



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: Tom Peterson
Trust 1 yr: Joseph Houle
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

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 3/12

May/June 2012

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Chapter membership statistics as of 04/29/2012.

Lifetime members: 571 Help us save postage, send me

Associate Members: 3 your email address

Total Membership: 568

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. Welcome to Patriots: Hank, McCain, Plaster, Anderson, Benitez-Romero, Conway, Hamilton III, Horvath, Knox, Lindemood, Lopez Jr, Malone, Marburger, McMahan, Newby, Ostrander, Plaster, Pledger, Riffel, Sackinger, Siska and Tocco. 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. Patriot Soliday, a charter member of the chapter passed on to the big chapter in the sky, May you Rest in Peace Brother.

"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 May – Executive meeting at the Marina Café at 1300
 - 3 to 5 May – NC Department Convention in Raleigh NC *
 - 8 May – Monthly Chapter meeting at Military Relocators at 1900
 - 11 May – Patriot Vanek Retirement ceremony and farewell at Spanky's Lounge
 - 11 May—Field medical Training Bn. Graduation at 0900 in the auditorium at Camp Johnson *
 - 13 May – Honor thy Mother – today is her day do something special for her.**
 - 16 May – Corpsmen Memorial Foundation meeting at 1800 at the Military relocators. Come on out we need more participation in this endeavor
 - 17 May – Two Wounded Warrior bicyclists coming from CA will be escorted from Wallace by the Purple Heart riders. They will spend the night here in Jacksonville.
 - 19 May – Run for the Warriors at Jacksonville High school, chapter will man a water stop for the 6th year, need participants.
 - 28 May – Memorial Day service hosted by the chapter at 1100, come on out and support us. This is our 4th year hosting the event. ***
 - 5 June – Executive meeting at the Marina Café at 1300
 - 12 June – Monthly meeting at 1900 a the Military Relocators Building
 - 14 June – Flag Day, change out that old tattered flag with a new one
 - 17 June – Father's Day**
 - 20 June -- Corpsmen Memorial Foundation meeting at 1800 at the Military Relocators Building
- 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

May is a busy month, as always the State Department Convention is during the month from 3 to 5 May in Raleigh NC. At the April Meeting the new slate of officers was elected and sworn in, there was little change in leadership. I guess that this signifies that the membership is happy with the direction of the chapter. One of the new faces on the executive board is Renard Singleton as the Department Alternate committeeman. Just a note; we need more new blood in the key positions, most of the positions are filled with Vietnam veterans and we are getting along in age.



Patriot Vanek receives a letter of Appreciation from Commander Doc Matt.

Patriot Vanek, one of our up and coming younger members will be getting out and going home back to Texas. His retirement ceremony will be at the Beirut Memorial at a time TBA, on 11 May, with his farewell get together at Spanky's Lounge afterward. Paul has been very productive to the chapter in his short stay. In less than a year he managed to recruit 40+ new Members. He was also instrumental in the organizing of our Purple

Heart Riders group. Patriot Vanek, whatever chapter that joins you in Texas is definitely getting an asset. Also on 11 May the Field Medical Training Battalion will conduct another graduation, sending young docs and chaplain's body guards out to the field. This takes place at 0900, again we will present plaques to the honor grads of both job specialties. On 17 May, two Handicapped veteran cyclists will arrive in the local area after biking from CA. They are scheduled to spend the night in Wallace and at this time the Purple Heart riders plan on escorting them to Jacksonville. They will spend the night here and we plan on doing something while they are here, this will be announced at a later date when firmed up. Run for the warriors for the 6th year will take place on 19 May. And, for the 6th year we will man a water stop along the route, Also, this year we will be here and not at the annual Convention like we have for the past two years. Mark your calendar and plan on helping out with this as we need members to pass out water to the runners. Our 4th annual Memorial Day Ceremony will take place on 28 May at 1100 at the Veterans Cemetery, we are right on schedule with the planning of the event. After the ceremony, the local scouts will conduct a flag retirement ceremony at the American legion. Bring your tattered, torn flags to the next meeting so they can be retired properly. Remember the holiday associated with Memorial Day, if you travel be very careful, don't be one of the statistics for this holiday. Also, remember the day, it's not just a long weekend for picnics and beer drinking but stop and remember those that can no longer participate in this holiday, those that gave all.

