



All gave some, some gave all

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Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 6

November/December 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 10/31/2017

Lifetime members: 754 Help us save postage, send me
Associate Members: 7 your email address
Total Membership: 761

Semper Keeping You Informed

Direct all praise, comments or gripes to the editor at
910 455-1353, 1006 Oak Dr, Jacksonville NC 28546

Military Order of the Purple Heart Mission Statement

The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among Combat Wounded Veterans, promote Patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families

Welcome New Patriots

We want to welcome the new patriots that have joined us since the last newsletter. Please come out and attend meetings and functions. We have increased our membership by three since the last newsletter. We have three more Associate members that will transfer in from South Carolina.



"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 – Freedom Fountain ceremony at 0900 outside City Hall
 - 4 Nov – Veterans Day parade at CCCC, We will meet at Patriot McGee’s house behind the college at 0800. Purple Heart riders are welcome to ride along with float.*
 - 7 Nov – Americanism Class at Bell Fork School at 1000
 - 9 Nov – Americanism class at Blue Creek Elementary school from 0830 to 0930
 - 9 Nov – Americanism Class at Summersill school at 1000
 - 10 Nov – Happy 242nd Birthday Marines, sometimes I feel that old!**
 - 10 Nov – Veterans Day ceremony at the DAV at 1100 *
 - 11 Nov – Veterans Day – Remember our veterans
 - 14 Nov – Monthly Purple Heart meeting at Military Relocators at 1900
 - 15 Nov – Monthly Corpsmen Memorial meeting at the Military Relocators at 1800
 - 17 Nov – Set up for Festival Of trees at 1400 at the American Legion
 - 18 thru 20 Nov – Man our Fallen Warriors tree at the festival of trees.
 - 20 Nov – Move our fallen Warriors tree to the base exchange at about 1400
 - 21 Nov – Jacksonville Veteran of the year awards at City hall at 1900.*
 - 23 Nov – Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving
 - 7 Dec – Pearl Harbor Ceremony at the American Legion at 1100 *
 - 12 Dec -- Monthly Purple Heart meeting at Military Relocators at 1900
 - 14 Dec – Field Medical Training Bn. Graduation plaque presentation at 0900*
 - 16 Dec – Wreaths across America at the Veterans Cemetery at 1200
 - 20 Dec -- Monthly Corpsmen Memorial meeting at the Military Relocators at 1800
 - 25 Dec – Merry Christmas to all and to all a good New Year
- 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.

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

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

Happenings

September began with the 9/11 ceremony at the Beam in Memorial Gardens. The regular monthly meeting was cancelled due to the threat of Hurricane Irma. At the time of the decision she was forecast to be in our area on meeting day.

The commander and Adjutant presented plaques to the honor grads of the field medical training Bn. corpsman and Religious Programmer's side of the program.

The annual POW/MIA ceremony was attended by several members hosted by the Rolling Thunder Chapter at the Vietnam Wall.

We manned a booth at the Retiree Appreciation day at Marston pavilion.

October started off with the Onslow County Fair at the American Legion. Again a table was manned by members during the weeklong event.

Patriot McGee had open heart surgery at Carolina East Medical Center in New Bern.

The adjutant attended a ceremony at Field Medical Training Bn. for one of if not the oldest member of our chapter. Patriot Fred Mezas, 93 years young and a WWII Corpsman that never attended the field medical training Corpsmen

course was awarded the Field Medical Training Collar device by the CO of Field Medical Training Bn. He was ecstatic over receiving the award and it was a complete surprise.

Patriots Cooney and Treadwell attended the Veteran's Fun day at the Onslow County Complex. There we met a couple at the next table who were associate members in SC and had moved to this area. They have pledged to transfer their membership along with their children's to our chapter. As of this date we have one that has completed this pledge.

The Beirut Memorial Ceremony was attended by several members some of us were out of town for this event.

On 4 November we will assemble at Patriot Mac McGee's house at 408 University drive for the Veterans Day parade. Again this year Patriot Houle is providing us with a WWII stretch Jeep for those that ride and the Purple Heart riders are welcome to ride along with the jeep. We need to meet at 0800 and go to the staging area as one group. Stragglers will need to walk into the area as no POV's are allowed in the staging area. For those late comers, we are in the RED parking lot.

We also have some Americanism classes as listed in the Calendar of events. Please come out and help us talk to these youngsters. They are the future of our country and the way it's going now Patriotism doesn't look promising.

Again we will participate in the Festival of Trees setting up on Friday 17 November. We need to meet at about 1400 and set up our Fallen Warrior Tree. We will have the Rolling Thunder and the Corpsmen Memorial Trees with us. On Monday, after school children's day we will move the tree to the exchange until the New Years.

Of course there is the Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony at the American Legion on 7 December at 1100.

On 14 December there will be another Field Medical Training Bn. graduation at 0900 at Camp Johnson. The annual Wreaths across America will be on Saturday 16 December at 1200 at the veterans cemetery. We have 25 wreaths to place on our departed brother's graves and need help doing this.

