



All gave some, some gave all

Chapter Officers

Commander: Joe Houle
Sen. Vice: Verl Matthews
Jun Vice: Donald Clinger
Adjutant: John Cooney
Finance: George Reiter
Comm.: Robert Mathews
Alt Comm: Joe Roe
Trust 3 yr: Bill St John
Trust 2 yr: John Holmes
Trust 1 yr: Grant Beck
Service Off: James Foyil
Chaplain: Donald Clinger
Sgt at Arms: Bob Powell

Meeting second Tuesday of the month
at 1900, Military Relocator Realty
building, 1923 Lejeune Blvd.
Jacksonville NC 28540



Official chapter website: www.ncmoph.org

E-mail: purpleheart642@ec.rr.com

Beirut Memorial Chapter #642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 6/08

November/December 2008

Chapter membership statistics as of 10/01/08.

Lifetime members: 232

Annual members: 19

Associate Members: 2

Total Membership: 253

Help us save postage, send me
your e-mail address.

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

Marine for Life- Injured Support

Website: Go to www.ncmoph.org (click on Injured Support),
Telephone: 866 435-7645 (M-F 0800-1700 EST) Also 24 hour Injured
Support hotline 888 774-1361

Welcome New Patriots

We want to welcome the new patriots who have joined us since the last newsletter. The following patriot converted from annual to life: Noble. The following patriots joined for life: Ferguson, Brooks, Hammond and Novell. We Welcome aboard all of you, please come out and participate in our meetings and activities, you are now part of the combat wounded brotherhood. As you can see by the total membership dropping, we have lost more of the free one year members. We have only 19 more to lose and then we will be all lifetime members which is the goal, as cheap as life membership is now, there's no sense to being an annual member. There are no more free year memberships offered.

"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"

**CAN'T READ THIS? 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

No Meeting in November due to Veteran's Day holiday falling on meeting day

1. November –Veterans day parade at 1000, veteran's expo at the mall at 1300, Flag burning ceremony at the Air Station at 1600. (See details below in chapter happenings)

8 November –Americanism class to 150 Boy/Cub scouts at the Sneads Ferry shrimp festival grounds at 0900

10 November – Happy birthday Marines, OOORAH

11 November – **No Meeting** --Veteran's Day ceremony at the DAV at 1100, Americanism class to the Jacksonville Kiwanis club at 1200 at the Golden Corral on Highway 17.

15 November – NC Quarterly Department meeting in Raleigh at the VFW at 1030, Doug's Car Care sponsoring a fundraiser for the chapter on Bell Fork Rd.

17 November – Military Appreciation day at the Golden Corral Restaurants from 1700 to 2100.

19 November – CMF meeting at new meeting place at 1923 Lejeune Blvd.

21 November – Set up for Festival of Trees at the American Legion at 1300, Festival runs through 24th when we tear down and move the trees to the MCX.

27 November – Happy Thanksgiving, be thankful

5 December – Fish/ Burger Fry for the Museum of the Marine and the CMF at the Brynn Marr Shopping center from 1000 – 1400.

9 December –**Purple Heart chapter meeting at 1900 at the new location, 1923 Lejeune Blvd, the old Iron Works Bar.**

12 December –NC Department officials here to sign checks for members of the Wounded Warriors barracks Christmas eave Program. (Time TBA)

25 December – **Merry Christmas**



This is our chapter van – the 1996 Dodge van is equipped with a wheelchair lift and can seat 7 including the wheelchair.

The van will only be used for Chapter 642 members and their families who are wheelchair 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.

If you need the van, call the commander at 545-9995 or the Adj. at 455-1353. You can either drive yourself or we will provide a driver. We do expect the gas tank to be filled just like when you got it, if you can afford it.

Chapter Happenings

September/October – This was the beginning of our busy season and continues until after the first of next year. On 13 September the Corpsmen Memorial Foundation, (CMF) along with the DAV hosted an event at Flatwoods Outfitters in Hubert. This was the first major fundraiser for the CMF. The chapter is very much involved in the CMF, it was chapter members that spearheaded the formation of the Foundation. The chapter had several patriots and LAMOPH helping out with the event which took in \$4260.00 for the CMF

The annual Onslow county fair was on 6 and to 11 October. As always for appreciation for free use of the meeting place we helped out our American Legion brothers.

