

Web Site: www.ncmoph.org

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All gave some, some gave all

Chapter Officers

Commander: Grant Beck
Sen. Vice: Joe Houle
Jun Vice: Charles Troy
Adjutant: John Cooney
Finance: Chadd Jackson
Trust 2 yr: Verl Matthews
Trust 1 yr: Bill Treadwell
Service Off: Jim Foyil
Chaplain: Bill Stankowski
Sgt at Arms: Tim Haney

**FRATRES AETERNI
(Brothers forever)**

Meeting second Tuesday of the month
at 1900, Military Relocator Realty
building, 1923 Lejeune Blvd.
Jacksonville NC 28546



Official chapter website:

www.ncmoph.org

Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 1/20

January to March 2020

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Chapter membership statistics as of 12/31/2019

Lifetime members: 758 Associate Members 19
Total Membership: 777

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 that have joined us since the last newsletter. Please come out and attend meetings and functions. Drive is on for new patriots and associate members. If you know any Purple Heart recipients that are not members, sign them up. Same goes for family members in our associate member program.

"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.

Happening Dates

1 Jan – Happy New Year

14 Jan – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900, Military Relocators, 1923 Lejeune Blvd

15 Jan – Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at 1800 Military Relocators

1 Feb – Eagle Scouts ceremony at 1500, Location TBD

11 Feb -- Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900, Military Relocators, 1923 Lejeune Blvd

19 Feb -- Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at 1800 Military Relocators

10 Mar -- Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900, Military Relocators, 1923 Lejeune Blvd

18 Mar -- Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at 1800 Military Relocators

NOTE: * Denotes full Purple Heart attire

Available Transport for seniors

Medical transportation is available to Onslow County residents, age 60 and older, to medical appointments within Onslow County, free of charge. Upon completion of their appointment, they can call for return transportation.

This service is available through Onslow County Senior Services.

Reservations should be made at least 2 days in advance by calling Ms. Glenda White at (910)-989-3013.

This will greatly aid some Veterans who do not have transportation, to get to their appointments at the Vet Center and CBOC as well as any other medical appointments they may have.

Chapter Van

The Chapter van is available for chapter members or spouses that are Wheel chair bound, for transport to medical appointments and chapter functions. Any other use needs to be approved by the commander.



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

Hotlines for Military

and helping recovery: realwarriors.net or 1-866-966-1020.

Veterans Administration Hotline DC –Having trouble with the VA Call: 855 948-2311.

Happenings

This is our second quarterly newsletter. During the last three months we have been fairly busy. We presented two Americanism classes, one to the local Boy scout troop and the other to the entire Summersill Elementary school.

We also attended a quarterly department (state) meeting in Fayetteville and several patriots attended the 36th annual Beirut bombing ceremony.

Patriots rode a half track and Purple Heart riders rode in the annual Veterans day parade and attended the annual Veterans day ceremony at the local DAV.



Purple Heart quilt at Dukenfields raffle, Patriots Cooney and Martin with owners Glen and Mel Ramsey.

A local Family bar, Dukenfields, held an auction for our scholarship fund raising \$3500. We also raffled off a Purple Heart quilt taking in a total of \$2200 also for the scholarship fund.

Commander Beck was selected to receive the annual veteran of the year award from Mayor Phillips for the City of Jacksonville.



Assoc Mbr, Mattie Oshea and Doc Matt man the tree at the exchange



Sitting; Drennen, Matthews, standing; Troy and Nesmith

Again, this year the fallen Warrior Tree (see pics above) was set up at the base exchange where several patriots manned it on working days during the lunch hour to explain the meaning of the tree and take in donations.

This year there was not a Festival of Trees due to internal problems within the organization.



Several Patriots attending the Pearl Harbor ceremony

The annual Pearl Harbor ceremony was attended by several Patriots as well as the

annual Wreaths Across America where we placed 28 wreaths on departed brothers graves.

We finished of the period by presenting plaques to the honor graduates of the Field Medical Training Bn. School at Camp Johnson and taking our Fallen Warrior Tree down and placing it in storage until next year.

Everything slows down after the first of the year about all we have going are the monthly meetings along with the CMF meetings. We have been invited to an Eagle Scout ceremony. We presented them with an Americanism Class which qualified them to get their Americanism badge.

Why do they call it an asteroid when it's outside the Hemisphere, but call it a hemorrhoid when it's in you butt?

