



All gave some, some gave all

Chapter Officers

Commander: Verl Matthews
Sen. Vice: Grant Beck
Jun Vice: Rosie Noel
Adjutant: John Cooney
Finance: Mike Rooney
Comm.: Neil Lathrop
Alt Comm: Renard Singleton
Trust 3 yr: George Reiter
Trust 2 yr: Joe Houle
Trust 1 yr: Tom Peterson
Service Off: Jim Foyil
Chaplain: Donald Clinger
Sgt at Arms: Dan Stoy

Meeting second Tuesday of the month
at 1900, Military Relocator Realty
building, 1923 Lejeune Blvd.
Jacksonville NC 28540



FRATRES AETERNI
(Brothers forever)

Official chapter website: www.ncmoph.org

E-mail: purpleheart642@ec.rr.com

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Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 5/12

September/October 2012

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Chapter membership statistics as of 08/29/2012.

Lifetime members: 577 Help us save postage, send me

Associate Members: 3 your email address

Total Membership: 580

Semper Keeping You Informed

Direct all praise, comments or gripes to the editor at
910 455-1353, 1006 Oak Dr, Jacksonville NC 28546

Military Order of the Purple Heart Mission Statement

The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among Combat Wounded Veterans, promote Patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families

Welcome New Patriots

We want to welcome the new patriots who have joined us since the last newsletter. Welcome to Patriots: Lindeman and John Smith. We want to welcome all of you newly joined patriots, please come out and participate in our meetings and activities you are now part of the combat wounded brotherhood. Patriot Carter passed on to the big chapter in the sky, May you Rest in Peace Brother. We also had a few transfer out of the chapter.

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers. For he today that sheds his blood with me, shall be my brother." - William Shakespeare, from "King Henry V"

HAVING TROUBLE READING COMPUTER TEXT? HERE'S A TIP -

To make text bigger or smaller hold down the Ctrl key on your keyboard and turn the small wheel in the middle of your mouse. This will change the print size to either larger or smaller depending on which way you turn the wheel.

Calendar of events

- 3 Sep – Labor Day enjoy the end of Summer
 - 4 Sep – Executive Meeting at the Marina Café at 1300
 - 11 Sep – Monthly Meeting at 1923 Lejeune Blvd at 1900
 - 11 Sep – Don't ever Forget what happened on 9/11/2001, ceremony at 0815 at the beam *
 - 17 Sep – Scarlet and Gold Celebrity Golf Tournament
 - 18 Sep – Warrior Night
 - 19 Sep – Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at 1923 Lejeune Blvd At 1800
 - 29 Sep – Retiree Appreciation Day at Marston Pavilion from 0900 to 1400
 - 1 thru 6 Oct – Onslow County Fair at the American Legion
 - 2 Oct – Executive Meeting at the Marina Café at 1300
 - 9 Oct – Monthly Purple Heart Meeting at 1923 Lejeune Blvd at 1900
 - 17 Oct – Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at 1923 Lejeune Blvd at 1800
 - 30 Oct – Patriot Stoy retirement
- Note : *, Wear full Purple Heart attire

Patriots –In 2009, the Marine Corps suffered 52 suicides in 2010 there were 37 and last year there were 33. That's over 100 suicides about half of a rifle company. For a period of time, here at Lejeune, every Battalion returning had a suicide. If you feel that you are having trouble coping, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), a free, 24-hour hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Your call will be routed to the nearest crisis center to you. You can also go online to: www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org. Of course you can always call one of our officers for help. Don't be another non-combat statistic, life is too precious and you mean way too much to our chapter and your family.



The van will only be used for Chapter 642 members and their families who are wheel chair bound. The van will provide transport for these members to and from any medical appointment necessary. Any other request by other Purple Heart recipients will be taken under consideration by the executive board for a decision. Also the van can be used for chapter functions, i.e. Department meetings, parades and etc.



