



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: Renard Singleton  
Trust 3 yr: George Reiter  
Trust 2 yr: Joe Houle  
Trust 1 yr: Tom Peterson  
Service Off: Jim Foyil  
Chaplain: Donald Clinger  
Sgt at Arms: Ryan Anderson

Meeting second Tuesday of the month  
at 1900, Military Relocator Realty  
building, 1923 Lejeune Blvd.  
Jacksonville NC 28540

last



**FRATRES AETERNI**  
**(Brothers forever)**

Official chapter website: [www.ncmoph.org](http://www.ncmoph.org)

E-mail: [purpleheart642@ec.rr.com](mailto:purpleheart642@ec.rr.com)

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# Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 1/13

January/February 2013

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## Chapter membership statistics as of 12/30/2012.

Lifetime members: 621 Help us save postage, send me

Associate Members: 3 your email address

Total Membership: 624

## 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. Welcome to Patriots: Townsend, Buchanan, Ligato, Reyes, Rorie and Taylor. Patriot Kneisley a long time member joined the big chapter in the sky, RIP Brother! Again, welcome all of you 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 January -- **Happy New Year**, let's hope that 2013 is plentiful and prosperous
  - 2 January – Take down trees at the Base exchange at 0900, we need members to come out and help.
  - 8 January – Monthly Meeting at the Military Relocators at 1900
  - 16 January – Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at 1800 a the Military Relocators
  - 5 February – Executive meeting at 1300 at the Marina Café
  - 12 February – Monthly Meeting at 1900 at the Military Relocators
  - 20 February – Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at the Military Relocators at 1800
- Note : \*, Wear full Purple Heart attire

*Patriots –Since 2005 over one rifle company has been lost to suicide. Let's put that in perspective, more than a rifle company over 200 Marines. That's a company of Marines that could have been fighting the enemy and killing the enemy, instead they took their own lives. 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](http://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.*

### Chapter Happenings

Here's hoping that all the members and their families had a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year.

November and December are our busiest months, beginning with the Veterans day Parade and moving on from there. For the November monthly meeting we held a brief opening and then moved right to the festivities. We had a good turnout for the party and it was enjoyed by all.

Another First Responders presentation to one of our County Commissioners, Paul Buchanan was honored with a plaque for wounds received while a JPD officer some time back, he also joined the chapter, he was wounded in Vietnam

Our Annual Festival of Trees took place from 1 to 3 December at the American legion. This was an enjoyable weekend we got to display our trees with over 580 KIA's names of them from the beginning of hostilities in Iraq. We moved the trees to the Main exchange aboard Lejeune on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The trees will come down and go back into our CONEX box on 2 January at 0900. We need members out there to help us tear down in an orderly manner

Several patriots attended another Wounded Warrior honor night at the New Bern Country Club on 6 December. We had about 30 Wounded Warriors from the barracks attended and were honored, food and drink was provided. About \$94,000 was raised at this event for the Christmas Leave fund.

The Christmas Leave check signing went on 13 December with two more stragglers dates. In all about 250 Wounded warrior got help with leave money to go home for the holidays. The next evening 14 December, at Swyanyks lounge there was a dinner for the new National Purple Heart Commander, Patriot Bruce McKenty. The National Commander, National Historian and the National Chaplain all attended the check signing and the dinner.



Above: Purple Heart riders at the Wreaths across America on 15 December.

The Purple Heart riders participated in Wreaths Across America (above) in December. Next year we will obtain wreaths and place them on the graves of

our deceased Brothers and sisters. Patriot Clinger our chaplain/Welfare officer will get the names and a map of the grave locations this year. It would be a good idea if the ladies do this for the widow's graves.

We are still working on the placement of the Purple Heart monument at the Wounded Warriors barracks. JVC Patriot Grant Beck is lead on this project and has been in touch with Maj. Baines at the Barracks and in turn the Major has submitted the required paperwork to HQMC. The location has changed it seems that we cannot place the monument in the traffic circle so we have decided to put it near the picnic area in the rear of the barracks. We actually feel this to be a better location with more exposure.

As you can see by the Calendar of events, January and February have slowed tremendously. There are some areas that we need to focus on, one being pushing along the placement of the Purple Heart Monument at the Wounded Warriors barracks. At the next executive meeting we need to focus on the Memorial Day Ceremony coming up in May, We need to start planning that, guest speaker and all.

