



All gave some, some gave all

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# Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 5

September/October 2017

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## Chapter Officers

Commander: Grant Beck  
Sen. Vice: Joe Houle  
Jun Vice: Stan Walker  
Adjutant: John Cooney  
Finance: Prentis Campbell  
Comm.: Tim Haney  
Alt Comm: John Holmes  
Trust 3 yr: Gene Putz  
Trust 2 yr: Bill Treadwell  
Trust 1 yr: Mike Rooney  
Service Off: Jim Foyil  
Chaplain: Mac McGee  
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 08/31/2017

Lifetime members: 752 Help us save postage, send me  
Associate Members: 6 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.**

**Calendar of Events**

- 4 Sep – Happy labor day- enjoy the long weekend.
  - 12 Sep – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900 at the Military Relocators.
  - 13 Sep – Field Medical training Bn. Graduation at 0900, Camp Johnson, Bradley hall \*
  - 19 Sep – MIA/POW Ceremony at the Vietnam Wall at 1830
  - 20 Sep – Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at 1800 at the Military Relocators.
  - 30 Sep – Retiree Appreciation day at Marston pavilion from 0900 to 1400
  - 2 Oct to 7 Oct – Onslow County Fair, times will be published later
  - 7 Oct – NC Department Meeting in Pembroke NC at 1100
  - 10 Oct -- Monthly Purple Heart meeting at 1900 at the Military Relocators.
  - 14 Oct – Veterans Resource Day at the Onslow County complex from 0900 to 1500.
  - 18 Oct -- Corpsmen Memorial Meeting at 1800 at the Military Relocators
  - 23 Oct – Beirut Memorial Ceremony at the monument at 1030 \*
- 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 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](http://mcca-lejeune.com/health) or 910 451-2865.

**If a deaf person swears, does his mother wash his hands with soap?**

## Happenings

July and August were fairly busy months beginning with the National Headquarters stopping here in Jacksonville with the 2017 Ford Rapter which was presented to a handicapped Marine Corporal at the National Convention in August. Several Purple Heart riders escorted the vehicle to Sanders Ford where it was viewed by several. All present signed the truck and below Patriot Beck's wife signs the truck.



Patriot Jenkins and his Americanism Team were busy during July presenting Americanism classes to about 350 Onslow County Summer Campers, see pic below: one of 5 schools.



Above: Also during July the Onslow County veterans organizations presented Itchy Popkins with an award for his continued support of the veterans of the county. Below the director of the USO, Holly Coffey, shakes hands with Itchy as other vets look on:

The chapter supported the Corpsmen Memorial with their 5<sup>th</sup> annual 'Burn your own Steak' Event at Swynayks taking in about \$4500. Thanks to all that helped out and to those that partook in the great steak that Logans Road House catered. This will be the last event of this sort as the Memorial Now has sufficient funds to begin building the memorial.

Unfortunately at the end of July we lost another member to that big chapter in the sky. Patriot Ortiz, a Korea and Vietnam Vet passed. He did not attend many meetings in the past few years so he was not known to many Patriots. We performed a Purple Heart burial ceremony at the interment at the veterans cemetery and presented his wife with a bible.

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation. What if there were no hypothetical questions?

**Below: Patriot Martinez is sworn in by the commander at the August meeting.**



There was a Viola drive held on 5 August commemorating George Washington's birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds from the fundraiser went to the scholarship fund, \$513.00. The same evening several of our patriots attended a dinner in their honor in New Bern NC. This was the second such dinner put on by the folks of New Bern. Those that attended reported that they had a wonderful time and were treated grandly.

Also during the past two months, routine matters took place such as assisting the Patriot Guard in funeral escorts and returning units coming back from Afghanistan. Also the transportation of our members that are unable to drive themselves to their VA appointments.

