



All gave some, some gave all

Chapter Officers

Commander: Grant Beck
Sen. Vice: Joe Houle
Jun Vice: Stan Walker
Adjutant: John Cooney
Finance: Chadd Jackson
Trust 2 yr: Bill Treadwell
Trust 1 yr: Tim Haney
Service Off: Jim Foyil
Chaplain: Bill Stankowski
Sgt at Arms: Charles Troy

**FRATRES AETERNI
(Brothers forever)**

Meeting second Tuesday of the month
at 1900, Military Relocator Realty
building, 1923 Lejeune Blvd.
Jacksonville NC 28546



Official chapter website: www.ncmoph.org

E-mail: phchap642@gmail.com

Beirut Memorial Chapter 642

Serving the Combat Wounded

Volume 5

September/October 2018

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Chapter membership statistics as of 08/30/2018

Lifetime members: 758 Help us save postage, send me
Associate Members 20 your email address
Total Membership: 778

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

- 3 Sep – Labor day, enjoy the day off
 - 11 Sep – Field Medical Training Graduation at 0900, Camp Johnson, Bradley Hall. *
 - 11 Sep – Monthly Meeting at 1900, Military Relocators Bldg
 - 11 Sep – 9/11 Observance, 0800 at the World Trade Center Beam
 - 19 Sep – Corpsmen Memorial Foundation Meeting at 1800 at the meeting hall
 - 21 Sep – POW/MIA observance at 1830 at the Vietnam Memorial Wall
 - 29 Sep – Retiree Appreciation Day at Marston Pavilion, 0900 to 1400
 - 1 Oct thru 6 Oct – Onslow County Fair at the American Legion
 - 9 Oct -- Monthly Meeting at 1900, Military Relocators
 - 17 Oct -- Corpsmen Memorial Foundation Meeting at 1800 at the meeting hall
 - 23 Oct – Beirut Memorial Service at the monument at 1000
- 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.

Chapter Happenings

July was a fairly uneventful month. The meeting attendance began to pick up, back to about 20. We provided the Run for the fallen veterans with Water and Gatorade when we met them at the memorial Gardens. They have ran across the country honoring those that have given all.

August started to increase activity somewhat. We attended the Change of Command for Patriot Capt Hancock, C.O. of Naval medical center.
See pic below



We conducted a Viola fund raiser in front of Lowes Food Store in honor of Purple Heart Day and took in \$310 for scholarship fund before getting rained out.

Pic below – guess who, Doc Matt was inside taking a break from the heat, before the rain hit



At the August meeting, even better attendance (22), we presented two \$1000.00 scholarships to two deserving young adults. Olivia Barone, on right and Jessica Lafferty on left.
See Pic right



The next two upcoming months will be more involved. This is the beginning of our proverbial busy season.

We kick off September with Labor Day the traditional end of summer. September 11 is a jam packed day of events, we have a Field medical Training Bn. Graduation and about the same time the 9//11 observance. We will have to work out who does what and goes where. That evening we have our monthly meeting.

We also have the annual POW/MIA ceremony hosted by the Rolling Thunder chapter 5 at the Vietnam Wall on 21 September. Later in the month we have the annual Retiree Appreciation Day at Marston Pavilion where we man a table and pass out pamphlets and applications. October proves busy as well starting with the Onslow County Fair the first week. In appreciation for us helping the Legion at the gate and the ticket booths they give up a free stall which we man for the week. Later that month we have the Beirut Memorial Ceremony at the memorial site in the gardens.

Weekly, we have members that volunteer at the USO preparing breakfast on Saturday mornings. This keeps the doors of the USO open. At one time the heads in charge of the USO were going to close the

doors on the weekends because the USO was not making money – go figure!

FYI from our Veterans Affairs Officer at Camp Lejeune. For the old farts!

If you are of Medicare age the below may apply to you.

1. If you live in one of the following states\territories, your new Medicare card should have arrived in the mail by now:

Alaska	Maryland
American Samoa	Northern Mariana Islands
California	Oregon
Delaware	Pennsylvania
District of Columbia	Virginia
Guam	West Virginia
Hawaii	

If you live in a state or territory listed above and you have not received your card, call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). A call center representative will help you get your new card. In the meantime, continue to use your current Medicare card to get health care services.