Chapter Happenings

Before we get into the chronological events of the chapter let me expound on a few things that the chapter has done and is working on. First, congratulate yourselves, for the second year in a row chapter 642 has won the MOPH national Recruiting award. We recruited about 180 new members last year which is far above the second place finisher. On July 16 the chapter was presented with a Proclamation from the County

Commissioners declaring Onslow County as the first Purple Heart County in the state of North Carolina. We are now working on getting signs put up on the highways entering Onslow County stating as such. We are also working on getting the City of Jacksonville to be declared a Purple Heart City. It won't be a first Wake Forest already has that honor. As most of you should know, we purchased a Purple Heart monument to be placed on Base in the vicinity of the Fisher House. This request was already approved by Col Leche the former CO of the Base. It Appears that now we need permission from HQMC to place a monument aboard and base. At present we are in limbo and the Monument is being held in the builder's yard in Rocky Mount until we get permission. Also, we were going to erect the monument in the traffic circle in front of the Fisher House. Now that is not possible due to some irrigation constraints. We are now looking at placing it behind the Wounded Warriors Barracks near the Cook out Area.

July and August were busy months. Americanism classes were held for the Onslow County Summer program, approximately 200 students were involved. The Purple Heart Riders are getting more active and participated in a 4th of July parade in Southport NC. Another Field Medical Training battalion graduation where about 250 Corpsmen and Religious Programmers were sent out to Fleet Marine units. The below picture depicts some of the members and spouses attending a wonderful show at the USO, with the proceeds going to the USO, a good time was had by all.



On 16 July the chapter was honored by the County with a proclamation from the County Commissioners declaring Onslow County the First Purple Heart County in North Carolina. Pictured is Commander Matthews receiving the proclamation from the Chairman of the County Commissioners.

There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on an electric fence to find out for themselves



Also, in the green dress is Commissioner Barbara Ikner who was very instrumental in pushing this through expediently making it possible for us to be the first County in NC. On Purple Heart day, 7 August the chapter conducted a Viola Drive at the local Sam's club and participated in National Night out on the River Walk Downtown. Even though it rained almost all day we collected almost \$1000 in Viola donations which were much needed to keep the chapter functioning smoothly. Unfortunately the chapter conducted a Purple Heart graveside ceremony for our Patriot Carter. Patriot Carter had been terminal for some time and finally joined the big chapter in the Sky. RIP Brother Carter. First Battalion 8th Marines returned from the Sand Box and had Four KIA's. We attended their Memorial Service at the base theater and presented Purple Heart Medallions to the Next of kin of the fallen. The Purple Heart riders were at it again participating along with about 250 other motorcyclist in the Vietnam Memorial Run. Several First responder's plaques were presented by Patriot Clinger, one in Lumberton to a police officer's spouse killed in the line of duty and several to Onslow County Deputies who were wounded or injured in the line of duty. Your officers attended a Quarterly NC Department meeting held in Rockingham NC on 25 August. Lastly in August, Patriot Singleton retired after 20 years service. His ceremony was held at Marston Pavilion.

September and October begins our busy time of the year, approaching the holidays. Beginning on 17 September is the Scarlet and Gold Celebrity Golf Tournament. Patriot Houle is the Coordinator and would like about 50 wounded warriors to help out when the celebs get here. Also. The evening of the 18th there will be a warrior night held at a local golf course. This is a good time had by all and again Patriot Houle would like about 50 wounded warriors to attend. A bus will be provided for transport to and from so you don't need to worry about drinking and driving. Retiree appreciation day on 29 September, we will have a table there for

us and the Corpsmen Memorial as we usually do. We will need some patriots to man the table.

The Onslow County Fair will be from 1 to 6 October. As always we will help the American Legion and in return we get a free booth. We have done this for years and this is the beginning of our fund raising season. We need patriots to help take tickets and then some to man the booth.

We look forward to the next couple of months, we need to restart our recruiting again so we can possibly win that recruiting award for a third year in a row.