Would a fly without wings be called a walk?

VA's suicide prevention hotline expanding to third site

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs officials will open a third call center for the Veterans Crisis Line in Kansas in coming weeks, a move that's expected to add about 100 new personnel to the emergency response service.

The new office will be located in Topeka on the campus of VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System. More than 500 staffers currently operate the around-the-clock hotline out of locations in New York and Georgia.

“When it comes to preventing Veteran suicide, we will do everything we can to make it as easy as possible for veterans to reach us,” VA Secretary David Shulkin said in a statement. “The new center in Topeka gives us more feet on the ground and an easier way for veterans to connect with us when they need us most.”

Shulkin has repeatedly said suicide prevention is his top clinical priority for the department.

Since its launch in 2007, VA officials said the crisis line has fielded more than 3 million calls and provided emergency intervention for unstable individuals more than 84,000 times. It has also interacted with nearly 440,000 more individuals through chat and text services.

Lawmakers and outside groups have praised the service as an invaluable suicide prevention tool, but its operations have also come under

criticism in recent years for failing to keep up with demands.

Last spring, a VA Inspector General report found that more than one-fourth of calls to the hotline were being redirected to other emergency response services because of shortfalls with the VCL system. Shulkin testified before lawmakers shortly thereafter that the problems had been addressed, and nearly all calls are now being handled in-house.

The Senate's plan for fiscal 2018 VA funding includes a \$10 million boost for crisis line operations. VA statistics show roughly 20 veterans a day nationwide commit suicide. Of those, only six are active users of VA services.

In addition to the new center, scheduled to be opened sometime this fall, VA officials are planning to update phone systems at department centers and outpatient clinics to allow for automatic transfers of calls from distressed veterans to the hotline.

To contact the Veteran Crisis Line, callers can dial 1-800-273-8255 and select option 1 for a VA staffer. Veterans, troops or their families members can also text 838255 or visit VeteransCrisisLine.net for assistance.

Why are hemorrhoids called hemorrhoids instead as asteroids?

Senate approves 2% Veteran's increase

Lawmakers on Wednesday finalized plans to boost next year's veterans benefits by the same cost-of-living increase as Social Security, meaning a 2 percent boost in payouts starting in December.

The move is a routine annual step by lawmakers, but also a critical one. Under current law, annual cost-of-living increases are automatic for Social Security benefits, determined by the executive branch without intervention from Congress. But veterans benefits fall into a different category, one that requires lawmaker to approve a new adjustment every year.

President Donald Trump is expected to sign the latest measure into law in coming days.

The legislation does not affect adjustments for military retirement pay. But those individuals are already included in the Social Security adjustments, meaning they'll also see the 2 percent bump.

In the last few decades, veterans have only seen their annual adjustment differ from the Social Security COLA one time (in 2000, as a result of a minor rounding difference between the two rates.)

But legislative efforts to make the veterans COLA adjustments automatic have been unsuccessful in recent years. Veterans groups have expressed concerns that requiring lawmakers to take legislative action on the issue annually risks jeopardizing needed benefit increases in cases of political infighting.

The House approved the legislation — which covers disability pay, dependents compensation, clothing allowances and other related veterans benefits — back in May.

At the time, bill sponsor Rep. Mike Bost praised the move as helping to repay “a constant debt to the men and women who have fought for our great nation” by ensuring their benefits keep pace with inflation costs.

The 2.0 percent boost is the largest for Social Security recipients and veterans since 2011, and only the second time in nine years it has been at that level or higher.

If you spin an oriental man in a circle three times does he become disoriented?

Veterans Court: 'It was a blessing'

ANDERSON — In 20 years of service with the U.S. Army, Patrick Weber never got into trouble.

But in 2012, after three deployments to Iraq that resulted post-traumatic stress disorder from explosions by improvised explosive devices, the Anderson resident found himself in the Madison County Jail charged with criminal confinement.

That was around the time Madison County Circuit Court 5 established Veterans Court, a program that gives a second chance to those who have served our country and have had run-ins with the law. Weber applied to the program.

“They don’t just let everybody in ... I never served any time, and the charges were dropped when I completed Veterans Court,” he said. “It was a blessing.”

Weber was required to show up for treatment at a Veterans Administration hospital and report his progress to the court every two weeks.

“Being in Veterans Court, he held me accountable. I showed up for court. I showed up for my appointments,” he said. “It’s definitely benefited me. It’s definitely gotten me to where I am today.”

The structure felt familiar, Weber said.

“That’s primarily why I liked Veterans Court. It was kind of like being in the military,” he said.

“For me, that is important because I completed that court,” he said.

Weber continues to attend his weekly PTSD group meetings.

He also is enrolled at Ball State University, where he is one semester away from earning his degree in social work. He hopes to help other veterans.

