



All gave some, some gave all

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Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 4/17

July/August 2017

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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: Bill Stankowski
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 06/30/2017

Lifetime members: 751 Help us save postage, send me
Associate Members: 5 your email address
Total Membership: 756

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 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 Jul – Purple Heart truck, fully disability equipped to be at Sanders Ford, Ceremony at 1500 with Mayor, commissioners and National PH officers.**
- 11 Jul – Americanism Classes to Summer Camp, Swansboro Middle from 0930 to 1030 and Hunters Creek Middle from 1100 to 1200**
- 11 Jul – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900 at the Military Relocators.**
- 15 Jul – CMF “Burn your own steak fundraiser at Swynayks from 1500 to 1900.**
- 17 Jul – Americanism Classes to Summer Camp. Southwest Middle from 0930 to 1030 and Summersill Elementary from 1100 to 1200**
- 18 Jul – Americanism classes to Summer Camp, Dixon Middle From 0930 to 1030**
- 19 Jul – Corpsmen Memorial Foundation meeting at 1800 at the Military Relocators.**
- 5 Aug – Viola Drive at Lowes Food Store from 1100 to?**
- 5 Aug – Purple Heart honor dinner in New Bern NC from 1700 to 2000 ***
- 8 Aug – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900 at the Military Relocators.**
- 16 Aug – Corpsmen Memorial Foundation meeting at 1800 at the Military Relocators.**

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.

The second Amendment is in place in case the politicians ignore the others

Happenings

May was a fairly eventful month starting off with the NC Department Convention in Charlotte NC. It was a good convention with the Charlotte chapter hosting it for the fourth time and five years. Olivia Newton John was the guest entertainer.

The chapter presented several JROTC leadership awards to area high schools and passed out water and Gatorade for the 9th year at the “Run for the Warriors” water stop.

Some of the Purple Heart Riders escorted the Vietnam Moving wall from Jacksonville to Morehead City where it was on display over the Memorial Day weekend. The chapter also hosted the Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery again this year with a record crowd with 500+.

During June, we attended a Heroes walk at the Southwest Elementary school where we were honored and presented with \$857 for the scholarship fund.



Below left: SSgt Jasper of SOI receives three Purple Hearts at ceremony.

We also attended a Purple Heart ceremony where a member of the School of Infantry was awarded three Purple Hearts. This was a first, as we have never been to a ceremony where this many Purple Hearts were awarded to one Marine.

The chapter presented plaques to the honor graduates of the Field Medical Training Bn. We also attended ceremonies dedicating a memorial to the Interrogator Translators, the renaming of the US Naval Hospital and the 10th Anniversary of the Wounded Warrior Bn.

At the June meeting appreciation was given to some of the helpers at the Memorial Day ceremony. Below Patriot Houle has just presented the awards.



What’s happening in the next two months? On Monday, 3 July the Purple Heart truck, fully disabled equipped will visit our area, see article in editors notes. We have some Summer Camp Americanism Classes scheduled. Patriot Jenkins stays on top of this each year and the dates this year are as follow:

11 July – Swansboro Middle from 0930 to 1030

11 July – Hunters Creek Middle from 1100 to 1200

17 July – Southwest Middle from 0930 to 1030

17 July – Summersill elementary from 1100 to 1200

18 July – Dixon Middle from 0930 to 1030

Mark these dates on your calendar and plan on coming out to give us a hand. These classes are enjoyable and the kids get a lot out of them.

The Corpsmen Memorial annual “Burn your own Steak” event will take place on 15 July from 1500 to 1900. Cost of meal is \$25.00 with a silent auction, AR-15 drawing and 50/50 drawing. Rifle tickets available from Patriot Cooney, Meal tickets are available from various chapter members. The event this year is going at Swyanyks on Henderson drive. Support the Corpsmen Memorial, after all this is our chapter project, we started it.

On 5 August we have two events going on—a Viola drive at Lowes Food on Gum Branch Rd from 1100 to ?, when we decide to stop. The other is an Honor Dinner for Purple Heart recipients held in New Bern. This is the second year for this event and several of us went last year. It’s a great event and they really put on a Gala event to honor us. We will have applications at the next meeting, if you did not go last year you should consider it this year.

