



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.: Neil Lathrop
 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

last



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 4/14

July/August 2014

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Chapter membership statistics as of 06/30/14.

Lifetime members: 694 Help us save postage, send me

Associate Members: 3 your email address

Total Membership: 697

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. National has ceased to send out monthly new joins. I will start keeping up with them on my own and honor them in the newsletters. Anyway, 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

1 July -- Executive meeting at 1300 at the Marina Café

List of July summer camp Americanism classes:

2 July, Wednesday, 1000 Summersill School

9 July, Wednesday, 1000 Dixon School

14 July, Monday, Southwest Middle School

16 July. Wednesday, Swansboro Middle School

21 July, Monday, Hunters Creddk Middle School

8 July -- Monthly Purple Heart meeting at the meeting place at 1900

16 July – Monthly CMF Meeting at the meeting place at 1800

2 August – CMF Burn your own Steak night at the Bella Casa Cigar store from 1600 to 2000

5 August – Executive Meeting at 1300 at Marina Café

5 August – National Night out downtown from 1700 to 2100

7 August – Purple Heart Day, Viola Drive at Sams Club from 1000 to ?

12 August – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at the meeting place at 1900

20 August –CMF Meeting at the meeting place at 1800

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. 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 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.



Chapter Happenings

The May/June time period was pretty active starting off with our NC State convention, again this year in Charlotte. It was a great convention well attended by all chapters in the state and well organized by the host chapter 634.



Above: the four horseman at the State convention, a motley crew at best –Clinger, Beck, Cooney and Lathrop. Ain't they purty

Below: Patriot McGee presents JROTC award to Cadet at Lejeune High School



During May several JROTC leadership awards were presented by chapter members -- The chapter manned a water stop for the 7th year during the Run for the Warriors event for the Hope For the Warriors Fund -- Honor students of the Field Medical Training battalion course at Camp Johnson were honored with plaques at their graduation -- Our annual hosting of the Memorial Day ceremony was held on 26 May, turnout by

spectators and members was very good. We had over 20 Chapter members in attendance out of 350 to 400 and it was executed in a very professional manner. Many good comments were received from the onlookers -- During the May meeting, 10 year Purple Heart watches were presented to four members that have actively participated in chapter events for the past 10 years. See below



Patriots Houle, Campbell, Clinger and Lathrop receive 10 year PH watches. Patriot McDowell, not present, received his at the June Meeting

Concluding the month of May was the rededication of the Vietnam Wall. The wall is deemed complete now with the addition of the dome. This ceremony was also well attended by both spectators and chapter members.

During June we were invited to Southwest Elementary school for an honor the veterans walk. This was the last day of school and is the second year. The chapter was presented with \$850.00 from the school's fundraiser -- Our Americanism team in conjunction with the Purple Heart riders conducted a Flag retirement ceremony for the Young Marine Company of Swansboro -- The chapter was instrumental in organizing the final Danny Desens Jr Memorial Ceremony. This being the 10th and final year of the ceremony, it was held at the cemetery after a nice ride out to Surf City and back. Several of the chapter members participated in the very moving ceremony -- The first responders program is still in full swing. Patriot

Clinger, our first responder director and three other patriots went to New Bern and presented the Mother of a Slain Police officer and a wounded officer with a First Responders plaque -- We also presented a Take Pride in your flag Certificate of Appreciation to Realo Discount Drugs last week. This is something else that the chapter started some 5 years ago.



Above: Realo Drugs manager Matthew Foster receives flag plaque and business proclamation from chapter members

The Flag Certificate is presented every month to a business or private dwelling. Five Veteran's organizations rotate the monthly duties and the results are published in the Daily news.

All this time we continue with our Paint the State, counties, cities and locally our chapter is honoring businesses. The community proclamation program started about a year ago with us jumping on board from the start, getting Onslow County as the first County in NC and Jacksonville the 2nd City. Since then we got all of our counties that we were responsible for. We were recently given two other counties that other chapters apparently could not or would not get. We are in the process of getting these two counties on board, being Greene and Sampson Counties. Patriot Clinger is handling the Communities and we are all handling the Businesses. We are sitting at about 35 businesses at this time and adding to that every day. I have five more

proclamations sitting next to me right now to be taken care of probably next week.

