



All gave some, some gave all

Chapter Officers

Commander: Joe Houle
Sen. Vice: Verl Matthews
Jun Vice: Jamie Roberto
Adjutant: John Cooney
Finance: George Reiter
Dep Comm.: Robert Mathews
Alt Dep 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, American legion Building, 146
Broadhurst, Rd
Jacksonville NC 28540



Official chapter website: www.ncmoph.org

E-mail: purpleheart642@ec.rr.com

Beirut Memorial Chapter #642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 5/08

September/October 2008

Chapter membership statistics as of 08/01/08.

Lifetime members: 227

Annual members: 49

Associate Members: 2

Total Membership: 278

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 patriots converted from annual to life: Bowling, Boyd, Shaw and Turner. The following patriots joined for life: Aldred, Baronie, Bowen, Boyea, Clark, Gizzerelli, Ingerman, Mendoza, Montalvo, Owens, Ownbey, Pritchard, Rodriguez, Spence and Stoy. 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. The following members transferred out to Membership at Large: Hedgcorth and Barnes

"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

1 September – Labor Day, be safe

6 September – Retiree Appreciation Day at Marston Pavilion, Guest speakers at 0900 with expo to follow.

9 September – Monthly PH meeting at 1900 at the American Legion.

13 September – CMF event at Flatwoods Outfitters, see chapter happenings for details.

17 September -- Corpsmen Memorial Foundation meeting at Valencia Park Offices at 1900.

6 -11 October – Onslow County Fair at the American Legion Fairgrounds, more in chapter happenings.

13 October – Columbus Day, be safe

14 October -- Monthly PH meeting at 1900 at the American Legion.

15 October – Corpsmen Memorial Foundation meeting at Valencia Park Offices at 1900.

18 October – Ladies LAMOPH yard sale at the Piney Green VFW at 0700.

23 October – Beirut Memorial Ceremony, 25th anniversary of bombing at 1100.



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

At the August meeting the van usage was clarified and made official. In the minutes of the meeting the following

motion was passed: 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.

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

July/August – We continued to march, with the routine slowing down in August. July saw six more Americanism classes presented to the Onslow County summer camp Program.

On 16 August, 5 Chapter members made the trip in our van to Hillsborough NC for a funeral of another Purple Heart Icon. Patriot Al Meyer passed on, he was 2 days shy of 88 years old. Al was a former WWII, POW. He served in the Army Air Corps and was shot down over Germany. Al was the National POW/MIA coordinator and the NC Department Americanism Officer. Al will be missed by those of us who knew him. RIP Brother!!

There was a NC Department quarterly meeting on 23 August in Raleigh. This meeting entailed the information from the National convention held earlier in the month, which will be covered later in the newsletter.



Photo of Lee Barrows and Kevin Herndon of the Jacksonville US Postal Service at the July meeting presenting a framed 42 cent Purple Heart stamp to Cmdr Houle for the Chapter in appreciation for what we do for the community.

September/October – This is the beginning of our busy season and will continue until after the first of next year. September 6 is a busy day with the Retiree Appreciation Day at Marston Pavilion. There will not be a breakfast this year as there was not enough interest shown. The day will begin with guest speakers at 0900 and an expo to follow. We will have a table at the expo to hand

out literature and peddle our wares. We need a couple patriots to sit at the table and talk to folks. Several of us will be cooking the free lunch that will take place from 1130 to 1230, we could also use help cooking. If you can't help out, come on out and visit and say hello, some of you we haven't seen your smiling faces in a long while. The event will end at 1400. Also on that day the wives and friends of 1/6 will hold a walkathon at the Jacksonville High school track. Some 8200 miles will be walked to simulate the distance from Camp Lejeune to Afghanistan. They need lap counters and registration helpers, the proceeds will go for the 1/6 Marine Corps Ball. This event will go from 1000 to 1900 and even if you participate in the Retiree Appreciation Day, you can go over and help 1/6 afterwards.

Our meeting goes on 9 September, bring a prospect and sign him/her up.

