



All gave some, some gave all

**Chapter Officers**

Commander: Grant Beck  
Sen. Vice: Joe Houle  
Jun Vice: Stan Walker  
Adjutant: John Cooney  
Finance: Mike Rooney  
Comm.: Tim Haney  
Alt Comm: John Holmes  
Trust 3 yr: Tristan Rorie  
Trust 2 yr: Eric Johnson  
Trust 1 yr: John Holmes  
Service Off: Jim Foyil  
Chaplain: Donald Clinger  
Sgt at Arms: Prentis Campbell

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



**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)

#####

# Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 1/15

January/February 2015

#####

## Chapter membership statistics as of 12/30/14.

Lifetime members: 703

Help us save postage, send me

Associate Members: 3

your email address

Total Membership: 706

## 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 last newsletter They are: Montoya, Eatherton, Greene, Monday, Ibanez, Ferrell, McKenzie, Trumble, Scott, Keiser, Ortiz, Centilli, Moreta, Breslin, Sahadi, Fifer, Frear, Engle, Farris, Borja, Ruiz, Hare, Fankboner, Ransom, DeCapua, Sommer, McConnell, Kern, Hart, Andersaon, Francisco Ortiz, Hinds and Gorman. Welcome to 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 also lost one Patriot during this period, Rest in Peace Patriot Lathrop. (33 new members not in total above)

**"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**

**2 January – Take Fallen Warrior Tree Down at Exchange at 0900, need help**

**3 January – Department Quarterly Meeting at 1100 in Pembroke NC**

**6 January – Executive meeting at the Marina at 1300**

**8 January – Proclamation presentation at CCCC at 1400, all welcome to attend**

**13 January – Monthly Purple Heart Meeting at 1900 at the Military Relocators**

**21 January – Corpsmen Memorial Foundation meeting at 1800 at meeting hall**

**3 February – Executive meeting at 1300 at the Marina**

**10 February – Monthly Purple Heart Meeting at the Meeting hall at 1900**

**18 February – Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at 1800 at Meeting hall**

**22 February – Viola fundraiser at Lowes food from 1100 to ?**

**NOTE: \* Denotes 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**

**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.



Has November and December been a busy period? I'd say so, this is our busiest season. We kicked off November with the Veterans Day parade, where for the first time along with the float we had 8 Purple Heart riders with us on their bikes. The full count for the parade was around 20 patriots, one of the best turn outs ever. After the parade and the next day we participated in a Veterans Expo in the mall. Our Americanism Team presented a couple classes to the area schools in conjunction with Veterans Day and we received a proclamation from Spanky's

sports bar and grill on the Marine Corps Birthday. At our monthly meeting we quickly moved out of meeting business and into the celebration mode and proceeded with our holiday/MC Birthday party.



We had approximately 50 patriots and guests attend and all had a great time. At this party Kym Smith, Manager of the Carolina Ale House presented the chapter with a check pictured below representing 10% of the income for 21 October, the day of the Purple Heart dinner.



Also on 11 November, Veterans day, all the Ale Houses in five states will donate 10% of the income to the Purple Heart chapters in their respective areas. Last I heard from Kim this amounted to about \$13000. We have yet to receive a check

The next day we participated in a fundraiser at Lowes Food store on Gum Branch Road and it went quite well, so good that we have decided to hold our

future Viola Drives at that location. The Manager and staff were very receptive.

Our Commander, Patriot Beck received the veteran of the year award for the Purple Heart from Mayor Sammy Phillips. The festival of trees followed later that week. This was our ninth year participating in this event and this year we modified our display from three trees to one tree. A couple meetings prior to the festival a committee volunteered to look into some changes due to the three trees being so crowded and it being such a task putting almost 600 breakable ornaments on the trees. As you can see by the Picture below we went to larger ornaments, one for each of the twelve years that the war has been going on. We put the year and the number of KIA's for that year in big bold numbers on each of the ornaments. Patriot Beck constructed a listing of all the KIAs by year on a poster board for placement on the table. This all went over quite well and we had many compliments on the change. Our Congrats to the Committee.



