



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: Mike Rooney
Trust 3 yr: Joe Houle
Trust 2 yr: Tom Peterson
Trust 1 yr: George Reiter
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 1/12

January/February 2012

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Chapter membership statistics as of 12/23/11.

Lifetime members: 454 Help us save postage, send me

Associate Members: 3 your email address

Total Membership: 457

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, they are: Barber, Boyd, Brennan, Brock, Daunhauer, Drake, Elliot, Hileman, Lorenzetty, Nesbitt, Newby, Odom, Rios, Benner, Curtis, Kutilek, Perkins and Scarlett. Transferring out to a MO chapter was McHugh. Joining the big chapter in the sky was Christopher Nesbitt, rest in peace Brother. We welcome newly joined patriots, please come out and participate in our meetings and activities you are now part of the combat wounded brotherhood.

"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
 - 2 Jan – Take Fallen Warriors Trees down at exchange at 1000, need help
 - 10 Jan – Monthly meeting @ 1900 at 1923 Lejeune Blvd
 - 18 Jan – Corpsmen Memorial Meeting @ 1800 at 1923 Lejeune Blvd
 - 14 Feb – Monthly Meeting @ 1923 Lejeune Blvd
 - 15 Feb – Corpsmen Memorial meeting @ 1800 at 1923 Lejeune Blvd
 - 24/25 Feb – CMF Dinner Show at USO, all proceeds to CMF.
- *Denotes full Purple Heart if you have it

Patriots –In 2009, the Marine Corps suffered 52 suicides. This is 52 too many suicides. 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

Patriots, we have just come off of two very busy months. November saw the Purple Heart riders escorting returning units back to their battalion areas to their families. Americanism classes were conducted for over 1000 students and scouts. Two Veterans Day parades, one in Jacksonville and the other in Greenville were attended. The Veterans Day ceremony was attended by members at the DAV and at the same time members attended a Purple Heart Memorial Dedication in Swansboro. Also a first responder's plaque was presented to the wife of Deputy Lewis in Nashville NC. Deputy Lewis was killed in the line of duty. The Festival of trees was attended again this year

and our three Fallen Warrior Trees were again on display. They were well received by both the staff of the Festival and the Public. After the festival the trees were moved to the exchange aboard Camp Lejeune where they remained until after New Years.

Patriot Dan Stoy received accolades from the Mayor of Jacksonville for being our Veteran of the year and a standing ovation by all present. This is the first time that an active duty member has been selected for the award and he duly deserves it. He also received the veteran of the year award from the chapter at the December monthly meeting. The van continues to be of service transporting Patriot Bob Mathews to his Fayetteville VA appointments. We also attended a Memorial Service for 3/2 which was a last minute notification so therefore we could not present our engraved medallions to the next of kin of the KIAs. At the November monthly meeting we had a mini Marine Corps Birthday ceremony with cake cutting.



Commander Doc Matt and JVC Noel cut the Marine Corps Birthday Cake at the November meeting.



Above, Cake goes to oldest Patriot Blick (81) and youngest Patriot Scarlett (20).

December continued to be hectic, the trees were manned every working day from about 1030 to 1330 throughout the month. This was

to explain to the public the meaning of the trees and to get donations for the operation of the chapter. Several members attended a fund raising event at the New Bern Country Club to raise money for the Wounded Warriors Christmas Leave fund, where \$85,000 was raised. For three days members rang the bells for the Salvation Army outside of Sams taking two hour shifts. We attended a Quarterly NC Department meeting in Wilmington and attended the Pearl Harbor Ceremony at the American Legion.

Wreaths across America was also attended by the Purple Heart riders and other members of the chapter. Check writing for the Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave period took place with the National MOPH commander, Bill Hutton in attendance. Also the National Ladies Auxiliary President Barb Cherone was on hand as well as John Bircher National Public Relations director.



During a loll in the check writing National Commander Bill Hutton talks with Cooney and Reiter.

We wrote over 350 checks for troops to go home on Christmas leave.



Some of the 350 Wounded Warriors that were sent home during the check writing event on 18 December.

That evening we hosted a dinner at Swyanyks lounge for Commander Hutton.



Above: Commander Hutton Swears in 1stSgt Wyble at the Dinner on the evening of 18 December. Looking on is Ladies Auxiliary President Barb Cherone.

There were two more stragglers check writing events at the Fallen Warriors Trees in the exchange after the initial check writing where about 50 more checks were written.

Patriots also attended the final Field Medical School Graduation of the year at Camp Johnson where two plaques were presented to the honor grads of the Corpsmen and Religious Programmers course.

The next two months as you can see by the difference in the calendar of events compared to the last newsletter is much quieter, thank God. Really not much happening except for the normal meetings and such. There is a fund raiser for the Corpsmen Memorial on 24 and 25 February. It's a dinner show and for 25 or 30 dollars you can have a nice meal and get entertained at the same time. More will be posted at a later date on this. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

Patriots, we are a busy chapter and I would not want it any other way, it keeps me busy as adjutant and I love it. Thanks to all who helped us through these past two months.

“Maybe it’s true that life begins at 50 .. But everything else starts to wear out, fall out or spread out.” Phyllis Diller

“By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he’s too old to go anywhere.” Billy Crystal

And the Cardiologists diet: if it tastes good spit it out.

Below: at the monthly meeting in December, Patriot Stoy’s troops receive letters of appreciation for their volunteer work during the tornado in April.



New Hotline for Marines

Week of December 20, 2010 Marines and family members who find themselves battling stress can talk anonymously to a trained counselor for free through the new "DSTRESS" Line, a Marine Corps-sponsored phone hotline staffed 24-hours a day, seven days a week. All active duty, retired, reserve and former Marines, as well as their family members and loved ones, can call the hotline at 1-877-476-7734 or visit the [DSTRESS website](#). Service members and their families can also call Military OneSource anytime at 1-800-342-9647 or visit the [Military One Source website](#).

Combat strips away the veneer of superficial qualities, leaving bare the character.
-LtGen James T. Mattis

Service Dogs for Veterans

Week of December 19, 2011

Trained [service dogs](#) are helping veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and [traumatic brain injury](#) (TBI). The non-profit organization Stiggy's Dogs trains psychiatric service dogs to perform specific tasks from reminding veterans to take their medicine, waking them up from a nightmare or alarm clock ringing, to directing them through a crowd. For more information, visit the [Stiggy's Dogs website](#).

For more news and adoption/care guides for military and veteran pets, visit the [Military.com Pet Corner](#).

Defense Bill Passes: 2012 Military Pay, TRICARE, and More

After weeks of bickering over a provision dealing with detaining terrorism suspects, Congress finally sent the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 to President Barack Obama for signature. According to reports the President is no longer threatening to veto the bill. This should finally end any concern over the [proposed 2012 across the board military pay increase](#).

Many now feel the arguments over the section on the handling of detainees were largely based on misstatements. According to Politico, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman, Carl Levin (D-MI) said, "Neither the Senate bill nor the conference report establishes new authority to detain American citizens – or anybody else."

Although the proposed amount of the raise (1.6 percent) was never contested between the Senate and House versions of the bill, the battle over the detainee issue could have delayed the raise, which is now set to go into effect in January. <http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2011/12/2012-military-pay-raise-early-a-done-deal/#ixzz1h5R7iuez>
MilitaryAdvantage.Military.com

You think English is easy? The bandage was wound around the wound.

GI Bill Calculator: Measure Your Benefits

Visit the [Military.com GI Bill Calculator](#) to find out how much your GI Bill may be worth in 2012.

Federal Government Hiring of Vets at 20-Year High-

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced Tuesday that the federal government had hired the highest percentage of veterans in more than 20 years during the past fiscal year. Veterans represented 28.5 percent of total federal hires in fiscal 2011, an

increase of 2.9 percent over fiscal 2010 and 4.5 percent over fiscal 2009, according to preliminary figures released by OPM.

The unemployment rate for Iraq- and Afghanistan-era veterans stands at 11.1 percent, according to the latest Labor Department numbers. The President's Council on Veterans Employment, established when President Obama signed an executive order in 2009 and includes representatives of 24 government agencies, is believed to have had a positive effect on the rate of veteran hiring in the federal government.

The Council was intended by the White House to transform the federal government into a model employer for America's veterans. In addition to establish annual veteran hiring goals, the Council met this Tuesday and approved a pilot program that commits each agency to hiring up to two previously homeless veterans.

Letter to the Editor

Patriots – While the chapter is growing by leaps and bounds our ladies auxiliary is hanging at 29 members. Also the Auxiliary has not had a meeting in a while. Some of the ladies come to our meeting and stay in with us where they previously went off to a separate area and held their meeting. They meet at the same time that we do at the same location. The ladies are far too important to let the unit go defunct.

During the recent visit by the National Commander, Bill Hutton, he emphasized the importance of the Ladies Auxiliary and establishing and keeping it going.

We need to breathe some life into our unit, this can be done by us as all of our wives, mothers, sisters and daughters are eligible to join. My wife, mother, sister and daughter are all members of the unit. My Mother and sister live in Indy.

Patriots, talk it up with you wife and see if she might be interested in joining. The ladies are the right hand of the chapter they help out at various functions and events.

Let's get the ladies auxiliary going again, Mrs. Paula Lott is the Madam President of the unit.
Semper Fi, John - adjutant

English easy? – The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse

From your Commander/Americanism

This last week, I was really proud of our chapter and the way we handle things. We have been working at the trees, along with taking happenings as they come along. Thursday when we had the check signing we had over a dozen of our members step up and help. Then with the dinner we had at Swanyk's everything went without a hitch enjoying the good food. The next day we met with General Miller and then the commanding officer of the Wounded Warrior Barracks. General Miller when confronted with some of the problems stated they are as good as done. The tour of the Wounded Warrior Barracks, was fantastic, and the Commander stated his view on some things of which I disagree. but we were cordial. Then past Commander Joe Houle met us at the Memorial Gardens and gave all concerned the tour of the various Memorials. On the way back to the Exchange to pick up my car. The National Commander stated that if we were not the most active and best chapters we were one of them. I told him of our plans for the future and how we have changed our goals for membership. from 500 by the May Department Convention in Raleigh to 600. We have a strong goal of being the second ranked chapter in the country in terms of personnel. Monday we gave out over 20 more checks for Purple Heart recipients to go home on leave and on Thursday we gave out approximately 30 more. The only fear I had never materialized of not having enough money, we still have around one hundred thousand dollars in our fund, and we will start our fundraising in January so we will not worry again, we had to cut back on the amount given out. The Beirut Memorial really affected the National Public Affairs Officer John Bircher, as he was in the embassy when the truck bomber hit, so he helped with the casualties. We are really going to have a spread in the Purple Heart Magazine. So a Bravo Zulu, to all hands, and like I said before I am so proud to be the chapter commander, it was

worth giving up the job of Department Commander.

The only bad news that I have received is of the Ladies Auxiliary folding up and giving their charter back to the National. This is really bad news, and would like to remind all members that the Auxiliary has really been helpful to us, and if any wives want to be more actively involved now is the time to do so. President Lott and Vice President Nichols have done a wonderful job, but I know that they are really burnt out by the inaction of the other Auxiliary members. Please I wish some more members would step up to the plate. Friday we are also presenting the plaques to the class leaders of the Field Medical School and the CREST. Like I have said before our main reason we are there is to honor ALL of the corpsmen and the RP's for what they are going to do to our fellow Marines. Almost all of us wearing purple hearts have had our lives either saved or further injury was prevented by actions of our "Docs". Also while we have been working at the trees, everyday at least one child will point me out to their parents as one of the patriots who talked to them in their school. It is a good feeling that they remember what we tell them. For the future we will need help on the 2nd of January taking the trees down, and I want to thank all of my fellow patriots for helping, especially on some days when I was somewhere else. You are all the reason why this chapter is getting a reputation as one of the best and most active in the country.

God Bless and Semper Fi, Doc Matt.

English easy? – We must polish the Polish furniture

From your Senior Vice Commander (public relations)

Fellow Patriots,
As you all have heard, we've had a phenomenal past few months recruiting new members. What some of you that haven't been in the area much might NOT know is that we have seen more of our newer members showing up at various functions and getting involved in Chapter activities. THAT'S AWESOME, and EXACTLY what

we're glad to see and need to have happen. I would hope that our newer, younger members never think that this is just an "older guy" Chapter. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Those of us that are either retired-retired, or have more available time on our hands to take care of business during normal working hours for you can, and will, take up the slack during those times. Those of you that work full time can still help out on evening or weekend functions from time to time. A good example is the few of you that show up at the Memorial Trees in the MCX during the noon hour. Even in "cammies" your presence is appreciated.

YIP & Semper Fi,
Grant

English easy? – He could lead if he would get the lead out.

From your Junior Vice Commander (membership)

Wow!!! That's all that I can say. During December we signed up over 100 new members. This chapter is the greatest, I am so proud to be the Junior Vice commander. As the National Commander said during his visit on 18 December, this chapter does so much and he has chapters that do nothing. He was duly impressed with our commitment and professionalism. Keep up the good work and keep on recruiting, numbers are important in so many ways.

God Bless and Semper Fi, Rosie

English easy?– The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.

From your Adjutant/Editor

Patriots – We have just completed two very busy months and my hat is off to you. With the exception of getting the trees up initially and moved to the exchange the support has been outstanding.

We are really pleased with the involvement of the new patriots that are joining the chapter. This is so important as you all are the future of the chapter and MOPH.

We are growing, we have almost doubled our roles in the last two years and we just signed up about 100 more. Recruiting is important and we place great emphasis on it. Not so much for chapter size, although it would be nice to move from third largest in the Nation

to second largest but for numbers on the hill when it comes to legislation. The more members that we have in the Order, the more clout we have. With the political atmosphere the way it is up there we need all the clout that we can get.

Periodically I send out e-mails asking for your action -- these are e-mails that will affect all of us eventually such as Tri care and Medicare. It's very important that you act on these action topics, only about 10% of veterans ever contact their representatives regarding issues that *will take money out of their pockets*. If you don't say anything, you are in essence saying, here come on and take my money, you are implying consent. I don't know about you but I don't have unlimited funds and want to keep what I have rightfully earned, how about you? All of you new patriots welcome to the best chapter in the US. The National Commander during his visit last month commented on how much our chapter does. He was in awe and told Patriot Casti just that before he left. He was amazed at our Fallen Warrior trees and overwhelmed with the Christmas Leave check signing. It was very organized and went extremely smooth thanks to you chapter members.

Until next newsletter as always; without you there would be no chapter!!! Thanks for what you do.

Semper Fi, John

English easy? – Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present

From your Chaplain/Welfare officer

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.

All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.

Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.

The Lord hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

Semper Fi, Don Clinger

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.

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.



English easy? --The farm was used to produce, produce.

Ladies Auxiliary Unit 642



Unit 642 Officers

Position	Name
President	Paula Lott
Sen Vice pres	Pat Nichols
Treasurer	Sharon Howell
Parliamentarian	Paulette Wright
Secretary	Pauline Ketchum
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

Lifetime Members: 29

Total Membership: 29

From your President

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All. We hope that all is well with you. Because of lack of participation and interest of the part of the members, the officers have decided to dissolve the unit and return the charter to National. We will not be doing this until March 2012. If there is anyone who would like to take over officers and continue to keep the Unit active, please let us know. With that being planned we have taken the treasury money and distributed it in the following manner:

\$200.00 Christmas Cheer; \$400.00 Animal Shelter; \$400.00 Soup Kitchen; \$400.00 Domestic Violence Center; \$300.00 Child Advocacy (OCPC-CAC); \$200.00 Vet Center. Everyone was very ecstatic and overjoyed about the generous amount that we presented. We will have 2 baskets ready to raffle at January's meeting.

As of March 2012, I am resigning as President, Pat Nichols is resigning as Senior Vice, Pauline Ketchum is resigning as Secretary, and Sharon Howell is resigning as Treasurer.

Semper Fi

God Bless,

Paula Lott

Pat Nichols

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



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 34 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 10 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

