

5-30-2002

VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars)

Max S. Baucus

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(1) Subject*: **Veterans**

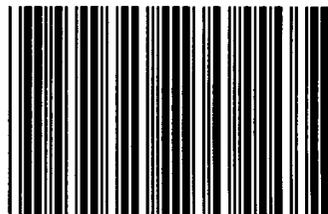
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* **Purple Heart**

DOCUMENT DATE*: **05/30/2002**

(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"



BAUCUS

Hi. Max here.

I want to apologize for not being able to be with you today. And I want to express my thanks for this opportunity to speak before the Veterans of Foreign Wars – the men and women who have played a key role in protecting freedom and democracy.

I also would like to thank Adjutant-Quartermaster Larry Longfellow for his help and perspective on veterans issues.

Following Memorial Day and the anniversary of D-Day, I'm still heartened by the awesome sacrifices made by you and those whom we honored several weeks ago. These sacrifices highlight the importance of respecting the tremendous services veterans have performed. These sacrifices also highlight the importance of keeping promises to veterans on health care and benefits issues.

Montana has contributed its share of men and women to the cause of freedom. I am extremely proud of your accomplishments.

That is why I am committed to working together with you. To make sure that you can get an immediate appointment for a routine physical at a VA facility. To make sure you get the health care and services that you need, deserve and have earned – as veterans.

In the past few months there has been some movement on legislation affecting you. I would like to take this chance to share with you the status of some of these proposals.

First, providing proper funding plays an essential role in alleviating many of the problems associated with access to medical services. As you may be aware, use of the VA health care system has grown substantially in the last year. And that trend is expected to continue.

It was with this in mind that I, along with several of my colleagues, wrote the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. We asked that at least \$400 million be included in the supplemental appropriations bill for VA health care. I'm happy to note that \$417 million was included. And, on June 6th, the bill was agreed to with my support.

On the benefits front, concurrent receipt remains one of my high priorities. It is unfair for career military retired veterans to be the only group of federal retirees who are required to waive their retirement pay in order to receive VA disability.

Last year's Department of Defense Authorization Act authorized concurrent receipt payments. Yet the portion of the legislation appropriating funds for the bill was stripped during conference committee between the Senate and House.

Since then, I have, with many of my colleagues, written to the Senate Budget Committee. We've urged committee members to include full funding for the payment of concurrent receipt in the 2003 budget resolution.

The budget resolution has been reported out of the Senate Budget Committee with mandatory funding of \$516 million in 2003 and \$17.8 billion over 10 years. This would allow for full concurrent receipt of military retirement and veterans disability benefits for veterans who are 60 to 100 percent disabled as a result of military service.

Recently I cosponsored legislation that would repeal the contingency language enacted in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002. My bill would remove a condition preventing authority for concurrent receipt from taking effect. If enacted, it would permit full concurrent receipt regardless of disability rating.

This issue isn't going to disappear. Rest assured I will continue my efforts to end this inequality.

I'm also concerned about the large backlogs associated with benefit requests. I'm glad to see that Secretary Principi appears to be making progress in resolving this problem. Last month he announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs has doubled the number of claims it decides each month. Although it is still unclear whether the agency is properly deciding these claims, it appears that this is a step in the right direction. I'm happy to see that progress is being made in resolving many of these aging claims.

Secretary Principi also recently announced that the VA has asked an independent, nine-member commission to make recommendations to the Secretary regarding restructuring the VA to bring its services closer to veterans.

I would like you all to know that I am aware of this situation and have already written the Secretary about the continuum of care provided to Montana's veterans. More specifically, I wrote about the key role Fort Harrison plays in providing service to our veterans population. I also asked the Secretary for more information on how this commission will be conducted. This could be a pivotal report shaping the future of veterans health in Montana. I want you to know that I will be in there fighting tooth and nail to secure the benefits and facilities you have earned.

I just want to end by thanking all of you – our veterans. I want to work together with you to make sure that we can provide the common-sense solutions to make sure you get the services and benefits you deserve, need and earned.

Our nation owes a debt to our veterans. You and I are all well aware of the promises America has made to our veterans. I will continue to work together with you to provide the access to care and benefits Montana's veterans deserve.

God Bless America and Montana.

Statement for Montana's Purple Heart Convention

Hello everyone. I apologize for not being with you today. Congress is in session so I'm here in Washington, I really do wish I could be with all of you today.

Your organization, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, is comprised of a wonderful group of people. You are true Americans. True Montanans. You have made great sacrifices by serving our country to protect the freedoms we all hold sacred. We as a country cannot thank you brave men and women enough.