Why We Are a Republic, Not a Democracy

Hillary Clinton blamed the Electoral College for her stunning defeat in the 2016 presidential election in her latest memoirs, "What Happened."

Some have claimed that the Electoral College is one of the most dangerous institutions in American politics.

Why? They say the Electoral College system, as opposed to a simple majority vote, distorts the one-person, one-vote principle of democracy because electoral votes are not distributed according to population.

To back up their claim, they point out that the Electoral College gives, for example, Wyoming citizens disproportionate weight in a presidential election.

Put another way, Wyoming, a state with a population of about 600,000, has one

member in the House of Representatives and two members in the U.S. Senate, which gives the citizens of Wyoming three electoral votes, or one electoral vote per 200,000 people.

California, our most populous state, has more than 39 million people and 55 electoral votes, or approximately one vote per 715,000 people.

Comparatively, individuals in Wyoming have nearly four times the power in the Electoral College as Californians.

Many people whine that using the Electoral College instead of the popular vote and majority rule is undemocratic. I'd say that they are absolutely right. Not deciding who will be the president by majority rule is not democracy.

But the Founding Fathers went to great lengths to ensure that we were a republic and not a democracy. In fact, the word democracy does not appear in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, or any other of our founding documents.

How about a few quotations expressed by the Founders about democracy?

In Federalist Paper No. 10, James Madison wanted to prevent rule by majority faction, saying, "Measures are too often decided, not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority."

John Adams warned in a letter, "Remember democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never

was a democracy yet, that did not commit suicide.”

Edmund Randolph said, “That in tracing these evils to their origin, every man had found it in the turbulence and follies of democracy.”

Then-Chief Justice John Marshall observed, “Between a balanced republic and a democracy, the difference is like that between order and chaos.”

The Founders expressed contempt for the tyranny of majority rule, and throughout our Constitution, they placed impediments to that tyranny. Two houses of Congress pose one obstacle to majority rule. That is, 51 senators can block the wishes of 435 representatives and 49 senators.

The president can veto the wishes of 535 members of Congress. It takes two-thirds of both houses of Congress to override a presidential veto.

To change the Constitution requires not a majority but a two-thirds vote of both houses, and if an amendment is approved, it requires ratification by three-fourths of state legislatures.

Finally, the Electoral College is yet another measure that thwarts majority rule. It makes sure that the highly populated states—today, mainly 12 on the east and west coasts, cannot run roughshod over the rest of the nation. That forces a presidential candidate to take into consideration the wishes of the other 38 states.

Those Americans obsessed with rule by popular majorities might want to get rid of

the Senate, where states, regardless of population, have two senators.

Should we change representation in the House of Representatives to a system of proportional representation and eliminate the guarantee that each state gets at least one representative?

Currently, seven states with populations of 1 million or fewer have one representative, thus giving them disproportionate influence in Congress.

While we’re at it, should we make all congressional acts by majority rule? When we’re finished with establishing majority rule in Congress, should we then move to change our court system, which requires unanimity in jury decisions, to a simple majority rule?

My question is: Is it ignorance of or contempt for our Constitution that fuels the movement to abolish the Electoral College?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog’s face he get mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

Starting Jan. 1, more people will be allowed to shop on military bases

A whole new group of veterans and their caregivers will soon be able to shop at military base commissaries and exchanges starting January 1, 2020. (Source: Julie Mitchell)

A whole new group of veterans and their caregivers will soon be able to shop at military base commissaries and exchanges starting January 1, 2020.

The new guidelines allow veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-documented service-connected disability rating, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, and primary family caregivers for veterans enrolled in the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers access to shop at base commissaries, exchanges and enjoy certain Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) programs.

Currently, base access for shopping is restricted to former service members who served at least 20 years and are categorized as retirees. This new initiative is expected to extend eligibility to about 4.1 million new patrons, comprised of nearly 1.5 million veterans who live within an hour of a military installation.

"We look forward to welcoming our new expanded Navy family. It will be an honor to now have the opportunity to serve veterans who sacrificed and served this country," said Capt. Bill Whitmire, commanding officer of the Naval Construction Battalion Center.

HOW DO I GET ON BASE?

Veterans eligible under the expanded privileges must present a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) from VA that displays their eligibility category: "Purple Heart, former POW or service-connected."

