



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: Mike Rooney
Trust 3 yr: Joe Houle
Trust 2 yr: Tom Peterson
Trust 1 yr: George Reiter
Service Off: Jim Foyil
Chaplain: Donald Clinger
Sgt at Arms: Dan Stoy

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



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 2/12

March/April 2012

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Chapter membership statistics as of 02/27/2012.

Lifetime members: 549 Help us save postage, send me

Associate Members: 3 your email address

Total Membership: 552

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. Since the last newsletter we have joined more than a hundred new patriots, there's no way that I can fit all of you in to this paragraph so we want to 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

3 March – NC Department Quarterly meeting in Charlotte at 1100, attending patriots will depart at 0500

6 March – Field Medical School East Graduation at 0900 in the Camp Johnson auditorium *

6 March – Purple Heart Executive meeting at the Marina Café at 1300

13 March – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900, Military Relocators

21 March – Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at 1800, Military Relocators

31 March – Vietnam vets welcome home day at Charlotte Motor speedway

3 April – Purple Heart Executive meeting at the Marina Café at 1300

10 April – Purple Heart monthly meeting at 1900, Military Relocators

18 April – Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at 1800, Military Relocators

Note : *, Wear full Purple Heart attire

Patriots –In 2009, the Marine Corps suffered 52 suicides in 2010 there were 37 and last year there were 33. That's over 100 suicides about half of a rifle company. 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.



The van will only be used for Chapter 642 members and their families who are wheel chair bound. The van will provide transport for these members to and from any medical appointment necessary. Any other request by other Purple Heart recipients will be taken under consideration by the executive board for a decision. Also the van can be used for chapter functions, i.e. Department meetings, parades and etc.



Chapter Happenings

Patriots, this newsletter will be rather short as I am very busy with tax season in full swing. January started off rather slow and then picked up momentum. Toward the end of the month we attended the RCT8 Memorial Service where the Regiment commemorated their 64 fallen while deployed. A couple days later we attended a Purple Heart ceremony for 3/6. February picked up the pace a bit with the Purple Heart riders attending a Chilly Chili poker run sponsored by the Rolling Thunder, a lot of fun and some good

chili. We attended a Memorial service for 1/6 where they lost 8 KIAs. WE also attend a couple Purple Heart ceremonies for 1/6 and we ended up signing up 14 new patriots. The CMF put on a dinner show at the USO on 24 and 25 February which was well attended by the members of the chapter. It was a good show and the CMF made some much needed money.

March and April at this time doesn't look like too much going on, that can change dramatically at any time. March starts off with a NC quarterly Department meeting on 3 March at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. This will go at 1100, the patriots attending will be departing Jacksonville at 0500. On 6 March the Field Medical School Will hold another graduation and we will present the usual plaques to the honor grads of both the Corpsmen and Religious programmers course. This is at 0900 in the auditorium on Camp Johnson.

On 31 March the USO is sponsoring a Vietnam welcome home day for all Vietnam Vets at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. This event runs all day with entertainment and a run around the track for bikers. Several of our Purple Heart riders will be riding to the event, leaving on Friday and returning on Sunday. All events are free and tickets are available, Patriot Houle said that he would get some tickets.

At this time April only has the standard monthly meetings scheduled. At the Executive meeting we will need to discuss the Memorial Day Ceremony and get volunteers to make contact with the various agencies required to make this a success.

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.

You think English is easy? Cocktail lounge, Norway – Ladies are requested not to have children at the bar

Letter to the Editor

It's been a while since we talked about PTSD and suicide. At the recent memorial service for 1/6 there was one suicide. It's extremely hard on the family to come to a memorial service, knowing that your son was the only one that killed himself and all others were killed by enemy action. It's also hard for us to stand up there and present Purple Heart medallions to the next of kin of those killed by the enemy and only offer our condolences to the suicide's next of kin. I cannot imagine attending one of these services as a parent of a suicide. Most suicides are caused by PTSD or a problem with wife or girl friend.

We have talked about PTSD before, we the Purple Heart chapter attempt to stress this factor especially since we are so large now, over 550 strong. Each and every one of you wearing that prestigious Purple Heart medal have PTSD in varying degrees from slight to extreme, needing treatment. We know that many of you don't know or recognize that you have PTSD, when asked about it, you deny it. It only takes a few minutes for one of us that has it and have coped for many years with it to recognize it in one of you. You will need to do what many of us have done – Learn to cope with it. Sure there are flare ups, watch a movie and a certain scene triggers your emotions, a certain sound causes an emotion, it's taps for

me, it will get me every time. Be in a crowd and something triggers that feeling that you just got to get the hell out of there. There are many triggers but for the most part you need to control the biggest part of it, cope, that's the key word.

Let's look at a few Marine Corps Statistics on suicide in the last three years. In 2009 there were 52 suicides, 2010, 37 and last year 33. Patriots that's over a half of a rifle company lost without the enemy firing a shot.

S/F John, adjutant



Some of the 1/6 Marines after receiving their Purple Hearts

World War II honor flight

Chapter 642 has partnered with the Carteret Veteran's office and Patriot Casti, Purple Heart national welfare officer in an attempt to put together an honor flight from this area. The purpose of such a flight is to give the WWII veterans a chance to visit their WWII memorial before they die. To Qualify one must have served from 7 Dec 41 to 31 Dec 46 or be a veteran of any war and be terminal. The veteran flies free made available by donations and will have guardians assigned to each and every veteran. The guardian cannot be the spouse of the Veteran due to physical requirement and must be one generation younger and able to handle a veteran if needed. The guardians price is \$250 for the flight. There will be one guardian to one wheelchair vet and one guardian to three mobile vets. We were aiming at a May flight but that is not possible at this time. If you are interested, please contact me the adjutant at 910 455-1353 and I will get you the proper paperwork.