Hilites of the recent NC Department meeting

As stated earlier, we attended a Department meeting on 25 August, a three hour meeting after a three hour plus drive to Rockingham and the same back.

Some of the word passed; The MOPH is partnering with AAMCO to completely repair a patriot's vehicle free of charge. This is one patriot in each state. If you have a vehicle, your primary mode of transportation, and feel that you would qualify for this submit your name to the chapter. Someone will contact you to get more info to determine if you are really in need of the service.

There's another partnering in the mill with USAA. If you get your insurance through USAA they will send a portion of the premium to the Purple Heart. The contract has not been signed as of yet so don't run down and ask about this offer. I will let you know when it takes place.

At the National Convention, the Department was awarded two national recruiting plaques thanks to our chapter and as you know our chapter received the national recruiting plaque for the year. Several individual patriots from the chapter received recruiting ribbons, they were: Vanek, Mount, Stoy, Clinger and Cooney.

The chapter also received \$1100 VAVS money to buy items for, in our case, the Fisher House. We have already asked Josie, Manager of the

Fisher house, what they need. This is money from the Foundation that is distributed down to the chapters for support of the VA hospitals, homes and etc.

Camp Lejeune Water Information & Contacts

Veterans and family members who served active duty or resided at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between 1/1/57 and 12/31/87 may be eligible for VA Health Care for 15 health conditions listed on the web site, **Camp Lejeune Water Supplies.**

(<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp>)

For **eligibility or enrollment questions**, call Fayetteville VAMC, Health Benefits, at 910-488-2120 ext. 7016/5817. For **VBA claims**, call your County VSO listed at the web site **County Veterans Service Officers.**

(<http://www.doa.nc.gov/vets/locations/>)

DATABASE FOR MILITARY HONORS

Probably in reaction to the recent decision of the Supreme Court on stolen valor, the Pentagon plans to establish a database of military awards and medals, hoping for a techno-logical fix to the problem of people lying about earning military honors. Details have yet to be worked out, but the intent is to have a digitized re-pository of records for award and medals going back as far as possible. Such a database would make it easier to check on award claims and per-haps deter some who would make false public claims. [Washington Post, 11 July 2012]

Comment: Data creation will be the major problem in this project, requiring the review of a myriad of individ-ual and organization historic records to extract information..

After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. **The Moral:** when you're full of bull keep your mouth shut.

Still thinking about a vacation? Go to the newly redesigned www.Recreation.gov and get the information you need

The federal government has just stood up its newly redesigned www.Recreation.gov. It has lots of information and is easier to navigate (I just tried it.) It has information on approximately 90,000 “federal sites and outdoor places.” It has several new features including:

Explore Trip Ideas: [Explore Trip Ideas](#) helps you discover points-of-interest on public lands when planning trips to popular destination cities like Atlanta, Miami, Las Vegas, San Francisco, and more. Go Lists: [Go Lists](#) highlight places to go, events, and activities at federal sites across the country with topics including “[Day Hikes for Weekend Warriors](#)” and “[Civil War 150th Anniversary: Places and Events that Shaped Our Nation](#).” Discover Great American Adventures: [Discover Great American Adventures](#) offers more in-depth articles and destination spotlights, featuring a wide variety of experiences and adventures found only in America. Some destination spotlights include “[Best Places to Star Gaze](#),” “[Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming](#),” and many more.

Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called Golf.

Hotlines for Military

If you are struggling with thoughts of suicide, the following resources are designed to assist troops in crisis. More info about all programs is available at: usmc-mccs.org/suicideprevent.

-[National Suicide prevention lifeline](#) -- A 24 hour hotline for those considering suicide. 1 800-273-TALK (troops and vets press #1)

- [Military onesource](#) – Free counseling and telephone consultation for troops and their family members: militaryresource.mil or 1-800-342-9647.

- [Real warriors program](#) – maintained by the defense centers of excellence to support and sustain active-duty troops in building resilience and helping recovery: realwarriors.net or 1-866-966-1020.

