



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: Renard Singleton
Trust 3 yr: George Reiter
Trust 2 yr: Joe Houle
Trust 1 yr: Tom Peterson
Service Off: Jim Foyil
Chaplain: Donald Clinger
Sgt at Arms: Ryan Anderson

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

Official chapter website: www.ncmoph.org

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Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 2/13

March/April 2013

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Chapter membership statistics as of 02/27/2012.

Lifetime members: 646 Help us save postage, send me
Associate Members: 3 your email address
Total Membership: 649

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 have had so many join us since last newsletter that I cannot list them all in this letter. 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"



**FRATRES AETERNI
(Brothers forever)**

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

- 5 March -- Executive meeting at the Marina Café at 1300
 - 8 March – Dedication of a Wounded Warrior monument at the Wounded Warrior Barracks at 1400*
 - 12 March – Purple Heart monthly meeting at the Military Relocators building at 1900
 - 12 March – Field Medical Training Battalion Graduation at Camp Johnson at 0900 *
 - 14 March – Chapter members act as servers at Golden Corral for the Camp Corral charity function from 1700 to 2000
 - 20 March – Corpsmen Memorial Foundation Meeting at 1800 a the Military Relocators bldg
 - 31 March – Easter Sunday, Celebrate the meaning of the day
 - 2 April – Executive meeting at the Marina Café at 1300
 - 6 April – NC Quarterly State department meeting in Fayetteville at 1100
 - 9 April – Purple Heart monthly meeting at 1900 at the Military Relocators building
 - 10,11 April – Marine south expo at the field house we will have a table for our wares
 - 17 April – Corpsmen Memorial Foundation meeting at 1800 at the Military Relocators Building
- 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. 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.



Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Chapter Happenings

After a very successful Christmas holiday period at the exchange, on 2 January we took the three trees down and stored them in the CONEX box. As you can see by the picture to the left we have procured a new van. This was due to the generosity of a couple businesses and individuals. Next month we will present these great people with a certificate of appreciation. The van has already been used twice to transport our wheel chair bound veteran Patriot Bob Mathews to and from his Fayetteville VA appointment. We could use some more volunteer drivers, if interested contact the adjutant.

Below, Patriot Clinger, NC First Responder coordinator, and Patriots Matthews and Noel present the widow of trooper Demuth a first responder's plaque



Another first responder's plaque was presented to state troop Demuth's wife, he was killed in the line of duty when a motorist that they were trying to stop after a robbery ran over him. Several patriots attended a retirement ceremony at the USNH for an HM2 that received a Silver Star and a Purple Heart. A quarterly NC department meeting was attended by the officers in Winston Salem NC. Some of the Purple Heart riders participated in the Rolling Thunder's Chilly Chili poker run, a good time was had by all and it was chilly. The chapter made over \$750 at a Viola fund drive on George Washington's birthday at the local Sams club, Several Patriots participated.

How is it that we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage

Below: Doc Matt, SVC Beck, Lathrop and Singleton at our table at the Viola fund drive.



March and April don't look too busy. On 8 March at 1400 at the Wounded Warrior Barracks there will be a dedication of a Wounded Warrior Monument, not to be confused with our Purple Heart Monument. Let's have a good showing of support for the Wounded Warriors. On 12 March we will present plaques to the Corpsmen at the Field Medical Training Bn. at Camp Johnson. Patriots will participate in a charity fundraiser for the Camp Corral at the Golden Corral on 14 March. This charity sends the children of disabled and Purple Heart veterans to a summer camp. We will accompany a waitress, mingle with the customers and serve the customers drinks. The chapter has another department meeting to attend on 6 April in Fayetteville NC. This will be just before the NC Convention to be held on 9, 10 and 11 May in Charlotte. The convention this year is only for two days instead of the normal three. This keeps the cost of the Hotel down and makes it more affordable to attend. I have the registration forms and will have them at the next meeting for those of you who wish to attend. This promises to be a very good convention with the meetings being held at the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

At the March regular meeting nominations for officer for the upcoming year will be taking place. If you are interested in running for office, let someone know so they can nominate you. We would really like to see some of the newer patriots getting involved in the leadership of the chapter. Many of us are getting along in age and will be stepping down

before too long and the future belongs to the newer members.

Letter to the editor

Space available, no letters submitted

The older we get the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

PTSD Treatment Showing Promise. [U-T San Diego](#) A new experimental treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) involving 30 patients is taking place at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. The treatment involves "stellate ganglion block [SGB] injections" to the neck to "numb nerves...that can cause physical arousal." Patients then feel calmer and reported decreased PTSD symptoms. The "final results of the trial, which is ongoing, have not been determined."