June comes in like a lamb, nothing really special going on, of course we have our normal meetings and Flag Day on the 14th. This is a good day to change out that old faded, torn or tattered flag. And, if you usually don't fly a flag, this could be a good day to start flying one. Show that patriotism that we all have, my wife says that I am too patriotic. Of course I don't think that there is such a thing as being too patriotic.

May is National Military Appreciation Month and is comprised of several days of observance throughout the month.

May 1st:

Silver Star Banner Day

(honoring America's wounded, injured and ill service members)

May 1st:

Loyalty Day

(honoring America's wounded, injured and ill service members)

May 9th:

V-E Day

2nd Saturday through 3rd Sunday in May:

Armed Forces Week

2nd Friday in May:

Military Spouse Day

3rd Saturday in May:

Armed Forces Day

May 22nd:

Maritime Day

Last Monday in May:

Memorial Day

Below: the Liberty Run Marines and NJ police officers rest at the finish of their 600+ mile run from NJ on 21 April. They ended at the Beirut Memorial to commemorate the bombing of the American Embassy in Beirut on 18 April 1983 that killed 63



In the lobby of a Moscow Hotel, across from a Russian Orthodox Monastery; You are welcome to visit the cemetery, where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists and writers are buried daily, except for Thursday.

Hotel in Zurich; Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the

bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

Below: A Wreath is placed at the Beirut Memorial Wall by two of the Liberty Run Marines and two of our patriots.



Below: Patriots Vanek and Cooney along with two liberty run Marines approach the Wreath before placing it at the foot of the Bronze Marine



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.

You think English is easy? In a city Restaurant “ Open seven day a week and weekends.”

We would like to extend our appreciation to all who have served.

To those who have waded into battle, who have sacrificed, spilled their blood, suffered injury, loss and heartache. To those who are separated from their families and loved ones, who protect our land, sky, shores and borders and who have traveled the world to aid others in need. To the spouses, parents, children and friends who support them - and for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice - all to serve our country, protect our freedom and keep us from harm.

Thank You for Your Service.

World War II honor flight carried over from last newsletter

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.

Note: Col O'Toole USMC (Ret) and Patriot Cooney will attend a meeting in Morehead city on 9 May to determine whether to go through with this flight. So far the response has been extremely sparse and we need a definite number of vets before a plane can be locked on.

House panel to approve 1.7 percent 2013 raise

By [Rick Maze](#) - Staff writer

Posted : Wednesday Apr 25, 2012 11:00:19 EDT

A House subcommittee is prepared to say “yes” to a 1.7 percent military pay raise but “no way” to the Obama administration's plans to significantly hike Tricare fees for military retirees and their families.

The military personnel panel of the House Armed Services Committee also is unwilling to create an independent panel to recommend an overhaul of military retired pay. Their chief objection: the Defense Department's demand that the commission's recommendations be put on a fast track to approval, limiting the ability of Congress to make changes, according to draft legislation unveiled Wednesday.

Headed by Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., the personnel panel is scheduled to meet Thursday morning to pass its portion of the 2013 defense authorization bill, starting a legislative process expected to last until at least Oct. 1, the start of the fiscal year, and possibly longer if election-year politics interfere with details.

Patriots – Just an ad on to this article. We are in a fight for our financial future. They want to increase all tri care fees and start charging Tri care for life recipients a fee to be graduated every year. Also the Medicare “B” portion of Social Security is scheduled to more than double in 2014 when Obamacare is scheduled to take affect. It will go from about \$120 a month in 2013 to more than \$240 in 2014. With all the fees that they want to impose we could be paying about \$5000 a year per person for health care after 2014.

