



All gave some, some gave all

**Chapter Officers**

Commander: Grant Beck  
Sen. Vice: Joe Houle  
Jun Vice: Stan Walker  
Adjutant: John Cooney  
Finance: Chadd Jackson  
Trust 2 yr: Bill Treadwell  
Trust 1 yr: Tim Haney  
Service Off: Jim Foyil  
Chaplain: Marshall Drennen  
Sgt at Arms: Charles Troy

**FRATRES AETERNI  
(Brothers forever)**

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



Official chapter website: [www.ncmoph.org](http://www.ncmoph.org)

E-mail: [phchap642@gmail.com](mailto:phchap642@gmail.com)

# Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 3

May/June 2018

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### Chapter membership statistics as of 04/30/2018

Lifetime members: 762 Help us save postage, send me  
Associate Members: 7 your email address  
Total Membership: 769

### 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 have pending, 7 new associate members since the last newsletter.

**"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 – 75h anniversary for Naval Medical Center at Flag poles at 1000**
  - 6 to 8 May – NC state Department Purple Heart Convention in Wilmington NC**
  - 8 May – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1923 Lejeune Blvd at 1900**
  - 16 May – Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at the meeting place at 1800**
  - 19 May – Run for the Warriors, we man a water stop at 0700 at the Pizza Hut on Gum Branch Rd.**
  - 23 May – JROTC leadership award ceremony at Northside High at 1900**
  - 24 May - JROTC leadership award ceremony at Lejeune High at 1300**
  - 25 May - JROTC leadership award ceremony at High school in Washington NC at 1830**
  - 25 May – Set up for the Annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Cemetery at 1000**
  - 28 May – Annual Memorial Day ceremony at the State Veterans Cemetery at 1100**
  - 8 Jun – Ceremony at 0830 at the Local National Guard for dedication in the name of Danny Desens, KIA in Iraq.**
  - 12 Jun - Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1923 Lejeune Blvd at 1900**
  - 12 Jun – Present plaques to Field Medical Training Bn Graduation, Honor grads at 0900 at Bradley Hall, Camp Johnson. \***
  - 14 Jun – Flag Day – A good time to replace that old flag with a new one**
  - 20 Jun - Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at the meeting place at 1800**
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://mccs-lejeune.com/health) or 910 451-2865.**

## Chapter Happenings

It was a fairly uneventful beginning to this two month period. We presented plaques to the two honor graduates of the Field Medical Training Bn. This has been ongoing for about 10 years now. The honor grad on the Corpsmen side and the Religious programmer's side gets a plaque.

At the March Monthly meeting, nominations and elections were held for the upcoming year. Patriot Beck was reelected Commander as well as Houle and Walker senior and junior vice commanders. Patriot Jackson was elected as finance officer. Patriot Drennen was appointed as Chaplain to replace Patriot McGee. See pic below for swearing in of new officers:



Patriots continued to transport other patriots to their VA appointments and ride with the Patriot Guard honoring the fallen.

April, picked up a bit with a letter of appreciation being presented to the Daily News Military Reporter, Kelsey Stiglitz for her outstanding reporting of veterans affairs see pic right:

**Doctors 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. Don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.**



Patriots manned an info table at the annual Marine Expo South held on Base passing out applications and pamphlets.

A couple Proclamations were received and Letters of appreciation presented to two businesses, Trophy Care and Lejeune Motor Sports. This takes us to 92 proclamations from businesses.

Our Americanism Officer, Patriot Jenkins conducted instruction to Southwest Elementary school on properly raising the American flag.

A table was set up at Twin Peaks for the Annual Silkies hike to bring awareness to veteran's suicide. Over 350 hikers participated in the 22 kilo hike, 22 to signify the 22 veterans that commit suicide daily. See pic below Patriots Walker and Cooney man the table.



Rounding out the month was the attendance of several patriots at the annual Vietnam

remembrance ceremony at the Vietnam Wall in the Memorial Gardens.

In May, things will pick up a bit. Patriots will attend the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Naval Medical Center formerly named the Naval Hospital. We will also attend the annual NC state convention, this year held in Wilmington NC.

We will man a water stop for the 10<sup>th</sup> year for the 'Hope for the Warriors,' Run for the warriors event. This will be at the corner of Gum Branch at the Pizza Hut and will go from 0700 to about 1000. We will pass out water and Gatorade to the runners as they run by. We need some patriot participation in this effort.

We have a couple JROTC leadership awards to present to local high schools. We need a new representative to present these awards. Previously Patriot Rooney handled this duty but due to medical issues with his wife he has stepped down.

Danny Desens is receiving some long overdue recognition. For some years now the Desens have been trying to get his name honored on a building, bridge or road. On 8 June the local National Guard building will be so named after him. Danny was killed in Iraq with his Guard unit in 2005.

Another Field Medical training Bn. Graduation will take place in June. We attend and present plaques to four of these a year.

Keep in mind that 14 June is Flag Day. This is a day to honor and fly our beautiful American flag it is also a good day to replace that faded or tattered flag that's been flying for a while.

