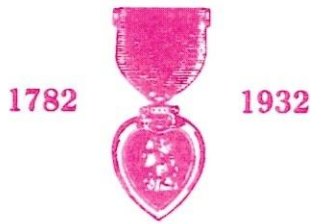


MILITARY ORDER of the PURPLE HEART

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Renaissance Chapter 455

Highland Medical Center
7180 Highland Drive, PA 15206

MOPH Chapter 0455 July 2010 News Bulletin

Ernie Pyle Museum:

The Ernie Pyle State Historic Site is located one mile north of U.S. Highway 36 on Indiana State Road 71. Contact info was: P.O. Box 338; 120 W. Briarwood Ave. Dana, IN 47847-0338 or (765) 665-3633/9312F or erniepyleshs@dnr.in.gov.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, citing low visitation numbers and state budget cuts, no longer wants to operate the Ernie Pyle museum and birthplace, which they closed several months ago. State officials have given the nonprofit group Friends of Ernie Pyle until 1 AUG to come up with a plan for the museum's future. The Friends can accept ownership, alone or in partnership with other community or governmental groups. If that doesn't happen, the state will move the exhibits to the Indiana State Museum and sell the real estate.

The Site consists of a Visitor Center and a Historic House. The Visitor Center exhibits feature life-size scenes based on Ernie Pyle's writings and experiences as a World War II correspondent. The exhibits include state-of-the-art audio and video stations and contain authentic World War II uniforms, weapons, and gear, including a 1944 Willys jeep donated by local veterans groups. The Historic House from the farm where Pyle was born is furnished as an early 1900s rural Indiana farmhouse. Through the efforts of the Dana residents, the Indiana Department of the American Legion, and a sizeable contribution from the Eli Lilly Foundation, the Historic House was moved from its rural site to its present location. It became a state historic site in July 1976. On 18 APR 95 a new Visitor Center, constructed from two authentic World War II Quonset huts, was dedicated. The center features a video theater, research library, exhibits and a gift shop. This addition was made possible through a grant from the Scripps Howard Foundation and the Paige Cavanaugh estate. The permanent exhibits were completed in 1998.

[Source: The Tribune-Star Sue Loughlin article 26 Jun 2010 ++]

VA Headstones & Markers Update 06:

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki announced 29 JUN that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is offering bronze medallions to attach to existing, privately purchased headstones or markers, signifying a deceased's status as a Veteran. "For Veterans not buried in a national or state Veterans cemetery, or those without a government grave marker, VA is pleased to offer this option that highlights their service and sacrifices for our country," said Secretary Shinseki. The new item can be furnished instead of a traditional government headstone or marker for Veterans whose death occurred on or after 1 NOV 90, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Under federal law, eligible Veterans buried in a private cemetery are entitled to either a government-furnished grave marker or the new medallion, but not both. Veterans buried in a national or state Veterans cemetery will receive a government headstone or marker of the standard design authorized at that cemetery. The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches and 1 ½ inches in width. Each bronze medallion features the image of a folded burial flag

adorned with laurels and is inscribed with the word "Veteran" at the top and the branch of service at the bottom. Next of kin will receive the medallion, along with a kit that will allow the family or the staff of a private cemetery to affix the medallion to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum or columbarium niche cover. More information about VA-furnished headstones, markers and medallions can be found at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmtype.asp>. VA is currently developing an application form for ordering the medallion. Until it is available, applicants may use the form for ordering government headstones and markers, VA.

VA Facility Wireless Service:

The Veterans Affairs Department plans to install wireless networks at health care facilities nationwide so patients and their families would have Internet access, top officials said on 24 JUN. The project would be a massive undertaking to deploy the service throughout VA's 153 hospitals, 134 nursing homes and 50 residential rehabilitation facilities across the country. But patients have asked the department provide Internet service in its health care facilities and officials said they view the requests as part of their service to the veteran community. Veterans and their families would be able to use the networks for communications, e-mail and therapeutic activities, said Gail Graham, deputy chief officer for Health Information Management at the Veterans Health Administration during the hearing of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. She emphasized that any network VA installs must run separately from Wi-Fi networks already in place in hospitals that support medical operations.