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

PTSD Sufferers Are Not All Ticking Time Bombs. [USA Today](#) "Eddie Ray Routh, an Iraq War veteran who has been charged in the killings of former Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle and another man at a Texas gun range, is widely reported to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder," or PTSD. Sites points out that a "2009 study by the Department of Veterans Affairs posits the concept of 'moral injury,' that guilt about killing or not being killed in war might truly be the instigator" for PTSD. Sites goes on to argue that "we must not default to a narrative of fear in which a veteran with PTSD equals a ticking time bomb."

GI Bill Offers Military Children Relief From College Costs.

[Chronicle Of Higher Education](#) "One of the most popular provisions associated with the Post-9/11 GI Bill" is the "option to transfer...benefits to a child or spouse." The "Department of Veterans Affairs has spent just shy of \$26-billion on the Post-9/11 GI Bill; over the program's life span, it is projected to cost \$90-billion. Given such investment, some educators have questioned whether the children of high-ranking officers in particular should benefit from the related Yellow Ribbon Program, which gives some GI Bill recipients even more aid-pledged by participating colleges and matched" by the Federal government.

If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all the ACME crap, why didn't he just buy dinner?

Court Shows Compassion For Mass. Veterans. [MetroWest Daily News](#) John O'Leary, who has been sober for 180 days, is "one of the 20 or so veterans" that Judge Mary Hogan Sullivan "regularly sees at the mandatory session for the Norfolk County Veterans Treatment Court. The court-supervised 12-to- 24-month program, the first of its kind in New England, serves veterans tied up in the criminal justice system because of their struggles with addiction and mental health issues." According to the Daily News, veterans courts "bring the Veterans Administration into the equation, ensuring each veteran receives the benefits he or she earned – ranging from mental health and substance abuse treatment, to housing, education and employment benefits."

[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 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.

From your Commander/Americanism

I was thinking about what to say in the Newsletter, when I was notified of the passing of Randy Reichler. Randy didn't have a Purple Heart, but he supported those of us who do with all of his effort. Many times have we referred people to him for help and they have come back thanking us. He was President of the Onslow County Council of Veterans Organizations, and when he ran for President he asked me if I would support him as the Vice President. He said we would be a team that would bring the OCCOVO back to what it was meant to be. His task was partially done and now I have the job of finishing the task. By the time that you read this, Rand's funeral and burial will be done, but many of us can thank God that he lived among us and what a good friend he was. Last night at the OCCOVO meeting the subject of the Retirees Appreciation Day came up on the 1st of October, and we were wondering who would handle it this year, usually he handled every minute detail. Someone will, but he did so many things that people never saw.

This also makes me think about the elections coming up, I am not running for Commander and the entire slate is open for

placement. Think about what job you would like, because we do need some new blood and ideas in there. Please become more involved, with every event, there is always the same personnel involved and as we have the second largest chapter in the country more of us should help out.

Finally, I just want to thank all of you who have put your confidence and trust in me the last several years. God Bless and Semper Fi, Doc.

From your Senior Vice Commander (public relations)

**Patriots,
Little bit shorter this issue. A few of the Chapter members have been working hard with fundraising, attending functions, etc. Trust me we honestly do recognize the fact that a significant number of you cannot make these functions during the day, BUT, there are also a pretty good number of you that can and those are the ones I'd REALLY like to see step up once in a while. The rest that can't make the weekday events, how about events on week-ENDS or evenings. The newer, younger patriots fall into this category and we'd sure like to see your smiling faces. Not too sure that ANY that haven't been to many, if any, meetings could come up with a valid excuse as to why not. The exception to that would be for those of you that are no longer in the area.**

**Now you may be thinking, "man, why does he keep harping on the same old stuff about getting involved"? Well, folks, that's what belonging to this "Order" is all about.....getting involved to some degree to support our fellow Purple Heart Brothers. Looking forward to seeing MANY MORE of you at the next meeting on 12 March at the Military Re-locators Building....1900.
Semper Fidelis,
Grant**

**From your Junior Vice Commander,
Membership**

Membership is rolling along, at the last meeting I passed out an application to each patriot at the meeting. This is to keep either on you or close at hand in your vehicle so you can whip it out and give it to a prospective member. We are currently the second largest chapter in the Order with a chapter in Texas ahead of us by about 100 members. Keep up the good work and remember we are always recruiting, it is good for the chapter and good for the Order, giving us more clout up there on the hill.
Semper Fi,

From your Adjutant/Editor

Patriots another two months have flown by. These newsletters seem to come around every two weeks instead of every two months. The chapter is moving right along, doing a lot of good things. We are still awaiting the approval for placement of the Purple Heart monument at the Wounded Warriors barracks. It is already paid for and presently being stored until we get approval. We continue to climb in our rolls we lose a few through transfers and gain a few new members, overall gaining a little each month.