I have said this before and I will say it again. If you sit on your rear and do nothing and let the empty suits in Washington screw with our benefits then you are saying; Here are my pockets, stick your hand in and take as much of my money as you want.

I have notified my representatives already more than once and will continue to do so in the future. I personally like my money and want to spend it on stuff that me and my family want, not spread the wealth to those who want to do nothing but be a burden on the government. Get on the band wagon be PROACTIVE not INACTIVE.

Semper Fi, John

English easy? – In a cemetery; persons are prohibited from picking flowers, from any but their own graves

From your Commander/Americanism

This month, as usual, is going to be extremely busy. With the Department convention on the 3rd through the 5th of May until the Memorial Day Service on the 28th. It makes me proud to be a member of this one of the best chapters in the country. Even the National Commander has stated this. I love it when our members step up to the plate and volunteer for everything. We can never forget our purpose, which is to help and serve the Combat Wounded Warrior. Most of us who came back from Vietnam remember being snubbed by our fellow citizens and even other Veterans groups, we had obeyed orders and were treated like dirt. I was even told by some Veterans that I didn't rate the Purple Heart, because we weren't at war. I felt that no Veterans would ever be treated like this again.

Which brings me up to the subject that is close to my heart. We in the MOPH are a support group, a group of individuals that anyone can talk to when feeling down . Our membership in this chapter alone ranges over 70 years in age. Many of us have felt like this and I just want to say that if anyone feels depressed, call one of our older members. The same thing goes for the

wives, the wives see the changes that their husbands have gone through, and so I feel like they should be able to fall back on their more experienced sisters who belong to the LAMOPH, to rely on. We can't forget the children who are the helpless victims of the rage many of us with PTSD feel at times, especially when things don't go as planned. It tears me up when I hear about one of our young Marines or sailors committing suicide how they must have felt so hopeless is depressing. We here in Jacksonville, have more responsibility to take care of the younger troops and their families, because we have so many. Except for the chapter in Fort Bragg, the rest of the chapters have older members on the average, and they don't see this problem

Which brings me up to the final subject that I want to talk about. On the 17th of May two bicyclists will be coming into Jacksonville. They started out in February from Bakersfield, California and are planning on pedaling over 4,200 miles to the wall in Washington. Our Purple Heart Riders are to meet them in Wallace and escort them here, where they will be spending the day. They are doing this trip to bring to mind the fact that Veterans can work and to help with the physical and mental health issues that confront our modern troops.. We have our May meeting before they arrive, so we have some time to figure out how to welcome these two, and give them a Jacksonville and Marine Corps welcome.

Finally, I just want to say thank you for allowing me to be the Commander of the best Chapter in the Country for another year, let's see if we can break the 600 member mark.

God Bless and Semper Fi, Doc Matt.

English easy? – Tokyo hotel Rules and regulations; Guests are requested not to smoke or do other disgusting behaviours in bed.

From your Senior Vice Commander (public relations)

Patriots,
Please mark your calendars for May 28th, 1100. We need as many of the Chapter members to attend the Memorial Day ceremony at the State Veterans Cemetery as possible. We will be taking donations for viola's this year to try and build our coffers. If you haven't been able to come out for some of the other events due to work, illness, etc., since this is a holiday (and therefore no work), we would appreciate your help for about an hour or

so. Additionally, if any of you are available Friday the 25th, that's when we put up the tents and chairs at 0930. The more that show up the less time it takes. Again, any help would be greatly appreciated.

