, sincere thank you for your honorable service and our freedom from all members of our Ladies' Auxiliary Unit. God bless our military, veterans, and our country!

Tanya Cobb  
Arlington Memorial Unit 1964  
LAMOPH

## SELECTED UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2003

<b>September</b>	<b>11</b>	National Patriots' Day
	<b>12</b>	MOPH Memorial Service in Honor of Wartime Nurses, Arlington National Cemetery, Sector 21, 2 p.m.
	<b>19</b>	National POW/MIA Recognition Day Fort Myer Retiree Day
	<b>20</b>	Chapter 353 Meeting with Participation of Unit 1964 Members, Fort Myer Officers' Club, 1 p.m.
	<b>28</b>	American Gold Star Mothers' Day
<b>October</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Columbus Day (Holiday)</b>
	<b>13</b>	U.S. Navy Established (1775)
	<b>17</b>	Chapter 353/Unit 1964 Viola Drive, Fort Belvoir, 10 a.m.
	<b>18</b>	Chapter 353/Unit 1964 Viola Drive, Fort Belvoir, 10 a.m. No Scheduled Chapter 353 Meeting at Fort Myer, VA
	<b>31</b>	Chapter 353/Unit 1964 Viola Drive, Fort Myer, 10 a.m.

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## SELECTED UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2003 (Continued)

<b>November</b>	<b>1</b>	Chapter 353/Unit 1964 Viola Drive, Fort Myer, 10 a.m.
	<b>10</b>	U.S. Marine Corps Established (1775)
	<b>11</b>	<b>Veteran's Day (Holiday)</b> WWI Armistice Signed (1918)
	<b>15</b>	Department of Virginia Mid-Year Conference at Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville, VA, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. No scheduled Chapter 353 Meeting at Fort Myer, VA
<b>December</b>	<b>7</b>	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
	<b>25</b>	<b>Christmas (Holiday)</b>



## PHONE NUMBERS AND WEB SITES OF INTEREST

### **Pay DFAS U.S. Military Retired Pay**

P.O. Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130

Tel: (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955

Fax: (800) 469-6559

### **SBP/RSFPP Annuity**

#### **DFAS U.S. Military Annuitant**

P.O. Box 7131, London, KY 40742-7131

Tel: (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955

Fax: (800) 469-6559

### **Army Retirement Services**

<http://www.odcsper.army.mil/retire>

### **DEERS Beneficiary Telephone Center/Address Update**

Tel: (800) 538-9522 or (831) 583-2500

### **ID Card Records Update in Case of Death or Divorce**

Contact nearest ID card facility

### **Social Security**

(800) 772-1213

<http://www.ssa.gov>

### **Medicare**

(800) 633-4227

### **TRICARE Information**

*Region I (Northeast): Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, and part of Northern Virginia*

(888) 999-5195

## PHONE NUMBERS AND WEB SITES OF INTEREST (Continued)

**TRICARE Senior Pharmacy**  
(877) DOD-MEDS (877-363-6337)

**DeltaSelect USA TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan**  
(888) 838-8737  
<http://www.DDPdelta.org>

**Arlington National Cemetery**  
(703) 695-3250  
(703) 697-2131 (MDW)  
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org>

**Quantico National Cemetery**  
703-221-2183

**VA Veterans Benefits Administration**  
<http://www.vba.va.gov>

**VA Benefits Manual for 1997**  
<http://www.va.gov/pubaff/fedben/97fedben.htm>

**VA Burial and Memorial Benefits**  
<http://www.cem.va.gov>

**VA Facilities and Leadership Directory**  
<http://www.va.gov/sta/guide/division.asp?divisionId=1>

**VA Forms**  
<http://www.va.gov/FORMS/default.asp>

**Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) Web Site**  
<https://www.dmde.osd.mil/crsc/>

**VA Index of Veterans Service Organizations**  
<http://www.va.gov/vso/index.htm>

**VA Medical Center, Washington, DC**  
(202) 745-8000

**VA Outpatient Clinic & VETS Center (on US 1 near Ft. Belvoir)**  
(703) 360-8633

**Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, DC**  
(800) 422-9988

**US Naval Home, Gulfport, Mississippi**  
(800) 322-3527

**State of Virginia Government**  
<http://www.myvirginia.org/cmsportal/index.html>

**Virginia Military/Veteran License Plates**  
<http://www.dmv.state.va.us/exec/vehicle/splates/category.asp?category=Military>

## PHONE NUMBERS AND WEB SITES OF INTEREST (Continued)

### **Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)**

**National Headquarters**, Springfield, VA

(703) 642-5360

<http://www.purpleheart.org>

**MOPH National Service Officer (NSO)**, Springfield, VA

Mike Tomsey or Dennis Geiger

(703) 354-2140 or (703) 354-2771

### **MOPH National Purple Heart Trail**

<http://phtrail.purpleheart353.com>

### **MOPH Chapter 353/LAMOPH Unit 1964**

<http://www.purpleheart353.com>

### **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)**

<http://www.moaa.org>

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)**

<http://www.vfw.org>

### **Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)**

<http://www.vva.org>

### **American Legion**

<http://www.legion.org>

### **National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS)**

<http://www.naus.org/>

### **Disabled American Veterans (DAV)**

<http://www.dav.org/>

### **World War II Memorial**

<http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>

### **The Korean War Veterans Memorial**

<http://www.nps.gov/kwvm/index.htm>

### **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

<http://www.nps.gov/vive>

### **The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall**

<http://www.thewall-usa.com/>