Roger Baker, chief information officer at VA, said in an interview with Nextgov on 24 JUN that a Wi-Fi network for patients and hospital visitors must operate with an air gap between it and medical networks. If the department installs patient Wi-Fi networks, they cannot compromise the security or data capacity of medical networks used to support bar code medication administration, among other things. A patient Wi-Fi network also cannot interfere with spectrum the medical staff uses, he said. VA plans to consider using broadband cellular wireless as an alternative to Wi-Fi to support the patient network. In addition, VA does not want to maintain the network, because it doesn't want to be put in the position of banning patients from certain websites, a practice it would likely be asked to do if it ran the system, Baker said. VA plans to ask the technology industry to propose business models for the outsourced network, including supporting the network through advertising or asking patients to pay for access. The latter alternative most likely will be hard to sell to veterans, Baker acknowledged. He anticipated VA will put out a request for the network within the next six months.

Health care facilities present a wireless challenge, because they typically have thick, solid walls that make it hard for signals to penetrate and medical devices in the buildings create interference, said David Callisch, vice president of marketing for Ruckus Wireless in Sunnyvale, Calif., which has developed Wi-Fi systems for large organizations such as hospitals. Craig Mathias, wireless analyst at Farpoint Group in Ashland, Mass., said depending on its size, VA might have to install as many as 200 Wi-Fi access points in each facility, which would place the total cost of a national wireless patient network in the multimillion-dollar range.

[Source: www.nextgov.com Bob Brewin article 24 Jan 2010 ++]

GI BILL Update 80:

On the 66th anniversary of signing the GI Bill into law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it has issued more than \$3.6 billion in the bill's newest manifestation, the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Benefit payments under the bill, implemented last year, have gone to more than 285,000 people and their educational institutions. On 22 JUN 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill of Rights. The Veterans Administration - as it was known at that time - was responsible for carrying out the law's key provisions for education and training, loan guaranty for homes, farms or businesses, and unemployment pay. Before the World War II, college and homeownership were, for the most part, unreachable dreams for the average American. Thanks to the GI Bill, millions who would have flooded the job market opted for education instead. In the peak year of 1947, Veterans accounted for 49% of college admissions. By the time the original GI Bill ended on 25 JUL 1958, 7.8

million of the 16 million World War II Veterans had participated in an education or training program. In 1984, former Mississippi congressman G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery revamped the GI Bill. The Montgomery GI Bill assured that VA home loan guaranty and education programs continued to work for Veterans of the post-Vietnam era. In 2009, GI Bill benefits were updated again. The new law gave Veterans with active duty service on, or after 11 SEP 01, enhanced educational benefits to cover more expenses, provide a living allowance, money for books and the ability to transfer unused educational benefits to spouses or children. For more information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill for Veterans, refer to www.gibill.va.gov. [Source: VA News Release 23 Jun 2010 ++]

VA Co-pay Update 11: Effective 1 JAN 2010

Outpatient Services - The following Co-pay amounts are limited to a single charge per visit regardless of the number of health care providers seen in a single day. The co-pay amount is based on the highest level of service received. There is no co-pay requirement for preventive care services such as screenings and immunizations:

Basic Care Services provided by a primary care clinician \$15 / visit.

Specialty Care Services provided by a clinical specialist such as surgeon, radiologist, audiologist, optometrist, cardiologist, and specialty tests such as magnetic resonance imagery (MRI), computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan, and nuclear medicine studies \$50 / visit.

Medications

Veterans in Priority Group 1 do not pay for medications

Veterans in Priority Groups 2-6, for each 30-day or less supply of medication for treatment of non-service-connected condition \$8 (Veterans in Priority Groups 2 through 6 are limited to \$960 annual cap)

Effective July 1, 2010 Veterans in Priority Groups 7-8, for each 30-day or less supply of \$9 medication for treatment of non-service-connected condition (Veterans in Priority Groups 7-8 do not qualify for medication co-pay annual cap).

