



All gave some, some gave all

Official chapter website: www.ncmoph.org

E-mail: phchap642@gmail.com

Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 1

January/February 2018

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Chapter Officers

Commander: Grant Beck
Sen. Vice: Joe Houle
Jun Vice: Stan Walker
Adjutant: John Cooney
Finance: Prentis Campbell
Comm.: Tim Haney
Alt Comm: John Holmes
Trust 3 yr: Gene Putz
Trust 2 yr: Bill Treadwell
Trust 1 yr: Mike Rooney
Service Off: Jim Foyil
Chaplain: Mac McGee
Sgt at Arms: Marshall Drennen

**FRATRES AETERNI
(Brothers forever)**

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

Chapter membership statistics as of 12/31/2017

Lifetime members: 754 Help us save postage, send me
Associate Members: 7 your email address
Total Membership: 761

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. We have pending, 8 new members since the last newsletter. Seven were signed up at the Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave check signing.

"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

1 Jan – Happy New Year

9 Jan – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at Military Relocators at 1900

17 Jan – Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at the Military Relocators at 1800

13 Feb -- Monthly Purple Heart meeting at Military Relocators at 1900

21 Feb -- Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at the Military Relocators at 1800

24 Feb – Tentatively Viola drive at Lowes Food Store, Gum Branch road

NOTE: * Denotes full Purple Heart attire

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.



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.

Know guns, Know Peace, Know Safety. No guns, no peace, no safety

Chapter Happenings

We are back in our down season, time to take our packs off for a while. We had a busy November and December as usual. We kicked off the month of November with the Veterans Day Parade riding the stretch jeep provided by Patriot Houle with two Purple Heart riders riding. (see pic below)



The next week we talked with about 800 Onslow County students about Americanism at three schools. Some of the Patriots attended the Veterans Day ceremony at the DAV.

After our monthly meeting, that Friday, we set up the fallen Warrior Tree at the American Legion for the Festival of Trees. After the festival we moved the tree to the exchange where we set it up again and it remained for the duration of the holidays. Thanks to the many patriots that took turns sitting at the tree informing the public about it and taking in donations.

(below is Patriot Davis and Assoc. member McManus)



For those of you that have not seen our tree here it is, above. Three years ago we switched from three trees with individual names on ornaments to the one tree with large ornaments depicting the year and the number of KIA's for that year. On the table there are over 500 names on a chart, by year.

In December some patriots participated in the Veterans cemetery cleanup. And on Pearl Harbor day we attended the ceremony at the American Legion. (see pic right)



Later in the week after the meeting in December, we attended Field Medical Training Graduation presenting a plaque to the honor grad of the Corpsmen and the Religious programmer side of the house. At the same time several patriots were helping chapter 639 write 29 Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave checks. The check writing was down about ½ from last year due to the reduction in the amount of casualties. Let's hope that trend continues. That Saturday several patriots/wives and friends placed wreaths on the graves of our departed members at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery.

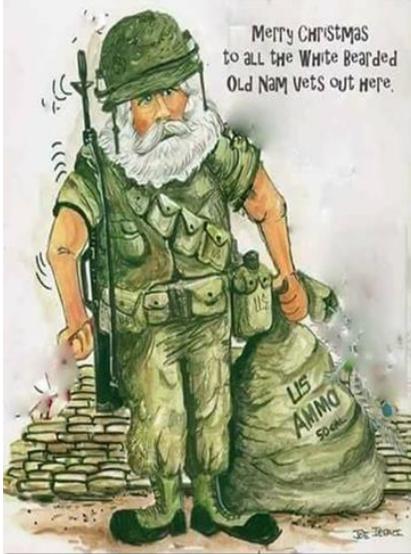
Later that week Patriot Capt Hancock CO of the Naval Medical Facility at Camp Lejeune presented a Wreath to the Purple Heart recipients of the chapter.

(see pics below)





On December 25 all celebrated a Merry Christmas.



You don't shoot to kill, you shoot to stay alive

This brings us to the present period the January and February time period. This is traditionally a down period after a very hectic end of the year. We wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hope that 2018 is better than last year.

All we have so far are the two Purple Heart meetings and the Two Corpsmen Memorial Meetings. We also will have a Viola drive in February, tentatively the

24th. Of course there's always something that will pop up unexpectedly.

911: government sponsored, 'Dial a prayer.'