All required annual chapter reports have been completed and will be turned in at the Department Convention.

**Oliver's law of Public speaking – A closed mouth gathers no feet.**

**Brown's Law of Physical Appearance – If the clothes fit, they're ugly**

**[This Press Release continues the stream of state-sponsored legislation approving HBOT for TBI/PTSD. Arizona joins four other states in their approvals: Oklahoma, Texas, Indiana, and Kentucky, with Iowa on the cusp.]**

### **Arizona Legislature Approves Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment Program for Veterans**

**PHOENIX** ---- Veterans with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and selected PTSD conditions would be eligible to participate in hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) under a bill approved unanimously in the state House (Feb. 21), and unanimously by the Senate (Mar 26). It was signed by the Governor on March 29. HB2513 was sponsored by Rep. Mark Finchem, Republican, (LD-11, Oro Valley, Marana & Maricopa), Vice-Chairman of the Military, Veterans and Regulatory Affairs Committee. *"This bill is the culmination of 3-years of public comment and professional input to get our veterans access for a recuperative treatment, that has delivered remarkable results, but has thus-far not been paid for by the VA,"* said Rep. Finchem

The bill provides a temporary appropriation of just \$25,000 in seed money to what supporters call, a "private-sector driven," initiative that will be overseen by the state's Department of Veteran Services. There is a population of approximately 13,000 veterans with TBI in the state. Arizona is the only state that has formally taken this private-public partnership approach, said Sa'ad Allawi, an Oro Valley resident who helped spearhead the drive.

HBOT has been shown an effective, non-medicinal alternative abroad and selectively in the U.S., though it not offered as a Veterans Administration benefit. Patients in HBOT breathe pure oxygen in a room where pressure that is 1.5- to 2.2-times normal level. This rejuvenates cells and increases stem cell production that promotes healing. It is used for scuba divers who suffer from decompression sickness. Athletes have used HBOT since the 1960's to treat concussions, a form of TBI.

“This bill enables us to tell prospective private donors, ‘The state is making a commitment, now it’s your turn,’” said Allawi, whose career was in healthcare cost-reduction. “It is an opportunity to heal veterans and get them back to a healthy state, rather than just manage symptoms --- and do it with a far more cost-effective treatment.”

Healing Arizona Veterans, or HAV, has been established as a nonprofit that will promote contributions from small donors, charities and the private sector. HAV has is driving the private donors match effort, which will enable the first 10 veterans to be treated. The group’s goal is to treat 50 in its first phase.

“Arizona has two stand-alone HBOT private providers, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy of Arizona, of Phoenix, which has been in business for 18 years, and NorthStar Hyperbarics, of Tucson, in existence for 14. Both have six-person chambers. As many as 300 veterans could be treated annually,” says Allawi. A full treatment cycle of 80 hours at \$150 per session means a cost of \$12,000 per veteran.

For a technology that is mature, the United States offers relatively few options. One of the nation’s HBOT models, Oklahoma, four years ago passed a Patriot Clinic Act that offers the therapy. Texas and Indiana passed pilot programs last year. Marine Corps now offers selective treatment and a study is underway at Louisiana State University involving 50 veterans. Brook Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, TX, the largest healthcare organization within Department of Defense, is spending \$12 million on an HBOT wing. Treat Now, a veterans’ support group, estimates there are 2800 veterans have been treated in such a manner.

For more details, please visit Healing Arizona Veterans at <http://www.healingarizonaveterans.org/>

**Editors note – The chapter has two members that have gone through the Hyperbaric process and both say that it works well. This is promising for some who suffer from TBI.**

## [House Funding Bill Allocates \\$1.2B for VA EHR System Next Year](#)

April 27, 2018

by Rajiv Leventhal

Language in the legislation seems to suggest that the VA-Cerner EHR contract will be signed sooner than later

The House Appropriations Committee has released its Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill for 2019, including \$1.2 billion for the new VA electronic health record (EHR) system.

In total, the legislation provides \$96.9 billion in discretionary funding – \$4.2 billion above the fiscal year enacted 2018 level. As stated in a [press release](#) from the Appropriations Committee, “The bill contains \$1.2 billion for the new VA electronic health record system. This will ensure the implementation of the contract creating an electronic record system for VA that is identical to one being developed for DoD [The Department of Defense]. These two identical systems will ensure our veterans get proper care, with timely and accurate medical data transferred between the VA, DoD, and the private sector.”

It should be noted that the legislation does not mention Cerner, the health IT vendor that VA awarded a contract to modernize its EHR system, by name, but the language does foreshadow that the VA-Cerner EHR contract will be signed eventually since it mentions that the IT system mirror the DoD’s, which was developed by Cerner. To this end, VA Press Secretary Curt Cashour [recently wrote in a statement](#) that one of VA’s specific near-term priorities is to “finalize a decision on the department’s electronic health record modernization.”

Reports [have surfaced](#) that the contract, which has not yet been signed, will be in the \$10 billion range, making it one of the largest health IT implementations in history. The hefty cost has concerned Congressional members since that \$10 billion figure doesn’t even include infrastructure improvements or implementation support.