2. New Medicare cards are being mailed to states and territories not listed above. To get an idea of when you may expect to receive your new card, please visit <https://www.medicare.gov/newcard/>. (You can also sign up to be notified by email when your new card is mailed.)

NOTE: New Medicare card mailing in your state or territory takes about a month. So you might get your new Medicare card at a different time than friends or neighbors in your area.

3. Three things to know:

a. Your new card will automatically come to you. You don't need to do anything as long as your address is up to date. If you need to update your address, visit your My Social Security account at <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/>. (If you don't have a My Social Security

account, you can create one at <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/>.)

b. Once you get your new Medicare card, destroy your old Medicare card and start using your new card right away.

c. Your new Medicare Number is a unique combination of numbers and letters. Your new number uses numbers 0 thru 9. The letters S, L, O, I, B, and Z are never used.

NOTE: If you have a MyMedicare.gov account, you can sign in and see when your new card is expected to mail. Don't have a MyMedicare.gov account yet?

It's easy to sign up - just visit <https://www.mymedicare.gov/>. It's a free, secure way for you to access your personal Medicare-related information.

4. Watch out for scams:

a. Medicare will never call you uninvited and ask you to give us personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card.

b. Scam artists may try to get personal information (like your current Medicare Number) by contacting you about your new card.

c. If someone asks you for your information, for money, or threatens to cancel your health benefits if you don't share your personal information, hang up and call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

d. To learn more about the limited situations in which Medicare can call you, please visit

<https://www.medicare.gov/forms-help-and-resources/identity-theft/identity-theft.html>.

5. Learn more about your Medicare card at <https://www.medicare.gov/forms-help-and-resources/your-medicare-card.html>

Note: My wife and I received our card last Friday so if you haven't received yours yet, you should soon.

"The worst thing that happens to you may be the best thing for you if you don't let it get the best of you." — Will Rogers

Trump signs \$717 billion defense policy bill, including military pay raise, into law

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday signed into law a \$717 billion defense policy bill, which authorizes a wave of significant military increases, including service members' biggest pay boost in nearly a decade, higher troop levels and new equipment and weapons for the upcoming fiscal year.

The 2019 National Defense Authorization Act also ushers through a series of new reforms and policy efforts, from revamping the military's "up or out" promotion system to new policies to reign in sexual misconduct and domestic abuse among the ranks.

Trump signed the NDAA, or H.R. 5515, during a visit to Fort Drum in upstate New York on Monday afternoon. However, much work remains to pass companion legislation to pay for the bill's expansive plans with that appropriations legislation stalled on Capitol Hill.

"After years of devastating cuts, we are rebuilding our military like we never have before," Trump said after an introduction by Vice President Mike Pence at the base that houses the Army's 10th Mountain Division. "Our bases and vital equipment were allowed to fall into a state of disrepair, ...but those days are over."

Trump's signature marks the first on-time passage of the NDAA in 22 years with the start of the 2019 fiscal year on Oct. 1. With a two-year spending deal that lifted federal budget caps, midterm elections in the fall and a more experienced White House administration, lawmakers were eager to pass the measure earlier than in recent years. For example, they reached a deal earlier this year to break imposed budget caps to increase defense spending limits to more than \$700 billion for 2019. The move helped speed up negotiations for this year's NDAA.

"I appreciate President Trump's commitment to strengthening our military, as evidenced by his signing this bill," said Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. "This action, and the large votes in both the House and Senate, confirm that overwhelming majorities of both parties can work together on behalf of the men and women who serve our nation in the Armed Forces and their families."

"When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading".

Paul Horning

VA revises service dog policy

The Department of Veterans Affairs [is revising its regulation](#) regarding the presence of animals on VA property.

Previous VA regulation authorized the presence of seeing-eye dogs on VA property and other animals at the discretion of a VA facility head. [The updated regulation](#) will ensure VA practices remain consistent with applicable federal law. It will also assist those entering and working at VA facilities in developing a clear and consistent understanding of the criteria governing facility access for service animals.

Under the updated regulation, service dogs are allowed on VA owned or leased property. Only dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability are considered service animals. There are no restrictions on the breeds of dogs that may be considered service animals.

All other animals will not be permitted in VA facilities, unless expressly allowed as an exception under regulations for activities such as animal-assisted therapy or for other reasons such as law enforcement purposes. Emotional support animals are not considered service animals under these regulations.