On 13 September the Corpsmen Memorial Foundation, (CMF) along with the DAV is hosting an event at Flatwoods Outfitters in Hubert. This is the first major fundraiser for the CMF. The chapter is very much involved in this CMF, it was chapter members that spearheaded the formation of the Foundation. There will be a Poker run commencing at the Harley dealership at 1000 and ending at Flatwoods where there will be entertainment, a pig picken, shot gun raffle, other raffles, a live DJ broadcast and the Hooter girls. This will kick off at high noon, we will need help at both the Harley dealer and Flatwoods.

The annual Onslow county fair kicks off on 6 and goes to 11 October. As always for appreciation for free use of the meeting place we help out our American Legion brothers. Put these dates on your calendar and plan to come out a night or two and help.

PH Meeting 14 October, bring out that prospect, we never stop recruiting.

23 October is the 25th Anniversary of the Beirut bombing. This is going to be a big event, the Commandant, retired General

Al Gray just to name a couple will be in attendance. Plan on making this high profile event.

Quote: "The purpose of fighting is to win. There is no possible victory in defense. The sword is more important than the shield and skill is more important than either. The final weapon is the brain, all else is supplemental."
Author unknown

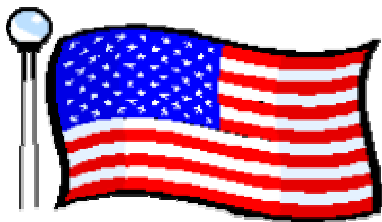
Do you see dirty, frayed, tattered, torn, ripped unserviceable flags such as this one? This one was actually photographed flying over Yankee Stadium. I have seen some like this flying in Jacksonville.



Take Pride in Your Flag Program –.

Since instituting this program in December of 2006, over 150 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 was to be a weekly column in the Daily News dedicated to our Flag program. Lately we have had problems getting the article published, hopefully the problem will be corrected in the near future.



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.

Quote: "Smoking Kills, If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life." Brooke Shields – during an interview to become spokesperson for a federal anti-smoking campaign.

Letter to the editor

This space dedicated to a prospective well deserving letter of interest to all members of this chapter, to date, there have been two letters submitted. Some Patriot out there knows something of interest to us all.

Thanks, your editor



Starting 1 October, 2008, North Carolina vehicle safety inspections will go electronic. This means that windshield inspection stickers will no longer be issued on or after 1 October. After that date the vehicle's inspection will be due the same month as the vehicle's registration renewal as shown on your license plate sticker.

Beginning 1 October, vehicles will be required to pass a vehicle inspection prior to registration renewal by the NCDMV.

In addition to showing the date your vehicle registration is due, your vehicle renewal card will show that you vehicle inspection is due that same month.

You must have a current vehicle inspection prior to renewing your annual vehicle registration. You may have your vehicle inspected up to 90 days prior to your annual vehicle registration date, but it must be inspected no later than the last day of the month your vehicle registration expires or your registration will be blocked.

Depending upon the date of you current inspection sticker, your next vehicle inspection may be greater that 12 months from your last

inspection date. No vehicle will have to be inspected more than once in a 12 month period. New NC residents must obtain an inspection prior to registering their vehicle in the state.

From the National Convention

The National convention was held in Las Vegas the second week of August. Our new National Commander is Jeff Roy, SVC Jim Simms and JVC Clayton Jones. As most of you know this has been a troublesome year for the Order, primarily due to the outgoing Commander, Henry Cook. The new National commander wants cooperation to be at the forefront in all dealings with the Order and the Foundation. He is trying to start with a clean slate and forget the problems created in the past year.

The \$50.00 life membership is to continued until 30 June 09 and there is word that at the next convention they want to make it permanent. Other than the election of new officers and the extension of the \$50.00 membership nothing more of interest to us was passed.

No better friend, no worse enemy

"You need to look at everybody here as if they're trying to kill you, but you can't treat them that way. Be polite, be professional, but have a plan to kill everyone you meet." MGEN J. Mattis

From the NC Quarterly Meeting 23 August

This was a very productive meeting, the Department of NC presently stands at 1189 members.

Due to past joint conventions with SC not being up to our high NC standards and a couple of other issues it was decided that we will opt out of the joint convention routine as of this meeting and conduct our own annual convention. Wilmington volunteered to host the 2009 convention. I offered any assistance needed to the Commander, Bill Ebersbach.

