



Military Order of the Purple Heart **TEXAS CAPITAL CHAPTER 1919**

Chapter Events Resume!

~~COVID-19~~

Chapter Officer Election & Installment Meeting 2021 – April 24th

Veteran's Long Range Shoot Contest – April 29-May 1st

Texas Department, MOPH Annual Convention – May 1st

Chapter Annual BBQ in Driftwood – May 22nd

MOPH 1919 ROTC and JROTC Leadership Awards

Chapter 1919 sponsors the recognition of outstanding students enrolled in both University ROTC programs (Senior ROTC) and High School JROTC programs (Junior ROTC). The nominated students exemplify leadership and excellence in all areas of performance. Each year from March-May, we present the MOPH National Leadership Awards to 8 Senior ROTC programs and 22 Junior ROTC programs in the Greater Austin Area, including programs as far away as Bryan, Brenham, New Braunfels, and San Marcos.

When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in March 2020, all but one of our sponsored ROTC programs cancelled their spring awards ceremonies. This year, in addition to providing the 2021 MOPH Leadership Awards to our 30 schools, Chapter 1919 also provided the 2020 Leadership Awards, encouraging the ROTC Instructors to recognize both last year's nominee and this year's nominee during their spring ceremony. Although many of the ceremonies will be virtual this year, our Patriot members should be proud to know that Chapter 1919 continues to be engaged and involved in the ROTC programs where nearly ½ of high school JROTC students go on to serve in the military, and 100% of university ROTC students receive commissions in their selected services.

Contact Jim Bracken if you want to support any of the award presentations this year.
Cmdr.MOPH1919@gmail.com

April 2021

<p>Saturday April 24 2:30pm – 3:00pm</p>	<p>Casa Chapala Restaurant 9041 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758</p>	<p>Chapter Meeting and 2021 Officer Elections. Our <u>first Chapter Meeting post-COVID</u> includes elections and installment immediately afterwards during a short, 30-minute meeting.</p>
<p>Saturday April 24 3:15pm – 4:30pm (immediately following Chapter Meeting)</p>	<p>Casa Chapala Restaurant 9041 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758</p>	<p>Presentation by Dr. Donald Rhodes, DPM on a new patented, FDA approved neuro-electronic treatment for chronic pain. Dr. Rhodes is the inventor of VECTTOR, and with the help of the Medical Practice – Symbios, has brought the treatment to the VA's Community Care Network. See flyer. This presentation is open to all Chapter 1919 Members and Veterans living in the Greater Austin Area.</p>
<p>Thursday April 29 – Saturday May 1 Time: 7:30am on all 3 days.</p>	<p>RPR Range in Burnet 1610 County Rd 115, Burnet, Texas 78611</p>	<p>Veteran Long Range Shooting Competition. Sponsored by Veterans Outdoors non-profit and 5150 Precision Rifles. MOPH participants should plan on sighting in and waiver signatures on Thursday, April 29th at 0730am. Contact Allen Leatherwood for more information at allen_4901@yahoo.com or (512) 919-0450.</p>

May 2021

<p>Saturday May 1 8:00am – 5:00pm</p> <p>Evening Dinner Buffet from 7:00pm-9:00pm, following the convention.</p>	<p>The Shilo Inns Hotel, Killeen, TX</p> <p>*To register for the evening dinner on May 1st, contact Patriot Rocky Hernandez Adjutant, Chapter 1876 254-702-1009 Rhernandez7@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Texas Dept MOPH Annual Convention. Hosted by Chapter 1876 in Killen, Texas, MOPH members are invited to attend the full day convention.</p> <p>Hotel reservation can be made at the following web site: https://www.shiloinns.com/shilo-inns-killeen or by calling (254) 699-0999. Room rates for the convention are \$80.00 for Military Order of the Purple Heart registrants.</p> <p>Cost for attendance at the conference is \$25 per person. Cost for evening dinner buffet is \$40 per person. Reservations for the dinner buffet must be made (and paid) by April 26th.</p>
<p>Saturday May 22 12:30pm – 4:30pm</p>	<p>Rose Weeden's House 1175 Enchanted Oak Drive, Driftwood TX 78619</p>	<p>Annual Chapter BBQ. This will be a pot-luck BB. The Chapter will provide the BBQ, members will bring side dishes, salads, and deserts. Live music by the Hill Country Ramblers; raffle and door prizes, activities for kids.</p>
<p>Tuesday May 25 11:00am-2:00pm</p>	<p>444 Tubing 444 E. San Antonio St New Braunfels, TX 78619</p>	<p>Carry the Load Revival. Join in the celebration and honor of fallen servicemen and women as Carry the Load relay teams pass through New Braunfels along the Purple Heart Trail. See flyer for more information.</p>
<p>Monday May 31</p>	<p>TBA</p>	<p>Memorial Day Wreath Ceremony. No official or confirmed ceremonies at this time.</p>