Military personnel and veterans issues are very important to me. I hear from the military community all the time. And I'm committed to working with the military community and members of Congress to get the needs of military personnel met.

Last year as part of the Defense Authorization, I fought for concurrent receipt for our disabled veterans. I also was a co-sponsor of the Veterans and Military Personnel Fairness Act of 2003. This legislation includes provisions simplifying taxes for military personnel, guaranteeing funding for veterans health care and allowing full concurrent receipt.

Also, I co-sponsored the Veterans Health Care Funding Guarantee Act of 2003. This legislation will move the Veterans Affairs health care system from discretionary to mandatory spending, which will guarantee veteran health funding. It's of utmost importance to ensure that those who have given so much to our country are granted their due benefits, and are treated with respect.

During your convention you will be electing new office holders for the organization. You will also be working on your legislative agenda. Please keep me posted on the outcomes of both of those items. You all have my full support. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you with any of your legislative needs. I am here in Washington to serve you, to do whatever I can to help all of you. That's my job.

It's very important to show appreciation to all of those who have served our great nation. The Purple Heart is a wonderful tradition to honor all of you brave soldiers. And it's a tradition that I will work to ensure that it is carried out each and every day.

The Purple Heart reminds us of many things, but it especially reminds us that freedom isn't free. It makes us remember the dedicated heroes that have selflessly served in our military. The Purple Heart is one of the greatest symbols of sacrifice, selflessness and dedication. It's a marker of true patriotism and service.

I wish you all a successful conference. Please contact my office if I can assist you in anyway. Also, if you're ever in Washington, please stop by my office to visit. My door is always open. Good luck and I hope to hear from you soon.

Best Regards, Max

Unveiling of Purple Heart Stamp 5/30/2003

I'm happy to be celebrating with you today the unveiling of a stamp recognizing America's oldest and most recognized military decoration - the Purple Heart. I believe this stamp represents our remembrance and reverence to those who made great sacrifices to defend our nation's freedoms we hold sacred.

The Purple Heart was the first American award made available to soldiers and the oldest military decoration in the world still given to honor our brave soldiers. We come together today to honor and remember the brave men and women George Washington sought to honor through this distinction. It's important to show an appreciation to all of those who have served our great nation.

The Purple Heart reminds us of many things, but it reminds us that freedom is not free. It makes us recall the dedicated heroes that have selflessly served our great nation. It's a tradition that continues to be carried out this very day. Our thoughts and prayers are with our brave men and women in the military. We pray for a swift and safe return.

In closing, the Purple Heart remains one of the greatest symbols of sacrifice, selflessness and dedication. It's a marker of true patriotism and service. It is my hope that this stamp will serve as a reminder to citizens of all ages of the sacrifices made by our military.

Thank you.



Purple Heart

Some gave all, all gave some

www.purpleheart.org

For Combat Wounded Veterans

53.00

MARCH / APRIL 2003

VOL. LXVIII, NUMBER 2



APPROVED



Purple Heart

USA
37

2003

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 OF THE PURPLE HEART**

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THE COVER

The long awaited and hard fought-for Purple Heart Stamp is now a step closer to reality. The U.S. Postal Service shared the design and authorized the release on this month's cover with the National Commander and several staff members of the Order. In addition, plans are underway for a First Day of Issue Ceremony, around Memorial Day at a place to be determined.

There are several pieces of memorabilia advertised in this issue that are being made available to our members and friends of the Order to celebrate this significant event.

The issuance of this unique stamp pays honor and tribute to those living and dead who have been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat. A history of the award and award parameters are contained on the inside back cover of this issue of *Purple Heart*. ♥

★ ★ ★ MOPH CALENDAR ★ ★ ★

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

2003 - Rochester, MN - Aug. 12 - 16

The Kahler Grand Hotel

2004 - Atlanta, GA

2005 - Springfield / Branson, MO

PURPLE HEART DAY

August 7 (Annually)

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Month of April

DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS / ELECTIONS

Between May 1 - June 30

ARTICLES & REPORTS FOR PURPLE HEART MAGAZINE

1st day of even months: Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., & Dec.

Distributed each odd month of the year:

Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep., & Nov.

