



All gave some, some gave all

Official chapter website: www.ncmoph.org

E-mail: phchap642@gmail.com

Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 2/17

March/April 2017

#####

Chapter Officers

Commander: Grant Beck
Sen. Vice: Joe Houle
Jun Vice: Stan Walker
Adjutant: John Cooney
Finance: Shawn Seguin
Comm.: Tim Haney
Alt Comm: John Holmes
Trust 3 yr: Prentiss Campbell
Trust 2 yr: Bill Treadwell
Trust 1 yr: John Holmes
Service Off: Jim Foyil
Chaplain: Bill Stankowski
Sgt at Arms: Marshall Drennen

**FRATRES AETERNI
(Brothers forever)**

Meeting second Tuesday of the month
at 1900, Military Relocator Realty
building, 1923 Lejeune Blvd.
Jacksonville NC 28546

Chapter membership statistics as of 02/28/2017

Lifetime members: 753 Help us save postage, send me
Associate Members: 5 your email address
Total Membership: 758

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 that have joined us since the last newsletter. Please come out and attend meetings and functions.



"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.

Happenings

- 14 Mar -- Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900 at the Military Relocators**
- 15 Mar – Monthly Corpsman Memorial Foundation Meeting 1800 at the Military Relocators**
- 15 Mar – Field Medical Training Bn. Graduation at Camp Johnson at 0900 ***
- 11 Apr -- Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900 at the Military Relocators**
- 19 Apr -- Monthly Corpsman Memorial Foundation Meeting 1800 at the Military Relocators**

NOTE: * Denotes full Purple Heart attire

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.



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.

Murphy’s law of lockers

If there are only two people in a locker room, they’ll have adjacent lockers.

Happenings

This is a fairly quiet time of our year, once we take the tree down at the exchange which we did on 2 January it slows way down. We did attend a Quarterly Department Meeting in Fayetteville in January and conducted a Viola drive in February at Lowes Food store.

The chapter participated in a Chili Cook off competition, for charity, at the Military Relocators with the Adjutant as the chef and took top honors.



Pic of adjutant, winner of Chili Cook off At Military Relocators, also Tanya Ramsey, manager of realty

All the charity proceeds went to the Women's Shelter.

Patriots Jenkins and McGee assisted the Young Marines of Swansboro in their Semi-annual Flag retirement Ceremony at the Swansboro VFW. Some patriots also visited Patriot Rhodes in a nursing home in Morehead City.

At the last meeting Patriot Seguin received his award for three year membership in chapter and for being the finance officer, see pic, above right.

Law of physical Surfaces
The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on the floor, are directly correlated to the newness and the cost of the carpet or rug

Law of logical argument
Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.



During the upcoming period we have a Field Medical School Graduation where we always present a plaque to the honor graduates of the Corpsmen and the Religious Programmers side of the house.

Naturally we have our regular monthly meetings on that second Tuesday of every month at 1900 as well as the CMF meetings on the third Wednesday at 1800.

Statement from the Department of Veterans Affairs on federal hiring freeze

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced exemptions to the federal hiring freeze in the President's memo dated January 23rd, 2017. The authorities outlined in the President's memo provide VA the ability to continue filling essential positions that provide public safety services to our Veterans. We strongly believe that these exemptions are in line with the President's intent.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs intends to exempt anyone it deems

necessary for public health and safety, including frontline caregivers,” Acting Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Snyder said. “The President and VA remain committed to seeing that our Veterans receive the quality care and benefits they’ve earned. This is the right thing to do for our Veterans.”

Browns law of physical appearance

If the clothes fit, they’re ugly.

VA’s National Cemeteries lead nation in satisfaction survey

Ranking tops private firms, federal agencies

WASHINGTON – For the sixth consecutive time, the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (NCA) was ranked first in customer satisfaction among the nation’s top corporations and federal agencies in an independent survey conducted by the CFI Group utilizing the science of the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI).

“NCA continues to embody our MyVA principles focusing on a culture of continuous performance improvement so that families trust us during important times of need,” said Interim Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Snyder. “We are simplifying operations and providing Veterans quality care and services. We want them to view VA as MyVA; a world-class, customer-focused, Veteran-centered service organization.”

The ACSI is the only national, cross-industry measure of satisfaction with the quality of goods and services available in the United States. Beginning in 1999, the federal government began using the ACSI methodology to measure citizen satisfaction with its agencies.