June - August 2021

Saturday June 4 2:00pm – 4:00pm	Casa Chapala Restaurant 9041 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758	Chapter Officer Meeting. Chapter business and event planning/coordination for remaining months in 2021. All members welcomed!
Saturday June 26 2:00pm – 4:00pm	Casa Chapala Restaurant 9041 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758	Chapter Meeting. Chapter business. Guest Speaker – Dr. Donna Ashmore, PhD on pain management strategies. Catered buffet lunch compliments of Casa Chapala provided concurrent with meeting.

Sunday July 4 Time TBA	Dell Diamond Round Rock, Texas	Independence Day Fireworks. Chapter Officers coordinating with Round Rock Express for access to Dell Diamond for the annual July 4 th Fireworks. Details will follow when confirmed.
Saturday July 10 2:00pm – 4:00pm	Casa Chapala Restaurant 9041 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758	Chapter Officer Meeting. Chapter business and event planning/coordination for remaining months in 2021. All members welcomed!
Saturday July 24 2:00pm – 4:00pm	Casa Chapala Restaurant 9041 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758	Chapter Officer Meeting. Chapter business and event planning/coordination for remaining months in 2021. All members welcomed!

Saturday Aug 7 7:30am-2:00pm	Plum Creek Golf Course 4301 Benner Road Kyle, TX 78640	National Purple Heart Day Chapter 1919 Golf Tournament
Saturday Aug 7 2:00pm – 4:00pm	Casa Chapala Restaurant 9041 Research Blvd, Austin, TX 78758	Chapter Officer Meeting. Chapter business and event planning/coordination for remaining months in 2021. All members welcomed!

MOPH Austin Website Update:

Although our website is currently offline, we **HAVE NOT LOST** all of the Patriot Stories, Photos, and historical Chapter 1919 Newsletters. Chapter Officers are currently seeking a solution to get the website back online. Thank you for your patience during this challenging transition.



MILITARY ORDER of the PURPLE HEART “Texas Capital Chapter 1919”

2019 In Review

Patriots, 2019 was a great year for our Chapter. Together we accomplished many goals and helped many veterans through hardship. Thank you for your volunteerism, generous donations, commitment to serving veterans, and support for our chapter mission and objectives. Here are the 2019 highlights:

- Chapter 1919 received over 40 tickets to the Armed Forces Bowl in January 2019 to watch the cadets of West Point crush the University of Houston. During a ceremony at half-time, over 200 Purple Heart recipients from all 19 Chapters in Texas presented a “Purple Heart Football” to the Armed Forces Bowl Board of Directors and designated the bowl game as the only “Purple Heart Bowl Game” in the county. Many continued thanks to John Collins whose generosity and steadfast support to our chapter and local veterans, coordinated a bus for our Patriots and guests to attend the game in Fort Worth, TX.
- Our annual George Washington Birthday Dinner in February 2019 was honored by our Guest Speaker Maj General Dave Garza, USMC (Ret) and special guests General Vincent Brooks, USA (Ret) and Maj General Bob Halverson, USA (Ret). The evening was a wonderful experience, with over 100 attendees. We recognized our Chapter 1919 Patriot of the Year for 2018 – Patriot Paul Stehle and paid tribute to Patriot Milt Carr for his 24 years of service as our Chapter Adjutant, Patriot Howard McKinney for his 12+ years of service as our Webmaster and Email Coordinator, and Raymond Diaz for his 14+ years as our Chapter Finance Officer/Bookkeeper.
- Chapter 1919 sponsored an Eagle Scout Project in Bastrop County, where a Purple Heart Monument was dedicated in the Elgin City Veterans Park in March. Visit this monument in Elgin.
- In March 2019, our Chapter attended the Texas State Capitol’s Vietnam Veteran Monument Ceremony in Austin, TX. Patriots Paul Stehle and Cleo Vickers laid our Chapter 1919 wreath during the ceremony along with many other veteran organizations.
- Chapter 1919 sponsored 30 Leadership Awards to graduating seniors and distinguished cadets/midshipmen at 26 JROTC and ROTC at spring awards programs (March, April and May) throughout Central Texas.
- Chapter 1919 worked with the City of Smithville, TX to receive the “Purple Heart City” designation, and also supported the Burts family in Brackettville, TX to receive a “Purple Heart Ranch” designation at Burts Ranch.
- Chapter 1919 participated in the Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Veteran Memorial Plaza in Sun City – Georgetown, TX.
- Chapter 1919 held 2 major fundraisers during 2019 that raised over \$4000 to go towards our chapter programs and objectives such as financial assistance (a hand-up) to veterans in need of help, JROTC scholarships, and Christmas gifts to veteran families, Veteran Administration Volunteer Services, Veteran Home resident gifts and activities, transportation support to medical appointments, to name only a few. Thanks to your continued support as Chapter 1919 Boosters, and for your Tributes in memory of chapter members, comrades, and loved ones. Your contributions matter!
- In September 2019, Chapter 1919 participated in a wreath-laying ceremony honoring POW-MIAs in Pflugerville, TX. Patriots Kerry Orr and Brian Allen represented our members at this exceptional ceremony paying tribute to POW-MIA servicemen and women.

- Chapter 1919 hosted the 1st Annual “1919 Golf Scramble” in October at Crystal Falls Golf Club in Leander, TX.
- Chapter 1919 worked with Georgetown Rotary Club to support this year’s Central Texas Field of Honor. Patriots Larisa Dickerson and Allen Leatherwood carried our Chapter flag and POW-MIA flag during the opening ceremony and staffed an information booth during the military and first responder exposition.
- Members of Chapter 1919 participated in the Austin Veterans Day Parade. Many thanks to long-time friend and Chapter supporter -- Madison “Mad Dog” Hughes -- for driving Purple Santa during the parade in his military utility truck.
- Patriot Danny Baker, along with Auxiliary President Jane Baker, working closely with our Super Star Volunteer Lilo Saenz, supported many social events and celebrations at the Temple Veterans Home: July 4th Pizza Party, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Party, and many other smaller, yet meaningful visits for veterans at the Temple facility. Many thanks to these special Chapter 1919 and Auxiliary members.

2020 In Review

- Chapter 1919 received over 40 tickets to the Armed Forces Bowl and rented a bus in January 2020 to watch the Tulane Green Wave defeat the University of Mississippi Golden Eagles. During a special ceremony at half-time, over 200 Purple Heart recipients from all 19 Chapters in Texas received a complimentary Tempur-Pedic mattress from Sealy Mattresses.
- Our annual George Washington Birthday Dinner in February 2020 was honored by our Guest Speaker General Robert Neller, USMC (Ret), 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps. The evening was a wonderful experience, with over 100 attendees. We recognized our Chapter 1919 Patriot of the Year for 2019 – Patriot Larisa Dickerson.
- Four weeks after our Birthday Dinner on March 21, 2020 -- the newly installed Chapter Commander informed the Chapter Officers that based on health concerns for members, all Chapter activities would be postponed until the COVID-19 pandemic was no longer a significant threat.

Chapter 1919 is the 2nd largest chapter in Texas, and 7th largest in the Nation (over 585 members). Our members are among the most compassionate, sincere, generous, and patriotic folks I have ever met. This year has been a wonderful learning experience for your Chapter Officers, and together we are committed to sustain the progress our Chapter has made this past year. Thank you all for your support and participation in our programs!

Note from the Commander

2021 will be an important year for our chapter. Many of *our Chapter’s founding* members are no longer performing the functions they did for years. The Chapter Website has never recovered from the departure of our Webmaster in 2019. At the present time, 5 members of our chapter are carrying the complete load for planning, coordinating, and communicating our activities. More volunteers will make a huge difference in the quality of the chapter activities.

If you would like to be more involved, or attend ONE or TWO chapter events per year, please contact Jim Bracken at Cmdr.MOPH1919@gmail.com or (760) 814-3593 for more information.