**Thanks and Semper Fi,
Grant**

English easy? – On the menu in a Swiss restaurant;
Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

**From your Junior Vice Commander
(membership)**

Keep up the good work on recruiting, we are on track to win the National recruiting award again this year. When we talk to other chapters they say, but of course, you have a gold mine down there of Purple Heart recipients. While this is true, they don't realize the work that is put and has been put into getting these recipients signed up. As a rule they don't just walk in and sign on the line. Bottom line, we are working to get this award and this will be our fourth total and a second year in a row.
Semper Fi, Rosie

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

From your Adjutant/Editor

Patriots – Another year behind us and again the election of a new slate of officers, of course there are still the familiar faces leading the chapter upward and onward. We all look forward to a prosperous year with some innovative ideas. We are looking at new ways to raise funds for our various activities.

We have ordered the Purple Heart monument that will be placed in the traffic Circle in Front of the Fisher house. Anticipated dedication date is 7 August 2012, which is Purple Heart Day. To date we have raised \$5100 towards the \$7000 needed. We need more donations to complete the endeavor, we attempted to get funds from the Semper Fi Fund but were turned down. They stated that they were no longer giving funds for Memorials even though they have thousands of dollars. Keep them in mind next time they are looking for money. Contact one of your officers if you want to contribute to this worthwhile memorial.

We will also receive our new shipment of Purple Heart puppies on or about 6 May they are always great fund raisers.

As I always end my little two cents worth, this is your chapter and without you we would not be a chapter, thanks for all that you do
Semper Fi, John

English easy? – In a Tokyo bar; Special cocktails
for the ladies with nuts.

From your Chaplain/Welfare officer

Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considered not the beam that is in thine own eye.

Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Thou hypocrite, first cast out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened.

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? –Hotel Japan: You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

Ladies Auxiliary Unit 642



Unit 642 Officers

Position	Name
President	Lauren Peterson
Sen Vice pres	Raechel Richards
Treasurer	April Barber
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

Note: List not complete

Lifetime Members: 35

Total Membership: 35

From your President

Ladies --- At the last meeting we elected a core group, we still need others to step up to fill open positions. Please make a concerted effort to make the next meeting, so we can finish with the elections and get down to business.

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



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 NC President for the association and 12 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

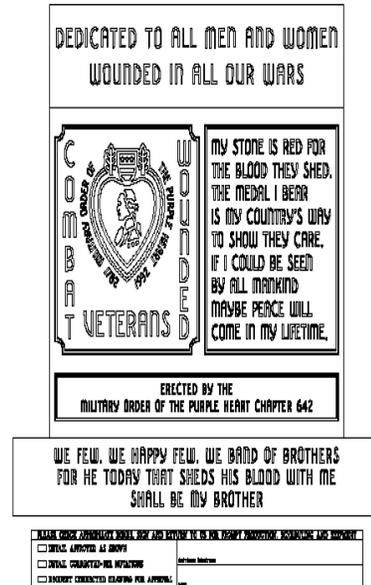
The Purple Heart Riders Assn. elected some officers and Patriot Holmes was elected President, Below is a note from him. The chapter was named the Blood Brothers Chapter.

From the Purple Heart riders, Blood Brothers chapter president

Patriots -- Had a great time on Saturday , 21 April, 2012 leading the Liberty runners from N. J. that would lay a wreath at our Jacksonville, N. C., Beirut Memorial to the fallen 63 Americans of the American Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. We had "Blood Brothers" of the Purple Heart Riders leading the way. We were only a few, but, we were the proudest.

Semper Fi, And proud to be!
 Jumpin John
 President
 Blood Brothers chapter,
 Purple Heart Riders

EVERLASTING 4-29



Above: Replica of Purple Heart Monument to be placed in front of the Fisher House

Patriots – I am told that we only have a few hits on our face book page. Patriot Dan Stoy has put a lot of work into establishing this for the chapter. The address is:
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Military-Order-of-the-Purple-Heart-Beirut-Memorial-Chapter-642/199158606806982>

Go online and check it out and any and all suggestions are welcome. We are going to look into establishing a PayPal account to get donations, for things like the Memorial that we want to put at the Fisher House and that can be placed on Face Book and our website.