Below: Four patriots receive the Meritorious chapter ribbon for services rendered during the Memorial Day ceremony



September and October things pick up a bit. We have a Field Medical Training Bn. Graduation on 13 September. This is one of four a year in which we provide a plaque to the honor grads of both the Corpsmen and the Religious programmer side of the house. We have been doing this for about 8 years now.

The annual POW/MIA ceremony will be held by Rolling Thunder on 19 September at the Vietnam Wall at 1830. The annual Retiree Appreciation day will go on Saturday 30 September at Marston Pavilion. As usual a free fish lunch will be served as well as several veterans and health displays. We will share a table again with the Corpsmen Memorial. Come out and lend a hand or just browse the exhibits.

October, the beginning of our busy season. The Onslow County fair kicks off the first week of October. The Legion gives us a booth (valued at \$250) free for helping them out taking tickets and etc. We will man the booth for the week and need volunteers. The Saturday of the fair, as of right now we have a Department Meeting in Pembroke NC, Chapter 822. This will go at 1100 so we need to leave here at about 0730, according to the map it's about 2 1/2 hours.

There will be a veterans resource day at the Onslow County Complex, 234 Corridor blvd, (new complex). We will participate this year and have a booth and will need volunteers.

Lastly but not least is our Beirut Memorial Ceremony on the day of Infamy 23 October, ceremony starts at 1030.

Of course event will pop up that I do not have listed, such is life.

## **Miami VA Treating PTSD With VR Combined With traditional Treatments.**

**WASHINGTON**—Mental health providers at Miami’s VA Healthcare System are putting VR headsets onto some of their veteran patients in attempt to help them deal with post-traumatic stress disorder. This VR treatment option is combined with traditional treatments, like prolonged exposure therapy, to try and help vets change how they perceive and respond to the symptoms of PTSD.

Prolonged exposure therapy attempts to gradually expose patients to events they avoid because of trauma with providers controlling the stimuli. With VR technology, the providers are able to control the virtual landscape, sounds and smells.

Patients that participate in the VR sessions are given a headset with video goggles, a plastic M-4 rifle, a remote to control a virtual Humvee and a chair. Patients then describe their experiences while the providers try to simulate elements of what the veterans are describing. The patients describe their feelings while recounting their memories. Sessions can run between 30 and 60 minutes. A post session allows the patients to describe what they felt during the VR session.

“By using a recovery model approach, prolonged exposure therapy and virtual reality, most of our patients who complete this treatment don’t experience the same level of stress and intensity when faced with painful memories,” said Dr. Pamela Slone-Fama, Miami VA post-traumatic stress clinical team staff psychologist.

## **Pentagon expands policy to upgrade Vets’ bad paper discharges.**

**WASHINGTON** — The Defense Department on Monday issued a sweeping policy change to afford more leeway to veterans seeking upgrades to their other-than-honorable discharges.

**A memorandum dated Aug. 25** instructs the Army Review Boards Agency — the office charged with changing military records — to give “liberal consideration” to veterans looking to upgrade their less-than-honorable discharges, or “bad paper,” because of mental health conditions or traumatic brain injury, sexual assault or sexual harassment and outlines what should be considered when deciding an upgrade.

In 2014, former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel had ordered the Army Review Boards Agency to give consideration to veterans looking to upgrade their less-than-honorable discharges because of post-traumatic stress disorder. The new memo expands on Hagel’s order after years of veterans asking for government recognition that troops are, in some instances, affected by service-related mental health conditions that change their behaviors and lead to disciplinary problems.

“This new guidance is something that veteran advocates should be really excited about – it’s what we’ve been asking for from the Pentagon for years,” said Kristofer Goldsmith, an Iraq War veteran who has fought for 10 years to change upgrade procedures. “This memo is filled with signals that there may yet be hope for the thousands of veterans who have been unfairly suffering the effects of bad paper.”

