



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.: Tim Haney
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



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 2/15

March/April 2015

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Chapter membership statistics as of 2/28/15

Lifetime members: 737 Help us save postage, send me
Associate Members: 4 your email address
Total Membership: 741

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 last newsletter, 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 Mar -- Executive meeting at the Marina Café at 1300**
 - 10 Mar – Field Medical Training Bn. Graduation at Camp Johnson at 0900 out side Bradley Hall, weather permitting. ***
 - 10 Mar – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900 at our meeting place**
 - 13 Mar – Patriot Lazzar retirement ceremony at the Wounded Warrior Bn at 0900 at the Purple Heart monument**
 - 18 Mar – Corpsmen Memorial Foundation meeting at 1800 at our meeting location**
 - 21 Mar – Wounded Warrior Bn. Expo from 1130 to 1430 on the basketball court**
 - 7 Apr – Executive meeting at the Marina Café at 1300**
 - 14 Apr – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900 at our meeting place**
 - 15 Apr – Corpsmen Memorial Foundation meeting at 1800 at the meeting place**
 - 21 to 24 Apr – Marine South expo at the field house on base – we will man a table with the CMF**
 - 25 Apr – Vietnam Appreciation day at the wall in the gardens at 1100 ***
- 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

What did we do in January and February? Even though these are slower months we kept fairly busy. Kicking off January we dismantled the Fallen Warrior tree at the exchange the day after New Years. That weekend we travelled to Pembroke NC for a Quarterly Department meeting. During the month the chapter also received a proclamation from Coastal Carolina Community College. See pic below:



A first responders plaque was presented to a police officer in Sanford NC for being wounded in the line of duty. Below are Patriots Clinger and Holmes at the presentation.



We also received a proclamation from ACES engraving in Hubert. These two folks Mark and Kathy voluntarily engrave all of the medallions that we present to the families of the KIAs. I can't begin to count how many that has been and they do it Pro Bono, See pic in next column.



Also during January, the chapter presented Jessica Bardoni with an engraved medallion for her deceased husband. You may have read the story in the paper about the widow that had her Christmas presents and her husband's medals stolen in Wilmington. This is she. A colonel in Wilmington replaced her husband's medals and donations received replaced the presents. Below is Jesse with some of us at the presentation;



We also paid her membership as an associate member. She was very appreciative of everything.

During February we attended a veterans type expo put on by the Coastal Carolina Community College and established some good contacts, the Purple Heart Riders attended a Rolling Thunder Chilly Chili poker run and it was chilly and the chili was good. We also conducted a Viola drive for George Washington's birthday at the local Lowes Food store. We braved the cold for three hours and fifteen minutes before hanging it up. We collected \$533.00 for our efforts, not a bad amount for a short time. Below is a pic of us huddled up to stay warm.



The Montford Point Marines held a ground breaking for their memorial in the Memorial Gardens with a reception afterwards, we also attended that ceremony. That pretty much sums up the first two months of the year.

What's on the agenda for the next two months? Another Field Medical Training Bn. School Graduation for 10 March, the first of five for this year. At our 10 March meeting there will be nominations for the officers for the coming year. Also, Ms. Kym Smith from the Carolina Ale house will be there to talk to us about a project that she would like to see us get involved in. Her assistant, Chelsea will also be with her to talk about setting up a twitter account for the chapter. Patriot Lazzar will be retiring at the Purple Heart monument at the Wounded Warrior Battalion on 13 March.

The Wounded Warrior Bn. Will hold an expo on 21 March on the basketball court, we will have a table set up with our literature.

Marine Expo south will be held at the field house on base on 23 and 24 April. We again man a table there in conjunction with the Corpsmen Memorial Foundation. To cap off the period will be the Vietnam Veterans Appreciation day on 25 April at the Wall in the Memorial Gardens.

That pretty much wraps up what we have scheduled, of course there will always be last minute events come up.

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.

Letter to the Editor

The Corpsmen Memorial Foundation (CMF) was formed some six years ago and began as a result of a letter to the editor to the Daily news from Patriot Crazybear, who has since passed on to the great PH

chapter in the sky. That was followed up with letters from Doc Matt and me.