Caregivers must present [an eligibility letter](#) from the VA Office of Community Care that indicates they are the primary family caregiver for an eligible veteran under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers and are eligible for these privileges, paired with an acceptable identification credential, such as a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or a U.S. passport. These credentials will need to be presented at MWR facilities and point-of-sale locations.

For more information about obtaining a VHIC or a letter from Veterans Affairs, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. You can also apply for VA health care benefits online at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll, or in person at your local VA medical facility.

Capt. Whitmire said veterans interested in services and facilities located on NCBC should stop by the Pass and ID office located at the Pass Rd. Gate complex.

"Exercising patience during this new expansion is paramount. The safety and security of our base and its population is our number one priority," said Ensign Will Clark, installation security officer. "We are dedicated to providing top-notch customer service to our veterans as they come to the base to process their base access."

EXPANDED ACCESS GOES BEYOND SHOPPING

The new access also allows veterans to participate in MWR events that help them participate in the military culture. These

programs include movie theaters, car washes, arts and crafts centers, auto skills, vehicle storage, community recreation (outdoor recreation equipment rentals, and tickets and travel), RV park rentals and Navy Gateway Inns & Suites (NGIS), Navy Getaways, and special events/entertainment open to all rate categories.

New base patrons can also take advantage of AmericanForcesTravel.com, MWR's exclusive travel-booking website.

Along with some MWR activity use, the benefit expansion includes commissary shopping privileges as well as military resale and Navy lodging. Lodging reservations start on Dec. 31, 2019 for stay dates beginning Jan. 1, 2020 and can be made at www.dodlodging.net or 1-877-NAVYBED.

The new inclusive rules were laid out in the [Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018](#) and included in the [John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019](#).

If corn oil is made from corn and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?
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Pentagon advises troops to not use consumer DNA kits, citing security risks

The [Pentagon](#) is advising troops that there are security risks, to include mass surveillance and potential tracking, associated with using consumer DNA kits. The products have become popular in

recent years with people looking to discover potential medical issues or uncover information about ancestry and even find unknown relatives.

[Yahoo News](#) first reported the Pentagon's warning, which was based on a DoD memo obtained by the news outlet.

Yahoo News uploaded a copy of the [DoD memo](#), dated Dec. 20, which was signed by Joseph Kernan, the undersecretary of defense for intelligence.

"These DTC [direct-to-consumer] genetic tests are largely unregulated and could expose personal and genetic information, and potentially create unintended security consequences and increased risk to the joint force and mission," the memo reads.

"Moreover, there is increased concern in the scientific community that outside parties are exploiting the use of genetic data for questionable purposes, including mass surveillance and the ability to track individuals without their authorization or awareness," the memo states.

Cmdr. Sean Robertson, a Pentagon spokesman, told Military Times in an emailed statement that the DoD wants to ensure service members are "aware of the risks of Direct to Consumer (DTC) genetic testing" and that some of these companies "may or may not provide reliable, accurate results."

"The unintentional discovery of markers that may affect readiness could affect a service member's career, and the information from DTC genetic testing may disclose this information," Robertson said. "Because of this, until further assessment,

it is advised that service members receive this information from a licensed professional rather than a consumer product,” Robertson said.

The DoD memo stated that a some consumer genetic testing companies are luring troops to use their services through military discounts.

There are a number of popular companies like [Ancestry.com](#) where people can send a DNA sample to glean information about their forebears.

“Protecting our customers’ privacy and being good stewards of their data is Ancestry’s highest priority. Ancestry does not share customer DNA data with insurers, employers, or third-party marketers,” a spokesperson for the company said in an emailed statement to Military Times. “Ancestry will also not share customer’s personal information with law enforcement unless compelled to by valid legal process, such as a court order or search warrant.

“Furthermore, Ancestry recognizes our responsibility to lead by example and set the bar for industry innovation. For that reason, we partnered with the Future of Privacy Forum and other personal genomic testing companies to release the Privacy Best Practices for Consumer Genetic Testing Services. These guidelines are the first of their kind for our industry, and set a self-governed policy framework for the collection, protection, sharing and use of data collected by consumer genomics companies.”

[Ancestry’s](#) website says it has nearly 3 million paying subscribers and has tested more than 15 million people’s DNA.

The Pentagon memo did not provide specific details regarding security risks or how service members could be tracked by using a consumer genetic testing company.