Several patriots cooked for the return of 1/6 over the weekend of 18 and 19 October.

There was a great turnout by the chapter for the 25th Anniversary of the Beirut bombing on 23 October. This was a big event, the Commandant, retired General Al Gray just to name a couple were in attendance. We had about 20 patriots and four ladies at the event. After the ceremony Patriot Simmons retired at the site of the monument. Five patriots attended this ceremony. The other patriots had conflicting schedules or

meetings and could not attend. We wish you the best on your retirement.

On 28 October a special meeting was convened to discuss a new meeting place. The meeting was held at the location, 1923 Lejeune Blvd, the old Iron Works bar and gym. This is now owned by Ellis Osceola a retired MGySgt, he owns the Military Relocators Realty which now occupies the building. Commander Houle and Oats, his nickname, are good friends and he has offered the room for our meetings, free of charge. We can use the room at anytime as well as the CMF meeting there. The membership enthusiastically endorsed the change and that will be our meeting place from now on. We will draft a letter to the American Legion thanking them for their generosity in letting us use their room for free and we will still help them out at the annual Onslow County Fair.

Patriot Noel retired on 29 October at the Air Station, several patriots were on hand to send her on her merry retired way.

November/December -- Continues the manic ways. November starts off with a bang, with the 1st being full of activities. To start off, the Veterans day parade will commence at 1000. Let's have a good turnout for this and we will meet at 0800 at Patriot McGee's house. The chapter van and the float will be at his house early so you can look for it on University drive, about three blocks behind the college. No POVs will be allowed in the staging area. Uniform is full Purple Heart gear if you have it. Dress for the weather, last couple of years it has been cold. Later that day at 1300 we are involved in a veteran's expo at the mall. We will have a table to display our brochures and we will be involved in a 15 Minute Americanism presentation on stage. At 1600 at the Air Station the local Boy scouts will conduct a ceremonial flag burning.

Patriot Doc Matt with help will instruct 150 boy/cub scouts for their Americanism patch at 0900 on 8 November in Sneads Ferry at the Shrimp Festival Grounds, he needs help with this.

The Veteran's Day observance 11 November will be held at the DAV at 1100, full uniform for that if you have it. At 1200 we will present an Americanism class to the Jacksonville Kiwanis at the Golden Corral on Hwy 17.

Due to 11 November being our normal meeting day and it also being a Holiday, the meeting was cancelled by vote at the October meeting.

We have two events taking place on 15 November, first the quarterly Department meeting at 1030 at the VFW in Raleigh NC. Secondly, a fundraiser sponsored by Doug's Car Care on Bell Fork Rd. This is a charity Oil change and possibly a car wash with food provided by the Knight Wagon. We need several patriots out for this to mingle with the crowd. We have not been asked to do a thing for this event except have members present. The owner's wife, Marie has done all of the leg work on this and we really appreciate it. Commander Houle, Patriot Clinger and myself will be at the department meeting.

The annual Military appreciation day at the local Golden Corrals takes place on 17 November from 1700 to 2100, active duty, former and retired military are welcome to eat for free, just show ID.

The annual Festival of trees kicks off with set up time at 1300 on 21 November. The festival runs all weekend and we tear down after the children leave on Monday, 24 November. We then move our trees to the Marine Corps Exchange and set up in the same location as last year against the left wall as you enter. Both at the festival of trees and at the exchange we will need patriots to man the table, we will set up a roster much like last year for the exchange and we only man the table weekdays during the lunch period.

Our Chapter and the Marine Corps league will sponsor a Fish/Burger fry on 5 December, with proceeds being split between the Museum of the Marine and the CMF. From 1000 to 1400 we will cook and deliver the food to the local area for \$6.00 a plate.

Monthly meeting on 9 December at 1900, new location, don't forget, it's at 1923 Lejeune blvd.

At this December meeting we will pick a date for our annual trip to the Fayetteville VA Hospital to pass out the coupon books and visit with the veterans.

The NC Department officers will be on hand and we will assist in the writing of Christmas leave checks for the Wounded Warriors barracks on 12 December. National Junior Vice Commander, Jim Sims will be here also.

Have a **very Merry Christmas** and a joyous New Year!!!

Quote: (On September 17, 1994 Alabama's Heather Whitestone was selected as Miss America 1995) She answered this question; if you could live forever, would you and why? "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever." And she won!!!!