We show about 8 or 9 WWII vets on our roster but about half of them are out of state. Those of you in the area should have been contacted by now by Patriot Beck, who is also on the committee. Please consider going, this is a one day trip, leaving in the morning and getting home that evening. There will be help for you on the flight and while on the ground in DC, there will also be a doctor, a nurse, chaplain and an EMT on the plane and with you all day. Donations are encouraged and can be sent to: Veteran service office 3710-B John Platt Dr. Morehead City NC 28557 or to me or Grant.

English easy? – In a Bangkok temple – It is forbidden to enter a woman, even a foreigner if dressed as a man.

From your Commander/Americanism

As the Commander of this Chapter, I can truly say that we have the best chapter in this Department if not the country. This was told to me by the National Commander and the Public Relations Director. Like I told them, this is not the result of myself or anyone else but is the result of many of us volunteering to make things happening. If someone is down someone else steps up to the plate. I would like to see our Chapter reach the 600 mark before the Department Convention in May. If everyone goes out and recruits one more this should happen. Right now we have 550 not counting the 14 that just went in, I think that we can do it.

As for Americanism, we have one class scheduled for this Monday, where we will be talking to 250 4th and 5th graders. Finally we have broken through the barriers and are going to be giving a class to homeschooled students. Right now it looks like 300 will be given sometime in the future at the DAV.

Finally, all I can say is keep up the good work, and please remind your spouses and children that we are putting new life into the Ladies Auxiliary, so they can become members. YIP, Doc.

God Bless and Semper Fi, Doc Matt.

English easy? – Doctors office, Rome – Specialist in women and other diseases

From your Senior Vice Commander (public relations)

Fellow Patriots,

Hopefully, you all are reading the minutes and newsletters the Adjutant sends out each month. A LOT of work goes into doing that and he and his “helpers” deserve credit for their efforts. Again, if you’ve been reading these reports, you should have noticed a couple of things. One, this is one BUTT-KICKING Chapter! Seems like there’s something going on almost every day that members of the Chapter are involved in. You may wonder why this “involvement” is important. It’s because it gets the Military Order of the Purple Heart brand out there in the public domain. It allows folks that may not be aware of who we are or what we do to see that we take care of wounded veterans first, but are also heavily involved in many other community-based events. Two, the Chapter, being the third largest in the nation, is fast closing in on #2. Some of your fellow members went to a Purple Heart awards ceremony for 1/6 last Friday and signed up 13 out of 22 awardees. Tuesday, 5 of your fellow members went to the Beirut Memorial by Camp Johnson for the Purple Heart award ceremony for Wpns Co, 1/6 and signed up all 5 awardees, PLUS one of the awardees wives was there and she’s going to sign up for the LAMOPH. I know you’ve been told this before but what do you think the numbers would be if each Chapter member signed up just one more member? Especially those of you that are still on active duty. You all know who in your unit has a Purple Heart and is not yet a member. Even though you personally might not be able to make any of our functions, this would be a GREAT way for you to be involved and help the Chapter grow. Do you agree? Send any of the officers an email and we’ll immediately reply with an attached application that you can print out and sign someone up with. Need one for a wife to join the LAMOPH, we can send one of those, too.

Semper Fi
Grant

English easy? – Dry Cleaners Bangkok --Drop your trousers here for best results.

From your Junior Vice Commander (membership)

No Report

English easy?– On a road to Mombasa --
Take Notice, when the sign is under water this road is impassable

From your Adjutant/Editor

Patriots, This is my busy time of year and with all of the Purple Heart activities that have taken place and tax season, I don’t know if I’m coming or going. The chapter is doing wonderful, couldn’t ask for any better, recruiting is right on, still signing up many new members, we should be well over 560 by now with the 14 new applications sent in the other day.

One area of concern though is our Ladies Auxiliary. We almost had them fold a couple months ago and that would have been a disaster. The Ladies are very a important part of our chapter, they are our support in our activities. There is a push on at this time to breathe new life into the unit. We are shooting for some of the younger wives to step up and take over the reigns. We have signed up a few new members lately, 4 or 5 but there are many more wives out there that could participate. At a recent meeting, the men voted to extend the same \$25 payment privilege to the ladies for a limited time. You can join for life for a mere \$25, can’t even go out to dinner for that. You do not need to make every meeting, my wife does not go to meetings but is involved in the events. Of course it’s nice to have those ladies that are willing to attend meetings and talk it up about projects to get involved in. Patriots, speak with your wives, let them read this newsletter and be informed. The meetings are at the same time and place, the ladies just use a room in the rear of the building, babies are welcome.

Semper Fi, John

English easy? – In a Nairobi restaurant --
Customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see our manager

From your Chaplain/Welfare officer

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. Evil pursueth sinners; but to the righteous good shall be repaid.

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children; and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Much food is in the tillage of the poor; but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul; but the belly of the wicked shall want.

Semper Fi, 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.



English easy? –On a poster at Kencom – Are you an adult that cannot read? If So, we can help

Ladies Auxiliary Unit 642



Unit 642 Officers

Position	Name
President	Pat Nichols
Sen Vice pres	
Treasurer	
Parliamentarian	Paulette Wright
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

Lifetime Members: 29

Total Membership: 29

From your President

No Report

From the Adjutant: As you can see by the ladies roster above there are some holes in it. We have had some ladies that resigned their positions. Nominations for officers is next meeting and we hope to see the roster full again with active members. Pat Nichols stepped up to assume the President's position since President Paula Lott resigned.

S/F John

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 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 34 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 10 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.

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