



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.: Neil Lathrop
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 6/14

November/December 2014

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Chapter membership statistics as of 10/30/14.

Lifetime members: 697

Help us save postage, send me

Associate Members: 3

your email address

Total Membership: 700

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: Evans, Putz, Gartwaite, Benjarano, Fleming, Troy, Lake, Capacho and Rivera. 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 also lost two Patriots during this period, Rest in Peace Patriots Lott and Fitzpatrick.

"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

- 2 Nov – Daylight savings time ends clocks fall back 1 hour
 - 4 Nov – Executive meeting at the Marina Café at 1300
 - 4 Nov – Election Day, get out and vote
 - 8 Nov – Veterans Day parade @ 1000 *
 - 8 Nov – Veterans expo at the mall 1200 to 1600
 - 9 Nov – Veterans expo at the mall 1300 to 1600
 - 10 Nov – Happy Birthday USMC, 239 years young**
 - 10 Nov – Americanism Flag Raising at Meadowview School at 0800
 - 11 Nov – Veterans day ceremony at the DAV at 1100*
 - 11 Nov – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900, meeting will be brief and then we will salute the Marine Corps Birthday with cake cutting and meal.
 - 12 Nov – Veterans Day expo at Lowes Food from 1100 to 1600 and get proclamation
 - 14 Nov – Americanism class at Bell Fork Elementary school, Time TBA
 - 18 Nov – Veteran of the year award at City Hall at 1900 *
 - 19 Nov – Corpsmen Memorial Foundation meeting at 1800 at the meeting hall
 - 21 Nov – Set up for the Festival of Trees at the American Legion at 1200
 - 21 to 24 Nov – Festival of trees
 - 24 Nov – Move tree to Exchange at 1430
 - 24 Nov to 2 Jan – Man the tree at the exchange over the lunch period
 - 27 Nov – Happy Thanksgiving**
 - 2 Dec – Executive meeting at the Marina Café at 1300
 - 7 Dec – Pearl Harbor ceremony at the American Legion at 1300 *
 - 9 Dec – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900 at the meeting hall
 - 13 Dec – Wreaths across America at 1300 at the Veterans cemetery
 - 17 Dec – Christmas Leave check signing at the meeting place, Military Relocators from 0900 to 1200
 - 17 Dec – Corpsmen Memorial Foundation meeting at the meeting hall at 1800
 - 25 Dec – Merry Christmas!!!**
- 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

During September and October we stepped up our activities. As I stated previously in a newsletter, this is the beginning of our busy season. Chapter members attended the 9/11 ceremony at the beam and the living torch ceremony for the POW/MIAs at the Vietnam Wall. We also attended the Vietnam Veterans recognition ceremony at the Vietnam Wall and the annual Retiree Appreciation Day.

We, as usual participated in the Annual Onslow County Fair helping the American Legion and also operating a table for the chapter and the Corpsmen Memorial. Both were a great success as the weather fully cooperated this year.

See pic below of the two Docs and Clinger



The below pic is Barbara McGee at a monthly meeting receiving a letter of appreciation for her many years of putting up with Mac McGee, You have the patience of a saint Barb!!



Also during October we attended another Field Medical Training Battalion graduation giving the honor students a plaque from the chapter. We signed up six new members at the Wounded Warrior Bn. Formation which put us right at 700 in the chapter that is until someone transfers out or dies!

The Carolina Ale House honored the chapter by feeding us and presenting the chapter with a Proclamation of support to the chapter, we in turn issued them a letter of appreciation for the support. This was a real nice event, Kym Smith the General Manager went all out and the staff all wore special Purple Heart shirts and had a banner made for the event. This will be an annual event, beginning next year on Purple Heart Day, 7 August.

A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are after it as when you are in it!

Change is inevitable except from a vending machine!

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be!

Below Patriot Stan and Vicki Walker are served by one of the gracious servers wearing Purple



The annual Beirut Bombing ceremony was attended by about 15 Patriots, this is the 31st year of the bombing.

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

As seen in the picture below, three of us presented a letter of appreciation to the staff at Southwest Elementary school for their generous donation of over \$750.00 in June at their Heroes walk on the last day of school.



