

# Purple Heart's Programs and Services

The Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation offer programs and services to help *any* veteran who has served in the United States Armed Forces, whether or not the veteran has been wounded or received the Purple Heart medal. Support extends to the veteran's family members and survivors; and, all services are provided to them free of charge.

## Purple Heart's programs and services provide the following solutions:

- **Take the lead in funding research and programs to address veterans suffering “the wounds within”:** While Purple Heart provides programs and services in many meaningful areas, four common challenges for combat-wounded veterans – suicide prevention, Post Traumatic Stress (PTS), traumatic brain injury and women's health issues – are priorities for support.

Recently, Purple Heart donated \$500,000 to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund to jumpstart the construction of centers to help veterans with brain injuries and PTS. Additional programs are helping veterans and their families with these challenges. Also recently, the foundation agreed to donate \$500,000 over a five-year period to the University of Washington Division of Pain Medicine to develop leading-edge technologies to assist veterans with treatment for PTS, traumatic brain injury and acute and chronic pain. These advances will equip healthcare providers with the tools necessary to reduce the risk of veteran suicides and deaths, caused in part by accidental overdoses of opioids.

- **Help vets receive benefits due from the Veterans Administration:** Financed by the Purple Heart Service Foundation, the Order runs the National Service Officer Program. This program provides a nationwide network in more than 70 Veterans Administration offices, hospitals, veterans' centers, as well as state and county veterans' facilities.

Highly trained Service Officers, their staff and a corps of volunteers assist all veterans, their dependents, widows and orphans process claims for compensation, pension, medical care, education, job training, employment, veterans' preference, housing, death and burial benefits.

- **Help vets whose VA claims have been unjustly denied:** The organization's National Appeals Office represents veterans at the Court of Veterans Appeals in cases where benefits have been denied at a local VA regional office.
- **Help vets at the national government level:** The Military Order of the Purple Heart represents veterans' interests before Congress and the White House.
- **Reach out to vets one-to-one:** Purple Heart helps handicapped veterans and destitute veterans who are unable to go to a VA regional office. The organization assists in identifying and helping homeless veterans, while also providing direct financial assistance to struggling veterans.
- **Helps homebound veterans prepare to provide for themselves and their families:** Utilizing web-based, self-paced training, its Veterans Business Training Center is helping homebound disabled and combat wounded veterans prepare for careers in customer service and information technology.