



All gave some, some gave all

Chapter Officers

Commander: Grant Beck
Sen. Vice: Joe Houle
Jun Vice: Stan Walker
Adjutant: John Cooney
Finance: Shawn Seguin
Comm.: Tim Haney
Alt Comm: John Holmes
Trust 3 yr: Prentiss Campbell
Trust 2 yr: Bill Treadwell
Trust 1 yr: John Holmes
Service Off: Jim Foyil
Chaplain: Bill Stankowski
Sgt at Arms: Marshall Drennen

**FRATRES AETERNI
(Brothers forever)**

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Official chapter website: www.ncmoph.org

E-mail: phchap642@gmail.com Note new add.

**Beirut Memorial
Chapter 642**

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 1/17

January/February 2017

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Chapter membership statistics as of 12/31/2016

Lifetime members: 742 Help us save postage, send me
Associate Members: 5 your email address
Total Membership: 747

Semper Keeping You Informed

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

Military Order of the Purple Heart Mission Statement

The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among Combat Wounded Veterans, promote Patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families

Welcome New Patriots

We want to welcome the new patriots that have joined us since the last newsletter. Please come out and attend meetings and functions.

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers. For he today that sheds his blood with me, shall be my brother." - William Shakespeare, from "King Henry V"

HAVING TROUBLE READING COMPUTER TEXT? HERE'S A TIP -

To make text bigger or smaller hold down the Ctrl key on your keyboard and turn the small wheel in the middle of your mouse. This will change the print size to either larger or smaller depending on which way you turn the wheel.

Calendar of events

- 1 January – Happy New Year**
 - 2 January – Take Tree down at Main exchange at 0900**
 - 6 January – Attend swearing in of Judge Surles at Court House at 1200**
 - 10 January – Monthly Meeting at 1900 at Military Relocators (Audit Books)**
 - 18 January – Monthly Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at 1800 at the meeting place**
 - 21 January – Quarterly Department Meeting in Fayetteville NC at 1100, will take van**
 - 14 February – Monthly Meeting at 1900 at Military Relocators**
 - 15 February – Monthly Meeting of the Corpsmen Memorial at 1800**
 - 18 February – Viola Drive at Lowes Food Store on Gum Branch Rd from 1000 to ?**
- NOTE: * Denotes full Purple Heart attire**

Chapter Van

The Chapter van is available for chapter members or spouses that are Wheel chair bound, for transport to medical appointments and chapter functions. Any other use needs to be approved by the commander.



- **Military onesource** – Free counseling and telephone consultation for troops and their family members: militaryresource.mil or 1-800-342-9647.
- **Real warriors program** – maintained by the defense centers of excellence to support and sustain active-duty troops in building resilience and helping recovery: realwarriors.net or 1-866-966-1020.
- **Camp Lejeune MCCA resilience programs** -- Includes classes on stress management, anger management, suicide awareness, prevention and more for families : mcca-lejeune.com/health or 910 451-2865.

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-mcca.org/suicideprevent.

-National Suicide prevention lifeline -- A 24 hour hotline for those considering suicide. 1 800-273-TALK (troops and vets press #1)

Happenings

We have had a very productive end to 2016. We did well on donations at the Tree which goes in our scholarship fund. We signed up 15 new members at the 11th annual Christmas Leave Check Signing and are maintaining our membership at around 750.



The Commander and Senior Vice read the Birthday messages at the dinner in November

We also placed 25 wreaths on the graves of our deceased patriots at the Veterans Cemetery during Wreaths Across America Day. Thanks to all those patriots that actively take part in events and help raise money for these worth causes.

Coming up is our traditionally slow period, time to take the pack off and take five. The month kicks off by taking down our Fallen Warrior Tree at the exchange. We will do this Monday, 2 January, morning at 0900. It will be put away for another year, possibly. We are not sure about next year yet, we will have to discuss that at a meeting. That Friday, 6 January at 1200 at the Court House Judge Mike Surles will be sworn in and has requested our presence. Mike is an advocate for the much needed Veterans Court that has been approved and funded for Onslow County and he came to a couple of our meetings and talk about it.

Other than the regular monthly meetings for us and the Corpsmen memorial we will have a Department Quarterly in Fayetteville on Saturday, 21 January.