(National Officers are invited to submit items for the MOPH Calendar)

TOP RECRUITER HONOR ROLL—MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2002-2003

Submitted by Bill Bacon, Membership Director

RECRUITED BY NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS

	Dept./Chapter	Number Recruited*
Dan Trifunovich	CA	42
Mike Presslitz	PA	26
Casey Matuzak	NC	8
Lois Reinhardt-Reyes	NY	7
Gilbert Carrillo	NY	7

RECRUITED BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Clarence Stoel	WI Ch. #228	68
Bill Boggs	WV Ch. #418	37
Kip Monroe	FL Ch. #717	30
Gil DeLaPena	CA Ch. #106	22
Lane Carson	LA Ch. # 741	20
Joe Hems, PNC	NJ Ch. #181	20
Roger Kehrier	MI Ch. #41	19
Frank Cortez	TX Ch. #1919	18
Tony Rivera	NY Ch. #3	15
Joe McSwiggan	PA Ch. #63	14

**As of February 28, 2003*

CHAPTER CHARTERS

The Officers and Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart join in welcoming the officers and members of the following Chapters chartered since January 1, 2002:

- Southwest Missouri Chapter #821, Joplin, MO
- Junction City Chapter #780, Junction City, KS
- Memorial Brigade Chapter #770, Richland Center, WI
- Hilo Chapter #731, Hilo, HI
- Northshore MOPH Chapter #741, Covington, LA
- Cook County MOPH Chapter #744, Gainesville, TX

"Whoever does not have the stomach for this fight, let him depart. Give him his money to speed his departure since we wish not to die in this man's company. Whoever lives past today and comes home safely will rouse himself every year on this day, show his neighbor his scars, and tell him embellished stories of their great feats of battle. These stories he will teach his son and from this day until the end of the world we shall be remembered. We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for whoever has shed his blood with me shall be my brother. And those men afraid to go will think themselves lesser men as they hear of how we fought and died together."

—Henry V, Act IV, Scene III Wm. Shakespeare



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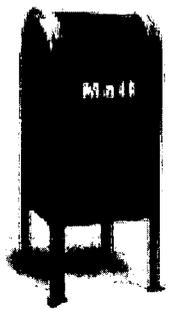
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LEOPOLDVILLE REVISITED

As a survivor of the sinking of the Leopoldville, I was pleased and grateful that *MOPH* magazine ran the story of this tragedy. The story needs to be told after 50 years of cover-up



by the British Admiralty and our War Department, who honored the British request to cover-up the disaster. British ineptness of the rescue operations, by their own admission,

cost 300 lives.

Stories of the sinking have appeared on TV's History Channel, the *VFW*, and *Battle of the Bulge* magazines. Authors Clive Cusslers and Stephen Ambrose have had brief references to the sinking in some of their books.

We survivors are pleased that families of the 800 who perished that Christmas Eve have finally been finding out what happened to their loved ones, rather than the terse MIA or KIA notification.

Sidney B. Spiro, Jr.
66th Division 262nd/INF
Madison, MS

MONTANA MEMORIAL

Thanks for getting the Montana monument into the magazine but your info is not correct. There are over 8,000 names on both sides of the six slabs.

There are 1400 per side, and another 450 ready to go up.

Angelo Bianco
Dept of Mt Adjutant
Editor: Regards to all those fine "doers" from Montana and on the Memorial particularly. Well Done!

STUDENT ESSAY

The essay on page 12 Jan/Feb by 12-year-old Chris Ceglia was a very articulate piece of writing. I would like to correct the writer about the Iwo Jima casualties. Attached is

a chart showing the historically accurate numbers. Apparently there was confusion about deaths and casualties.

United States Casualties at Iwo Jima

Service	KIA	MIA	YBA	Resigned	Total
Marines	6,911	17,212	1,046	22,031	
Army	853	1,742		2,595	
Army Air Corps	813	1,135		1,948	
Seafarers	138	262		400	
Sealers	91	112		203	
Army & Navy		12		12	
Total	9,806	20,213	1,046	24,066	

Japanese Casualties at Iwo Jima

Other Force	Prisoners	KIA	Total
		(Killed/Retained)	
Army	28	20,877	20,905
Navy	804		804
Total	1,082	20,877	21,959

Pierre Buffout
Paris, France

Editor: Thanks for the stats and refresher on the terrible cost in human lives represented by the battle for Iwo Jima.

THE STAMP

The tedious, uphill battle to achieve "The Purple Heart Stamp" has been won at long last! Words are insufficient to express gratitude and appreciation to those who championed the noble and worthy effort, led the charge, assailed the ramparts repeatedly, and finally prevailed.

The outcome is worthy of celebration and remembrance of what freedom costs Americans to "take for granted."

We must indeed savor this achievement while it lasts, because its glory (and memory) may be short-lived when the price of a First Class stamp increases!

Is there any possibility of "The Purple Heart Stamp" somehow being designated a permanent-issue stamp, wherein its face value always denotes the price of First Class Postage now and in the future?

