

***Pledges to continue working to improve care for our brave veterans***

Winona, MN—Congressman Tim Walz received the prestigious Inspirational Leadership Award from the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) on March 21, 2012. Today, he met with members from the local and state chapters of the MOPH to honor their sacrifice and pledged to continue advocating on their behalf.

**“I am honored and humbled to receive this award from such a brave group of combat Veterans,”** said Walz. **“These selfless Americans put their lives on the line in protection of our country. They continue to work tirelessly to improve the lives of all returning veterans. I am proud to stand with them to fulfill this nation’s moral responsibility of caring for our veterans and their families.”**

The Military Order of the Purple Heart was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all who have received the decoration. Composed exclusively of Purple Heart recipients, it is the only veterans’ service organization comprised strictly of “combat” veterans.

**“Congressman Walz has done so much for our veterans both here in southern Minnesota and nationally,”** said Richard (Dick) Lande, Commander of Chapter 5555, Military Order of The Purple Heart. **“After all he’s done to help veterans, I’m proud to call him my Congressman and friend and am pleased he came here today to share the award with the community.”**

Each year, MOPH pays special recognition to one member of Congress who best demonstrates inspirational leadership and distinguished service to the nation’s veterans. The Award was presented by The National Adjutant Jack Leonard and Hershel Gober of Military Order of the Purple Heart on behalf of MOPH and the National Commander on March 21.

MOPH cited Walz’s work to improve the rehabilitative care for veterans with traumatic brain injuries, his work to improve access to the VA medical facilities, and his sincere belief that “America should meet its moral obligation to care for those men and women who have served our country in uniform.”

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