[New Forever GI Bill changes for 2018](#)

The new Forever GI Bill signed into law by President Trump earlier this year has multiple provisions that will roll out in 2018. Among them are changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill for Purple Heart recipients, reservists and dependents — all of which start in August.

Post-9/11 Purple Heart recipients will be eligible to receive 100 percent of GI Bill benefits regardless of how long they served. This includes coverage of tuition at a public school's in-state rate for 36 months, and books and housing stipends.

There will also be scholarship funds available on a first-come, first-serve basis for GI Bill users who need a fifth year of school to complete science, technology, engineering or math programs.

The Veterans Affairs Department will begin calculating housing stipends based on where a student takes the most classes — a change from current policy, which uses the ZIP code of a student's school.

If a dependent who received transferred benefits dies before using all of the benefits, the Forever GI Bill gives the service member or veteran the ability to transfer remaining benefits to another dependent. This provision will apply to all deaths since 2009.

Criminals love gun control; it makes their jobs safer.

[There's something missing from research on Veteran suicides.](#)

There are countless studies that show the risk of suicide is higher among those who

served in the military when compared to civilians.

The [Department of Veteran Affairs recognizes this issue and is taking steps](#) to better identify and support those who served who are at risk of taking their own life. While there is a large catalogue of research analyzing suicide rates of those who served in the military, many of these studies overlook key factors that could help policymakers understand the full scope of this issue and, in turn, develop more effective preventative programs.

Here are a few of the elements that researchers should be incorporating into their studies:

A Local Perspective

Many military suicide studies focus on trends from a national scale, while those that do incorporate a regional or local perspective typically extrapolate data from the federal level and apply findings to the county level. This methodology ignores the unique social and cultural influences present within different communities, each of which can have distinct effects on those who served. Additionally, studies that focus solely on national trends don't take into consideration that impact that support from services outside of federal programs can have on outlooks of those who served in the military.

To better complement the findings of national studies, researchers should take a reverse approach that focuses on data and insight pulled directly from local communities. In addition to data, studies should incorporate the perspective of the people who actually live and interact with those who served who are at-risk within the community.

Individuals such as county medical examiners and representatives from local support organizations can provide researchers with an in-depth understanding of the social, political and cultural traits that

are unique to a particular region of the country.

Broader Classifications of Veterans

A veteran is generally defined as someone who served in the active military, naval or air service for 90 days or more and was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. However, a majority of national veteran suicide research only focuses on veterans who were honorably discharged and are associated with the VA, which typically means they qualify to receive VA services.

Because of this, most of the data on suicide rates of those who served does not account for veterans who received an Other Than Honorable, General or Dishonorable discharge.

Additionally, this narrow definition leaves out those who served who are not affiliated with the VA, even if they were honorably discharged. To truly understand how military experience may impact someone's risk of taking his or her own life, research needs to account for those who served in the military who were discharged under less-than-Honorable conditions.

Cases of Self-Harm

In addition to different definitions of who is considered a veteran, studies should also consider differences in how suicides are categorized. Recognizing accidental deaths caused by self-harm, such as drug overdoses or vehicular accidents, as suicides may vary depending on regional differences.

To ensure researchers have the most complete picture possible of the military community, both nationally and locally, studies should include cases of suspected suicide or accidental death caused by self-harm. In addition to providing a critical dimension to the overall research, this inclusion could shine light on previously unknown factors impacting a person's risk of taking his or her own life.

Fortunately, there are research teams starting to take a close look at the unique elements that may place those who served at a higher risk of taking their own life or self-harm.

For example, my organization, America's Warrior Partnership, is partnering with the University of Alabama on a newly announced project called Operation Deep Dive, funded largely by a \$2.9 million grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb. This four-year study will determine how factors such as local community support and the impact of less than honorable discharges can have on the suicide rate of those who served.

As our project, and others like it, release new findings in the years ahead, there will soon be a more comprehensive body of research available to assist policymakers and community leaders in developing more effective programs for identifying and supporting those who served who are at-risk.

If guns cause crime, then matches cause arson

Introduction of Veterans treatment court H. R. 4345

On November 9, 2017, Representative Charlie Crist (FL) and Representative Jeff Denham (CA) introduced H.R. 4345, the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act of 2017. The bill would create coordination between the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Attorney General to provide grants and technical assistance to the State circuit court systems that have adopted Veterans Treatment Court Programs or have filed a notice of intent to establish a Veterans Treatment Court Program with the Secretary.