Over the next thirty days, VA will provide training to frontline employees and ensure policies at all facilities are consistent with the new regulation. The revised regulation applies to all property

owned or leased by VA, to include property under the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration and National Cemetery Administration.

With the regulation, there are a number of guidelines regarding service animals on VA property. For example, the animals are NOT permitted in areas where patient care, patient safety and infection control standards would be compromised by the presence of an animal, such as operating rooms or areas where medical equipment is sterilized or stored.

If a service animal is not under the control of its Veteran or an alternate handler, it will be denied access to or removed from VA property. This includes not being housebroken, or if the animal exhibits behavior or other signs that it poses a risk to the health or safety of individuals or other service animals while on VA property. Such signs may include biting, snapping, growling, baring its teeth, lunging or external signs of parasites or other external signs of disease or bad health.

VA understands the important role that service animals perform for Veterans and other visitors to VA facilities. This revised regulation will ensure that individuals entering VA facilities have a clear and consistent understanding of the criteria governing access of service animals.

The updated regulation is sure to raise a number of questions, including what VA considers as a service animal. Please see the most common questions below, and [refer to our frequently asked questions for further guidance.](#)

What are examples of work or tasks that a service animal is trained to do or perform?

A service animal is any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. The work or task that the dog has been trained to perform must be directly related to the person's disability. Examples of such work or tasks include but are not limited to guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, alerting or protecting someone who is having a seizure, and calming a person

with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack.

I have an emotional support animal. Am I allowed to bring it to a VA facility?

No, the revised regulation requires that a service animal must be individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship does not constitute work or tasks.

[Click here for more frequently asked questions](#) about the new regulation.

"Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy".

Benjamin Franklin

Congress passes Flake, McCain bill to hire support for veterans courts

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee speaks with reporters about meeting with Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, June 13, 2018. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

PHOENIX — Congress unanimously passed a bill introduced by U.S. Sens. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) that calls for the Department of Veterans Affairs to hire at least 50 additional Veterans Justice Outreach specialists within the next year.

These specialists help veterans who become involved in the criminal justice system gain access to treatment courts, which remove those veterans from traditional processes and provide assistance for those suffering from veteran-specific issues like post-traumatic stress disorder or substance abuse. The treatment courts help create a rehabilitation program for veterans, tailored to fit their specific needs.

U.S. Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), McCain and Flake introduced the bill in the Senate in April 2017, and U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colo.) introduced the companion House bill. Both the House and Senate unanimously passed [H.R.](#)

[2147](#), the Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2018, on Wednesday.

“While veterans treatment courts have a proven record of reducing recidivism rates, they are underutilized due to a lack of VJO specialists nationwide,” Flake said in a [statement](#). “This bill will provide Veterans Treatment Courts with the necessary resources and manpower to deliver tailored and effective treatment to the veterans who need it.”

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Arizona released a [statement in support](#) of the bill early last year.

“Our nation must never harm, only to re-harm, those who served as our defenders,” Jim Ellars, the VFW Department of Arizona national legislation officer, said in the statement. “We believe, as do the veteran courts, that rehabilitation through treatment is the proper approach to someone who may or may not recognize the problems that got them in trouble with the law.”

Note: One of our veteran local judges, Michael Surles, has been working on getting an Onslow County Veterans Court. Don't know at this time where we stand on the issue.

"24 hours in a day and 24 beers in a case.

Coincidence?

I think not".

H. L. Mencken

100% disabled space available travel

DOD Instruction 4515.13 Change 3 (13 August 2018) Policy update in regards to the newly signed: “John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019” This act provided eligibility for Veterans with a Permanent Service-connected Disability Rated as Total to compete for travel aboard Space-available passenger transportation, using surplus aircraft capacity. Space Available Travel Priority of Category VI (6) Authorized veterans with a permanent service-connected disability rated as total traveling in the

Continental United States (CONUS) or directly between the CONUS and Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa (Guam and American Samoa travelers may transit Hawaii or Alaska); or traveling within Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands Space Available Travel is permitted, provided all space-required passengers and cargo have been accommodated. Space Available transportation is allowed on a non-interference basis only. DoD aircraft, including training missions, will not be scheduled or sized to accommodate the movement of passengers on a space-available basis. Space-available transportation will not be used for personal gain or for a business enterprise. No additional funds may be used or flight hours performed to provide transportation under the space-available travel program. Documentation Requirements and Eligibility: Veterans with a permanent service-connected disability rated as total, must have a DD Form 2765, “Department of Defense/Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (TAN).” Travelers should contact their local Passenger Terminal for further details and review travel

"When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep.