Guns have only two enemies; rust and politicians
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Editors notes

Patriots – This is an important event for us, great PR. This is the second year that one of these trucks has been presented to one of our wounded warriors. Info on event to follow: On the 3rd of July at 3:00 pm there will be a significant event

held at the Sanders Ford Dealership. The Military Order of the Purple Heart Ford F150 “Raptor”, a truck especially set up for amputees or handicapped drivers, will be coming to Jacksonville on its 8500 mile trek across America. The trip will include stops in just about every state where there is a Purple Heart Chapter for the purpose of supporting the combat wounded and educating the general public about the Military Order of the Purple Heart’s mission. The public is invited to come out to see this awesome vehicle, watch a demonstration of its capabilities, and sign the truck with words of encouragement for our nations combat wounded. At the end of the “trip” the truck will be presented to Marine Sergeant Patrick Kennedy, from Fayetteville, Ark., this year’s recipient, for his use. See truck below!



Finally, the VA has solid, reform-minded leadership

With today's political polarization, it's worthwhile to pause and focus on what's going right in Washington. Let's start by commending the new secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, David Shulkin, for his steady and decisive leadership in the last several months.

Shulkin was not my first choice to lead the VA. I had hoped to see a chief

executive at the department with a military service background. Moreover, I feared that by elevating someone from the last administration's leadership (he served previously as undersecretary for health), we would just end up with "more of the same."

Base on Shulkin's initial performance in the job, that worry was unfounded. He has dramatically exceeded expectations.

Shulkin's predecessors, Eric Shinseki and Robert McDonald, were both military veterans, and both were fundamentally decent, well-meaning men. But they seemed too ready to defer to the VA status quo, which made it difficult for them to deliver the changes the department requires.

Their successor appears more action-oriented and has made a number of positive moves to boost confidence and improve performance. He's made it clear he wants to bring a different style of leadership to the historically troubled VA.

"Slow, incremental, steady change isn't what this organization needs," Shulkin [said in a June 20 press briefing](#). "What we need is bolder, fundamental change, dealing with the issues that — frankly — are really hard to deal with, that go back decades. That means, by definition, we're going to have to take greater risks."

What does "bolder, fundamental change" look like? Consider some of Shulkin's initial actions:

Pledging to work within a budget. In [a May 31 White House briefing](#), Shulkin supplied a detailed overview of the challenges the VA faces, and the steps he will take to address those challenges. He was forthright in

saying the VA's problems don't stem from a lack of funding (though he has noted there are legacy issues with technology and healthcare costs that will need to be addressed).

"I have said that the problems in VA are not largely going to be solved through additional money," Shulkin [told reporters](#). "These are going to be solved through management practices, focus, and some legislation changes. But our issues are not because we're lacking the financial resources to be able to accomplish our mission."

The VA's problems are cultural and managerial, and simply pouring more funding into a dysfunctional bureaucracy will only magnify that dysfunction. Kudos to Shulkin for recognizing that reality.

Those who trade liberty for security have neither

The VA and Service Dogs.

Paige Pflieger reports on the possible value of service dogs for veterans with PTSD.

Some nights, Army veteran Russel Keyser has nightmares that he says are as terrifying as horror movies -- vivid dreams that take him back to the savage violence he saw in Kosovo.

That's when he's especially glad to have Artemis nearby.

Artemis is a Belgian Malinois, a Shepherd dog that was placed with Keyser as a service animal. She monitors his moods, comforts him when he's anxious, and protects him from things that might make him uneasy.

"For the anxiety level, she starts biting my hand like a nibble," Keyser said.

"And the nightmares she licks my face. And also she tells me when it's time to go when she jumps up and grabs me.

That's the cue to remove myself from a place because I'm being overwhelmed." Keyser is among hundreds of U.S. veterans who are working with service dogs to help relieve symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. At the Ronkonkoma, N.Y. veterans home where Keyser lives, Artemis hangs close to him, watching him carefully with her amber-colored eyes.

When the pair leave home, Artemis gets behind Keyser and blocks him from people who might startle him.

"If the service dog helps me stay in public places around people, that means I can get the help I need," said Keyser, who said he was too anxious to attend treatment sessions until Artemis began going with him.

Keyser received Artemis about a year ago from a Long Island charity called [Paws of War](#), one of several non-profit organizations around the country that rescues shelter dogs and trains them to assist people with PTSD.

"Having a service dog or emotional support dog or even a companion animal is one tool of recovery for their wounds of war, whether they're physical or hidden wounds," said Paws of War co-founder Dori Scofield.

But owning a dog can be expensive for veterans, who sometimes have little income. Paws of War helps pay for veterinary care and other expenses, but Scofield is frustrated that the Department of Veterans Affairs won't cover part of those expenses.

While the federal agency pays for service animals for veterans with visual, hearing, or mobility disorders, it will not do so for former service members whose only disability is PTSD.

"It's just as debilitating and crippling as any other physical disability," she said. "We hope that in the not too distant

future, the VA will provide these services."

Dori Scofield trains service dogs for veterans with PTSD. "It's just as debilitating and crippling as any other physical disability," she says.

