



## Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Arizona



**Policy Number: 2025-006**

**Subject:** Department of Arizona Membership Policy.

**Policy Statement:** This policy explains department recruiting incentives and membership policy. The two categories of membership are Purple Heart recipients and Associate Members who are immediate family of a Purple Heart recipient. Reference: National Bylaws Article II.

1. **Purpose:**

- a. Clarify membership policies specific to the Department of Arizona.
- b. Define recruitment incentives to encourage new memberships.
- c. Establish appropriate recognition for individuals who support the Order, but are not Members.

2. **Scope:** This policy applies to:

- a. All Chapters of the Department of Arizona.
- b. All Members and all elected/appointed Officers.
- c. Volunteers and contributors

3. **Membership Refund Incentive.** To encourage recruitment and remove barriers to joining, the Department may, subject to ability of funds, refund up to 50 percent of the new Member's dues to the Chapters for new Members who are active and contributing to the mission. Each chapter must:

- a. Define its own criteria for refund eligibility.



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- b. Submit a refund request to the Department once the criteria are met.
  
4. **Non-Member Titles:** To maintain the integrity of the Purple Heart and comply with the Congressional Charter:
  - a. “Honorary Member” is not a recognized membership type and may not be used.
  
  - b. No volunteer or supporter may be given a title that includes the word “Member.”
  
  - c. Acceptable alternatives include:
    - i. Patriot Ambassador.
  
    - ii. Friend of the Purple Heart.
  
    - iii. Chapter Volunteer.
  
5. **Removal/Resignation:** Removal/resignation of Members is in accordance with Article II, Section 6 of the National Bylaws.

Approved by the DEC:

May 2, 2026

*Michael Smaydy*

Michael Smaydy  
Commander  
Department of Arizona