February, regular meetings and a Viola Drive at Lowes Food Store on Gum Branch Rd from 1000 to ?, whenever we get tired.

Of course other events will pop up from time to time which I will put out in my weekly report.

Once all villagers decided to pray for rain.

On the day of prayer all the people gathered,
but only one boy came with an umbrella.
That's FAITH.



Doc Matt holding down the fort at the Festival of Trees in the American Legion

Annual Defense Authorization

President Obama signed the annual defense authorization act into law on Friday, finalizing a 2.1 percent pay raise for troops next year and a overhaul of military medical care in years to come. The annual budget legislation includes defense spending priorities and guidelines for fiscal 2017, but does not allot money for those items. That comes with the annual appropriations bill, which Congress does not expect to finalize until this spring, nearly halfway through the fiscal year. But short-term budget extensions passed by Congress in early December will cover most of the gaps in military spending until then. Lawmakers approved the 2.1 percent pay raise as part of that deal, giving troops their largest pay raise since 2010. The pay boost, which goes into effect Jan. 1, will mean about \$550 more a year for most junior enlisted troops and around \$1,800 annually for mid-career officers. Congress also included plans to

significantly boost the number of service members in the military. Under the authorization bill, Army end strength is set at 476,000 soldiers, about 16,000 more than the White House had requested for fiscal 2017. The Marine Corps will rise to 185,000 troops, an increase of about 3,000 over requested levels. The Air Force will go to 321,000 airmen, around 4,000 more than Obama wanted. The Navy would remain at 324,000 sailors.



Purple Heart recipients line up to receive their Christmas Leave Check, 14 December

New in 2017: President Trump wants a bigger Marine Corps

President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to add nearly 12,000 Marines as part of his plan to expand the size of the U.S. military.

In September, Trump publicly embraced the recommendations from the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank about increasing the size of the military, including adding 12 active-duty Marine infantry battalions and one active-duty tank battalion.

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller has said that the Heritage Foundation recommendations are “doable,” but he cautioned that the Corps should not expand too quickly.

“We’ve got a very high-quality force,” Neller said on Dec. 7. “Whenever you try to grow too fast, it’s very difficult to maintain that level of quality and experience.”

The expansion would have many ripple effects across the force that could impact operational tempo, career paths and promotion opportunities for thousands of Marines.

A decade ago, when the Marine Corps grew to 202,000, it added infantry battalions, tank companies and other units needed in Iraq and Afghanistan, Neller said. But “the battlefield has changed” since then and now the Corps needs more Marines in highly specialized jobs to fight future threats, such as intelligence analysis, cyber, air defense and electronic warfare, he said. “We believe – not just me – but I think all the leadership believes that the capabilities that we’re trying to build into the force are the things that we’re really going to need for the future,” he said. “If you don’t have those things, whatever formation you put on the battlefield is not going to be as survivable or combat effective without them.”

Congress has already called for increasing the number of active-duty Marines from 182,000 to 185,000 in the fiscal 2017 National Defense Authorization Act. Three thousand extra Marines would be “enough to get started,” Neller said. “We’ve been looking at this for a year,” he said. “We got a plan if we stay at 182,000. We got a plan if we went to 185,000. We got a plan if we grow to numbers higher than that. So, we’ll execute.”

When you throw babies in the air,
they laugh because they know you will
catch them.
That's TRUST.

We see the world suffering,
but still we get married and have
children.
That's Love



Patriot Treadwell stands duty at the tree in the exchange

Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016

On December 16, 2016, H.R. 5015, the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016 became Public Law No: 114-292. This new law provides veterans medically separated, or retired from the military due to combat-related injuries another opportunity to recoup the taxed portion of their severance payments. The law requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to identify veterans medically separated from military service due to combat-related injuries that were issued severance payments after January 17, 1991, and withheld amounts for tax purposes. DOD will provide this group of veterans with a notice of the amount of improperly withheld severance payments, and instructions for filing amended federal tax returns to recover the

withheld amount. The period for filing this IRS claim for a credit, or refund is extended to one year after DOD provides the veteran with the information required by this Act.