At a later date we held a few meetings at Spanky's Lounge and then it evolved into a full blown foundation. This was created to honor our Navy Corpmen that have served in the FMF alongside us Marines. It was designed to be from the Marines to the devil docs. The monument will cost in the neighborhood of \$500,000, we are approximately 20% of the way to our goal. We have an architect already on board.

The reason for this letter is to ask for help from the chapter members. Our CMF Meetings are held at our meeting place on the Third Wednesday at 1800. For the past five meetings we have only held one bonifide meeting due to lack of a quorum present at the other four.

What this boils down to is, we need more participation. It would be nice to see some of our Marines within the chapter get involved. Patriot Haney as a result of my plea at our last meeting showed up at the last CMF meeting. Patriot Haney is active duty and a very busy Marine but found time to get involved in this extremely worthwhile endeavor. Come on out and help support your devil docs so we can get them the respect that they deserve. Any questions, feel free to call me at anytime. Your Adjutant, John Cooney

The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on the list.

N.C. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

RALEIGH - Gov. Pat McCrory used his biennial State of the State address on Wednesday to announce plans to create a N.C. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

And he touched on, carefully, the controversial issue of expanding Medicaid government health insurance to hundreds of thousands of lower-income North Carolinians - a concept anathema to many of his fellow Republicans

because of its connection to Democratic President Obama's Affordable Care Act program.

Those were two of numerous issues McCrory hit on during his 80-minute speech before a joint session of the N.C. House and N.C. Senate. The proposed Military and Veterans Affairs Department is intended to assist the state's military communities from Fort Bragg to Camp Lejeune and its many veterans.

"At a time when so many servicemen and women are coming home from Afghanistan and Iraq through North Carolina, as I mentioned before, we must have an efficient and well-coordinated process in place to meet the needs of active duty personnel and veterans," McCrory said. "These services are right now scattered across many areas of state government with no accountability, causing delay, frustration, and sometimes poor customer service.

Note from Adjutant; This has been a long time coming, don't know if you knew it or not but NC was one of the few states without a separate/independent Veterans Affairs Department, it was lumped together under another department, so this is great news.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car

Veterans Treatment Court

In recognition of the need for greater support of veterans involved with the criminal justice system, the Governor's Crime Commission provided funding to establish the state's first Veterans Treatment Court. The pilot court, implemented in November of 2013, operates each Wednesday in Harnett County, NC within the 11A Prosecutorial District.

This court is a means to divert veterans from the traditional criminal justice system and provide support they need to lead productive and law-abiding lives through referrals for

treatment, education and vocational programs, all while being judicially monitored.

While attending the expo at the College in February we had the opportunity to talk with Ms. Amelia Grissett, the VA representative for Onslow County who at one point during one of the monthly OCCOVO meetings about a year ago brought up the matter of the Veterans court. The question was asked as to how it was coming along in Onslow County? She replied that nothing had been done so far but that she had been tasked with talking to the judges to get the ball rolling. She also said that she would ask the veterans organizations at the next meeting of the OCCOVO to write a letter for the program that she may present to the judges. We have written such a letter and will present it to her as soon as we have the officer's signatures. See last page for enclosure of letter.

War does not determine who is right- only who is left

VA chief backs outside medical care as new program falters

Veteran Affairs Secretary Robert A. McDonald speaks to reporters outside VA Headquarters in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015. McDonald said integrity and character "is part of who I am" and apologized anew for erroneously claiming he served in the military's special forces.) — Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald said Thursday he was committed to a law making it easier for veterans to get private health care, but he offered few answers for lawmakers irritated at the slow effort to put it in place.

"I'm as frustrated as you all are," McDonald told the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee as he explained low enrollment numbers for a program intended help veterans avoid long waits that have plagued VA facilities.

Only 27,000 veterans have made appointments for private medical care since the agency started mailing out "Choice

Cards" in November, the VA says. The number is so small, compared with the 8.6 million cards mailed, that McDonald wants authority to redirect some of the \$10 billion Congress allocated for the program to boost care for veterans at the VA's 970 hospitals and clinics.