After Hagel issued his memo three years ago, observers said the guidance was applied differently based on military branch, and veterans' applications for upgrades grew into a backlog of cases. Goldsmith, who has tried to have his less-than-honorable discharge upgraded multiple times, said the Hagel memo mostly benefited Vietnam War-era veterans. And some service members with PTSD were still being discharged with bad paper.

The Government Accountability Office released a report in May stating more than 57,000 service members suffering from PTSD, TBI or adjustment, anxiety, bipolar and substance abuse disorders were separated from the military for misconduct from 2011 through 2015. Researchers found the Defense Department didn't consistently apply its policy to take into consideration that a service-related medical disorder could lead to misconduct.

Most of the service members were given a "general" discharge, making them ineligible for some services through the Department of Veterans Affairs. But more than 13,000 were given the more stringent "other-than-honorable" discharge, which disqualifies them from receiving any VA health care, as well as education benefits, preferential hiring and tax breaks.

The new memo, released late Monday, was sent to military secretaries and signed by Anthony M. Kurta, a retired Navy rear admiral who is performing the duties of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

[Is-david-shulkin-trumps-most-popular-cabinet-member/](#)

David Shulkin is winning plaudits from across the aisle for his work remaking the Veterans Affairs administration and revamping healthcare for former soldiers.

"What motivates me and what motivates Dr. Shulkin is the same, to provide the best care to veterans," Tennessee Republican representative Phil Roe [told Politico](#). "I don't know whether he's a Republican or Democrat, and I could care less."

Shulkin, who was appointed as VA secretary, after having served as undersecretary under President Obama, has been mum about his partisan affiliations. But he has been aggressive in remaking the agency since his taking office in February.

That agenda has included publishing wait-times at vets' clinics, pushing for legislation to fire staff he considers substandard and implementing telemedicine and remote diagnosis systems to help vets in far-off areas access care.

Shulkin is different from most who have held his Cabinet position - the Jewish bureaucrat has a work history as a doctor, not a politician.

**Note: The chapter is raffling off a 3x5 Purple Heart flag and a Purple Heart Clock. This began at the last meeting and will continue at least thru this coming meeting. 1 for \$2 or 3 for \$5.**

### From the Commander

This newsletter comes at a time when hundreds of thousands of our Texas and Louisiana fellow citizens are

experiencing horrendous hardships! Those of you who live in or near areas that occasionally experience weather related events can certainly sympathize with what they're going through. The National MOPH has asked all Departments and Chapters that are able to send donations to MOPH HQ and they in turn will forward the funds to the Department of Texas to help our fellow Purple Heart Patriots who may be affected by this storm. Chapter 642 will send \$1000.00 to help with this effort. Our treasury is sufficient to handle this and is in keeping with the objects of the Order. I ask that ALL of you keep the citizens affected by this storm in your prayers.....especially any of our members that are located in the affected areas.

**Semper Fi, Grant**

**From the Adjutant/Editor**

Patriots, that time again. I don't have a whole lot to say. The chapter is moving along quite smoothly. Meeting attendance could improve it would be nice to see the 30's and 40's come back again. Some of us have been quite busy with burial and returning unit escorts. This is a pleasure to do so, one particular escort was Sgt Murray, one of the Marines killed in the C-130 crash. We escorted him from the BP station at I-40 back to Jones Funeral home. From Richlands back into Jacksonville the highway was lined with people waving American flags. It choked me up a couple of times. Lately we have escorted units of 3/8 and 10<sup>th</sup> Marines back.

As you can see we have added a couple to our numbers. One new member and a spouse as an associate member.

We will start to get busy come October. We help the American Legion at the fair the first week of October. In Turn, they give us a booth free for the week. We will need volunteers for that week. I will send the volunteer signup sheet via e-mail as I usually do. You can sign up and shoot the roster back to me.

**Semper Fi, John**

**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. 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.

Why do they lock gas station bath rooms? Are they afraid that someone will clean them?
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If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him that he has the right to remain silent?
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