The next couple months proves to be quite busy. Happy Birthday Marines!! 239 years old and sometimes I feel it! Veterans day parade on 8 November at 1000. This year for the first year the Purple Heart riders will be able to ride next to the float. We need patriots to ride the float and to ride their bikes next to the float, please plan on attending. We will all

meet at Mac McGee's house, 408 University Dr., behind the college at 0800 and ride to the staging area together. There is no POV parking in the staging area and it's quite a walk if you don't ride with us. Uniform for the float riders is Complete Purple Heart attire and the riders it's riders gear. After the parade at the Mall we will attend a Veterans Expo. This was held for a few years and suspended for a couple years, apparently it is being brought back. This will go from 1200 to 1600 and on Sunday it will be 1300 to 1600. We will need a few members to attend and man the table.

On 10 November, **Happy birthday Marines**, there will be an Americanism presentation/flag raising at Meadowbrook School at 0800. Patriot Jenkins is heading up this event and could use some help.

The next day, Veterans Day, starts out with a ceremony at the DAV commencing at 1100, again uniform is full attire. That evening at our regular meeting there will be a special event. We will have a Holiday party with a Cake cutting ceremony and reading of the messages for the Marine Corps Birthday. Social hour will start at 1800 and after a very brief meeting at 1900 we will commence the ceremony and go right in to the party. We have a DJ, Food, beverages and camaraderie lined up for the evening. If you want anything stronger than beer, it's BYOB. This will cost \$10.00 a head, payable to Patriot McGee, if you didn't pay at the last meeting you can pay Mac at the party. Ms. Kym Smith from the Carolina Ale house will be in attendance and present us with a check for the 10% of sales the day of our Purple Heart dinner.

On 14 November at Bell Fork Elementary School there will be an Americanism class, again Patriot Jenkins can use some help with this class. Patriot Jenkins has stepped up and pretty much taken over the Americanism duties from Doc Matt. Ike and Doc were the mainstays of the Americanism program so Ike does need help, keep that in mind. It is rewarding giving these classes to these kids, they

absorb the knowledge and they are the future of our Country. No one else is teaching them about patriotism so we need to step up and do it.

The festival of trees this year goes on the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. This year a committee was formed to do something different with the trees. In the past we were up to three trees and they were getting extremely crowded and a little worse for wear. This year the committee recommended going to one tree, nine feet tall, white and instead of one ornament for each KIA, have one big purple ornament indicating the year and the number of KIAs for that year. It will be decorated with Purple and Gold ribbon flowing down from the top with a big Purple Heart on top. We will also have purple Poofs, mesh like material throughout the tree. We have a tree on order from the New River Pottery at cost. Commander Beck has already made a display with all the names by year that will be placed on the table for the people to see. This actually will be easier than trying to find the individual names on the trees. We will have small ornaments on hand to make up if a loved one desires one. I am excited about this change and think that it will work out well, it will be much easier to move to the Exchange after the Festival. The exchange is our next topic, the Monday of the festival which is children's day at about 1400 we tear down and move to the exchange. We remain at the exchange over the holidays until the day after New Years. We are there during the workdays, during the lunch period from about 1100 to 1400. We answer questions from the public about the trees and receive donations. This is usually one of our better fundraisers for the year. I will put out a volunteer list much like the one for the County fair with the dates so you can sign up on the days that you desire.

We will have one more Field Medical School Graduation just before Christmas, date to be announced.

Pearl Harbor Day, 7 December, is on a Sunday this year, at this time I am not sure what day that the American Legion will hold the ceremony. I will announce it as soon as I know it. We usually have 6 to 10 Patriots attend this ceremony and we are one of the few Veterans organizations that attend.

Again this year we will participate in the Wreaths Across America program on 13 December at 1300 at the Veterans Cemetery. We have attended this event for about 5 years now but last year we started placing wreaths on the graves of our departed patriots. Last year we ordered 15 Wreaths and placed 14 on our brother's graves. This year with more passing we will order 20 and place them after the ceremony. We need members to attend and help place the wreaths on the graves. Patriot Clinger does a fine job keeping up with the grave locations of our brothers.

This is it for now but of course other things will pop up from time to time and will be announced as they occur.

NC Department Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave program

This is an explanation about the Department Christmas Leave program this year. The date for the check writing is 17 December at 0900 at the Military Relocators bldg. 1923 Lejeune Blvd., the same location that it has been for a few years. Again, you will need your leave papers, a plane ticket or a map quest document with mileage to your leave address and proof of Purple Heart. The eligibility has changed this year: GySgt and below and 1st Lt and below including WO 1 & 2 are eligible, Above GySgt and Capt. are not. We have not had that many of the higher ranks get funds anyway.