For 2016, NCA achieved a customer satisfaction index of 96, currently the highest ACSI score in either the private or public sector. The score is nearly 32 points above the 64 point average for federal agencies. NCA participates in the ACSI every three years, previously in 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2013. This is the sixth time NCA participated and the sixth consecutive time NCA received the top rating among participating organizations.

The ACSI survey polled the next-of-kin or other people who arranged for the interment of a loved one in a VA national cemetery, six months to one year prior to the survey’s commencement.

NCA received ratings in the categories of: customer service, respectfulness of the service and interment and maintenance of the national cemetery, achieving an aggregate score of 96 out of a possible 100 points, indicating respondents are extremely pleased with their experience at VA national cemeteries and with its employees. The score for customer service was the highest received for this measure since the survey’s inception. Respondents also reported particularly high levels of satisfaction around the respectfulness of the service and interment and the maintenance of the national cemetery. In addition, respondents were willing to recommend NCA’s services to others.

According to Interim Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Ronald E. Walters, NCA is continually seeking to improve customer services to Veterans.

“NCA has a proud tradition as an industry leader in both the public and private sectors,” Walters said. “These results demonstrate NCA’s continued commitment to providing dignified

burials and lasting memorialization for Veterans and their family members.”

For a complete listing of ACSI’s results, visit:

<http://www.theacsi.org/acsi-benchmarks-for-u-s-federal-government-2016>.

Oliver’s law of Public Speaking

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

VA’s Rule Establishes a Presumption of Service Connection for Diseases Associated with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune

VA to provide disability benefits for related diseases

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- liver cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- Parkinson’s disease

“We have a responsibility to take care of those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald.

“Establishing a presumption for service at Camp Lejeune will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they earned.”

Environmental health experts in VA’s Technical Workgroup conducted comprehensive reviews of scientific evidence, which included analysis and research done by the Department of Health and Human Service’s Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Environmental Protection Agency, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Toxicology Program, and the National Academies of Science.

Veterans with 30 or more cumulative days of active duty service, at Camp Lejeune during the contamination period are already eligible for certain medical benefits, following passage of the Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent, as well as benzene and vinyl chloride, were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985.

The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

The rule will be effective either 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, or following conclusion of the 60-day Congressional Review, whichever is later.

Wilson's law of Commercial Marketing Strategy

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they'll stop making it.

Let's get meeting attendance back up in to the 20's, or better yet, 30's.

Semper Fi, Grant

From the Commander

Patriots,

Feeling kind of poorly (as they say down here) the past week or so. Must be the old "creepin' crud" as we called it back in the day. Three of us visited one of our older, WW II vets (as the Adjutant mentioned in a previous email) at an Assisted Living facility near Morehead City. Every time I visit one these places to see our older veterans it reminds me of what could be waiting not that far away for a lot of us. Fortunately for Dusty Rhodes, his daughter visits about every other day so he get company a little more frequently than others we've visited. Might be a good idea to set up a once-a-month visitation schedule to spend a little time with our older vets that are leaving us faster than we may realize. Dusty has hearing aids but doesn't use them...probably because the batteries are dead....so it's kind of hard to communicate, but I feel he appreciated the 20 minutes or so we spent with him. Just ONE of the things we should be doing as a Chapter. Please think about it. Either the Adjutant or I would be glad to provide info for a visit.

Our goal of recruiting enough new members to reach the 750 mark has been met...and exceeded this past year. Next goal is 800 but we can't just rely on the Christmas Leave Travel program. As we keep saying, all of you on active duty know of someone in your unit that has a Purple Heart and is not an MOPH member. Talk to them, or better yet, bring them to a meeting. Second Tuesday of each month, 1900, Military Relocators Bldg, 1923 Lejeune Blvd (next to Century 21).

From the Adjutant/Editor

Here we go again, elections are right around the corner. We nominate at our next meeting and elect at the April's meeting. Keep in mind that we need some of our newer members to get involved in the leadership of the chapter. Some of us Viet vets are getting old and senile and will need to go out to pasture not too long from now. If you don't know what to do ask one of us. You can start out as a trustee with little to do except conduct audits of the finances. There are positions that you can run for with not much time involved.