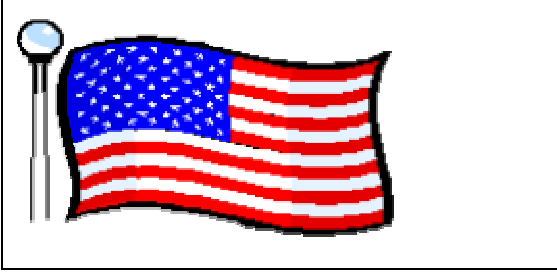
Do you see dirty, frayed, tattered, torn, ripped unserviceable flags such as this one? This one was actually photographed flying over Yankee Stadium. I have seen some like this flying in Jacksonville.



Take Pride in Your Flag Program -.

Since instituting this program in December of 2006, over 175 businesses and residences have been contacted by the veteran community about the condition of their flags. Certificates have been presented to deserving businesses by our chapter, the Marine Corps League, NCOA, DAV and the 2nd Marine Division Assn.

Beginning in February there is a weekly column in the Daily News dedicated to our Flag program.



A veteran - whether active duty, retired, national guard or reserve - is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to and including my life."

That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand that.

Author unknown.

Changes to Retiree ID Renewal Rules

Homeland Security Directive 12 now requires retirees and family members seeking to renew or replace a military identification card to provide two types of ID, one of which must include a photo. A list of acceptable documents can be found in PDF format on page No. 4 of the [Form I-9](#). Before visiting a military ID card issuing facility, you may want to call first to determine what specific documents may be required, and to verify the process to renew or replace an ID card. For contact information and the location of the nearest ID card issuing facility, visit the [RAPIDS Site Locator](#). On this website, you can search by city, state or ZIP code.

Quote: "Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground incapable of understanding or doing anything about it." Author unknown

Since no one seems to be interested in using this space for a comment or a letter, I will step forward and use it.

I mentioned the Ladies Auxiliary under the Adjutants report and not wanting to make that section too long I decided to write about them here.

First of all we have 23 members in our Auxiliary, 22 life members and 1 annual member.

They have been part of the chapter for about a year and a half now, getting their charter in May of 2006. Since that time they have assailed themselves as a real asset to our chapter. They help out in all events and have taken on special projects that we are too busy to handle.

A couple come to mind; they took charge of the 3/6 event when members of 3/6 lost everything in a fire in Iraq. They sent numerous packages of clothing items to the troops and this became a worldwide endeavor.

Recently, Bill Ebersbach the commander of the Wilmington PH Chapter, 636 sent out an SOS referencing a wounded warrior who is awaiting his 100% status but is only receiving 20%. The Army warrior is married with three children. I forwarded the e-mail to the ladies and Wa La, they were on it. Pat Nichols, VP for the ladies and Daughter Jennifer, Secretary made arrangement to go to Shallotte, south of Wilmington on a fact finding mission with the Wilmington Commander. They returned with a report, that indeed the young warrior was in need of help. At the last meeting, the chapter collected over \$800.00 and several bags of canned goods that were delivered to the family. Also Patriot Foyil, our service officer took the young soldier's name and is looking into speeding up the process of getting him his 100% disability.

This is just part of what the ladies are doing. They will be very visible at the upcoming festival of Trees and at the exchange when the trees are moved.

Patriots, Give this newsletter to your female loved one and let them see what these great ladies are doing. They just might want to become part of this unit 642. Thank you LAMOPH unit 642 for what you all have done and are doing for us.

Semper Fi, John

Letter to the editor **Our ladies Auxiliary**



Above; Ladies Auxiliary President, Paula Lott after being presented a fist full of dollars for the Wounded Warrior in need.

EDITORS NOTE: *This space is available for any patriot or patriette to write about anything of interest to the chapter, to date, one patriot besides me has taken advantage of this.*

2009 COLA, 5.8% INCREASE for Military and Federal Civilian Retirees, Disabled Veterans and Survivors, and Social Security Recipients. The December 1, 2008 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) will represent a 5.8 percent increase and be payable in January 2009. This increase represents the largest COLA provided since 1982. Veterans were concerned when Congress sent to the President the 2009 COLA proposal in September 2008 which had a placeholder marker for the COLA rate arbitrarily set at 2.3 percent increase knowing the Public Law would be corrected at a later date when the rate was formerly set.