There was some erroneous word put out previously about only those receiving Purple Hearts this year are eligible, **this is not true.** The Criteria is as stated above. There will probably be one or two stragglers details as in the past years but don't count on that, make this date if at all possible!!

This program has been ongoing for about 8 years now and we have sent home about 1000 troops for Christmas leave. This is made possible through generous donations from patriotic Americans and we sincerely hope that you appreciate this. We definitely appreciate your sacrifice, service and dedication to our Country.

S/F Your Adjutant

Next Year's Federal Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) is 1.7%

There is very good news to report. Starting in September many Laboratory medical tests will be covered by TRICARE. Until approximately 1 ½ years ago numerous widely used medical tests were routinely paid for by TRICARE. But then TRICARE noted that these tests were never approved by the FDA (because these tests are never presented to the FDA) and suddenly TRICARE stopped paying for them.

TRICARE beneficiaries had no idea that anything was wrong until they received a bill (many of them very substantial) TREA, along with many additional VSOs strongly and repeatedly urged TRICARE to stop taking this position. Under the Defense Health Agency Evaluation of Non-United States Food and Drug Administration Approved Laboratory Developed Tests Demonstration Project will cover many of these important tests. The program will also cover approved laboratory developed tests retroactively from January 1, 2013 so beneficiaries will be eligible for reimbursement. Beneficiaries will have to file a claim with their regional contractor to receive payment.

To see which tests are being covered by this new project go to the list found at <http://www.tricare.mil/ldt>. They include many important lab tests including genetic tests for breast cancer and cystic fibrosis among many others. If you have questions or problems either about the tests covered or receiving a reimbursement please call TREA's Washington Office and ask for Deirdre Parke Holleman. This is an important victory and we need to make sure it helps everyone who needs it.

Note: Copied this from the internet, not sure what it had to do with COLA.

**I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased when I read the inscription in the Catalogue: -No good in a bed, but fine up against a wall.
Eleanor Roosevelt**

2014 Veterans Day Offerings and Discounts

The list of offers from restaurants, retail and travel and tourist offers giving discounts or gifts to veterans and their families to commemorate Veterans Day is growing longer every year. Many of these deals only apply to November 11th itself but others already apply so now is a good time to start looking.

Military.com has a very good list at www.military.com/veterans-day But there are still many offers and events that are not included. They include the enormous Veterans Day set for the National Mall, free pancakes at Bob Evans and many more. Don't miss out.

A Diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you look forward to the trip

Fry Scholarships changes colleagues and Fellow Veterans,

The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 ("Choice Act") was recently signed into law. Most of the Act pertains to Veterans health care but it also included two provisions affecting GI Bill® benefits. This note pertains to the Fry Scholarship; my next note will talk about in-state tuition.

The Fry Scholarship was created to honor Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry, 28, of Lorena, Texas. Sergeant Fry had one week left in his tour in Iraq in 2006, when he

volunteered to continue working for seven more hours disarming explosive devices, despite having already sustained an injury to his hand. He made the ultimate sacrifice on March 8, 2006, in Anbar province, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated. He left behind a widow and three children. I recently had the honor of meeting Malia Fry at a Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivor (TAPS) event. We have created Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreements with both TAPS and the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation with the sole purpose to encourage cooperation and collaboration between VA and both of these important organizations, to promote the Fry Scholarships to eligible individuals.

Section 701 of the Choice Act expands the Fry Scholarship to include the surviving spouses of Servicemembers who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Prior to this law, only children of those who died in the line of duty were eligible for this benefit. We have had the honor to have served 1,279 children under the Fry Scholarship in FY 2013 and we look forward to now honoring the surviving spouses. The law states eligible spouses are entitled to receive:

- 36 months of full benefits, equal to 100% level of the Post-9/11 GI Bill[®]; this includes tuition and fee payment, a monthly housing allowance, and a stipend for books and supplies.
- Training must start on or after January 1, 2015. Training prior to January 1, 2015, is not eligible to receive benefits under Section 701.
- A spouse has 15 years from the date of the Service Member's death to utilize benefits. If a spouse remarries, benefits end the date of the remarriage.