We also have a new van, a 2008 Chevy express, which was donated to us by a combination of people. Mr. Pearson, a retired dental tech donated his wife's car to us as a down payment on the van that National Dodge had, Harry Brown of National Dodge helped us by knocking a couple thousand off of the price and the Cape Hatteras vacation fund donated another \$2500 to make it a reality. Robby Yates of National Dodge had the Wheel Chair lift removed from the old van and installed in the new one. At this time we are waiting for Vital Signs to give us a workup of the graphics that will be placed on the van. The graphics will be donated by Vital Signs.



Above: Patriot Hare swears in Patriots Rorie and Heath at Decembers Meeting

**Letter to the editor Let's talk PTSD**  
**2012: Military suicides outnumber combat deaths - Economy and leadership to blame** By ROBERT

LAURIE - There's a good chance that this is the most depressing statistic you'll see all year **According to a new Army report, as of November, 303 active-duty, Reserve and National Guard soldiers had committed suicide in 2012. During the same period, 212 men and women in uniform were lost due to combat fatalities in Afghanistan. Back in June, the number of suicides stood at 154 - roughly half of the current total.**

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta acknowledged the problem and blamed society at large. "We're dealing with broader societal issues," he said. "Substance abuse, financial distress and relationship problems -the risk factors for suicide also reflect problems that will endure beyond war.

What are the signs of PTSD?

"Driving down the roads in my home town, I found myself noticing every piece of debris, avoiding every pothole."

A wide variety of symptoms may be signs you are experiencing PTSD:  
Feeling upset by things that remind you of what happened  
Having [nightmares](#), vivid memories, or [flashbacks](#) of the event that make you feel like it's happening all over again  
Feeling emotionally cut off from others  
Feeling numb or [losing interest](#) in things you used to care about  
[Becoming depressed](#)  
Thinking that you are always in danger  
Feeling [anxious](#), jittery, or [irritated](#)  
Experiencing a sense of panic that something bad is about to happen  
[Having difficulty sleeping](#)  
[Having trouble keeping your mind on one thing](#)  
[Having a hard time relating to and getting along with your spouse, family, or friends](#)

"When stress brought on flashbacks, I dealt with them by drinking them away. I considered it recreational drinking, but really I was self-medicating."

It's not just the symptoms of PTSD but also how you may react to them that can disrupt your life. You may:

**Frequently avoid places or things that remind you of what happened**  
**Consistent drinking or use of drugs to numb your feelings**

**Consider harming yourself or others**

**Start working all the time to occupy your mind**

**Pull away from other people and become isolated**

Keep in mind that you do not need to have all the symptoms to have severe or mild PTSD. We write about this quite often within the chapter because we feel that it is highly important. Being combat wounded we all have PTSD to varying degrees, depending on what we experienced and our psychological makeup.

Let me say first that all of us older members of the chapter know that we do have PTSD. I have talked with some of you younger members that don't realize that they do have it. Some of us older guys are still going to controlled sessions and others of us are merely coping with it on our own terms and/or prescribed medication. You probably have heard some of us joke about emailing at 0300 in the morning due to a PTSD night. That happens quite often and we never know what will set it off. It could be a Movie on TV or an event that we attended such as a Memorial Service. One of mine recently was the evening of Patriot Kneisley's (recently deceased) viewing up at 0230 unable to get back to sleep.

Some of you may say that we talk about this too much. Last year we had one of our chapter members commit suicide, he was in GA and lost his support network. Those in the Wounded Warrior Barracks with him know who he was. Maybe had we talked about it more he would still be with us, who knows? It's an extremely important issue as you

can see by the statistics at the beginning of this newsletter. To me it's hard to fathom an entire rifle company gone to suicide, an entire rifle company and the Army is worse than that.

Patriots, one of the worse things in life is to haunt your family by taking your own life. It is a stigma that they will never get over, they constantly are questioning, what could I have done differently? In the case of a breakup, marriage or girlfriend, they are torn with, if I had just not told him about it! They will have to live with this for the rest of their lives please do not put them through this. If you have considered harming yourself there is help out there and more coming on board every day.

Not everyone with PTSD will consider suicide, don't get me wrong. In many instances it is a mitigating factor and the more that we are aware of it the better off we are.

The officers of this chapter have talked to many members about PTSD, I will probably get a response or two back from this from someone that I have talked with in the past. I like to think that we have helped some out with their PTSD. Anytime, any one of us can help you don't hesitate to call on us, every single one of you are important to us.