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?
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The Space Force is officially the sixth military branch. Here’s what that means.

Air Force officials on Friday told reporters that people are clamoring for information on how to join [the military’s latest branch](#). The short answer is, they’re going to have to wait a while.

President Trump officially signed the [Space Force into law](#) Friday, but for now, all that means is everyone at Air Force Space Command [will now be assigned to Space Force](#). Over the next 18 months, officials said, the finer details of manning and training the new branch will be hammered out and set in motion.

“It’s going to be really important that we get this right. A uniform, a patch, a song — it gets to the culture of a service,” said Air Force Gen. Jay Raymond, the head of Air Force Space Command and U.S. Space Command, who will lead Space Force until a chief of space operations is confirmed by the Senate. “There’s a lot of work going on toward that end. It’s going to take a long time to get to that point, but that’s not something we’re going to roll out on day one.”

For now, the [16,000 active-duty airmen](#) and civilians who work at Air Force Space Command will be assigned to the Space Force, but nothing else will change. Uniforms, a rank structure, training and education are all to be determined, and for the foreseeable future, Space Force will continue to be manned by airmen, wearing, Air Force uniforms, subject to that service's fitness program, personnel system and so on.

Meanwhile, U.S Space Command, which stood up in August, will continue to exist as a combatant command, similar to Cyber Command, Special Operations Command and others.

"There have been Army and Navy, especially, participants in the planning and the development of the staged roll-out that we have underway," Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett said.

Barrett will be the Space Force's service secretary, as the service will be nestled within the Air Force Department, the same way the Marine Corps is part of the Navy Department.

Eventually, she said, those services' space commands will be rolled into Space Force, and those personnel will transfer branches. In the more immediate future, officials said, soldiers and sailors could be detailed to Space Force.

Letter to the Editor

None submitted

Did you know? In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington show him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both arms and legs. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are limbs, therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence... the expression. "Okay, but it will cost you an arm and a leg."

From your Commander

Here's wishing all had a great Christmas, including the reason for the celebration. 2020 promises to be a hectic year with regards to the current situation going on in DC. Hopefully the correct action will occur and the nation's business can be resumed. On a separate note, let's all dedicate ourselves to getting more involved in Chapter activities. We've been asking for more support this past year and have watched the meeting attendance decline. Once a month for one hour after work hours isn't too much to ask of the attendance of all....including those who may still be working and active duty. We need your input with regard to programs we can participate in/start so as to help our wounded. Second Tuesday of each month, 1900, 1923 Lejeune Blvd, Military Re-locators (next to Century 21).

Keep your eyes open for information about the PX and other MCCS becoming available for use by Purple Heart recipients and veterans drawing VA disability. I had a link but couldn't get it to open for you to use.

Happy New Year to all and wishing you all a healthy and prosperous 2020.

Semper Fi,
Grant

From your Adjutant

Patriots – Here we go again, another newsletter. We have a few things to consider; first elections are forthcoming in April. Nominations will be held in March and again in April with election also in April. Grant will be going on 7 years as Commander and he has said that he will not run again. We need someone to step up and run as commander. He has done an outstanding job during his tenure but we all wear out. I have been Adjutant for 15 years and I am getting worn out so I want you all to think about these two positions. We want the chapter to keep on moving in a forward direction so these are two important positions.

Our Purple Heart monument has a location now. Patriot Houle and I attended a meeting of the Memorial Garden committee where it was voted on. It will be located near the parking area down by the Museum of the Marines. There is a sidewalk that juts out with nothing at the end of it and that is where our monument will be located.

Meeting attendance, is always a topic. Our attendance has been hanging around 15 to 20 at a meeting, down from 25 to 30 that is was at one time. I realize that we have lost some of our patriots that were steady meeting goers. We need to keep the Order going and part of this is by attending meetings, we also need some help at events and functions.

As always Patriots – Without you we would have no chapter. Thanks for your sacrifice and your service. Happy New Year!

Semper Fi, John

Corpsmen Memorial Foundation CMF

Below is the Marquette 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: www.fmcmf.org



Our target date for the dedication of the Corpsmen Memorial is next year, possibly Veterans Day. Abbe Godwin's latest report is that things are flowing smoothly.

**Happy New
Year,
hoping 2020
brings you
much
prosperity
and
happiness.**