We look forward to a fairly quiet two month period before it gets busy for us again. We have already started planning for the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Keep up the good work, let's make a better effort to make the meetings, last meeting was a little dismal, we make a concerted effort to keep the meeting at one hour or less so no one should get bored and fall asleep. In conclusion, as I always say, without you there would not be a chapter, thanks to one and all.

Semper Fi, John

Why do they call it an asteroid when it's outside the hemisphere, but call it a hemorrhoid when it's in your butt.

From your Chaplain/Welfare officer

Since Easter will be observed during the period of this newsletter, it brings to mind the

very first thing I memorized from the bible some 50 plus years ago.

John 3:16---For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

(For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.)

If you truly believe that He is the way, you will find a true and everlasting inner peace that cannot be replaced nor taken from you.

Don Clinger, Chaplain

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window.

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



Unit 642 Officers

Position	Name
President	Lauren Peterson
Sen Vice pres	Barbara McGee
Treasurer	April Barber
Parliamentarian	
Secretary	Liz Anderson
Sgt at Arms	Deanna Stoy
1 yr trustee/	Linda Tuttle
2 year trustee	Alice Reiter
3 year trustee	Mary Carter
Chaplain	Mary Carter
Historian	
Patriotic Instructor	Kyoko Hare

Note: List not complete

Lifetime Members: 35

Total Membership: 35

From your President

Ladies --- Ladies we still are not getting the turnout at meetings that we need, we only get 3 to 4 ladies and that's not enough to even hold our own meeting, we just stay in with the men. Please see if you can't spare an hour or two on the second Tuesday of each month to come out and support our spouses.

We have some good ideas but we need members to make them happen.

Your President, Lauren

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

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, "Lillian, you should have remained a virgin." – Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)



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 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 Cooney, Chapter 642 is the SE Regional President for the association and 23 members to date from Jacksonville have signed on already. 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.

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

Lawmakers introduce bill to demote Pentagon's new medal

By Joyce Tsai

Stars and Stripes

Published: February 27, 2013



The Distinguished Warfare Medal, which could go to servicemembers who never set foot in a combat zone, but launch drone strikes or cyberattacks that kill or disable an enemy.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers are lashing out at the Pentagon's creation of the Distinguished Warfare Medal - intended to honor the contributions of drone pilots and cyber warriors who haven't set foot on the battlefield - by introducing legislation that would ban it from being rated on par with or above the Purple Heart.

A trio of veterans serving in Congress, Reps. Duncan Hunter, D-Calif., Tom Rooney, R-Fl., and Tim Murphy, R-Pa., introduced the bill on Wednesday, in response to what has been a public outcry

against the creation of the medal, which was announced on Feb. 13.

"Combat valor awards have a deep and significant meaning to those who serve in America's military," said Hunter, a former Marine, in a statement. "These awards represent not just actions, but also the courage and sacrifice that derive from experiences while in harm's way. And those engaged in direct combat put their lives on the line, accepting extraordinary personal risk."

According to Pentagon officials, the medal, which ranks immediately below the Distinguished Flying Cross, was intended to recognize "extraordinary achievements that directly impact on combat operations, but do not involve acts of valor or physical risks that combat entails."

But that has led to public outrage over it from groups such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, which have expressed fears that it cheapens the significance of other combat medals that are awarded at risk of physical harm, injury or loss of life.

Rooney, an Army veteran, urged the Pentagon to reconsider its ranking of the new medal, which would be ranked above the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, in a letter to military top brass earlier this month. And the number of petitions demanding a change have continued to grow online on the White House's "We the People" website. However, Pentagon officials have not said they would reconsider the medal's placement.

Rooney said in a statement on the new bill that he and other veterans "had grave concerns" about the ranking of the medal.

"There is no greater sacrifice than risking your own life to save another on the battlefield," he said, "and the order of precedence should appropriately reflect the reverence we hold for those willing to make that sacrifice."

Murphy, a Navy veteran, said he strongly believed from his personal experiences of serving with "combat-wounded veterans at Walter Reed (Army Medical Center), that their Purple Heart should and must rank above the Distinguished Warfare Medal."

"If the Pentagon will not reconsider the decision to rank this medal above the Purple Heart, the House will take action," he said.