As stated above the \$50.00 life membership has been extended until 30 June 09, the department also has

extended the \$25.00 matching amount until the same time period, this also applies to the Ladies.

Since the department has been reimbursing the chapters the \$25.00 for the life memberships, the department coffers have been taking a hit and soon will be in need of money. Also since the Department does not conduct fundraisers it was decided that the department would auction off a Motorcycle. Patriot Casti will buy said motorcycle and keep it on hand to show at various fundraisers. Tickets will be printed and given to the Chapters for sale –in order for this to be profitable the chapters will need to get behind it.

Since Patriot Al Meyer, our department Americanism officer has passed on, Patriot Joe Idol volunteered for the position.

The Department Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave fund will kick off on 15 October. This is the fund that sends our Wounded Warriors from Lejeune and Bragg home for Christmas leave. Any donations make the check out to the wounded warrior leave fund and get it to me and I will pass it on to Patriot Casti.

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.

FROM a DOC's POINT OF VIEW

As a Corpsmen in green and not Navy blue,
I offer this poem from a Doc's point of view.
We've been honored by stories, poems and such
By Marines we have served with and respected so much.

They speak of our honor, bravery and skill,
And the cry, "Corpsman Up!" still gives me a chill.
When a Marine goes down, what will it be?
A Trache? Tie off bleeders? Start an IV?

Only one thing is certain as we rush to the scene,
Our ass will be covered by our brothers in green.
You see we're adopted, "Sons of the Corps."
No more "Anchors away" – "Semper Fi"
evermore!

It's true when you're wounded, your life's in our
hands,
And we'll treat and protect you to the very last
man.
For you are our point man, our cover, our shield,
And we count on your skills all our days in the
field.

Many a grunt laid his life on the line
To make sure Doc got to the wounded in time.
So, my brothers, I thank you, as all Docs should.
It's YOU who make us Corpsmen look good!

Semper Fi, Doc Hutch



Officers and Committee reports

From your Commander

**Our commander has been on the road
almost the entire month of August – no
report**

From Your Senior Vice Commander/ Americanism

This summer has been busy for the Americanism classes. Again I want to thank Patriot Jenkins for the idea of talking to the summer camps. It was great for Michael Cline, the commanding officer of the Swansboro Young Marines, to schedule the demonstration and the talk. The Onslow County Superintendent has already sent the letters out to the various schools, and with the reputation that we have, according to Mr. Taylor, this school year should be a banner year. The short amount of time that our magnetic board flag has been out, people are talking about it. Next Thursday, I will bring the board to the Board of Education.

These coming months will be busy for the Chapter, as well for Americanism. Please think about helping me and the others in Sneads Ferry on the 8th of November, I have over 150 cub scouts trying to get their citizenship badges. Last year I was by myself, because the Veterans Day

Parade was the same day. This year the parade is the 1st of November, so there is no excuse for not helping out. On the same line, if anyone knows anyone attached to the schools on the base, we would love to give Americanism classes to the schools there.

I am really going to miss Patriot Al Meyer, who was the Department's Americanism Officer. I would send monthly messages to him to tell how our classes are going. At the last Department meeting, Patriot Joe Idol was appointed to replace Al. After the meeting, Joe told me to give him a rundown of what our classes entail, and why the schools are so enthusiastic. He has given one class for his chapter, and was shocked that we have talked to over three thousand students last year, with more coming this year, along with our other talks and demonstrations.

Keep in mind the Festival of the Trees in November, and the fact that the Marine Corps Exchange has allowed us to put the trees in the lobby the Monday before Thanksgiving, so we will need people to man these trees over the lunch hour, or any other time you feel like manning them. We also have the Onslow County Fair that we will be manning the booth in October.

Again I want to thank you all for giving me the privilege of serving you as the Senior Vice Commander, and with that Semper Fi. Doc Matt.

From Your Junior Vice (Membership)

No report

From your Adjutant/Editor

Patriots, as you have read in this newsletter, the Order is back on the road that it should be on. The rocky times of this past year are behind us and the new National Commander wants every patriot to greet the other with a handshake and a smile – we practice that here in our chapter so we are already in compliance. The new SVC, Jim Simms is a good friend of one of our patriots. Patriot Jerry Tuttle from Fuquay Varina NC, my buddy from Nam. By the way Patriots I think that you should know that he and his wife drive all the way here for our monthly meetings and some events, if your geography fails you, Fuquay is over by Raleigh.