Some spouses currently eligible for, or already receiving, benefits under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program may now be eligible for the Fry Scholarship. DEA is an educational program offering up to 45 months of education benefits to eligible

dependents of Veterans who died while on active duty, as well as dependents of Veterans who died as a result of a service-connected condition or are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition. Surviving spouses of Service members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, will have to make a one-time irrevocable election to receive either the Fry Scholarship or DEA.

We expect to begin accepting Fry Scholarship applications by mail from spouses starting Monday, November 3, 2014.

To learn more about this important new benefit, please review our Fact Sheet at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/handouts_firms.asp. To either apply or make an election, one can complete and send an application (Form VA-Form 22-5490). You can download the form at <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-5490-ARE.pdf> and send a copy via the GI Bill website (<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>) using the "Ask a Question" button. You may also mail the completed form to your nearest Regional Processing Office, or request a paper application by calling 1-888-GI BILL-1 (888-442-4551).

V/R – and Thank You,
Curtis L. Coy
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity
Veterans Benefits Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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](http://CampLejeuneMCCSresilienceprograms) -- Includes classes on stress management, anger management, suicide awareness, prevention and more for families : mccs-lejeune.com/health or 910 451-2865.

From your Commander

Patriots,

For those of you in the Jacksonville area I hope you saw the great coverage we got the other day in the Daily News after our Carolina Ale House proclamation presentation last Tuesday. They fed 30-40 members and some family members free and gave any who asked a free purple tee shirt with our logo on the back. All the wait staff also wore the shirts. In addition they will present the Chapter with 10% of their sales from that day. The reason I'm mentioning this is because there have been 4-5 Patriots who have approached the 53 businesses we've received proclamations from just since February. Can you imagine how many we'd have if more of you each got one or two businesses you frequent to proclaim? The returns from this endeavor are many and will continue to put the MOPH in the public's eye **so they won't forget!** It's really easy (just ask Patriot Drennan). The Adjutant and I accompanied two of the Chapter 639 Patriots to the Wounded Warrior Bn. this afternoon to finalize the check writing for the Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave Program. We will be putting out more info on this, see adjutants article. We then went to the MCX and established a date to take the Purple Heart tree from the Festival of Trees at the American Legion to the MCX for the month of December. Getting into the busy season and will really need some of you to help with a few things. Veterans Day parade here in Jacksonville on the 8th of November (we have been participating in this parade for many years and hope as many of you as possible will continue to join us and ride on

the float), Marine Corps Birthday dinner and celebration on the 11th (you won't believe the menu Patriot Walker has come up with!), and lastly, setting up the new Purple Heart tree in the American Legion, manning it for a few days, and then moving it to the MCX for the month of December. This takes more than just 2-4 of us so come on out for an hour or so and lend a hand.

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

From your Adjutant/Editor

Patriots, another two months passed right by us, they seem to go faster as you get older. We have lost two of our brothers during this two month period. Patriots Lott and Fitzpatrick we have also lost several others this year. Rest in peace Patriots!!

We did not get the national recruiting award this year but it did stay with the NC Department. Our sister chapter in Fort Bragg got it -- so congratulations to our Army Brothers. Our recruiting has been slipping, we did go to the Wounded Warrior battalion formation and sign up six new members and that put us at 701. Immediately after that we had a patriot die so we sit at 700. This is a first and we hope to keep it at or over the 700 mark. Hopefully we will get a few more at the Christmas Leave Check signing on 17 December (See Letter to the editor).

We are getting participation from some of you younger patriots lately this is good as you all are the future of the Order. We have several events/functions as you can see by the Calendar of events and we are always in need of help. If you can come out for an hour or two at some of these events that is a help. Some of you active duty last year came to the exchange and sat at the trees table over the lunch period and we appreciated it.

Enough of my ranting, as I always say, without you there would not be a chapter. Thanks for what you do and have a great Holiday Season.

God Bless and Semper Fi, John

P.S. Thanks to Commander Beck for submitting my name and me being accepted for the Department aid-de-camp to the National Commander.

From your Chaplain/Welfare officer

If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

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.

Don Clinger, Chaplain

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.

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.

S/F John

Unit 642 Officers

<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	

Lifetime Members: 35

Total Membership: 35

I discovered I scream the same way whether I'm about to be devoured by a great white shark or if a piece a seaweed touches my foot

Confucius says: Wife who put husband in Doghouse soon find him in Cathouse.

And -Crowded Elevator smell different to midget.

And - Person who deletes this has no humor.

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with!