As [Healthcare Informatics reported last month](#) when President Trump ousted VA Secretary David Shulkin, M.D., negotiations between VA and Cerner have been delayed. In December, Shulkin announced “a strategic pause” in the EHR acquisition process, with the [purpose being](#) to conduct an assessment of national interoperability language contained in the Request for Proposal that would ultimately support an EHR contract

award. MITRE Corporation would be conducting the external assessment and Shulkin said earlier this month that MITRE provided the VA with 51 recommendations, and that the agency was building these into the contract with Cerner.

Reports at the time were that Shulkin was set to sign the Cerner contract soon, but nonetheless, other EHR vendors saw his dismissal as a potential signal that they could get back in the bidding process. One such company, CliniComp International, a San Diego-based EHR vendor, sued the government last summer, attesting that VA improperly awarded its EHR upgrade contract to Cerner without a competitive bidding process. Following Shulkin's firing yesterday, Chris Haudenschild, the CEO of EHR firm CliniComp, said in a statement, per a recent *Politico's eHealth newsletter*, that "Acting Secretary Wilkie should delay the award of any EHR modernization contract so that the next Secretary has an opportunity to fully review the facts."

As this all continues to play out, Robert Wilkie, DoD undersecretary, is serving as acting VA secretary in the interim. Rear Adm. Ronny Jackson just recently withdrew as President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the VA due to allegations around his professional conduct.

### From the Commander

Patriots,

Short comments this month for the Newsletter. Last meeting we had three of us bring applications to sign up associate members. Others there said they had some and would bring them to next meeting. **THIS IS A REMINDER for ALL to step up and help us reach our goal of getting ahead of that Texas chapter. We can do this but it requires more than just "lip service" and procrastination. PLUS, last meeting was pretty dismal with only 12 Patriots attending. That's the lowest turnout I can remember in my over 12 years membership. Not sure what the problem is but I would remind you that one of the Fraternal objects of our Order is to**

**attend all meetings if possible. Let's go Patriots!**

**Semper Fi, Grant**

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| <p><b>Wilson's law of commercial marketing strategy – As soon as you find a product that you really like, they'll stop making it.</b></p> |
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### From the Adjutant

Patriots, another period has rolled around, it seems that it's every two weeks that I am putting out a newsletter. As you could see February and March were not real busy. This is standard for the period but it starts to get busier in May.

We have begun a new recruiting program. Since we don't seem to be getting many new Purple Heart recipients, we have refocused on associate memberships. This can be your blood relatives, your spouse, mother, father, siblings, children and grandchildren and etc. As proof we have to establish a blood line through birth and marriage certificates. The chapter will pay \$20.00 of the membership fee just like any other member. After last meeting I sent in 7 such applications. I just returned from Indy and have three more to send in after the next meeting. Our goal is to catch that chapter in Texas that at last report, had 805 Members. We are standing at number 2 in the nation at about 777 with the seven that were sent in.

This is not to just increase our numbers but with more members it gives us a bigger voice with Congress as an Order. It also gives us more money when we file our lifetime membership report.

At our March meeting we voted to erect a Purple Heart memorial in the Memorial Gardens. Patriot Houle, as you all know, is with the Museum of Marines had an ideal spot on the museum grounds that was for another monument that will not be used. Patriot Haney has taken the reigns on this endeavor and will gather all the info necessary to bring this to fruition.

Last meeting was a total disaster with a big attendance of 12 members, a record. What is going on? Please tell us so we can get these numbers back at least in the 20's. We try to keep the meeting down to one hour, I guess we could offer a \$20.00 bill to everyone that attends but we don't have that kind of money. If you haven't been to a meeting for a while or something irritated you at the last meeting that you attended, come on out and see if things have changed for the better.

This is a wonderful organization and especially a great chapter. We do much more than 90% of the chapters out there. Get involved, this is your chapter, you make this chapter. Take some pride in belonging and attend some meetings.

As always, Patriots without you we would have no chapter and to all, thanks for your service.

Semper Fi, John

Law of Close Encounters -- The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Teacher -- George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it.

Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

Louie -- Because George still had the axe in his hand!

Teacher – Now, Simon, Tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

Simon—No sir, I don't have to, my Mom is a good cook.

Teacher – Harold, What do you call a person that keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

Harold – A teacher!

## Corpsmen Memorial Foundation CMF

Below is the Maquette sculpted by Abbe Godwin the originator of the Beirut Memorial here in Memorial Gardens and the Vietnam Memorial in Raleigh.

Donations can be sent to CMF PO Box 12641 Jacksonville NC 28546-2641. Also bricks for the walkway can be purchased at the website.

The Website is: [www.fmfcmf.org](http://www.fmfcmf.org)

The Maquette was picked up by Abbe Godwin and has started work on the memorial.



Note: We have reached our goal and the sculptress has started on the project, it should be up in about a year with a target date of Veterans Day 2018.

“Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.” T. S. Eliot