- [Camp Lejeune MCCS resilience programs](#) -- Includes classes on stress management, anger management, suicide awareness, prevention and more for families : mccs-lejeune.com/health or 910 451-2865.

From your Commander/Americanism

Recently while talking with some of the other commanders of the various Veterans groups, they were moaning over the fact that their meetings might have less than 10 members present, and seemed surprised that we always have between 25 to 50. Here we are one of the smallest organizations and we have that much participation. Like I told them it is because we have a camaraderie and we try to make all who enter feel welcome. All of us have a story to tell. If some of us can't make it to the various functions, someone else will step up and take their place. Next month will start our busy time of the year, with the Fair in October and the Festival of the Trees in November along with setting the trees in the Exchange for the month of December. We are going to need volunteers to step up and give us a hand. We are also going to start visiting the Wounded Warrior Barracks and we do need more participation in the various ceremonies on the base. We get the word out that we are here and that we are not going anywhere. It still bothers me, like at the Night Out, when a person with a Purple Heart will come up to our booth and say he/she will say they didn't know we existed. They must have had their head in the sand. Keep up the good work and if there is ever anything myself or the other officers can do for you let us know. If you ever need anyone to just listen, I have got the biggest ears in the chapter. Semper Fi and stay safe. Doc

From your Senior Vice Commander (public relations)

Just a short note this issue. This morning I had the pleasure of attending Patriot Singletons retirement ceremony at Marston after 20 years of faithful service to our Corps. Most of you may not know but, when he was

severely wounded (according to him) he “died twice”. As he said in his remarks, he shouldn’t even be here today, much less being able to retire. I couldn’t help but think how many of us wouldn’t have survived “but for the Grace of God”. I believe we need to think about that and realize that we have a responsibility to live life to the fullest and as honorably as we can, do as much as we can for our families and fellow man, and specifically help our fellow wounded patriots who may need it. Patriot Singleton became pretty emotional when he talked about not having the opportunity to interact with Marines on a daily basis anymore. I tried to assure him, the advantage to having a retired ID card is that anytime he starts feeling like the civilians don’t have their act together, he can always come “home” to a Marine Corps Base for a touch of “Gung Ho” and “Esprit de Corps”.

Semper Fi,
Grant

From your Junior Vice Commander, Membership

Again we have done it, for a second year in a row. Congratulations patriots, this is a team effort and even though most of these members were signed during the Christmas travel check signing, it still takes teamwork. Let’s do it again!!

Semper Fi, Rosie

From your Adjutant/Editor

Patriots – So much going on, believe it or not I stay busy just being your adjutant and I don’t have time for other veteran’s organizations even though I belong to most of them.

This will be short as everyone else has seemed to say about everything. I am proud to be your adjutant, this is the best damn chapter in the nation. This is attested by the national officers when they state that they can’t believe all that we do down here, we are active!!

And this would not be a chapter without all of you. Semper Fi, John

Thanks and Semper Fi, John

From your Chaplain/Welfare officer

The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

Then shalt thou walk in my way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

Devise not evil against thy neighbor, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

For the froward is abomination to the Lord: but his secret is with the righteous.

The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he give grace unto the lowly.

The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

Don Clinger, Chaplain

DEVIL DOGS

I received an e-mail the other day that was very disturbing, it appears that a former Marine who was a SSgt that got out after 10 years saw another Marine with a USMC T Shirt on and made the Comment “There’s another Devil Dog” The Marine with the t-shirt on looked at his girlfriend who was with him and she, now get this, she commenced to chew his ass about the term Devil Dog. The former Marine was so shocked he didn’t respond, he should have grabbed the young Marine by the stacking swivel and told him to school his big mouthed girlfriend about the term DEVIL DOG and to grow a set and speak up for himself.

This is an endearing term bestowed on the Marines at the Battle of Belleau Woods by the Germans. The captured Germans said that the Marines fought so ferociously that they fought like Hounds from Hell.