There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading, the few that learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on an electric fence and find out for themselves.

The next two months are not that busy, at least not at this time. As you know things happen fast and at the last minute and that can busy things up. We are due for another Field Medical Training Battalion graduation in July, at this time I do not have a date -- Our next meeting is 8 July and we will have a guest speaker, Ms. Judy Sanderson, Director of the State VA Cemetery. She will speak to us about burial plans and bring with her some of the required paperwork to be interred in the Veterans cemetery. We should all be prepared for this especially us older members. How many times have you heard that a veteran has passed on and left the spouse with a mess. I don't know about you but I don't want to leave my spouse with a mess -- At the beginning of August there will be a Burn Your own Steak event put on by the Corpsmen Memorial Foundation (CMF) at the Bella Casa Cigar shop, same place as last year. I am including a flyer, last page, with this letter -- Again on the first Tuesday in August, the 5th, there is a National Night out sponsored by Crime stoppers. We will set up a tent and table hopefully near Joe's Knight Wagon. We will need some hands to man the table, it starts at 1700 and goes until 2100. More will be passed as we get nearer the date. Purple Heart day is 7 August, we set up at Sams Club from 1000 to whenever and get donations for the Scholarship fund. - - I'm sure that there will be many more things come up that I am not aware of at this time and when they do you will be notified.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

Letter to the Editor

Patriots, this is about the Corpsmen Memorial Foundation (CMF).

This was founded about five years ago by our chapter members. Our mission is to erect a lasting monument to the Combat Corpsmen that saved many of our lives. There are memorials all over to Corpsmen but none exclusively to the FMF Devil Doc.

We have been slowly moving along all of this time. We had a major setback a couple years ago when we had a fund raiser that went bust and we had to start from scratch. Actually several of us dug into our pockets to keep the foundation afloat. Since that time we have come back to life. There are about 10 to 12 people that do everything for the foundation, set up fundraising events, get sponsors for these events and etc.

My purpose here is to generate interest in some of you and get you to come out and help us. Our meetings are at the same location as the Purple Heart meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 1800. There are many things that you can do, several areas of expertise needed. During the recent Motorcycle Dice run, Patriot Holmes went out and got 80% of the door prizes that were given out and had a ball doing it. We need help getting sponsors and silent auction items for the upcoming Burn your own steak event.

I really want to see this monument come to fruition, for our combat corpsmen. Come to the next meeting or talk to me, Doc Matt or Patriot Houle.

Semper Fi, John

Lettin' the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.

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.

- 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 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 MCCS resilience programs -- Includes classes on stress management, anger management, suicide awareness, prevention and more for families : mccs-lejeune.com/health or 910 451-2865.

From your Commander

Patriots,
Been a busy past few weeks with various proclamations, 1st Responder presentations, VAVS donation to the NC State Veterans Home in Kinston, helping a veteran in Kinston pay his rent and utilities, and a Take Pride in Your Flag Award. Some also went to the Southwest Elementary School and were presented with a very nice donation of \$851.50. We will put half of that in our scholarship fund and half in our general fund. Speaking of our scholarship fund, I am asking for a volunteer to take over the reins of Chairman and follow up in getting this scholarship program going. As you are aware, our former Junior Vice

Commander is no longer in the area and he had been the chairman. This isn't a 9-5 job Patriots, but needs someone who understands the importance of providing necessary funds to help some veteran's dependents obtain a college education. A few phone calls, letters, and follow-ups to area high school educators and counselors are the main duty requirements. Any of you interested in this vital program? Let me know.