This law will be a significant benefit to this group of injured and ill veterans, and partially fulfills DAV Resolution 011 that calls for allowing *all* veterans to recover taxes withheld from their disability severance pay.

Click the link below to log in and send your message:

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/zh4N-oudHLQv-zP6bxtQQA>

Every night we go to bed
without any assurance of being alive the
next morning,
but still we set the alarms to wake up.
That's HOPE.

Fundamental changes to Commissary

Next year brings fundamental changes to the military commissary benefit as Defense Department officials test price changes on some groceries in an effort to offset the \$1.4 billion it costs to operate the stores each year.

Commissaries currently sell products at cost, plus a 5 percent surcharge. And while officials contend the taxpayer subsidy can be reduced without affecting customers' bottom-line savings, the National Military Family Association says it remains "skeptical that the Defense Commissary Agency has the expertise to implement these changes while still preserving the savings military families rely on."

Pilot programs expected to start at the end of January or in early February will use two approaches: one focused on grocery item categories, the other on store locations.

Officials are negotiating with suppliers to lower prices on about 8,000 items that the commissaries, in turn, will mark up, using

the additional revenue to pay for operating costs. Additionally, officials will adjust prices on about 1,000 items across about 10 test stores, lowering prices on goods that commercial stores market aggressively: bananas, for example, milk, detergent and soda. The aim is to be more competitive with prices military consumers may find off base, raising prices on other items that have traditionally offered a bigger savings than those found in commercial stores. Again, the difference would go toward offsetting operations costs.

Beginning in May, the commissary agency also will start offering its own private label products, sometimes called generics, comprising an initial assortment of about 400 products.

Meanwhile, defense officials have been exploring other expense-reduction ideas, including a plan to privatize all or part of the commissary system.

Karen Jowers covers military families, quality of life and consumer issues for Military Times. She can be reached at kjowers@militarytimes.com.

<p>We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's CONFIDENCE.</p>

From The Commander

Well, the end of another year is upon us. For the most part it has been successful for the Chapter, fundraising and number increase of members-wise. We have, however fallen down in a few areas. I'm hoping we can make some improvements in 2017, primarily in the areas of meeting attendance, recruitment of new members, and Business proclamations. Each of these areas can be increased with very little effort on all of you. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 1900. Very seldom do they last more than one hour. Those of you that work during the week and usually can't attend events during the day should be

able to come out for the meetings. I would bet that those of you still on active duty know of someone in your unit that has a Purple Heart and is not yet a member of the MOPH. Take care of two birds with one stone by attending a meeting and bringing the other Purple Heart recipient along. Most reasons I hear from non-meeting attendee's is "I'm not a joiner". OK, how'd you end up in the Marine Corps, if you're not a "joiner"? Recipients of Purple Hearts belong to a unique society with pretty stringent entry requirements.....they have shed blood for their country. Come join with your fellow Patriots that have qualified for this high honor. I promise we won't try to get you to run for office or any kind of detail.

I wish all of you and your families the healthiest and most prosperous New Year possible. May all your goals be met and dreams come true.

Semper Fi,
Grant

From the Adjutant/Editor

Once again that two month period rolls around. It seems to come up faster as time goes by. I guess it's true that the older you get the faster time goes. We are doing well with visibility within the community, where we need more improvement is attendance at meetings. We are looking for ways of improving attendance, we attempt to keep meeting down to an hour. If you have any suggestion, please bring them up.

Our Finance officer Patriot Seguin is being discharged shortly and will be accepting a job out of the area, Washington DC. We will need to replace him, sorry to say as he is doing a fine job. Be thinking about stepping up for this job, we will need to know by next election which is in April.

We want to thank all of you that stepped up and stood tree duty. You raised over \$3500 for the scholarship fund which

means that we can go for bigger and better scholarships this year.

Thanks for all that you do and you all know who you are. As I always close, without you there would be no chapter.

Happy New Year and we look forward to a great 2017.

Semper Fi, John

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.

'That's ATTITUDE.

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



Oldest Marine Patriot Putz and youngest Marine Patriot Seguin receives piece of Marine Birthday Cake at dinner

Below: some patriots and wives enjoying the Camaraderie and the dinner



Patriot Walker receiving veteran of the year award from the City of Jacksonville