I haven’t heard the term used often as of late but I will be using it more often, you can bet your ass on that.

Take pride in being a DEVIL DOG and a DEVIL DOC!!!

Semper Fi, John

Corpsmen Memorial Foundation

CMF

Below is the Maquette sculpted by Abbe Godwin the originator of the Beirut Memorial and the Vietnam Memorial in Raleigh.

Donations can be sent to CMF PO Box 12641 Jacksonville NC 28546-2641. The Website is:

<http://nccorpsmenmemorial.net/>.

The Maquette is on display at the US Naval Hospital aboard Camp Lejeune. It has been moved

from the quarterdeck to a protected area while renovations are going on.
 Be part of history and purchase a brick to be displayed in the walkway forever. Credit Card purchases are now available.
 Contact Patriot Cooney for the forms or go to the CMF website above.



Ladies Auxiliary Unit 642



Unit 642 Officers

Position	Name
President	Lauren Peterson
Sen Vice pres	Raechel Richards
Treasurer	April Barber
Parliamentarian	
Secretary	
Sgt at Arms	Deanna Stoy
1 yr trustee/	Linda Tuttle
2 year trustee	Alice Reiter
3 year trustee	Mary Carter
Chaplain	Mary Carter
Historian	Barbara McGee
Patriotic Instructor	Kyoko Hare

Note: List not complete

Lifetime Members: 35
 Total Membership: 35

From your President

Ladies --- Ladies we still are not getting the turnout at meetings that we need, we only get 3 to 4 ladies and that's not enough to even hold our own meeting, we just stay in with the men. Please see if you can't spare an hour or two on the second Tuesday of each month to come out and support our spouses.
 We have some good ideas but we need members to make them happen.
 Your President, Lauren

Patriots – Many of you do not know about the Purple Heart Riders Assn. The chapter has members that have recently joined. Read the info on this page, also below is the back patch of the Assn. If interested, contact me or come to one of our functions and talk with a member of the group.
 We are getting more and more activities for the Purple Heart riders. Let's Ride!!!
 S/F John

About Growing Older

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.
 The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting for in line for.
 Some people try to turn back their odometers, Not Me; I want people to know why I look this way. I've travelled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved
 When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of algebra.
 I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.
 One of the nice things no one tells you about aging is that it's such a nice change from being young
 One must wait for evening to see how spendid the day has been.
 Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.
 If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you're old.



Purple Heart Riders Association

The Purple Heart riders were formed about two years ago by a Chapter in New Hampshire. The organization was formed by Motor Cycle enthusiasts that wanted to have a riding group within the Purple Heart. They first went to the MOPH and requested to use the circular logo owned by the Order and were told that they could not use it and furthermore if it was worn as a group it would signify Purple Heart sponsorship and therefore liability, which they would not accept.

With that knowledge obtained from National, the New Hampshire chapter set out to establish a Purple Heart riding group with our own constitution and bylaws and in no way part of the Purple Heart Order other than the members must have a Purple Heart. There are Purple Heart Riders now in 38 states and the patch worn on the back of a black denim or leather vest is awesome and in my estimation far better looking than the Purple Heart logo.

Patriot John Cooney, Chapter 642 is the NC President for the association and 15 members to date from Jacksonville and one from Charlotte have signed on already in NC.

The initial cost is \$80, which includes the patch and a \$10 annual dues. After getting the patch the dues are \$10 per year to primarily maintain the website. The website is:

www.purpleheartriders.us.

Al Grow in New Hampshire is the President and JC Allen is the vice Pres out of Texas, both former Marines.

Please send all applications to me at 1006 Oak Dr, Jacksonville NC 28546. Don't worry about sending a DD-214 as proof just make a copy of your Life membership card and that will suffice unless I know you. If I know you I will verify you without documentation. It will take about two weeks to get your patch
Semper Fi, John Cooney