The COLA rate was formally set at 5.8 percent today. The COLA Rate for the above groups will be significantly higher than the 3.9 percent authorized for the Military Pay Raise signed into Law this week by the President. The two increases are based on different formulas.

NC State passes Property Tax exemption for 100% disabled

North Carolina has passed a \$45,000 property tax exemption for those veterans that are rated 100% disabled. There is some confusion as to whether a 100% IU will be eligible. Consensus has it that now the way it reads, they will not be. There will be clarification coming from Raleigh on that in the near future.

Note: We will attempt to get an employee from the County tax office at our December meeting to talk about this.

In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have the "Rule of Thumb." Sorry ladies, just a joke



Officers and Committee reports

From your Commander

Patriots, as most of you know I am very busy with my many activities and duties. It is hard for me to make many of the functions but we are well represented with a capable board of officers and you the membership. I can't begin to thank you for your contribution in all of the events that we have participated in. This young soldier down below Wilmington doesn't realize the backing that he has from our chapter and I thank you for that. We are a busy chapter, busier than most veteran's organizations and we do it well. Semper Fi, Joe

From Your Senior Vice Commander/ Americanism

In September, when we gave our Americanism talk to the sixth graders, we were kind of apprehensive. Usually we gear our talks to the 3rd through 5th graders, which means that this talk was a little more mature. There was going to be about twice as many students with 280 compared with the usual 100 through 150. All of my fellow patriots who were going to assist me were first timers in other words had never done this before, I didn't worry about that so much because Joe, Grant and Ski, were professionals. Everything went smoothly with us doing our flag presentation and flag folding on the auditorium stage, using select members from the audience. The class was well behaved, and actually stood up and gave us an ovation before they left. The three "rookies" actually felt good and are

willing to help with another class.

The next two months are going to be busy for all of us. After the parade on the 1st of November, we are setting up two tables in the mall, for the MOPH and the Corpsmen Memorial, plus we will be giving our Americanism class on stage. On the 7th I will be talking to about 15 four year olds about the flag. On the 8th we will be going to Sneads Ferry, and talking Americanism to about 150 cub scouts, to get them their Citizenship badges. It looks like we will be giving a class to grade schoolers on the 10th of November, I have not been able to get the confirmed details from the teacher yet, as I just found about it yesterday. On the 11th we will be talking to about 30 Kiwanis, demonstrating what our class is about at the Golden Corral on Highway 17, I figure that this groups can help us get into more classrooms. On the 24th at the Festival of the Trees, we will be talking to the children as they look at our Memorial trees, about the sacrifice that Veterans have gone through over the past two hundred years

We are going to beat our total of 3,000 kids that we talked to last year. What we really need is to get into the Base Schools, and our talk with the Young Marines in Swansboro went well last summer. Patriot Jenkins was instrumental in us giving our talks to the Summer Camp. If anyone has any dealing with any kids anywhere we are willing to go anywhere. Thanks for all that you do to make this program a success. It has really been a pleasure working and dealing with all of you these past several years. Semper Fi, Doc Matt.

From Your Junior Vice (Membership)

Our chapter has been doing very well in the membership department, handing out applications whenever and wherever possible. We have welcomed some new members that will be sworn in at the next meeting. Keep up the good work!

Don Clinger
JVC

From your Adjutant/Editor

Patriots, we are smack in the middle of our busy season. So far it has been handled exquisitely, with great participation.

Let me wish all of you and your loved ones a Happy Thanksgiving and a hallowed and Merry Christmas. Let us stop and give thanks for our freedom to celebrate these wonderful holidays. Let's say a prayer for our troops in harms way who cannot be home with their loved ones on these Holidays.

As a chapter, we just keep having good things happen to us. I think that we are being rewarded for what we do within the community and for the veterans. Recently, we approved a new meeting place. This location has endless possibilities, it is a beautiful location, it is roomy, big enough to hold a chapter dinner if we desire. And foremost, it is as close as we will get to having our own meeting room. The owner has said that we can fix it up any way that we see fit, the commander is going to bring some of the items from the Museum to decorate the walls. We have one wall dedicated to our wall of fame, bigger than the one at the legion.

When Joe and I looked at the room we were immediately enthused with the possibilities, this is going to be a big plus for the chapter.

