

### Agency Purpose

The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA (MOPH) is a congressionally chartered veterans organization authorized to represent veterans, dependents, widows, and orphans with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims. The organization is exclusively made up of combat wounded veterans from all wars. Its major objectives are:

- ◆ to provide free assistance to ALL veterans and their dependents, regardless of their military service or records;
- ◆ to identify the needs of the veterans and their dependents; and
- ◆ to obtain all the benefits that they are entitled to through the VA and the state of Minnesota.

### At A Glance

In FY 2003-04 the Military Order of the Purple Heart:

- ◆ Represented 868 Minnesota veterans and their dependents.
- ◆ Recovered \$1.9 million in total benefits for veterans in Minnesota.
- ◆ Had 564 claims approved, 24 denied, 84 pending, and 16 claims went to the U.S. Board of Veterans Appeals.
- ◆ Held 279 interviews.

### Core Functions

MOPH provides benefits experts for veterans in the state of Minnesota. The office's daily functional goals are to:

- ⇒ Assist with filing of claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for compensation, pension, medical care, education, job training, employment, veterans preference, housing, death, and burial benefits.
- ⇒ Assist in identifying and helping homeless veterans.
- ⇒ Assist with applications for admissions into the Minnesota Veterans Homes and private nursing homes.
- ⇒ Provide quality, professional representation to veterans whose benefits have been denied at the VA regional office.
- ⇒ Provide legal representation at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

### Operations

MOPH provides completely free service and assistance through a national service officer, VA hospital representative, and an administrative assistant. The office provides technical support, training, claims development assistance, research development support, informational support, and updating of law and regulations; all of which are necessary to provide professional and dedicated service to the state's veteran population.

### Budget

Total annual funding for MOPH in Minnesota is approximately \$82,000, excluding funds raised through local organizations. Seventy-five percent of this is provided by the MOPH National Service Headquarters in Springfield, Virginia for the salaries of a full-time national service officer and a full-time administrative assistant. The other 25% is from a General Fund appropriation grant from the state of Minnesota. In the FY 2004-05 biennium, state funding for this grant is \$20,000 each year and is used to finance the MOPH, Department of Minnesota National Service Office located at the VA Regional Office at Fort Snelling and the agency's Hospital Representative Office located at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

### Contact

The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Inc. has a website at <http://www.purpleheart.org/>

MOPH, Department of Minnesota can be contacted at 208 Veterans Service Building, St. Paul, MN 55155, (651) 227-4456 or E-mail at [moph@qwest.net](mailto:moph@qwest.net)

MOPH, National Service Office can be contacted at 1 Federal Drive, Room 183A, St. Paul, MN 55111, (612) 970-5667 or E-mail at [mopcviet@vba.va.gov](mailto:mopcviet@vba.va.gov)

MOPH, Hospital Representative can be contacted at (612) 467-3247.

MILITARY ORDER OF PURPLE HEART

Agency Overview

*Dollars in Thousands*

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2006-07
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	
<b><u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u></b>					
<b>General</b>					
Current Appropriation	20	20	20	20	40
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2004-05					0%
 <b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>					
<b>Direct Appropriations</b>					
General	20	20	20	20	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Category</u></b>					
Local Assistance	20	20	20	20	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Program</u></b>					
Military Order Purple Heart	20	20	20	20	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>