After the festival of trees we moved the Tree to the Main exchange on base where it remained until 2 January. It was manned daily on working days by

patriots and even some on weekends which amounted to some pretty good donations being received.

Below: is the top of the tree.



Meanwhile during this period of time Patriot Neil Lathrop passed away and he was laid to rest on 2 December in the state Veterans cemetery. Neil was a valued and active member of our chapter and the Finance officer for the Corpsmen Memorial Foundation. His passing is a blow to both organizations. RIP Brother Lathrop. Several patriots attended the Pearl Harbor Ceremony on 7 December. Patriot McGee was the MC for the event and did a fine Purple Heart job.

Twice a year the chapter is presented with a monetary amount to spend on veterans, this is called VAVS funds. This installment was \$1250, we spent just over half of it to help one of our chapter members with rent and utilities and the rest we spent on the VA nursing home in Kinston NC. On 11 December eight patriots went to Kinston with a load of 20 brand new Wheel Chairs, still in the boxes, procured by Patriot Walker and about \$500 worth of Health and comfort items. We have taken this VA nursing home under our wing, in the past we supported the VA nursing home in Fayetteville but since there is already a chapter in Fayetteville we decided to go this route.

Below: Several patriots visiting the VA nursing home in Kinston, two residents also



For the Second year we placed wreaths on the graves of our fallen chapter members in the Wreaths across America celebration. Several chapter members placed 19 wreaths on the graves of our chapter members, this increased by five over last year. Some of the relatives of the deceased were on hand to help as well. WE have been attending this ceremony for about the last five years and last year decided it appropriate to place wreaths on our brothers graves, we will continue this in the future.

Patriots gathered after the placement of the wreaths.



To end a very good and successful year we aided in presenting over 150 checks to wounded warriors going home on Christmas leave at this function we signed 32 new patriots, their names listed on the front page of this newsletter. The evening prior we had a sit down dinner at the Carolina Ale House with the National Purple Heart commander, Pat Little, who had come down for the check signing.

And last but not least we presented plaques to the honor graduates of the Field Medical Training Battalion.

The next two months are our wind down take your pack off months, not a whole lot going on, thank God. First off, have a Happy and prosperous New Year and by all means be safe. We start the year by tearing down our beautiful new tree on 2 January. At 0900 we will easily, compared to previous years, disassemble the tree and the twelve ornaments and store them away in our CONEX box until next year. We need some help, trucks with the tree box and etc. and it will take us about 30 minutes to finish it all.

On 3 January in Pembroke NC just west of Lumberton there will be a NC Quarterly Meeting at 1100. We will take the van and the van will hold 6 comfortably, to date I have 5 names to ride the van. Any and all are invited to these meetings, you need not be an officer. The uniform for this meeting is casual.

The proclamation program has slowed somewhat but on 8 January at 1400, Coastal Carolina Community College will present the chapter with a proclamation of support and in turn we will issue them a certificate of appreciation for that support. All are welcome to come out and take part, as far as we know this will be the first college to participate in this program in NC.

Other than meetings and a Viola Drive on 22 February at Lowes food there's not much else going on. Of course all that is subject to change on a whim.

Have a Happy New year and come to meetings if you can!

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere. Billy crystal

### COLA minus 1 percent

The plea to "wait for the commission" was used again in the authorization bill to delay adoption of a COLA-minus-1 percent formula aimed at dampening retirement costs of future members.

Congress last year replaced the pearl of full cost-of-living adjustments in retirement for members who entered service on or after Jan. 1, 2014. Their COLAs, 20 years hence, were to be set a percentage point below annual inflation. The new bill moves the date of that change to impact only members entering on or after Jan. 1, 2016, giving Congress time to meld this idea with commission recommendations for reshaping future retirement.

Thousands of career-minded personnel who first entered service after Jan. 1 last year just dodged a bullet that would have devalued their retirement benefit significantly.

And the cardiologist's diet: -- If it tastes good spit it out!!

### Commissary funds restored

House and Senate conferees negotiating a package to fund the Department of Defense through September 2015 have protected commissary operations by

restoring 90 percent of a planned \$100 million cut.

