



Official Web Site: www.ncmoph.org

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Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 1/21

January to March 2021

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All gave some, some gave all

Chapter membership statistics as of 12/31/2020

Lifetime members: 751 Associate Members 19

Total Membership: 770 (Approx)

Chapter Officers

Commander: Joe Houle

Sen. Vice: Bill Treadwell

Jun Vice:

Adjutant: Mike Nesmith

Finance: Chadd Jackson

Trust 2 yr: Prentiss Campbell

Trust 1 yr: Verl Matthews

Service Off: Jim Foyil

Chaplain: Bill Stankowski

Sgt at Arms: Tim Haney

**FRATRES AETERNI
(Brothers forever)**

Semper Keeping You Informed

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

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

11 Jan – Patriot Troy to be interred at Onslow County state veterans cemetery,
Time TBA

12 Jan- Monthly Meeting at the meeting place

9 Feb - Monthly Meeting at the meeting place

9 Mar - Monthly Meeting at the meeting place

Note ;; There are many events/functions that are in question due to the virus. We will have to wait and see where we are at a time prior to the event .

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.



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.

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

Happenings

Patriots we are in trying times with this pandemic accelerating like it is. Needless to say that it has put a damper on our activities to include meetings. We have not done a whole lot in the past 3 months.

Almost all of the activities were cancelled, we did conduct our first annual poker run in October raising money for the scholarship fund. We had a fair turnout for the initial run, 47 bikes.

We held meetings in Oct and Nov. At November's meeting we celebrated our

Marine Corps birthday with a cake cutting with 13 Patriots in attendance. Our regional Commander, Lenny Lazarra was also there passing along word from National. At this meeting was John McGee, co-sponsor of the Hatteras Wounded Warrior vaca fund. Due to inactivity in the past two years the fund is being shut down. The remaining money in the fund will go out to the non-profits that supported the fund. I'm sure those that participated in the week long hiatus at Hatteras have fond memories of the adventure.

Commander Houle's wife, Alice, passed away at home, she suffered from Alzimers. Patriot Drennen who passed earlier this year was the recipient of the Chapter's veteran of the year award presented by Jacksonville's Mayor Sammy Phillips.

Several of us participated in Wreaths Across America on 18 Dec. We placed 30 wreaths on graves of our departed Patriots in the veterans cemetery. Due to COVID, Cmdr Houle got us permission to place wreaths on Friday, 18 Dec to get away from the limited attendance restrictions placement on 19 Dec.



Patriot Martin presenting plaque to Dukenfields owners, Glen and Mel, also attending, Patriots Holmes and Nesmith

Dukenfield's Family Bar who have been so good to us conducted two auctions during this quarter, raising about \$8000 for the scholarship fund. The chapter presented a plaque to the owners for their support.

December's meeting was cancelled due to COVID.

Two patriots passed during this quarter. Patriots Kelly and Troy. Patriot Troy was senior vice commander and suffered from Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma and passed due to complications from COVID.

We also have had three other patriots, that we know of, that came down with the virus, Patriots Houle, Walker and Haney. They all had mild cases, and have recovered thank God.

The next three months, activities are extremely questionable. The virus doesn't seem to be relenting at all and is accelerating. The characteristics of the virus will dictate our activities. Some of the meetings may be cancelled; we don't want to take any chances especially with our older membership. Many of our elder members have co-morbidities which could adversely affect the outcome of catching the virus, we've already lost one patriot from it.

Our adjutant and spouse are in the process of adopting three babies from South Dakota and I am filling in for him until the process is complete. We should have him back around the February time frame. I will keep you informed as much as possible. Hope all has a Happy New Year. BE SAFE!

COVID-19 Vaccine Distributed in Phases to TRICARE Members

The COVID-19 vaccine will soon be available for you and your family. The Department of Defense (DoD), in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will provide COVID-19 vaccines in phases.

"As the vaccine becomes more widely available in the coming weeks, we strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated," said

Defense Health Agency Director Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Ronald J. Place. “The vaccine is safe, effective, and a critical addition to current public health measures. It helps us protect our health, our families, our communities, and significantly decrease the public health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.”

As this critical response begins, you may have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as when and how you can get it.

Who is getting the vaccine first?

The first supply of the vaccine is limited. The DoD is prioritizing distributing vaccines to those providing direct medical care, maintaining essential installation functions, deploying forces, and those who are at the highest risk for developing severe illness from COVID-19. Once the initial phases of the vaccine distribution are complete, the vaccines will become available for other beneficiaries under the phased approach.

Where can you get the vaccine when offered?

During the limited distribution phase, the vaccine is only available at certain locations throughout the U.S. and overseas. Once the initial phases of the vaccine distribution are completed, the vaccines will be more broadly available.

You'll eventually be able to get the vaccine at:

- Your local [military hospital or clinic](#).
- Your civilian provider.
- [TRICARE network pharmacies](#).

TRICARE is working to ensure you have no out-of-pocket costs.

Why should you get the vaccine?

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the COVID-19 vaccine is an important tool to help stop the pandemic. Getting the vaccine will lower your risk of contracting COVID-19 and may help keep you from getting seriously ill if you do get the virus. Getting vaccinated also protects the

health of the people around you—especially those who are at [increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19](#).

What can you do now?

Remember it's still important for you to follow COVID-19 safety procedures to help slow the spread of the virus. You should continue to [practice healthy habits](#). These habits include wearing a mask, practicing physical distancing, restricting your movement, and washing your hands.

You can learn more about the [COVID-19 vaccine efforts](#). Also, [sign up for email alerts](#) for more COVID-19 vaccine news as it becomes available.

Sign up for [email alerts](#), and keep up with [TRICARE and COVID-19 updates](#).

At the time of posting, this information is current. Visit www.cdc.gov or the [TRICARE FAQs](#) for the most current COVID-19 information.

Note: In an Article that I read yesterday the vaccine will be given in phases, Most of us will be in 1B. There are several phases of 1B, phase one is 75 years of age and older which supposedly will begin after the first of the year.

[VA to begin COVID-19 vaccinations at 128 additional sites](#)

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will begin COVID-19 vaccinations this week at 128 additional sites using the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines.

On December 18, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [issued an Emergency Use Authorization](#) of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which is the second COVID-19 vaccine to be authorized.

“Having a second COVID-19 vaccine will enable us to reach more facilities and vaccinate more health care personnel and Veterans in additional

parts of the country,” said VA Secretary Robert L. Wilkie. “We continue to implement our [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan](#) and are grateful to be one step closer to seeing the end of this pandemic.”

Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, VA will continue to vaccinate health care personnel, as well as community living center and spinal cord unit residents. As vaccine supplies increase, VA’s ultimate goal is to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to all Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated.

North Carolina

Asheville VA Medical Center
South Charlotte VA Health Care Center
Fayetteville VA Medical Center
Raeford Road (Fayetteville) VA
Outpatient Clinic
Greenville VA Health Care Center
Kernersville VA Health Care Center
Wilmington VA Health Care Center

[VA launches single access point to all VA contact centers](#)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today, the formal launch of 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411), a single access point to all VA contact centers.

The number is available 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year to serve Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

Responding to Veteran feedback on the challenges of knowing the right number for VA assistance, 1-800-MyVA411, serves all members of the Veteran community seeking information or

help. Veterans and their families can still reach the Veterans Crisis Line directly at 1-800-273-8255 and pressing 1, by [Chat](#) or by texting 838255. The White House VA Hotline is also still available at 1-855-948-2311 for Veterans and their families to share compliments and concerns.

“1-800-MyVA411 is always the right number to reach VA and is a great example of the department’s customer service strategy in action,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “1-800-MyVA411 provides easy access to specialized contact centers as well as an option to immediately talk to a live agent.”

When dialing 1-800-MyVA411, callers have the option of pressing 0 to be immediately connected with a customer service agent to answer questions or provide a warm-handoff to the appropriate VA expert.

During the pilot phase from Oct. 1, 2019–Sep. 31, 1-800-MyVA411 connected more than 1.3 million callers with VA contact centers and experts.

1-800-MyVA411 provides information on:

- COVID-19 updates.
- Health care eligibility and enrollment.
- VA benefits, such as disability, compensation and pension, education programs, caregiver support, insurance, home loans, and burial headstones and markers among others.
- The nearest VA medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries to Veterans, VA Medical Center operational updates

and connection to VA Medical Center operators.

- Directory assistance and technical support for www.VA.gov.
- Debt and payment options.

For more information contact the [Veterans Experience Office](#) at Vets-Experience@VA.gov

Electric Wheel chair available at WWBN

Nurse Case Manager Tammy Knight at the WWBN has a gentleman contacting her that wants to donate an electric wheelchair. He is really having difficulty donating this item that I am sure would be very useful to someone. Tammy is trying to assist him. I just do not have any cases or know of anyone that might need it.

Paul, are you affiliated with any org that could utilize an electric chair? I have carbon copied Tammy on this email. Happy New Year. Hope to see you soon! We need to catch up.

Carey

Note: This comes from Paul Leveche, President of the OCCOVO. If you need this chair contact Tammy Knight at the WWBN.

Letter to the Editor **Consideration**

2020 will surely have a separate chapter in the history of our country, what with the coronavirus, weird election problems, riots (called peaceful protests by some leftists), and now, hopefully an effective vaccine that will work. I continually see from 25 to 50% of the people around me when I have to go to a store not being anything close to respectful and considerate enough of those around them to wear a mask and stay a little away from them. I'm sick and tired of wearing

a mask also but I certainly understand the necessity of doing it. One of our members relatives was flying to visit with him recently and a woman on the plane was coughing and hacking all the way here. Our member's relative ended up coming down with the virus and passed it on to him. I don't understand why the airline personnel either 1) left her get on the plane, or, 2) once on and starting to show signs of the virus, why the flight personnel didn't ensure she was wearing a mask plus segregate her in an empty part of the plane! Respect and consideration for your fellow man is what it's all about. Sorry that this may sound like a rant.....well no, I'm really not because I know most of you may feel the same way.

Hope you all have a very healthy and prosperous New Year. Perhaps we can get back up to 20+ Patriots per meeting like we used to have once we crank them back up, hopefully soon. See below video pertaining to vaccine.



VIDEO-2020-12-12-12-50-48.mov

Semper Fi, Grant

**From your Commander
No Report.**

From your Adjutant

Patriots—This is from your acting adjutant. These are troubling times, people are on edge being cooped up and wearing these idiot masks.

Try to follow the rules wearing the mask while in a public places they protect everyone.

We haven't done a whole lot and we won't be doing much as a chapter as long as this virus hangs around like it is. Hopefully the vaccine will put a dent in the upsurge and help those who may still catch it.

I put an article in this letter about the phases that the vaccine will be

administered. I fall into the Phase 1B category, phase 1, 75 years of age or older. I am supposed to be vaccinated after the 1st of the year, don't know how we will be notified, possibly my Doctor may notify me. I go to East Carolina Medical center here on Western Blvd and have had the same Doctor for about 30 years now. Dr Towner Nicky is a wonderful doctor and is keeping my wife and I alive. At any rate I WILL get the vaccination, recommend you all get it also.

Don't have much to say during these troubling times, enjoy your \$600 from our rich, overpaid politicians and your 1.3% raise in your active duty and retirement pay.

Have a great, safe and Happy New Year and hope to see you all next 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 2021, possibly Navy Corpsmen's birthday. Abbe Godwin's latest report is that things are flowing smoothly.