We have increased our presence at community events, previously we would have 6 to 8 patriots attend. At the most recent Beirut Commemoration we had upwards of 20 patriots and 4 Ladies attend. This sends all kinds of positive messages to those who see us there in numbers. People made several positive comments to me after the Beirut event. Another example was cooking for 1/6, they all know who we are and that chapter 642 cooked for them.

I cannot begin to show appreciation for the Ladies Auxiliary, they have and continue to step up to the plate and help out the chapter. We work well together and it's always a pleasure to have the ladies attend the events and by the way, they are welcome at any and all of our events.

Like I always say patriots, this is your chapter and without you we would have no chapter. You all are doing a great job, keep on trucking.

Semper Fi, John

From your Chaplain

Seeing as how this newsletter will cover Thanksgiving and Christmas, I thought the following would be appropriate. Although things are not perfect because of trials and pain, continue in thanksgiving, do not begin to blame. Expect things to be hard

sometimes, fierce winds are bound to blow-
 God is forever able: Hold on! Do not let go!
 Imagine life without Him, Joy would cease to
 be; keep thanking Him for all His Love
 imparts to thee. Move out of "Camp
 Complaining", nor ever visit there; one day
 Earth will be singing praise everyone can
 share! Quit wasting hours in dreaming,
 redeem the time at hand; Start every day
 with worship, to "thank" is a command. Until
 we see Him coming victorious in the sky,
 we'll run the race with gratitude exalting God
 Most High!

Don Clinger
 Chaplain

**From your Public Relations
 Director**

Keep up the fine work patriots and don't
 forget to document whatever we do as a
 chapter. It's all PR and needs to be noted.
 Semper Fi, Grant

**From our supply
 department and Chairman
 Patriot Tim Shea**

Patriots, we have these items on hand
 in order to raise money for the
 chapter. At each meeting we request
 that a patriot take a bag of puppies
 (12) and sell them. Puppy sales went
 pretty good at the Fair but we need to
 continue trying to sell them.
 Semper Fi, Tim

Car Magnets

New item for a donation of \$3.00



**Collectors belt buckles for
 \$20.00**



**Adorable Purple Heart Puppies
 \$3.00**



- Polo Shirts --- \$20.00**
- T-Shirts ----- \$15.00**
- Tote Bags ----- \$10.00**

Ladies Auxiliary Unit

642



Unit 642 Officers	
Position	name
President	Paula Lott
Sen Vice pres	Pat Nichols
Treasurer	Sharon Howell
Parliamentarian	Pat Nichols
Secretary	Jennifer Harmon
Sgt at Arms	Barbara Minehart
1 yr trustee/	Barbara Mc Gee
2 year trustee	Barbara Minehart
3 year trustee	Wanda Matthews
Chaplain	Jean Blick
Historian	Alice Houle
Patriotic Instructor	Kyoko Hare

Lifetime Members: 22
Annual members: 1
Total Membership: 23

From the President

We had a great success at the County Fair. We could not have done it without everyone pitching in! Also, the men were there to support us thru the six (6) days. We could not have done it without them!

The Festival of Trees is early this year and the old "remember when" stories with the men during setting up is absolutely something to behold. Please come and experience for yourself. Remember, no regular meeting in November. Next meeting is December 9th. I wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

Paula

From the Vice President

Our 3/6 project was a great success. We mailed our 15 packages from donations I received, and through word of mouth about their need the Unit receiving over 80 Packages. Military folks are the BEST!!!!

The present project is the McCoy family in Wilmington, NC. For those of you who are not aware of them, JR is a combat Iraqi vet. They live with Carla's 65 yr old father (on SS) and three children. He has been diagnosed with PTSD: traumatic brain injury and had a testicle amputated. His disability claim is still not settled. So there is no money coming in, food stamps are only \$300. On 2 separate occasions, Jennifer & I have taken food to them. Donations were from Jennifer's business group and the Chapter & Unit. The family is so appreciative. Because of donations from the Knight Wagon and Purple Heart members, there is money to help pay their utility bills for November. The Chapter in Wilmington has been helping also. Purple Hearters' have the biggest hearts in the world. I am so glad to be a part of this Unit & Chapter.

Our 2nd Yard Sale was rained out!!! However all was not lost. Alice Reiter called a thrift shop to come & take all the items and she managed to get them to give her \$20.00!!! Way to go Alice!!!

Pat