When we fall asleep, we commit no sin. When we commit no sin, we go to heaven.

So, let's all get drunk and go to heaven".

George Bernard Shaw

From the Commander

Patriots,

Coming up on the most active time of the year for hurricanes. Hope you all are preparing/PREPARED for that eventuality. If you've lived here long

enough to have experienced one of these cute little “wind events” you already know they can be a real pain in the rectal orifice (if you don’t know what that is, call the Adjutant). Waiting until 80 mph winds are blowing your patio and deck stuff all over the neighborhood is probably too late.

You all may get tired of seeing the Adjutant asking time and time again for various input on different things. Add me to that list because we REALLY need your help on building the Chapter rolls. John has put out info quite a few times on Associate memberships and how to go about getting them. Not much effort is required and the cost is only \$30.00 per associate application (if you have a “tribe” like a certain GySgt in Cherry Point has and can’t handle them all at one time, that’s OK....do one or two at a time spread over a few months). Patriots we can’t build the Chapter by ourselves....takes all of you. Step up, please, and let’s all do our part.

Semper Fi, Grant

“Beer: Helping ugly people have sex since 3000 B.C.”

W. C. Fields

From the Adjutant

It’s that time again. Newsletter time, it rolls around every two weeks instead of every two months, at least it seems that way.

We’re coming out of a lull period and getting into our busy season. At least from October on we’ll be quite busy.

The meeting attendance seems to be picking up. For a while we were getting 12 to 13 at meetings and most of them were the officers. Let’s keep it going and get back to our 25 to 30 that we were averaging previously.

I won’t harp on the associate member drive as I see the commander covered it pretty well. We would really like to at least hit that 800 member mark. An example of recruiting; my wife and I recently got our “real ID’s” at the DMV. My interviewer was a retired Marine and while talking with him found out that he has a Purple Heart. I got his e-mail address and invited him to our next meeting. He seemed genuinely interested in joining so I think that he may show up. That is just one example of how we can recruit. Also, I have been known to follow Purple Heart license plates into the Walmart parking lot.

I included a couple interesting articles in the body of this newsletter. I make it a point to pick out the best ones that I think will be of interest to most of us.

In closing, as always we really appreciate you and your service. Without you we would have no chapter.

Semper Fi, John

“Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer.

Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention,

But the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza”.

Dave Barry

Corpsmen Memorial Foundation **CMF**

below is the Maquette sculpted by Abbe Godwin the originator of the Beirut Memorial here in Memorial Gardens 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.



Note: We have reached our goal and the sculptress has started on the project. We are presently shooting for the Corpsmen’s birthday of 2019. That would be an ideal day for the dedication.

Beer

"Sometimes, when I reflect on all the beer I drink, I feel ashamed.

Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. If I did not drink this beer, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. I think, it is better to drink this beer and let their dreams come true, than be selfish and worry about my liver.

Babe Ruth

One night at *Cheers*, a TV Sitcom, **Cliff Clavin** said to his buddy, Norm Peterson:

"Well, ya see, Norm, it's like this ... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first.

This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells.

Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills

brain cells. But, naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first.

In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine.

That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers".

Remember "I" before "E," except in Budweiser.

Professor Irwin Corey

“To some it is a six-pack. To me, it is a Support Group. Salvation in a can”.

Leo Durocher

Facts:

-North Carolina has 1500 lakes of 10 acres or more in size and 37000 miles of fresh water streams.

-In Jacksonville, it is a felony to steal more than \$1000 worth of grease.

-Former NFL football player and MMA fighter, Marcus Jones, was born and raised in Jacksonville.

-The community was established in 1757 and officially incorporated in 1842.

-The world record for the longest marriage was set by Herbert and Zelmyra, Fisher who were married in North Carolina on 13 May, 1924.

-James K Polk, the 11th president was born in North Carolina.

-Pepsi was first invented and served in North Carolina in 1898.

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“Think in the morning. Act in the noon. Eat in the evening. Sleep in the night.” William Blake

“Every age can be enchanting, provided you live within it.” Brigitte Bardot

