

**Combat Wounded, Disabled Veteran to Crisscross the Nation in specially adapted Ford F-150, to bring awareness of the costs of freedom.
Sierra Vista/Fort Huachuca, AZ
May 18, 2016**

There are an estimated 1.8 million Purple Heart recipients, Combat Wounded service members who have transitioned back into civilian life. They have made great sacrifices to ensure our freedoms, but often go unrecognized. The road to recovery and reintegration into their communities can be a long and difficult struggle for our nation's Wounded Warriors and their Families.



(Left to Right: Hood, Tail Gate, Right Side and Driver/Lift Side)

The focus of the 2016 **"Purple Heart Run"** will be **"Mobility is Freedom."** Sponsored jointly by Wounded Warriors Family Support (WWFS) and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), the **Purple Heart Run** features a mobility-equipped, 2015 Ford F-150 Super Cab truck, adapted to suit Combat Wounded Veterans who are paralyzed or have lost legs or arms. Our belief is that, given the right vehicle for mobility, a Combat Wounded Veteran will have the freedom to live a productive and quality life with his or her Family.

The Purple Heart Run is a road trip across America where Purple Heart recipients themselves thank Americans from all across our great country for their appreciation and support of our nation's military Families for the sacrifices that they make when America goes to war. Driven by a Combat Wounded and Disabled Veteran, the Purple Heart Ford F-150 will make its way from coast-to-coast and back, rallying communities to thank our country's military veterans and support this great mission. The Purple Heart Run began in Mt. Vernon, VA, on May 2, traversing the nation to California and return to end in Washington DC on Memorial Day, May 30, 2016. In a special ceremony at the conclusion of the Purple Heart Run, the keys to the truck will be presented to a deserving Purple Heart recipient, chosen from a nation-wide search of eligible and deserving nominees.

Along the way, the Purple Heart Truck will stop to visit with local MOPH Chapters and Purple Heart entities. Americans of all walks of life are invited and encouraged to show their support for our military Families by visiting an event on the tour as a means of showing their support for our country's veterans and their Families.

We need your help to allow us to continue to serve our nation's Veterans and their Families. Every donation, large or small, is deeply appreciated and helps us meet our goal of making a normal transition back to civilian life a reality for many deserving Veterans and their Families. Partnership opportunities are available for companies and organizations of all kinds, and your financial support of the Purple Heart Run goes directly to the support and rehabilitation of deserving Wounded Warriors. By partnering with either the Wounded Warriors Family Support (WWFS) or the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Foundations, you would be showing your support for Wounded Veterans and their Families as well as our country's active and retired military and their Families around the world. Through our partnership, you would be making a real, tangible difference that will change the lives of deserving wounded warriors and their families.

The mission of **Wounded Warrior Family Support (WWFS)** is to provide support to the Families of those who have been wounded, injured or killed during combat operations. The Families of our casualties suffer in many ways: some financially, some psychologically. The overwhelming stress of the recovery process can threaten to tear a Family apart.

The **Family Retreat program** provides vacation retreats, free of charge, for Wounded Veterans to have the opportunity to decompress in a peaceful, non-stress environment, and share in positive experiences with their spouses and children, strengthening the bonds of their Families and making lasting memories. The **Caregiver Respite Programs** provide respite and supplemental services nationwide to the caregivers and Families of Wounded Veterans. Oftentimes caregivers are spouses or Family members who have many other responsibilities, such as work, managing bills and taking care of children. Caregivers of veterans often spend long hours caring for their loved one, feel high levels of stress and neglect their own personal health. The **Respite Services Programs** provide secondary caregiver assistance, respite aid for remote areas and short-term temporary relief in the form of child care and other services. The program also assists the caregiver in enrolling in the Department of Veterans Affairs Caregiver Support Services and other agencies offering resources and support. The **"Mobility is Freedom" program** provides grants to qualified combat-wounded for the purchase of a Ford vehicle, specially adapted to suit Combat Wounded veterans who are paralyzed or have lost legs or arms

The **Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)** provides emotional, physical, educational and financial support for Wounded and Disabled Veterans and their Families, to help improve their lives. Programs include suicide prevention, support for Veterans with brain injuries, counseling for Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) and assistance for women's health issues – all common challenges for Veterans. The Purple Heart Service Foundation provides scholarships, Family assistance, claims assistance and employment training. Family members also get support, learning how to help disabled Veterans to cope with their physical, emotional and behavioral challenges.

To learn more or to make a donation, go online to www.purpleheart.org and www.wwfs.org.