God Bless and Semper Fi, John



**Above: SVC Beck Presents the Chapter Meritorious Service ward to Patriot Ortega for handling the Wounded Warrior Archery Camp for a week in August.**

## 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](http://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 onsource – Free counseling and telephone consultation for troops and their family members: [militaryresource.mil](http://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](http://realwarriors.net) or 1-866-966-1020.

- Camp Lejeune MCCA resilience programs -- Includes classes on stress management, anger management, suicide awareness, prevention and more for families : [mcca-lejeune.com/health](http://mcca-lejeune.com/health) or 910 451-2865.

“Socialism only works in two places: Heaven where they don’t need it and hell where they already have it.” – Ronald Reagan

## From your Commander/Americanism

We are starting a New Year, with many new members to our chapter. To all of them, I just want to say welcome to the second largest chapter in the country and even the National Commander thinks is one of the best. Elections are coming up in several months and we oldtimers would like nothing better than for some of you new members to think about running for office. We need new ideas and a fresher way of doing things. This year our Memorial Trees have done their job, with many of the active duty finding the names of their buddies on the trees, and this is our way of showing the general public that freedom is not free, as we all know; plus our chapter has received over several thousand dollars in donations, for which we are grateful. Don't forget our next meeting is the 8th of January at the

Military relocators. I try to cut the meeting time down to one hour, As I have said many times, thanks for the privilege of serving as the chapter commander and Semper Fi. Doc



Above: SVC Beck cuts cake at Marine Corps Ball Ceremony, first piece to Patriot Rhoads, oldest Marine and next piece to Patriot Anderson, Youngest.

## From your Senior Vice Commander (public relations)

Patriots, I would hope that all of you had a wonderful Christmas season and are looking forward to a healthy and prosperous New Year. Our Adjutant has been keeping the Chapter apprised of happenings and upcoming events so there should be no reason for anyone to say “I didn’t know about that”. My wish for the upcoming year is for more of you to step up and become more involved with what this Chapter does. I’ve mentioned before that many of you are still on active duty and can’t get involved in weekday events and some of you are still employed and can’t get involved in weekday events either. That’s understandable, however, we occasionally have weekend and/or evening events that would only take an hour or two of your time to help and be involved. If you read the recently sent email by the Adjutant you’ll notice that the chapter is now over 640 members (once the recently submitted applications are processed). We would certainly like to see many more of those members showing up at the monthly meetings than the 25-35 that normally do. The Chapter can only be as strong as its members involvement. One thing I CAN promise.....you never have to be afraid to show up at a meeting because you think someone will

volunteer you for an event. Second Tuesday of each month....1900....Military Re-locators Bldg.....hwy 24. Let's PACK the place!

Semper Fidelis,  
Grant

**From your Junior Vice Commander, Membership**

Membership is going well, signed a boat load up at the Christmas Leave check signing. Remember, carry that application with you and be ready to pull it out on someone that you know has a Purple Heart.

Semper Fi, Rosie

'I have wondered at times what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress.' -Ronald Reagan

"Here's my strategy on the Cold War: We Win, They lose." – Ronald Reagan



Above: Patriots at the DAV Veterans Day ceremony

**From your Adjutant/Editor**

Patriots, Another two months have gone by. Back when I was doing these newsletters once a month, I wondered how I had time to do it. Now I'm getting to the point that I wonder how I have the time to do one every other month.

We signed 52 new members during the check signing sessions in December and that puts us well over 600 members. We should be pressing the first place chapter down in Texas, last time I checked they were at just over 600.

In case you haven't noticed by now we are one busy chapter, always something going on but that is good and it gives us exposure. We still meet people that don't know that we exist

here in Jacksonville. Don't know what rock they crawled out from under.

As I always end my little note, there would be no chapter without you, you are the chapter!!

Thanks and Semper Fi, John

**From your Chaplain/Welfare officer**

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

For God is my record, how greatly I long after you in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in judgment;

That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Chaplain, 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. It has been moved from the quarterdeck to a protected area while renovations are going on.

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.



'It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first.' Ronald Reagan



## USMC MEBs Overhauled

Marine Corps Times  
January 7, 2013  
Pg. 16

**Corps plans middleweight force for crisis response**

**By Gidget Fuentes**  
**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. —** The slowing pace of deployments to Afghanistan and resurgence in unit rotations to Asia-Pacific is helping to shape Marine expeditionary brigades, which the Marine Corps is counting on as its go-to crisis-response forces.