Republicans and Democrats told McDonald that was a nonstarter. Several senators questioned the VA's commitment to the program, the centerpiece of an agency overhaul in response to a scandal over long wait times for veterans seeking health care and falsified records covering up the delays.

The law allows veterans who have waited more than 30 days for an appointment to get VA-paid care from a local doctor. Veterans who live at least 40 miles from a VA hospital or clinic can get private care, and it is now easier to fire VA employees accused of wrongdoing.

I asked God for a bike, but I know that God doesn't work that way, so I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness

From the Commander

Fellow Patriots,

Two months into the new year and hoping this year brings prosperity and good health to all. We experienced a really good Viola drive on the 21st of February at Lowes Foods. \$500+ in just over 3 hours is excellent. Not sure we've had too many other fund raisers that have garnered that much money in such a short time. I had the pleasure of attending the Montford Point Marines Association Memorial ground breaking ceremony at Lejeune Memorial Gardens on the 27th of February. Very impressive and extremely well attended by a huge crowd, many of whom were MPMA members, about 10 of which were original Montford Point Marines. I believe the next major ground breaking will be for the Museum of the Marine early on this spring/summer. Hopefully that will generate some more interest in the project AND allow the Corpsman Memorial to gain traction so that it too, may then be erected. I want to personally thank the members who show up at almost every Chapter function and provide support. You all know who you are so I won't list your

names here. If anyone is interested in knowing who is and who isn't helping out, just let me know and I'll be glad to get you a copy of the Chapter Command Chronology that lists every event we have a member at and their names. Patriots, we do a lot more than just attend a meeting once a month for an hour. Think seriously about what you can do from time to time to help out besides just attending a monthly meeting. Those few of us that make virtually EVERY event would sure be very appreciative of your help.

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

From the Adjutant/Editor

Patriots – Another two month period has passed, we are faltering in the recruiting department. Since the check signing where we signed about 33 we have only signed two or three. Most of you know someone out there that has a Purple Heart and is not a member. Bring him/her to a meeting with you. Once we get them to a meeting chances are that they will join us.

Event participation is also another area where we are waning. We all realize that you active duty members are working hard keeping us safe and it is appreciated. At a few recent events, the commander and I were the only ones representing the chapter. Some of our events are on weekends and in the evenings, possibly a couple hours could be spared to volunteer and help us out. The routine of the same members time after time gets old and some of them get burnt out. We don't want that, we don't expect anyone to make all the events, I don't make all the events, the commander doesn't make all the events but we make most of them. All that we ask is a little help once in a while. We are a very busy chapter, I don't know of a busier chapter in the state of NC and if takes patriots to keep us in the spotlight. Many people that I talk with always comment on how we are everywhere, any function that takes place we usually have representation there. That is our duty to keep the Purple Heart out there so people know what we're all about.

Wrapping up, this is your chapter and without you there would be no chapter.

God Bless and Semper Fi, John

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't

From the Chaplain/Welfare officer

Therefore, thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

WHO WILL RENDER TO EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS;

To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

BUT unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, and indignation and wrath,

Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile.

Don Clinger, Chaplain

**Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit -.
Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.**

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



**Ladies Auxiliary Unit 642
From the Adjutant**

Temporary steps have been taken to keep the ladies Auxiliary afloat, an interim president has taken over with a skeleton staff with her. We are really trying to keep this unit going as we feel that it is important to the chapter and the Order. 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 have seen increased interest by some of the younger spouses to join and become involved. Patriots talk it over with your spouse and see if she would want to join. The ladies meet at the same time and place that we do.

We recently had a setback, the acting President, Barbara McGee broke her leg and has been down for a while. She is rehabbing and getting better so she should be back with us shortly.

I know that we have had some new interest in the unit, don't get discouraged, it'll get up and running again.

S/F John

We never grow up, we just learn how to act in public

Unit 642 Officers - Ladies Auxiliary

<u>Positions are interim</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Barbara McGee
Sen Vice pres	
Treasurer	Alice Houle
Parliamentarian	
Secretary	April Barber
Sgt at Arms	Jean Blick
1 yr trustee/	
2 year trustee	
3 year trustee	
Chaplain	
Historian	
Patriotic Instructor	
Total members 35	