Semper Fi,
Grant
gbeck3@ec.rr.com
910-353-8247

From your Adjutant/Editor

Patriots -- Another newsletter, time really flies when having fun and when you get old. You youngsters just be happy when the day drags by, before you know it you'll be old and time will start zipping by and you'll wish that you were 21 again. Times and things change, I no longer get monthly membership reports so I will have to keep a list of new joins in order to give them the spot of honor at the beginning of the letter. I will do this but didn't know until recently about the change.

I have written in the Ladies Auxiliary section about the dire straits of our ladies unit, WE NEED TO KEEP THAT AFLOAT!!

Our membership recruiting is waning been sitting at under 700 for several months now and even dropped due to deaths and transfers. Get out there and recruit that buddy of yours that is reluctant to join anything. We always have members getting out and going home and transferring their membership, this is understood and expected. In order to keep our numbers up we need to continuously recruit to make up for the ones that we lose.

We have a young chapter!! What do I mean by that? On the way to Charlotte to attend our Annual State Convention, while I was aiming the vehicle the Commander had a brainstorm or brain fart don't know which. Anyway he broke out the roster and when he ran out of fingers took his shoes off and counted the number of WWII, Korea and Vietnam members that we had out of 699. I believe the count was somewhere around 130, so roughly 80% of you guys are Iraq and

Afghan vets. We are always saying that you guys are the future of the Purple Heart, that's removes all the doubt if there was any.

And as I always say, without you there would be no chapter!!

God Bless and Semper Fi, John

From your Chaplain/Welfare officer

In the Lord put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?

For, Lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

The Lord trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.

Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.

For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

Don Clinger, Chaplain

Will Rogers, who died in a 1935 plane crash, was one of the greatest political sages this country has ever known.

Some of his sayings:

1. Never Slap a man chewing tobacco
2. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day
3. Never miss a chance to shut up
4. If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging
5. Always drink upstream from the herd

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.

Confucius Says: Wife who put husband in doghouse soon find him in Cathouse.

Man who drink like hell bound to get there.

War does not determine who is right, war determines who is left.

Man who live in glass house should change clothes in basement.



Ladies Auxiliary Unit 642

From the Adjutant

Presently the Ladies Auxiliary has no president or board. Commander Beck has sent out a letter to all the ladies on the rolls asking if they are interested in keeping this unit afloat. Omitted on the first request was a place for the responder's name. He is in the process of sending out a second notice. Please fill this out and send it back, he even included a stamped return envelope and only got half of them back. 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 need the ladies for support. Please consider stepping up and possibly holding an office temporarily until someone comes along that really wants it. Liz Anderson held the office of President for two years and tried to get things going to no avail. Finally her health and now their transfer to Pendleton has taken her out of the picture. S/F John

Unit 642 Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
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President

Sen Vice pres

Treasurer

Parliamentarian

Secretary

Sgt at Arms

1 yr trustee/

2 year trustee

3 year trustee

Chaplain

Historian

Patriotic Instructor

Lifetime Members: 35

Total Membership: 35

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!!!

N.C. Purple Heart plates are available now for our motorcycles.

S/F John



Purple Heart Riders Association

The Purple Heart riders were formed about four 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 oval 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 Earl McDowell 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.

Al Grow in New Hampshire is the President. 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



2nd Annual Corpsmen Memorial

Burn your own steak fund raiser
You burn it or we'll burn it for you!

When: Saturday, 2 August, 2014 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM (Rain or Shine)

Where: Bella Casa Cigars, 334 Henderson Dr. Jacksonville NC 28540

What Else: A silent Auction, a 50/50 drawing & camaraderie for free!!

Corpsmen on duty for those that choke on their steak, not free!!

\$25.00 Donation includes fine steak and fixens.

Get your tickets at:

Bella Casa Cigars - Northwoods Shopping Center (910) 355-0480

Ahlusion E-Cigs – Old Maplehurst Rd. (910) 577-0333

The Safe House – Holly Ridge NC (910) 353-3177

The Gun Shop – Jacksonville (910) 333-0940

Members of the Corpsmen Memorial Board of directors

For More Information call: (910) 545-9995 or (910) 650-6823