

TOWN OF OSSINING

The Volunteer Spirited Town

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**PURPLE HEARTS
REUNITED**



For Immediate Release

August 11th, 2015

On 08 September 2015, at 7:30pm, the organization Purple Hearts Reunited and the Department of New York Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 1782 in conjunction with Chapter 21, will present a Purple Heart Medal of PVT John R. Clark to the Ossining Historical Society Museum at the Ossining Town Board Meeting at the Ossining Court House, 88 Spring Street, Ossining NY 10562. Members of the community and local media are welcome to attend as we honor a local hero of World War II.

Private (PVT) John "Jack" Ray Clark Jr. (SN:081055536) was born 04 March 1915 in Ossining, NY to John Ray and Hazel M. Harte Clark. He would later enlist into the United States Army. He served with 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division ("Red Bull") and was wounded in battle on 02 February 1943 during the Battle of Sened Station in Tunisia in the North African Campaign. The station was the first clash of arms of an American Division against the Germans in WWII.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, WWII Victory Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge.

He spent most of his life in Ossining and West Islip, New York with his wife Mildred Clark. He was happiest while out in the ocean deep sea fishing. He worked in corporate real estate before retiring and passed away on 22 December 1998 in Stuart, Florida.

Purple Hearts Reunited was contacted in early June by PVT Clark's nephew Mr. Michael Blechar, who acquired the medal after his Uncle's death. As the last remaining survivor of the family, Mr. Blechar asked for assistance with finding the medal an honorable home. Accepting the medal on behalf of the Town of Ossining will be the Town Supervisor, Mrs. Susanne Donnelly, who will bestow the medal to the Ossining Historical Society Museum for permanent display.

The nonprofit foundation Purple Hearts Reunited (www.purpleheartsreunited.org) was created in 2012 by a combat-wounded veteran, and works to return lost or stolen military medals of valor to veterans or their families in order to honor their sacrifice to the nation. The organization relies on grants and donations, and has returned medals and artifacts to over 150 families and museums. This return is sponsored by a grant from the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation.

The organization now known as the "[Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Inc.](#)" (MOPH) was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all combat wounded veterans and active duty men and women who have received the decoration. Chartered by the Congress, The MOPH is unique among Veteran Service Organizations in that all its members were wounded in combat. For this sacrifice, they were awarded the Purple Heart Medal. With grants from the MOPH Service Foundation, the MOPH and its Ladies Auxiliary promote Patriotism, Fraternalism, and the Preservation of America's military history. Most importantly, through veteran service, they provide comfort and assistance to all Veterans and their families, especially those requiring claims assistance with the VA, those who are homeless, and those requiring employment assistance. Through the VAVS Program, MOPH volunteers selflessly provide assistance to hospitalized veterans at VA medical facilities and State Veterans Homes.

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Event Contacts:

Purple Hearts Reunited: Zachariah Fike, 315-523-3609

MOPH Chapter #1782: Mr. Ken Dwyer, 914-462-6984

Town of Ossining: Mrs. Susanne Donnelly, 914-762-6001

Earned Through Valor, Lost by Circumstance, Reunited with Dignity

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