Once again lawmakers thwarted a cost-saving initiative targeting military compensation and endorsed by the Joint Chiefs as a way to dampen personnel costs so more dollars can be spent on training, weapon buys and other readiness accounts being victimized by arbitrary "sequestration" cuts.

Only last week House and Senate conferees on a different bill, the 2015 defense authorization act, unveiled a deal to lower the Defense Commissary Agency annual \$1.3 billion budget to \$1.2 billion. DeCA said it could absorb the knock without impacting customer savings or services.

The military resale industry challenged that notion, saying a cut of more than seven percent inevitably would impact staffing and store hours.

This week conferees shaping a final defense appropriations bill that is part of a massive spending package for the entire federal government restored \$90 million of the commissary budget cut in the authorization bill.

"This essential funding ensures that DeCA...will continue delivering a core benefit of military compensation," said Patrick Nixon, president of the American Logistics Association. ALA represents manufacturers and vendors of products sold in military stores.

In rejecting almost every Defense Department proposal this year to hold down personnel costs, lawmakers said time after time that these changes should await the final report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, due in February. Appropriators echoed that point in restoring commissary funding.

## Obama Signs New Stolen Valor Act

President Obama on Monday signed into law the latest version of the Stolen Valor Act, which makes it a federal crime for people to pass themselves off as war heroes by wearing medals they didn't rightfully earn.

The legislation passed both houses of Congress with overwhelming majorities.

An earlier version, passed in 2005, was struck down in June 2012 when the Supreme Court ruled that lying about military heroics was constitutionally protected speech unless there was intent to gain some benefit or something of value by fraud.

The law signed Monday at the White House includes such a provision, making it illegal to make the claims with the intent to obtain money, property or other tangible benefits.

Veterans organizations were quick to applaud Congress and the President for acting quickly on the amended version of the law.

"I think this was necessary because people were using it to receive the benefits of decorations of valor, and they were getting monetary benefit from it," said John Stovall, director of national security and foreign relations for The American Legion. "That's why we supported the amended version, not to infringe on anyone's First Amendment rights but to protect the reputation and meaning of the decorations."

*Smart ass answers: It was meal time during an airline flight. Would you like dinner? The flight attendant asked John, seated in front. What are my choices? John asked. 'Yes or no' she replied*

## 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 onesource – Free counseling and telephone consultation for troops and their family members: [militaryresource.mil](mailto: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 MCCS resilience programs -- Includes classes on stress management, anger management, suicide awareness, prevention and more for families : [mccs-lejeune.com/health](http://mccs-lejeune.com/health) or 910 451-2865.

*Smart ass answer: A flight attendant was stationed at the departure gate to check tickets. As a man approached, she extended her hand for the ticket and he opened his trench coat and flashed her. Without missing a beat, she said, Sir, I need to see your ticket not your stub.*

## From your Commander

Patriots,  
Start of a new year. Time goes fast when you're having fun. Lot went on this past year and some folks worked pretty hard making stuff happen. Goodly amount of PH Business proclamations; new Purple Heart tree appearance at the Festival of Trees and the PX; continued VAVS expenditures that benefited our veterans; reaching and surpassing our membership goal of 700 (now at about 735); another successful Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave program where over 150 Purple Heart recipients had their transportation costs home paid for by the MOPH; and many more events conducted by the Chapter members. In case you haven't

heard, as of the date I'm writing this we've received over \$2300.00 in donations at the PH Tree in the PX with a few days still to go. That's awesome and I think beats any year up to this point. (maybe the lower gas prices had something to do with folks having a little more money to spend). My appreciation to those who took the time to come out to the Tree and spend some time helping out. If you did it....you know who you are....THANKS! On 3 January we will be going to Lumberton in the van for the quarterly State Department meeting. We have room for a few more. You DON'T have to be an officer to attend and we would welcome any who would like to see what happens at a state meeting. Call the Adjutant (381-1353 or me at 353-8247) to let us know you'd like to go along.