Credit Paige Pflieger / American Homefront

The VA has studied service animals' potential benefits for PTSD patients, but the agency says that research has been inconclusive.

"I would say there are a lot of heartwarming stories that service dogs help, but scientific basis for that claim is lacking," said Michael Fallon, the VA's chief veterinary medical officer. "The VA is based on evidence based medicine. We want people to use therapy that has proven value."

Yet the VA's efforts to study the possible benefits of service animals have been plagued with problems. [Congress mandated a study in 2010](#), but the VA suspended it just months after it began, when two of the dogs in the study bit the children of veterans. The study restarted in 2012 but was again stopped because of issues with the dogs' health and training.

A new study is underway and the VA is now recruiting veterans to participate. But it isn't expected to be finished before 2019.

Meanwhile, the VA stresses that the agency is providing other treatments to veterans with PTSD, including cognitive behavioral therapy and medications.

Keyser, the Kosovo veteran, says he doesn't need to see any scientific studies to know that Artemis is helping him. He says he's no longer as apprehensive about public places, and he isn't as likely to have severe reactions if something startles him.

"How it works, I don't know. I don't care," he said. "I can live a normal life. I could not live a normal life without her."

Know guns, know peace, know safely.
No guns, no peace, no safety

From the Commander

A few of us attended the Wounded Warriors Bn 10 year anniversary this morning. Turnout was very good. Hard to believe it's been 10 years since the Wounded Warrior Barracks (forerunner of the WW Bn) was started. We need a good turnout at the Purple Heart cross-country truck run on 3 July, Monday, at Sanders Ford dealership on Lejeune Blvd. Program starts at 1500. Invited speakers, demonstration of this awesome truck's capabilities for amputees/disabled drivers, and the opportunity for anyone who desires to sign the truck. Chapter 642 is the host Chapter for this event at the beginning of the 8000+ mile run and we need to show good support to send them on their way. Let's send them off properly.

Semper Fi, Grant

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

From the Junior Vice

For the third year we are presenting scholarships to deserving dependents of veterans. This year at our next meeting, 11 July, 5 deserving youngsters will receive a \$750.00 check made out to them and the school of attendance and will read their Americanism essay. Six applied but one was not qualified. We

seem to be increasing each year with four last year and we look forward to continued support of our youth.

Semper Fi, Stan

Only a government that is afraid of its citizens tries to control them

From the Adjutant/Editor

Patriots – Here we go again, two months have passed since the last newsletter and half of this year is gone already. I guess that old adage is true, "Time flies when you're having fun," after all, when in the Corps – Every day's a holiday and every meal's a banquet.

In case you haven't noticed we are a very active chapter. Had a comment made by a Purple Heart recipient from up north, Delaware, who by the way joined our chapter due to all that we do. He stated that up there the local chapter does nothing. I explained to him some of what we do such as attend this Interrogators Translators Memorial dedication of which he was the MC. This is how we get new members, this took place just by chance and a little conversation. There are Purple Heart recipients out there and some don't know that we have a chapter in Jacksonville.

Also, of note in this letter is the Purple Heart honor dinner held at the Convention Center in New Bern on 5 August. Last year about 25 chapter members attended this wonderful display of appreciation to us. Some of us will go back again this year, This year the Commander and I are not going we want to make the opportunity available to others to attend and get honored. We will have applications available at the next meeting on 11 July. You are

encouraged to attend this event they really treat us like kings and queens. Patriots, as usual I will end this with a thanks for what you all do, thanks for your sacrifice and service and without you we would have no chapter.

Semper Fi, John

You have only the rights you are willing to fight for

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: www.fmfcmf.org

The Maquette was picked up by Abbe Godwin and has started work on the memorial. We are seeing progress toward our goal of completion, it is within grasp!



Note: Over the past year the CMF has found new life and we are approaching about 90% of our goal.

Enforce the gun control laws that we already have; don't make more

Some Department of defense one liners

Things are looking up for us here. In fact, Papua New Guinea is thinking of offering two platoons: one of infantry (headhunters) and one of engineers (hut builders). They want to eat any Iraqis they kill. We've got no issues with that, but state is being anal about it. – A LtCol, on OIF coalition building.

If we wait until the last minute to do it, it'll only take a minute. – A Major

I finally figured out that when a Turkish officer tells you, it's no problem, he means for him. – A Major

Cynicism is the smoke that rises from the ashes of burned out dreams. – A Major

I'll be right back. I have to go pound my nuts flat. – A LtCol

The only reason that anything gets done is because there are pockets of competence in every command. The key is to find them – then exploit the hell out of them. A Cmdr