Dr. Ralph E. Matkin
Life Member

Editor: Before we rock the boat, we'd better wait until the one we have fought for so long and hard is issued.

Purple Heart Regulation CAPS

Official Vendor's Supply List

Cap prices include the cap patch and the lettering "Military Order of the Purple Heart" and "U.S.A." on the left side, and Chapter number on the front right, if requested.

NATIONAL CAP

All white with purple piping & letters: \$20.75 each

DEPARTMENT CAP

Purple with white top, gold piping & white letters: \$20.75 each

CHAPTER CAP

All purple with white piping & letters: \$20.75 each

Life Member Annotation
Includes direct embroidery "Life Member" around flap curve on front right side:
\$4.50 (in addition to cap price).

Additional letters:
\$0.45 each

Remove/replace letters:
\$1.20 per letter

Plastic zippered cap bag:
\$2.25 each

Summer baseball caps:
\$9.25 each*

Winter baseball caps:
\$10.25 each*

Dress Tie: \$10.00 each*
Purple tie - 100% polyester with white-bordered MOPH patch (specify standard tie or clip-on)
*ONE SIZE FITS ALL

Allow approximately four (4) weeks for delivery.
For shipping & handling, add \$4.75 per order.

INCLUDE WITH EACH ORDER: (print)
Name _____
Address _____
Chap.# _____ Cap Size _____
TelNo(s) _____

Compute Total Amt. of Order: \$ _____
and mail check or Money Order to:

KEYSTONE UNIFORM CAP
801 North Front St.
Philadelphia, PA 19123

PHONE: (215) 922-5493
FAX: (215) 922-5161



National Commander

William A. Wroolie



OUR STAMP IS ON THE WAY

Our staff and I met with officials of the U.S. Postal Service to discuss details regarding the issuance of the forthcoming Purple Heart Stamp. This is the culmination of a lot of hard work on the part of many Purple Hearters. Its issuance pays homage not only to those who wear the Purple Heart, but to the thousands who were awarded this special medal posthumously as well.

Details regarding its issuance are still being developed, but the USPS is targeting the period "around Memorial Day 2003."

We were fortunate to obtain permission of the Postal Service to reproduce the expected version of the stamp on our cover. It's a beautiful representation of the Purple Heart medallion portion of the medal, and I am confident it will be a pleasing additional selection of definitive stamps offered by the Postal Service for users and collectors alike. Some very attractive memorabilia and items are being developed to accompany this release, several of which are advertised in other parts of this magazine. These offerings are very limited and the advice contained in one ad "You Snooze, You Lose," is sound advice. These prideful heirloom pieces will be snapped up, and when they are gone, they are gone!

In a time of great change when we are most in need of creativity and innovation the Military Order of the Purple Heart will face numerous challenges to survive as a viable organization. We are a relatively traditional group, comprised of older Americans who fought in World War II, Korea, and the Republic of Viet-

nam. The majority of our membership represents these three eras. Please understand that I am totally aware of all additional conflicts and engagements where the Purple Heart medal was awarded for combat wounds, not any less painful, but thankfully, prospective memberships are significantly less in numbers. As a typical group of veterans we appear to like the old ways of doing business and we are suspicious of any new ideas. We have several strengths and we also have some weaknesses. The Military Order of the Purple Heart is currently comprised of approximately 450 Chapters and 44 Departments. A wealth of talent exists among the members in each of these chapters and departments, talent that needs to be refocused and re-energized to rejuvenate our organization. The time is right to evaluate and review our organization's future as a whole. For this reason, the leadership of the Military Order of the Purple Heart has initiated a process to help with the development of long range planning to assure our survival in the new millennium.

As a leader of our organization, I find myself dealing with the immediate day-to-day issues. These issues consume most of my time, leaving very little time for the creative thinking necessary for future planning. You might know this syndrome as 'crisis management.' Therefore I have appointed a committee to focus on long-range planning. The purpose of a long-range plan is to develop a road map to create a vision statement that will carry us into the future. The second step will be to project the vi-

sion into determining what our actual mission should be. Finally, with a vision and a mission statement we can develop the specific goals needed for the survival and success of the Order.

You might ask, "Why a long-range plan?" We, as an organization, like a business, must grow and evolve or decline and die. Some of the issues that will confront us over the next several years include but are not limited to: declining membership due to death, declining physical health due to age, declining number of Chapters, and perhaps even Departments. I believe that you can see that a picture is starting to develop. Yes, I agree we do not plan to fail, but if we fail to plan our demise is forth coming.