There are currently over 200 Veterans Treatment Courts in the United States. These courts seek to treat veterans suffering from a substance abuse and/or mental health disorder, while helping ensure public safety. They combine rigorous treatment and personal

accountability, with the goal of breaking the cycle of drug use and criminal behavior. Veterans Treatment Courts require regular court appearances, as well as mandatory attendance at treatment sessions, and frequent and random testing for drug and alcohol use. Veterans respond favorably to this structured environment, given their past experiences in the Armed Forces.

Veterans Treatment Courts keep veterans out of jail and prison and connect them with the benefits and treatment they have earned, all while saving tax dollars for our country. Nationwide, these courts have produced a statistically significant reduction of recidivism rates in veterans.

H.R. 4345 would create a single office in the Department of Justice to coordinate the provision of grants, training, and technical assistance to help State, local, and Tribal governments develop and maintain Veterans Treatment Courts.

In accordance with DAV Resolution No. 105, calling for the continued growth of Veterans Treatment Courts for justice-involved veterans, DAV supports this bill.

Please use the prepared electronic letter or draft your own to urge your Representative to cosponsor H.R. 4345.

We appreciate your support for DAV and your grassroots efforts through DAV CAN. Your advocacy makes DAV a highly influential and effective organization in Washington, DC. Your voice makes a difference and we would not be as effective without you.

Thank you for standing with us and participating in the DAV Commander's Action Network.

Click the link below to log in and send your message:
https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/W_Q8WBkV0tkQ1EPoIQJ3qA

From the Commander

As we come to the end of another year, I'll take this opportunity to wish you all the best in the upcoming year....both health and prosperity-wise. I would hope that all of us would remember the Fraternal objects of our Order which are: "Fraternity requires that we attend all meetings of our Chapter if at all possible, to keep alive our contacts with fellow Patriots, to aid in the deliberations and to offer suggestions for the good of the Order. Fraternity means a kindly impulse towards all Patriots, a cheerful smile, and a firm handclasp of loyal friendship. It also means that we cooperate with other veteran, patriotic, and civic organizations in worthy objectives". Let's try to make it a point this coming year to dedicate ourselves to make each monthly meeting. I truly don't think anyone can honestly say they can't attend a one hour meeting, once a month, so as to spend some time learning what's going on in their Chapter and renew acquaintances with your fellow combat wounded. Let's get the attendance back up to the 30-35 it used to be. Happy New Year to all and to those of you who worked on the various projects and programs this year.....THANK YOU!

Semper Fi, Grant

<p>Only a government that is afraid of its citizens tries to control them.</p>
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From the Adjutant/Editor

Patriots, We had a fairly good year, did not get the growth that we wanted but still are slowly growing. We are the second largest chapter in the United States, second only to

that chapter in Texas that has us by about 50 members. We signed up 7 new patriots at the December Christmas Leave check signing and sent in one transfer. So we can add eight more members to our total when national gets around to entering them.

There have been a few changes made by National. The main one affecting the chapter is moving up of the election reports date. We now have to hold nominations for office in February and elections in March vice April like it was previously. So be thinking about a position that you want to run for because at February's meeting we will call for nominations.

Our meeting participation has been dismal and we don't know how to correct it, last meeting we had 16 where in the past, a year or two ago, we have had 30 to 40 at some meetings. We attempt to keep the meetings down to an hour as we know that you tend to lose folks any longer than that. We would love to see some of you young members get out and attend. We old geezers are getting up there in age and I for one will be looking to step down as Adjutant in the next couple years. I have been adjutant for thirteen years. I have enjoyed every minute of it especially watching the chapter grow into what we are now.

As always, I will close with; this is your chapter and without you we would have no chapter.

Semper Fi, John

<p>You have only the rights you are willing to fight for.</p>

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. Also bricks for the walkway can be purchased at the website. The Website is: www.fmfcmf.org

The Maquette was picked up by Abbe Godwin and has started work on the memorial. Completion is hopefully sometime next year.



Note:

We have reached our goal and the sculptress has started on the project, it should be up in about a year with a target date of Veterans Day 2018.

Glad I don't have a chimney!!!

How To Tell You've
Been Really Bad.



