



## Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Arizona



**Policy Number: 2025-007**

**Subject:** Department of Arizona Patriot of the Year. (POTY).

**Policy Statement:** An annual program to recognize and reward Patriots for outstanding service to the Order. Reference: Tommy Tanaka National Patriot of the Year Award.

1. **Purpose:** This policy is designed to:
  - a. Recognize Patriots that are visible, excelling, and selfless volunteers within the Chapter.
  - b. It is not a lifetime achievement award. It recognizes Patriots for their contributions during the previous calendar year.
2. **Scope:** This policy applies to all Chapters within the Department of Arizona.
3. **Chapters:**
  - a. Each Chapter is encouraged to select a POTY.
  - b. Each Chapter should recognize their POTY with a plaque or appropriately framed certificate from the Chapter.
  - c. Chapters will submit to the Department Adjutant their nomination on the Tommy Tanaka National Patriot of the Year nomination form no later than 1 March each year. (See attached Appendix A).  
Nominations received by the Department Adjutant after this date will not be considered for selection as Department POTY.



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### 4. **Department:**

- a. The Department will select one Chapter POTY to be the Department POTY.
- b. No Patriot may qualify for Department POTY in successive years.
- c. Procedures for Selection of the Department POTY:
  - i. The Department Commander will appoint a 3 or more-person (odd number) committee during the Post-Convention Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting to review next year's Chapter nominees.
  - ii. In the event a committee member is nominated to be the Department Patriot of the Year, the Commander will replace said committee member.
  - iii. The Department Adjutant will redact identifying information from the nominations before providing them to the Committee.
  - iv. The committee will conduct a "blind review" of the nominations. The nominee receiving the most first place votes will be the Department POTY. In the event of a tie, rank-based voting will determine the winner.
  - v. The committee will select the Department POTY and forward to their votes to the Department Adjutant not later than 15 March.
  - vi. The Department Commander will endorse the Committee's selection nominating the Department POTY to be the Region VI POTY no later than 1 April.



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- d. The Department will obtain an appropriate plaque for recognition of the POTY.
  
- e. The Department POTY will be announced at the Department Convention.

Approved by the DEC:  
May 2, 2026

*Michael Smaydy*

Michael Smaydy  
Commander  
Department of Arizona

Attachment: Appendix A (Patriot of the Year Nomination Form)



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**Appendix A to Policy 2025-007: Patriot of the Year Nomination Form.**

## **Nominee**

**Patriot's Name:**

**Chapter:**

**Member ID:**

**CAP Size:**

## **Nominator Information and Justification for Nomination**

**Name:**

**Title:**

1. Specifically, what has this Patriot done in the past year to warrant the award of the Patriot of the Year?
  
2. What Chapter projects has the Patriot been involved with?
  
3. What recruiting activities have the Patriot been involved in?
  - a. How many new members has the Patriot recruited in the past year?
  
4. What positions of responsibility are the Patriot holding?
  - a. Chapter:
  - b. Department:
  
5. What VAVS activities has the Patriot participated in?
  
6. What other Veterans' activities is the Patriot involved in?
  
7. What other civic activities is the Patriot involved in?



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## FORWARDING BLOCKS

Patriots Name:

### CHAPTER

Due to Department Commander No Later Than: 1 March

Date:

From: \_\_\_\_\_, Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_, Commander, Department of Arizona

Comments:

### DEPARTMENT

Due to Region Commander No Later Than: 1 April

Date:

From: \_\_\_\_\_, Commander, Department of Arizona

To: \_\_\_\_\_, Commander, Region VI

Comments:

### REGION VI

Due to National Adjutant No Later Than: 1 May

Date:

From: \_\_\_\_\_, Commander, Region VI

To: National Adjutant, Military Order of the Purple Heart National Headquarters,  
5413-B Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22151

Email: [membership@purpleheart.org](mailto:membership@purpleheart.org)

Comments: