



All gave some, some gave all

**Chapter Officers**

Commander: Grant Beck  
Sen. Vice: Joe Houle  
Jun Vice: Ryan Anderson  
Adjutant: John Cooney  
Finance: Mike Rooney  
Comm.: Neil Lathrop  
Alt Comm: Renard Singleton  
Trust 3 yr: Eric Johnson  
Trust 2 yr: John Holmes  
Trust 1 yr: George Reiter  
Service Off: Jim Foyil  
Chaplain: Donald Clinger  
Sgt at Arms: Renard Singleton

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 4/13

July/August 2013

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## Chapter membership statistics as of 06/30/2013.

Lifetime members: 656 Help us save postage, send me

Associate Members: 3 your email address

Total Membership: 659

## 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. We would like to welcome the following patriots: Ball, Moratalla Jr, Mosher, Perdue Jr, Rorie and Watts. 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 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**

- 2 July – Executive meeting at 1300 at the Marina Café
  - 4 July – **Happy birthday America**
  - 9 July – Regular Purple Heart meeting at 1900 at the Military Relocators Building
  - 16 July – Americanism Class at Jacksonville Commons Rec Ctr from 1000 to 1100
  - 17 July – Corpsmen Memorial meeting at 1800 at the Military Relocators bldg
  - 29 July – Two Americanism Classes, one at Dixon Middle at 1000 and the other at Summersill at 1430
  - 30 July – Americanism class at SW Middle at 1000
  - 31 July -- Two Americanism classes, one at Swansboro middle at 1000 the other at Hunters Creek middle at 1430
  - 6 August – Executive meeting at 1300 at the Marina Café
  - 6 August – annual National Night out downtown from 1600 to 2100
  - 7 August – **Purple Heart Day Viola Drive at Sams from 1000 to 1600, tentative dedication of Purple Heart Monument at Wounded Warriors barracks**
  - 13 August – Regular Meeting at 1900 at our meeting room, Military Relocators
  - 21 August – Corpsmen Memorial meeting at 1800 at Military Relocators
- 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.*

**New Chapter Van**

The Chapter received a van through donations. It is a 2008 Chevrolet with about 67000 miles on it. It’s in great shape but a 15 passenger, the only drawback, uses gas like crazy. The criteria for use remains the same, Chapter members or spouses, only for Wheel chair bound, and chapter functions. Any other use needs to be approved by the commander.



## Chapter Happenings

During May and June we were kept fairly busy. We started off the period with our State Department Convention in Charlotte NC. This was a great convention and it rivaled our convention put on in 2007, I didn't know if anybody could equal that one. During the week after the convention we presented two JROTC leadership awards to area high schools attended a graduation of our Navy Corpsmen and supplied patriots and helpers at a water stop for the annual "Run for the Warriors" event. See photo below, patriots and Lejeune JROTC helping out.



Our first responder coordinator, Patriot Clinger was busy ordering and presenting plaques to the first responders wounded in the line of duty. Our very own County commissioner Jack Bright received a plaque for his wounds that he received several years ago.

Below: Patriot Clinger and a couple patriots from the Raleigh area present a NC trooper with a plaque, he was shot 5 times during a traffic stop



We had a very nice Memorial Day ceremony, weather cooperated and all went off without a hiccup. Great job to everyone involved.

June kicked off with a CMF 'Burn you own steak' event. Many chapter members participated and were involved in the organization of this event, we raised over \$8000 for the CMF.

Below: Purple Heart riders and Amie Griffith, coordinator for the Walk for the warriors at Southwest Elementary School



Several of our Purple Heart riders participated with Southwest Elementary School in a Walk for the Warriors event. The children raised \$750 for the chapter, which was presented to us at the walk. At the end of June we participated in the annual Danny Desens memorial ride. We had a turnout of 8 Purple Heart riders for the event. Patriot Clinger gave the closing prayer and Patriots Walker and Hoffa read names of those KIAs from NC and Patriot Cooney held the electronic bugle playing taps.



Above: Patriots present 27 electric razors to the Kinston VA nursing home.

We travelled to Kinston to the new VA nursing home and presented some electric razors bought by the VAVS money that we received. The home has 100 beds and at this

time is only 10% full. It's a beautiful place and a state of the art facility.

July looks to be a busy month for Americanism classes. As in the past few years we will participate in the Summer Camp program by presenting the campers with Americanism classes. We could use some new blood out here on these classes, basically it's been the same two patriots giving all the classes. It is a lot of fun and you get much satisfaction from the kids. I always come away from one of these classes with a warm fuzzy feeling in my tummy.

We have been a year waiting on approval to place the Purple Heart monument at the Wounded Warriors barracks. This monument was purchased over a year ago and sits in storage at Mount Airy. We have approval from HQ Marine Corps and we're now waiting on the legal beagles on base to OK it. Tentatively we plan on 7 August, Purple Heart Day but that's in limbo not knowing when we will get bases' approval.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.
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### 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](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 : [mccs-lejeune.com/health](http://mccs-lejeune.com/health) or 910 451-2865.

## VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION CLAIMS GO ELECTRONIC

• [Veterans' disability compensation claims go electronic](#)

SALT LAKE CITY (ABC 4 Utah) - Rather than having to wait for years for disability compensation claims decisions, veterans now have access to an automated system that speeds up the process. The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the launch of an electronic claims processing system, called the Veterans Benefit Management System (VBMS). They hope the system will help them eliminate the disability backlog by the end of 2015. "Nationwide the VA completed a record breaking 1 million claims last year and the year before that and the year before that," said Eric K. Shinseki, U.S. Secretary of Veteran Affairs. "Some of these were unfinished business from previous wars." Much of the backlog rests with Vietnam veterans filing for issues that are just now being covered, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, leukemia, and prostate problems. "There's close to a half dozen cancers all those are from Vietnam and have been approved over the last couple of years," said Terry Schow, Executive Director of Utah Department of Veterans Affairs. With a total of 4.1 million paper claims over the last four years, the average processing time has jumped to 260 days. However, with the introduction of VBMS, Shinseki expects those numbers to continue to drop. "We have completed nearly all claims in which veterans have been waiting over two years across the county," Shinseki said. "Here in Salt Lake, all two year old claims are done and they're working on claims that are over one year old." According to Terry Schow, Utah's Veterans Affairs Office is making major improvements in speeding up the claim processing time. They only have over one thousand claims that are pending over a year. "When I went from a Commerce 64 to an iPad, that's what the VA is doing," Schow said. "They're going from hard paper to electronic files. I think it's a good thing."

I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top

**New study links PTSD to heart disease, other ailments**  
**Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY** 3:30 p.m. EDT June 25, 2013  
*Molly Riley, AP*) scientists worry that mental illnesses from war, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, can damage the body as much as the emotions. Some even speculate that war could cause an early aging affect.

**It means the cost of war can last decades beyond the battles are fought. An unusual study released today underscores these fears. During 13 years of research, scientists followed twins who were Vietnam-era veterans -- 340 identical and 222 fraternal -- and found that those with PTSD were more than twice as likely to develop coronary heart disease.**

The findings were published today in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. "This study provides further evidence that PTSD may affect physical health," says Gary Gibbons, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, which provided some funding for the research.

Scientists at the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health followed Vietnam-era veterans, about half of whom had served in Southeast Asia. By using the 562 twins, researchers were able to control for genetic or environmental influences in the development of heart disease and PTSD. Heart disease was found among 22.6% of veterans with PTSD compared with 8.9% without the mental illness.

Studies show that about 10% to 12% of troops who served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars suffer from PTSD, often characterized as a signature wound of those conflicts. Scientists speculate that because the mental disorder causes high rates of anxiety, it can lead to heart-damaging higher blood pressure and heart rates.

Heart disease in this study was defined as suffering a heart attack, being hospitalized overnight with a heart-related problems or having undergone a heart operation. Scientists with the Department of Veterans Affairs tracking veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and who have been diagnosed with PTSD and mild traumatic brain injury also report finding signs of heart

disease, diabetes, slowed metabolism and obesity among young veterans -- maladies more common to middle age and beyond.

## **Korean War Veterans Armistice Ceremony**

Calling all Korean War Veterans to Mark Their Calendars to Attend 60th Anniversary of the Signing of the Korean War Armistice Commemoration Event 27 JUL  
WHAT: The Department of Defense (DOD) 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee will commemorate the signing of the Armistice 60 years ago that ended fighting on the Korean Peninsula and honor Korean War Veterans at a special event on July 27 in Washington, D.C.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel will host the event which will be held at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Hagel and other senior U.S.

government officials will provide formal remarks. Republic of Korea government officials will also participate in the event. In addition, United Nations Allies that provided troops or other support during the Korean War will be recognized.

WHO: U.S. senior government officials including Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, United Nations Allies, and Republic of Korea government officials will participate in the special event that will include wreath laying ceremonies and other activities. The Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, a three-year program authorized by Congress, is dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifices of Korean War Veterans, commemorating the key events of the war and educating the public about the historical significance of the Korean War.

WHEN: Saturday, July 27, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

WHERE: Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, authorized in the 2011 Defense Authorization Bill, is dedicated to thanking and honoring all the Veterans of the

Korean War, their families and especially those who lost loved ones in that war. Through 2013, the Committee will honor the service and sacrifice of Korean War Veterans, commemorate the key events of the war, and educate Americans of all ages about the historical significance of the Korean War. For more information, visit our website at [www.koreanwar60.com](http://www.koreanwar60.com)  
<<http://www.koreanwar60.com>>

Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called GOLF.

**Motor Cycle, Purple Heart plates**  
Patriots, as of about 1 month ago the Purple Heart license plates for Motorcycles were available for sale. Of course this word was not put out and I found out by calling Raleigh, A little History to this first, June of 2011 the law makers approved that issuance of Purple Heart License plates. We kept checking on this and getting nowhere so I contacted our local NC state representatives. The honorable George Cleveland stepped forward and called me back to get more info. To make a long story short he took the info to the hill and got the ball rolling on the plates. It seems that there was a holdup, in that they could not decide on a prefix for the plate. They came up with PV since the autos uses PH that was not feasible. The plates are now being issued and some have received them already. Any veteran related plate request has to follow this procedure. Fill out dept of MV form MVR 33a, this is a request for veterans related plates. The form then needs to go to the VA representative in your area for approval. In our case attach a copy of your DD-214 or your life membership card to the MOPH. I should be receiving my plate any time now as my request has been in for two weeks. Once you do this, the VA rep will forward your form to the DMV for issuance of the plate. A couple of our patriots have received notification of their plate numbers. Patriot McDowell has 0006PV and Patriot Holmes has 0008PV.

Semper Fi, John

If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you're old

### **From your Commander**

Patriots, Had a few really good events so far this month. Some of the chapter members attended a "Walk" with about 700-800 K-5<sup>th</sup> graders at the SW Elementary school in Jacksonville on 10 June. They got to ask us anything they wanted to about our service and/or what we did. They had raised \$1500.00 by selling tee-shirts and bracelets to donate to the Purple Heart and one of the Wounded Warrior charity's. We decided that charity would be the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.....\$750 for them and \$750 to our Scholarship fund. Some of you sold Scentsy's and you may remember that our LAMOPH President, Liz Anderson, graciously donated all her profit from these sales to the scholarship fund. Liz, your unselfish gesture is greatly appreciated. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> 8 PH Riders and one wife participated in the Danny Desens Memorial Ride. I believe about 70 motorcycles were involved in the hour long ride followed by the reading of the names of those from NC who have died in the Iraq/Afghanistan wars. Dan and Patti Desens are Associate Members of the Chapter. We will be having some additional events coming up throughout the summer and I would hope that some more of you will be able to find some time to participate. We're not talking days or weeks here folks, just an hour or two.

Semper Fidelis,  
Grant

**From your Senior Vice Commander**  
No Report

**From your Junior Vice Commander,**  
No Report

### **From your Adjutant/Editor**

Patriots, another newsletter and we march forward. As you can see we are up a little in the battle of attrition. We gain a few members and then a few through transfers, but we are still gaining. Recently I received a phone call from a gentle man looking for the Purple Heart Tattoo parlor, not knowing where it was I could not help him but after we hung up I googled it. In the shopping center at Freedom way and Piney Green Rd there

is a new Tattoo parlor called Purple Heart Tattoos. Yesterday, I stopped by the parlor and found out that the wife Chelsea's husband was recently killed in Afghanistan. After talking for a while and getting the paperwork filled out to make her as associate member, I ask her if our members came for a tattoo if she would give them a discount. She said that any Purple Heart recipient that showed his/her life membership card would get a 15% discount on any tattoo. So if you've been thinking about getting that ink, now's the time.

We had a great Memorial Day Ceremony, the best ever so far in 5 years. It went off without a hitch and the weather was so beautiful. A big thanks goes out from the chapter to all who were involved in organizing this event, also a big thanks to 20+ patriots and spouses that attended. You make us look good.

We just keep on trucken and adding that one or two members at a time, we have signed up 90 new members so far this year. I don't know if that's going to be good enough to win the recruiting award again but it's nothing to sneeze at. Keep up the good work, carry that application with you and whip it out when you see a Purple Heart recipient. As Always, without you all we would not have a chapter, thanks for all that you do.

Semper Fi, John

**From your Chaplain/Welfare officer**

I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there, and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there.

I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.

Don 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 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.



**Ladies Auxiliary Unit 642**



**From your Unit President**

No Report

**Unit 642 Officers**

Position	Name
President	Elizabeth Anderson
Sen Vice pres	
Treasurer	Alice Houle
Parliamentarian	
Secretary	Liz Anderson
Sgt at Arms	
1 yr trustee/	
2 year trustee	

3 year trustee  
Chaplain  
Historian  
Patriotic Instructor

Note: List not complete

Lifetime Members: 35

Total Membership: 35

From your Unit President

No Report

## Purple Heart riders

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 three 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 Holmes is your NC President and President of the Jacksonville Based Blood Brothers chapter. 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. If I know you I will verify you without documentation. It will take about two weeks to get your patch  
Semper Fi, John Cooney

### Some funnies

"Last Week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister, and now I wish to withdraw that statement." Mark Twain

"The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, and to have the two as close together as possible." George Burns

"Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year." Vistor Borge

"Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint." Mark Twain

"By all means, marry. If you get a good wife you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher." Socrates