My wish is for ALL of you to have a safe and HEALTHY New Year. Hoping to see more of you at our monthly meetings (second Tuesday of each month, 1900, Military Re-locators, 1923 Lejeune Blvd). One hour meeting....who can't do that???

Semper Fi,  
Grant  
[gbeck3@ec.rr.com](mailto:gbeck3@ec.rr.com)  
910-353-8247

## From your Adjutant/Editor

Patriots – As we embark on another year and they are going faster and faster, it seems the older that you get the faster that time flies. Believe it, it's true.

Another year and a good year was last year except for the passing of 6 patriots. We are growing, we are getting out there and recognized.

I've had several people tell me at different events that it seems that the Purple Heart and the Rolling Thunder are at every event, where are these other organizations? I just tell them that I guess that we care more and put forth more effort. You stop and look at the various events and the numbers and we are very well represented at each and every event. Some of the others, if they attend, have one or two members there. That is what our aim is to get out and be recognized as one of the predominant Veterans organizations in Jacksonville and Onslow County. Our proclamation program is also accomplishing that aim. Just look at the rewards from the

Carolina Ale House just by having the proclamation program.

We have been struggling to keep our ladies auxiliary program afloat. There seems to be some life being breathed into the program. Some of our younger spouses have shown interest in joining. We need this support group and that's just what they do, they support the chapter. Please do talk it up with your better half and let's keep this very important group going.

On a closing note, I want to take a few minutes to let everyone know how much Patriot Lathrop is missed. He was a quiet sort and most of the time you didn't even know that he was around but he got things done. He was so quiet that most of us didn't know that he was that sick, it was a shock to me and many others when he passed. RIP Neil, you are missed my brother.

In closing, as always, thanks for what you do, you are the chapter and without you there would be no chapter.

God Bless and Semper Fi, John

#### **From your Chaplain/Welfare officer**

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;  
And that ye put on the new man, which after  
God is created in righteousness and true holiness.  
Wherefore putting away lying, SPEAK EVERY  
MAN TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOUR: for  
we are members one of another.

BE YE ANGRY, AND SIN NOT: let not the sun  
go down upon your wrath:

Neither give place to the devil.

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let  
him labour, working with his hands the thing  
which is good, that he may have to give to him  
that needeth.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of  
your mouth, but that which is good to the use of  
edifying, that it may minister grace unto hearers.  
And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby  
ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and  
clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from  
you, with all malice.

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted,  
forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's  
sake hath forgiven

you

Donald Clinger,

Chaplain

#### **Corpsmen Memorial FoundationCMF**

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 in the Physical Therapy  
wing of the Wounded Warrior Battalion East  
aboard Camp Lejeune.



#### **Ladies Auxiliary Unit 642**

##### **From the Adjutant**

Temporary steps have been taken to keep the  
ladies Auxiliary afloat, an interim president  
has taken over with a skeleton staff with her.  
We are really trying to keep this unit going as  
we feel that it is important to the chapter and  
the Order. We worked hard to get this ladies  
auxiliary chartered and it would be a shame  
to give up the charter. The auxiliary exists to  
support the chapter.

We have seen increased interest by some of  
the younger spouses to join and become  
involved. Patriots talk it over with your  
spouse and see if she would want to join. The  
ladies meet at the same time and place that we  
do.

S/F John

#### **Unit 642 Officers**

| <b><u>Positions are interim</u></b>                        | <b><u>Name</u></b>   |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>President</b>   | <b>Barbara McGee</b> |
| <b>Sen Vice pres</b>                                       |                      |
| <b>Treasurer</b>   | <b>Alice Houle</b>   |
| <b>Parliamentarian</b>                                     |                      |
| <b>Secretary</b>   | <b>April Barber</b>  |
| <b>Sgt at Arms</b>   | <b>Jean Blick</b>    |
| <b>1 yr trustee/<br/>2 year trustee<br/>3 year trustee</b> |                      |
| <b>Chaplain</b>  |                      |
| <b>Historian</b>   |                      |
| <b>Patriotic Instructor</b>                                |                      |

**Total members 35**