Inpatient Services - Based on geographically-based means testing, lower income veterans who live in high-cost areas may qualify for a reduction of 80% of inpatient co-pay charges. Charges applicable to all priority groups:

Inpatient Co-pay for first 90 days of care during a 365-day period \$1,100

Inpatient Co-pay for each additional 90 days of care during a 365-day period \$550

Per Diem Charge \$10 / day

Long-Term Care – Co-pays for Long-Term Care services start on the 22nd day of care during any 12-month period—there is no copay requirement for the first 21 days. Actual copay charges will vary from veteran to veteran depending upon financial information submitted on VA Form 10-10EC. Charges applicable to all priority groups:

Nursing Home Care/Inpatient Respite Care/Geriatric Evaluation maximum of \$97/day

Adult Day Health Care/Outpatient Geriatric Evaluation Outpatient Respite Care maximum of \$15/day

Domiciliary Care maximum of \$5 / day

[Source: VA Fact Sheet 16-1 dtd Jun 2010 ++]

VAT Tax:

Alarmed by the country's \$1.4 trillion deficit, some economists have suggested that the U.S. adopt a national sales tax. Currently, about 150 countries have this type of value-added tax (VAT): In Great Britain its 17.5%; China 17%; Mexico 16%; Kazakhstan 12%, Philippines 12%, and Egypt 10%. The tax typically applies to all purchases, as well as to services from haircuts to stock trades. VATs "often generate half a country's public revenues," says Robert Goulder of Tax Analysts, a nonprofit publisher of tax policy magazines. In France, for instance, the VAT accounts for 52% of the money the government collects. "Most of the 150 countries that have a VAT would be fiscally crippled without it," Goulder says. In the U.S., each 1% of VAT could raise \$1 trillion over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. While some federal lawmakers are warning of the idea, others say such a tax disproportionately hurts the poor, who spend most of their income on necessities. Some countries counter that problem by having a dual [rate structure – lowering or eliminating the VAT on purchases like prescription drugs and groceries. However, some policy experts worry that a VAT could actually raise so much money, and so easily, that it would encourage Congressional waste. "A VAT would take the pressure of the government to rein in spending," says Rudolph Penner, a fellow with the Urban Institute, a public-policy think tank. "And the more they spend, the more taxpayers have to shell out."

[Source: Parade Economy article 30 May 2010 ++]

Korean War 60th Anniversary:

The 60th Anniversary of the Start of the Korean War was commemorated on 24 JUN at a Congressional Ceremony Commemorating in Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol. The event was attended by many dignitaries from the Republic of Korea, as well as Korean War veterans. Nine members of Congress spoke at the event, including all members of the Democratic and Republican leadership, as well as four of the five members of Congress who either fought in the Korean War or were in the armed services at the time of the war. Those members were Congressmen Charlie Rangel (D-NY), John Conyers (D-Mich.), Howard Coble (R-NC) and Senator Arlen Specter (D-Pa.). Not in attendance was Representative Sam Johnson (R-Texas), a Korean and Vietnam War veteran and a Vietnam War POW. Several of the speakers mentioned the fact that when you look at satellite photos taken at night of the Korean peninsula, South Korea is lit up in much the same way as is the eastern coast of the U.S., while North Korea is starkly black. They saw this as a vivid analogy of the difference between a free society - one that is full of light and life - and a brutal dictatorship, where the light of freedom has been extinguished. All of the speakers paid tribute to those brave Americans who went to Korea when their nation called and fought against the communist tyranny which threatened to overrun the entire Korean peninsula. Speaker Pelosi said that while some have called the Korean War the "forgotten war," the ceremony in the Capitol was a demonstration that our nation has not forgotten the sacrifices of those who fought in that faraway land.

[Source: TREA Washington Update 25 Jun 2010 ++]

Korean War Vet Appreciation Letter:

The Invasion of Inchon, the Pusan Perimeter and the Chosin Reservoir are only a few of the fields of battle where Americans placed their lives on the line for democracy. Of nearly 390,000 Americans who served there, 36,000 gave their lives. The war was a military conflict between the Republic of South Korea, supported by the United Nations, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, backed by the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union. The situation escalated into open warfare when North Korean forces invaded South Korea across the border between the countries - the 38th parallel - on 25 JUN 50. An armistice was signed on 23 JUL 53, thus ending the first significant armed conflict of the Cold War; however, a formal peace agreement never has been signed.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the war, the Republic of Korea 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee has various plans to thank, honor and remember Korean War Veterans and their

achievements. One of the projects is to send letters of appreciation from the President of the Republic of Korea to as many living Korean War Veterans as possible to express tribute and profound gratitude for their service and sacrifice that laid the foundations of peace and freedom enjoyed today by the people of Korea. Korean War veterans who want to receive the letter should fill out and submit an application form for an appreciation letter from the Republic of Korea President. To obtain forms and information on how/where to submit:

Complete the PDF form at <http://eng.koreanwar60.go.kr/apply.asp>

By internet click 'SUBMIT' upon completion.