Let's talk about recruiting, we have steadily been losing members and it is understandable due to

the patriots with the free year being redeployed or getting out and going home. Our membership went from a high of 338 to our present strength of 278. We are primed to lose some more in the near future but not the huge numbers that we lost the first six months of 08. If you know of a Purple Heart recipient who is not a member, invite them to the meeting and/or one of our many events that are on the horizon. One of our newest members that's welcomed at the beginning of this newsletter, Patriot Stoy, has recruited two new members.

Potential members are all over the area and I am seeing more and more PH license plates running around town, chances are if they are proud enough to get a PH plate then they will join the Order, it's just a matter of timing, getting them to a meeting or event.

Speaking of the PH license plate, I have had some calls recently asking how to get the plate. You simply take your Purple Heart certificate or your PH membership card to the License branch and they will take care of it. The cost is no more than a regular license plate. It is considered a specialized plate but they give us a break due to receiving the Purple Heart. NC Doesn't give us veterans much but this is one benefit.

We have a lot on our plates in the upcoming months and we would like to see some of you who haven't been out lately to a meeting or an event. Come on out let us know how you are doing and for God's sake have someone notify us if you take ill. We just found out at the last meeting that one of our hard corps warriors suffered a heart attack three weeks prior to the meeting. Instruct someone to call any other chapter member and let them know and they will get the word to us.

In closing as I always say – this is your chapter and it's only as good as you make it, if it were not for you we would have no chapter. Thanks for all that you do and Semper Fi and God Bless our Troops. John

From your Chaplain

Everyday, all of us are faced with making decisions, some mundane and some that will affect our future. Sometimes, in the "heat of the moment", we make choices that are not in our best interest, and can cost us dearly in the long run. God speaks to us in that little voice we call a conscience. We must listen, lest we pay a hefty price later on in life.

Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

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

Some funny quotes by John Steinbeck

- 1. Don't pick a fight with an old man, he is too old to fight, he will just kill you.**
- 2. An armed man will kill an unarmed man with monotonous regularity.**
- 3. A reporter did a human interest piece on a Texas Ranger. The reporter recognized the Colt Model 1911 the ranger was carrying and asked him. "Why do you carry a 45?" The ranger responded. "because they don't make a 46!"**
- 4. Beware of the man that has only one gun, he probably knows how to use it!**
- 5. The old sheriff was attending an awards dinner when a lady commented on his wearing his sidearm. "Sheriff, I see you have your pistol, are you expecting trouble?" "No Ma'am, if I were expecting trouble I would have brought my rifle."**

**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 the next meeting we request that each patriot take a bag of puppies (12) and sell them. We have sold some puppies lately by mail, 150 to Florida and a dozen here and there. Semper Fi, Tim

**Adorable Purple Heart Puppies
\$3.00**



**Car Magnets
New item for a donation of \$3.00**



**Collectors belt buckles for
\$20.00**



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

Ladies Auxiliary Unit 642



Unit 642 Officers	
Position	<u>name</u>
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

It's been a quiet two months. Mary Carter has rejoined us and is stronger each meeting. Chris Beere, unfortunately, is still under the care of a doctor. We all are wishing her better days.

Kay Cooney is finishing the basket she has donated to the Ladies Auxiliary to auction at the Onslow County Fair and John will bring it to the next meeting. Blessings and thanks to Kay.

Paula

From the Vice President

We are starting our 2nd year and are more focused than ever. Our year is starting with a raffle at the Fair followed in October with another yard sale. Our sign should be in by next meeting so we can show the world who we are at the events we go to.

New membership is always welcomed, so don't forget "behind every Purple Heart is a woman!", sign her up.

As always we hope that our Ladies and Patriots that are under the weather bounce back quickly. You are always thought about.

Pat

P.S. Ladies and Patriots, we are having our second yard sale on 18 October at the Piney Green VFW. We have plenty of items left over from the last one but if you want to contribute something, bring it to a meeting or my house.

Pat