The MEB, as an entity, has had a yo-yo life in the Marine Corps, mostly existing as a headquarters element that organized forces to respond to a crisis or contingency. Most Marines probably didn't know it existed or what it was about.

But in the past year, the service has reinvigorated its three active-duty MEBs, formally standing up headquarters in Japan, North Carolina and California under their respective Marine expeditionary forces. Each MEB will deploy and lead Marines when the MEF commander gets the order to respond to a crisis.

The aim is to develop the MEB as a "middleweight" option between the Corps' smaller Marine expeditionary units and its larger MEFs. The force, which can range from 2,500 to 15,000 Marines, can include a mix of ground combat, combat logistics and aviation units, adjusted to a specific mission.

"We train ... very deliberately, progressively [and] cohesively," he said. "We've identified the force list that's [associated] with the MEB. It [then] becomes a bit of a menu, and we go in and pick from that. We know who those units are. We know [each] unit's level of readiness." The MEBs "train to a wide variety of missions, predominantly at the high end," he said, "so it enables us to train across the range of military operations." On the East Coast, the 2nd MEB at Camp Lejeune, N.C., which stood up in November, will draw forces from ground, aviation and logistics units within II MEF, but no specific unit is permanently assigned.

"If there was a crisis that required a [MEB] response ... we would select units that would be task-organized to respond to that crisis," said Capt. Binford Strickland, a II MEF spokesman. Meanwhile, 2nd MEB, commanded by Brig. Gen. John Love, continues to develop, train and work toward being fully operational by 2015.

## Identity problem

MEBs are often misunderstood, commanders say.

"If someone were to ask us what a MEB is, part of our answer [would be]: 'What do you want it to be?' It can be anything that it needs to be," Spiese said. "That's the beauty of how we build our task forces inside the Marine airground task force." MEBs have earned accolades in pivotal operations, including the 1991 Persian Gulf War, the 1992 landing in Somalia for Operation Restore Hope, the 2001 assault into Afghanistan and the 2003 Iraq invasion.

While each mission was different, "they were all centered around MEB-styled formations and MEB-styled operations," he said. "So it's proven to be adaptable."

The biggest challenge may be getting Marines, accustomed to 10 years of combat rotations, to think and train as part of a MEB.

## The deployable MEB

Getting the crisis-response force where it's needed is another matter. One option is to offload vehicles, equipment and supplies ashore from prepositioned cargo ships. The second is for the MEB to deploy on ships, like a MEU.

Getting those sea legs honed is a big mission for each MEB. "We really haven't been able to focus on those core competencies because of the rotations into Afghanistan," Broadmeadow said.

Marine Corps and Navy units will go to sea for the large bluegreen

exercises Dawn Blitz in California and Bold Alligator off Virginia to learn and sharpen those skills. The ultimate goal, Spiese said, is for a MEB to "be able to move, not quite on autopilot, but very smoothly and efficiently in responding to a crisis."

"We are probably further ahead than any tactical unit in the U.S. in that regard," he said. If a crisis arises, "we want to be in a position that, if it's bad, we're not guessing, we are moving efficiently and effectively."

## Ladies Auxiliary Unit 642



### Unit 642 Officers

Position	Name
President	Lauren Peterson
Sen Vice pres	Raechel Richards
Treasurer	April Barber
Parliamentarian	
Secretary	
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

Note: List not complete

Lifetime Members: 35

Total Membership: 35

### From your President

**Ladies** --- Ladies we still are not getting the turnout at meetings that we need, we only get 3 to 4 ladies and that's not enough to even hold our own meeting, we just stay in with the men. Please see if you can't spare an hour or two on the second Tuesday of each month to come out and support our spouses.

We have some good ideas but we need members to make them happen.

Your President, Lauren

**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

'The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program.'  
Ronald Reagan



### 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 38 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 15 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](http://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

**Patriots** -- Just a note about the leadership of the chapter. As you can see on the front page most of the leaders are Vietnam Vets. We are constantly looking for new blood to fill positions, you younger members are the future of the Order. Many of us are fading and in poor health and will need to step aside here in the near future. We have another election coming up as we do every year, shortly. Let's be thinking about stepping up, especially you guys/gals that are no longer on active duty. We need your service, your focus has shifted from the active duty Corps/Navy to the Order.  
Semper Fi, John