By mail complete and print the Application Form and send to: US Branch ROK 60th AKW Commemoration Committee, 2450 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington D.C., 20008

Direct all questions to: sweetewe@korea.kr

[Source: Oregon VA News Release 15 Jun 2010 ++]

Military History Anniversaries:

Jul 01 1898 - Spanish-American War: The Battle of San Juan Hill is fought in Santiago de Cuba.

Jul 08 1948 - The United States Air Force accepts its first female recruits into a program called Women in the Air Force (WAF)

Jul 01 1863 - Civil War: Battle of Gettysburg, Pa; Lee's northward advance halted

Jul 01 1907 - World's 1st air force established (US Army)

Jul 01 1970 – Vietnam: 23 day Siege of Fire Base Ripcord began

Jul 02 1926 - US Army Air Corps created; Distinguish Flying Cross authorized

Jul 03 1814 - Revolutionary War: Americans capture Fort Erie Canada

Jul 03 1898 - Spanish American War: U.S. Navy defeats Spanish fleet in Santiago harbor Cuba

Jul 03 1915 - U.S. Marines landed in Haiti following the assassination of the Haitian president Vilbrun Guillaume. The Marines remained as occupation forces until 1934

Jul 03 1950 - Korean War: 1st time US & North Korean forces clash in Korean War

Jul 03 1988 - USS Vincennes in Strait of Hormoez shoots Iran Airbus A300, kills 290

Jul 04 1776 - Revolutionary War: Declaration of Independence - U.S. gains independence from Britain

Jul 04 1944 - WWII: 1st Japanese kamikaze attack U.S. fleet near Iwo Jima

Jul 05 1945 - WWII: Liberation of the Philippines declared.

Jul 06 1777 - Revolutionary War: British Gen Burgoyne captures Fort Ticonderoga from Americans

Jul 06 1848 - Mexican-American War: Ended with the Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo

Jul 07 1863 - Civil War: 1st military draft by US (exemptions cost \$100)

Jul 07 1941 - WWII: U.S. forces land in Iceland to forestall Nazi invasion

Jul 08 1950 - Korean War: Gen Douglas MacArthur named commander-in-chief UN forces in Korea

Jul 09 1944 - WWII: The island of Saipan in the Marianas fell to U.S. troops following their defeat of Japanese defenders

Jul 09 1944 - WWII: Napalm was used for the first time during the American invasion of Tinian in the Marianas.

Jul 09 1951 - WWII: Pres Truman asked Congress to formally end state of war with Germany

Jul 10 1943 - WWII: Operation Husky - U.S. & Britain invade Sicily.

Jul 11 1789 - U.S. Marine Corps created by an act of Congress

Jul 11 1864 - Civil War: Confederate forces led by Gen J Early begin invasion of Wash DC

Jul 12 1812 - War of 1812: U.S. forces led by Gen Hull invade Canada

Jul 13 1945 - WWII: 1st atom bomb explodes in New Mexico

Jul 14 1863 - Civil War: Confederate forces under GEN Robert E. Lee, defeated after three days of fighting at the battle of Gettysburg, began their withdrawal to the South.

Jul 14 1945 - Battleship USS South Dakota is 1st US ship to bombard Japan

Jul 15 1779 - Revolutionary War: U.S. troops under Gen A Wayne conquer Ft Stony Point, NY

Jul 15 1918 - WWII: Beginning of the Second Battle of the Marne between German forces on one side and French, American, British, and Italian troops on the other side. The battle ended on 4 AUG.

Jul 15 1958 - U.S. Marines deployed in Lebanon

[Source: Various Jun 2010 ++]