Eric Dunagan, veterans justice outreach coordinator in Madison, Delaware and Henry counties for the Department of Veterans Affairs, said when the program began, he was taken aback by the number of veterans in need of assistance from the court. Most had served in Iraq and Afghanistan, though a few had served in Vietnam, he said.

“You come back to this country, you’re in a throwaway system,” he said.

Madison Circuit Court 5 Judge Thomas Clem said he helped start the court because veterans deserve a second chance. Madison County’s Veterans Court was one of the first such problem-solving courts in the state, he added.

“Since then, they’ve been growing, and there’s been a push to get them established in all counties,” he said.

Though other problem-solving courts, such as Drug Court and Mental Health Court are under one umbrella, Veterans Court stands alone because it was started at a different time and is provided at no cost to the county, Clem said.

“This program is provided as a benefit that veterans earn,” he said.

About 100 veterans in Madison County have been served by the program.

The court takes a comprehensive approach to helping the veterans. In addition to oversight by the court, Clem said, veterans are given a variety of services, from addiction and mental health counseling to housing and education.

“Housing is a big one. A lot of veterans in this situation are homeless,” he said.

Because it’s relatively new in Indiana, Clem said, recidivism rates have not been tracked. However, court records show that to date, the program has had only one repeat offender.

Court 5 recorder Lisa Stewart helps administer the program for the court. As a mother of two Navy veterans, she said it’s a labor of love.

“I’m seeing men who are having their lives changed, and I don’t just mean from a medical standpoint,” she said. “That’s what I like about it. I like to see people’s lives changed to where they deserve to be.”

Let us know about Veterans Day events

The Herald Bulletin will publish a special section honoring our Veterans on Wednesday, Nov. 8. If your school or group is planning an event to honor veterans, let us know. We will include the event in our listings in the tab.

Email information to Debra Sorrell at deb.sorrell@heraldbulletin.com. Please include a daytime telephone number in case more information is needed.

Note: Onslow County is in the process of establishing one of these courts, funding has

already been approved, should be on line in the near future.

Why do they put braille on the drive through bank ATM?

From the Commander

Those of you that are a little “longer” in the tooth than the majority of our membership are probably starting to look for the warmer clothes now that the colder weather is on the horizon. Getting older is certainly not for the cowardly! Speaking of getting older, and I was, this is a good time to bring up the need for ALL of us to get hot on recruitment of Purple Heart recipients to make sure the Order doesn’t lose it’s important mission of taking care of this nations combat wounded. We’ve been talking about bringing more of our young Purple Heart recipients into the MOPH for quite a while and haven’t seen much of a change during this past year. I’m asking each of you again to find that Purple Heart recipient who is not a member and get him/her to a meeting....second Tuesday of each month at [1900.....1923 Lejeune Blvd](#)....which is the Military Re-locator bldg.. next to Century 21. You active duty folks should be the primary ones to accomplish this mission because you know who, in your units, has a Purple Heart. Let’s get it done Marines! We can still hit the 800 goal by the end of the year.

As most of you know we started selling raffle tickets for a Ford Fusion from Sanders Ford that they’ve graciously donated to be raffled off on 21 December. Some of you still have either tickets and/or money from tickets you’ve sold that need to be turned in to me ASAP. Any tickets we sell, THE CHAPTER keeps the money for our scholarship fund. Bring the money, stubs,

and any unsold tickets to the next meeting on 14 November.

Semper Fi, Grant

How do they get deer to cross the roads only at those yellow crossing signs?

From the Adjutant/Editor

As you can see by the membership numbers we have increased by a few. This is due in part by attending various events that take place throughout the County. Many times nothing else is accomplished but passing out membership apps. and meeting people.

We have another patriot that has joined the Zipper Club (scar from open heart surgery). Patriot Mac McGee has joined the ranks, he is presently at home doing well and will be back on his feet in no time at all.

Our meeting numbers are hanging right around 20, up a little from the 17 or 18 that we were getting. The Commander and I have racked our Brains trying to figure out what is going on. We keep the meetings short under an hour and try to keep them interesting. Come on out and participate. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, give it a try.

We have a couple Americanism Classes coming up around Veterans Day. Patriot Jenkins does a great job with these classes but needs help he can't do it all by himself. Check Calendar of Events to see when and where the classes are and come out and lend a hand.

As always, in closing; this is your chapter and without you there would be no chapter.

Semper Fi, John

Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?

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

The Maquette was picked up by Abbe Godwin and has started work on the memorial. Completion is hopefully sometime next year.



Note:

We have reached our goal and the sculptress has started on the project, it should be up in about a year.

Moments from the past, a bit of Nostalga

Some of the patriots at the presentation of our chapter van by National Dodge



PurPurple Heart riders at a previous Wreaths Across America Ceremony



Patriots at a 9/11 ceremony, look how many are No longer with us.



Fallen warrior tree along with Rolling thunder and Corpsmen Memorial at the exchange



Patriots at a past Onslow county Fair