Next topic meetings; I don't know how to increase the attendance. We are getting anywhere from 15 to 30, lately the lower end. Patriots, I have heard talking with inactive members, "Well I used to go but nothing got done except beer drinking" or "it was a click and I didn't feel welcome." I assure you that neither of these are in existence this date and time. We conduct business, enjoy the camaraderie with all members and try to keep the meetings at 1 hour or less. I urge you to come out and see what your chapter is doing. It's a far cry from when the membership was about 100 to now with 758, we have grown and so has our interaction in the community.

And in closing, as always patriots, this is your chapter and we would have none without you.

Semper Fi, John

Doctor's Law

If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

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: www.fmcmf.org

The Maquette is on display in the Physical Therapy wing of the Wounded Warrior Battalion East aboard Camp Lejeune.



Flags4Fallen



The marker above is that of Danny Desens a National Guardsman killed in 2004. On Sunday, January 18 Retired Corpsman Mark Markham honored his service by carrying a Gold Star flag with Danny's picture on it in a half marathon race in Wilmington, NC. After the race the flag was presented back to Dan and Patti Desens, two of our Associate members and parents of Danny.

Mark is part of a group called Flags4Fallen that does this half marathon to honor those fallen warriors.

I have sent out requests for names of any fallen warrior from this geographic area. Mark has several races coming up this spring and needs heroes to honor. If you know of any please send me their Next of kin's contact info.

At the last meeting I was given a name, Don Cross and by someone in attendance. I have asked for contact info but have not received any.

Did you know:

Notice of Disagreement: There are a couple of different ways to tell VA that you disagree with the decision VA made on your [disability compensation claim](#).

White House calls for \$54B bump in defense spending, sharp domestic cuts

The Trump administration has not said how much money it will ask Congress to spend in total.

The White House took its first steps Monday toward what would be a dramatic reshuffling of the \$3 trillion-plus federal budget, sending guidance to agencies that calls for a \$54 billion increase in defense spending and corresponding reductions to most non-security agencies.

While Office of Management and Budget officials briefed reporters on the plan this morning, President Donald Trump publicly explained his proposal to focus federal spending on national security, including boosts to the military, local law enforcement and the Border Patrol, while cutting domestic programs and foreign aid. Trump has said his budget will not include cuts to Medicare or Social Security, the usual targets of Republicans trying to trim federal spending. Story Continued Below

"This budget follows through on my promise of keeping America safe, keeping out terrorists, keeping out criminals and putting

violent offenders behind bars or removing them from our country altogether,” he said.

Study finds increased political activity on social media among military

By: [Christopher Diamond](#), February 27, 2017 (Photo Credit: DoD)

A study by the National Defense University found that a growing number of military personnel are posting about political views on social media.

In the survey of more than 500 West Point cadets and active duty officers, 75 percent of people who responded said they have witnessed fellow officers re-post or share links to political articles or promote politically charged viewpoints posted by others on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter, [according to POLITICO.](#)

One-third of those surveyed said they regularly see fellow officers advocate directly for a political figure, disparage a candidate or encourage others to take action on a political issue. Researchers are particularly troubled by these numbers given the military’s apolitical role.

“Such behavior threatens to erode the trust in which the public holds the military, leading to it being viewed as just another interest group,” Army Col. Heidi Urben, a political scientist working for the Joint Chiefs of Staff who compiled the findings at the National Defense University, told POLITICO.

The full results of the study are expected to be published by the National Defense University later this year.

Note: As active duty personnel we all know that we cannot be political, at least out rightly, openly political. We all have our opinions and preferences. Us retirees can say what we please. The restrictions also apply to the Purple Heart chapter as a chapter. The chapter or member of the chapter cannot support openly a candidate while wearing Purple Heart attire. It was noted during the last election period, patriots attending a rally wearing Purple Heart gear. This is illegal and you should make sure if attending a political rally that all indications of a veteran’s organization are removed. We never know when tha camera will snap your picture, you are especially attractive to our liberal media with organizational attire on.

On the next page I am attaching the latest Corpsmen Memorial Brick Certificate. If you have not purchased a brick yet, please consider doing so. The Corpsmen Memorial is about halfway to its goal and we have really come along this past year with renewed volunteers.

I am getting ready to place a brick order so get in on this our first order.