Long-range planning is never a smooth and predictable process; "We have always done things this way," keeps creeping back into the conversation. This issue has been and will continue to be discussed with several members of the leadership team to include National Sr. Vice Commander Silvano and National Jr. Vice Commander Tyson.

The time in my term is rapidly coming to a close and I will pass on the responsibilities of this tremendous task to my successors. You can be assured your future leaders will continue to visit and revisit the need for



U.S. Postal Service Meeting. Mr. Gary A. Thuro, Director, Communications Services, USPS; Cynthia P. Puryear, Manager, Community Relations, USPS; Jay Phillips, Nat'l Adjutant General; and Nat'l Commander William A. Wroolie, Military Order of the Purple Heart discuss details of Purple Heart Stamp issuance to be launched around Memorial Day 2003.

Photo by Cy Kammeier

★ ★ ★ ★ THE PURPLE HEART ★ ★ ★ ★

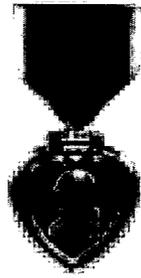
The Purple Heart is an American decoration—the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first American award made available to the common soldier. It was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by one of the world's most famed and best-loved heroes—General George Washington.

General Washington is often pictured as a cold, stern soldier, a proud aristocrat. Yet we know he showed sympathy and concern for his troops, and was not too proud to pray humbly on his knees for his beloved country and for the men who served it, and him, so bravely and loyally.

His keen appreciation of the importance of the common soldier in any campaign impelled him to recognize outstanding valor and merit by granting a commission or an advance in rank to deserving individuals. In the summer of 1782 he was ordered by the Continental Congress to cease doing so—there were no funds to pay the soldiers, much less the officers!

Deprived of his usual means of reward, he must have searched for a substitute. Shortly after receiving the “stop” order from Congress, he wrote his memorable General Orders of August 7, 1782, which read in part as follows:

“The General, ever desirous to cherish virtuous ambition in his soldiers as well as foster and encourage every species of military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding. Not only instances of unusual gallantry but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with due reward. The name and regiment of the persons so certified are to be enrolled in a Book of Merit which shall be kept in the orderly room.” The order further states: “Men who have merited this distinction to be suffered to pass all



guards and sentinels which officers are permitted to do. The order to be retroactive to the earliest stages of the war, and to be a permanent one.” Washington ended his order with: “The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all.”

Lost or misfiled for almost 150 years among the War Department Records at Washington, D.C., this important paper came to light during the search for Washington's papers prior to the celebration of his bicentennial in 1932. With it were the dramatic accounts of three soldiers who received the decoration at Newburgh, N.Y., at Washington's Headquarters. The Book of Merit has not been found. The U.S. War Department revived the Purple Heart decoration on February 22, 1932. Miss Elizabeth Will, an Army heraldic specialist in the Office of the Quartermaster General, was named to redesign the newly revived medal, which became known as the Purple Heart. Using general specifications provided to her, Ms. Will created the design sketch for the present medal of the Purple Heart. The Commission of Fine Arts solicited plaster models from three leading sculptors for the medal, selecting that of John R. Sinnock of the Philadelphia Mint in May 1931. The revived form is of metal, instead of perishable cloth, made in the shape of a rich purple heart bordered with gold, with a bust of Washington in the center and the Washington coat-of-arms at the top. The latter is believed to have been the source of the stars and stripes of the American Flag.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of

war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration.

An organization now known as the “Military Order of the Purple Heart,” was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all who have received the decoration. Composed exclusively of Purple Heart recipients, it is the only veterans service organization comprised strictly of “combat” veterans.

Funds for welfare, rehabilitation and/or service work carried on by the organization are derived through the collection of used household items, the operation of Thrift Stores, through the donation of automobiles and, at the community level, from the annual distribution of its official flower, the Purple Heart Viola. Violas are assembled by disabled and needy veterans, many of whom receive little or no compensation from other sources. Thus your contribution to programs of the Military Order of the Purple Heart serve a two-fold purpose—they help the veterans who participate in these endeavors and enable the organization to do many things on behalf of hospitalized and needy veterans and their families.

Wives, mothers, daughters, step-daughters and adopted daughters of Purple Heart recipients are eligible to belong to the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, which also does important work nationally and locally in Veterans' Hospitals. Further information about the Order and its Ladies' Auxiliary may be obtained from the National Headquarters as listed below.

For additional information on how to join, write or call:

**Military Order of the Purple Heart
5413-B Backlick Road**

**Springfield, Virginia 22151
703-642-5360 (Fax) 703-642-2054**

Email: info@purpleheart.org

Web: <http://www.purpleheart.org>