Note: The chapter is having a real attrition problem with our patriots passing and

moving. As you can see by the cover sheet, due to Patriot Troy passing that opens up the senior vice position. Patriot Treadwell automatically moved into that position from Junior Vice. That leaves Junior vice open. Anyone interested in moving up in the chapter and getting more involved let me know.

Also, one of our very active members is moving to CA after the first of the year. Patriot Haney has employment in CA and is moving to be with his wife. He is very active in the chapter, presently our Sgt. At Arms. He also takes care of the cemetery locations for Wreaths Across America and in the Purple Heart monument in the Memorial Gardens and maintains the chapter van.

This means that the Sgt at Arms position will also be open, so again, if interested let me know.

These losses are hard to replace and the meeting attendance, when we have a meeting, seems to be waning. You younger members are the future of the chapter and the order and we need you to make more effort to contribute.

A little on Flag etiquette

Many people love to display our National colors. Many don't know the rules involved in doing so. We are considered the duty experts on the flag, receiving phone calls at times with flag questions. When we go to events there's always someone there with the flag improperly displayed and we politely correct them. The biggest error is the placement of the flag on the wrong side.

Here are few basic guidelines to keep in mind based on the U.S. Flag Code:

- Always make sure the flag never touches the ground or anything below it.
- Do not display the American flag in inclement weather, unless it's an all-weather flag.
- If you want to fly the flag after sunset, keep it well lit.
- When you hang the flag vertically on a flat surface, make sure the Union (blue section) is on the observer's left.

Wondering what you should you do when your flag becomes worn and no longer suited for public display? The U.S. flag code requires it to be disposed of respectfully,

preferably by burning. Many local VFW posts and American Legions hold ceremonies to retire flags if you do not feel comfortable doing it yourself.

As a symbol of the country and its people, the flag should be treated with respect and be honored when on display. In order to treat the flag with the dignity it deserves, the following display guidelines are recommended.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR DISPLAYING THE FLAG:

- When the flag is hung vertically on a wall, window, or door, the Union (blue section) should be to the observer's left. When the flag is hung either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the Union should be to the observer's left.
- In a procession, the American flag should be to the right (the flag's own right) of any other flag or, if in a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.
- When displayed from a staff projecting from a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff.
- When the flag is displayed otherwise than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out; or so suspended that its folds fall as freely as though the flag were staffed.
- When displayed over a street, the flag should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street, or to the east in a north and south street.
- On a platform, the flag should be above and behind the speaker, with the union uppermost and to the observer's left.
- When displayed from a staff in a church or auditorium, the flag should occupy the position of honor and be placed at the speaker's right as he faces the audience.
- When the flag is used to cover a casket, the union should be at the head and over the left shoulder.

WHEN TO DISPLAY THE AMERICAN FLAG

The flag is a symbol of respect, honor, and patriotism. It may be displayed on any day of the year according to the following guidelines:

The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement.

The custom is to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on flagstaves in the open, but it may be displayed at night—if illuminated—to produce a patriotic effect.

The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on:

- New Year's Day, January 1
 - Inauguration Day, January 20
 - Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, third Monday in January
 - Lincoln's Birthday, February 12
 - Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February
 - Easter Sunday (variable)
 - Mother's Day, second Sunday in May
 - Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May
 - Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May
 - Flag Day, June 14
 - Father's Day, third Sunday in June
 - Independence Day, July 4
 - Labor Day, first Monday in September
 - Constitution Day, September 17
 - Columbus Day, second Monday in October
 - Navy Day, October 27
 - Veterans Day, November 11
 - Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November
 - Christmas Day, December 25
- and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States the birthdays of States (date of admission) and on State holidays.

The flag should be displayed at every public institution and in or near every polling place on election days, and at schoolhouses during school days.

Note: Many of us fly ours 24/7