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From: Catherine Haynes [chaynes11629@yahoo.com]

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To: Undisclosed Recipients

Subject: Sept. Central FL meeting and misc. info concerning veterans, military and patriotic events.

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*This is a list of group meetings and miscellaneous information. If you did not receive the list of unique events in Central Florida, please contact me. The amount of information received required a separate list.

*Send me your events – people cannot attend an event if they don't know about it!

*Please share this information and events with your friends and interested others and attend. Post where appropriate.

*Every effort is made to put a space into email addresses and websites. If you use 'Copy and Paste' to make contact or get additional information, please keep this in mind.

*If you wish to be removed from the email list, just let me know.

Central Florida Navy League luncheon and meeting – Wed. Sept 9 – All persons who support the sea services (USN, USMC, USCG, MM), whether civilian or military, are welcomed to attend this gathering on the 2nd Wed. of each month. 11:30 – 1pm at the Holiday Inn UCF (Formerly the Radisson UCF) 1724 N. Alafaya Trail, Orlando, 32826 (Just north of SR 50/Colonial Drive on the west side of Alafaya Trail/SR 434.) Interesting speakers and networking potential includes the simulation technology businesses. September's speaker is Navy Capt. Andy Mohler (ret.) who will be speaking about the History of the "Blue Ghost" USS Lexington and the 1989 Flight Deck Crash. \$20 with RSVP or \$25 at the door. 3rd largest Navy League in FL. Contact Bob K. (Membership Chair.) at navleaguecenfl@juno.com 407-977-7575

Florida Association of Veteran Owned Businesses mtg (FAVOB) – Tues Sept 15 – meeting at **10am**, a "Chamber of Commerce" of sorts open to all veteran owned businesses, at American Legion Florida Department bldg., 1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810. 19 states offer contract preferences to veteran owned businesses, but Florida is NOT one of them. Our goal is to change that in big business, our cities, and counties too. See FAVOB Facebook site. Info: Chairman Michael Waldrop mwaldrop@bluecord.com

Veterans' Day Parade Advertising Deadline – Tues. Sept 15 - Advertising deadline intent for the Orlando's Veterans' Day Parade program. This parade, being held on Sat. Nov 14, is the largest in Florida and one of the largest parades in the Southeastern US. The Program advertising salutes our veterans. For units wishing to enter the parade, see the Mon. Sept 28 event deadline. Contact Doug Richards at douglas.richards@cityoforlando.net or 407.246.2782 for more information.

Orange County Mayors' Veterans Advisory Council –Wed. Sept 16 – 1:30pm monthly meeting of numerous organizations and individuals for the benefit of Central FL veterans and active duty personnel. Planning of events and awareness is shared. Designated representatives allow groups to coordinate efforts and unite for the common cause. If your Orange County /Central FL vet/military associated group isn't attending, it should plan to get involved. Mayor Teresa Jacobs is very supportive of a veteran-friendly community. Contact Chairman Edwin Marrero for attendance and location information. emarrero81@cfl.rr.com

Coast Guard Auxiliary meeting – Wed. Sept 16 – The Osceola Flotilla 17-10 meets on the 2nd Wed.

of each month at American Legion Post 10, 205 Lakeview Dr., Kissimmee, 34741. Auxiliary members are volunteers who support the Coast Guard in all its non-military, and non-law-enforcement missions. Members help to provide maritime safety, security and stewardship; to secure the homeland, save lives and property; and to protect the environment. There are several Flotillas (groups) in Central Florida and membership in the Auxiliary is open to persons 17 years of age and older – some are much older! Info: Jim Nickles at jimnickles2@ gmail.com 407-390-9611

Military Order of the Purple Heart – Wed. Sep 16 - The Purple Heart medal is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who are “wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy.” Join other Purple Heart recipients in our community for social and common cause efforts. Gold Star Families are always welcome too. Orlando Chapter 400 meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm, Orlando Elks Lodge, 12 N. Primrose Dr., Orlando, 32803. Contact mmichles@ att.net 407-382-9737

VetBuds of Orlando meeting – Thurs. Sept 17 - a gathering of military veterans whose purpose is to provide assistance to other veterans thru personal resources - by our combined businesses, social and personal knowledge and connections. 9am at First Watch, 1414 North Mills Ave, Orlando, 32803 (northwest corner of intersection of Virginia Dr. and Mills) Purchase your own breakfast, informal and casual meeting. No dues. Info: Forrest at 407-347-6499 citrusolution91@ gmail.com

City of Orlando Veterans Day Parade Application Deadline – Mon. Sept 28 - The 16th annual City of Orlando Veterans Day Parade is Saturday, Nov. 14 in Downtown Orlando. Veterans groups, active-duty military, marching bands and youth organizations are encouraged to participate in the parade, which will be televised live on Central Florida News 13. Applications for the parade are currently available by visiting cityoforlando.net/veteransparade. Contact Doug Richards at douglas.richards@cityoforlando.net or 407.246.2782 for more information.

City of Orlando Mayors’ Veterans Advisory Council – Thurs. Oct 1 – 1:30pm monthly meeting of numerous organizations and individuals for the benefit of local veterans and active duty personnel. Planning of functions (ie: Veterans Day parade) and awareness of events is shared. Designated representatives allow groups to coordinate efforts. If your Orlando area vet/military associated group isn’t attending, it should plan to get involved. Networking before and after the meeting. See website at cityoforlando.net, Office of the Mayor, Mayor’s Committees, Veterans. Contact Chairman Michael Waldrop for attendance and location information. mwaldrop@blue-cord.com

Military Order of the Purple Heart – Wed. Oct 21 - the Military Order of the Purple Heart which has history back to George Washington and the American Revolution. Join Orlando Chapter 400 on Wed. Sept 16 at 7pm, Orlando Elks Lodge, 12 N. Primrose Dr., Orlando, 32803. Contact mmichles@att.net 407-382-9737

Veteran owned businesses – Are you a veteran/Reservist/Guardsman who owns a small (or large) business in Central Florida? Do you know of any such businesses? Many people would like to support them but we don’t know who they are. Send me your business name, type of business, all contact info, etc. so that they can be compiled into a directory.

Occupy your Mind - Do you like to stay advised of military or veteran information that frequently changes? Or follow related state/federal legislation in the pipelines? You might want to subscribe to some of the following sites by contacting them and asking to be added to their list of recipients. They provide original materials, relay information, or provide links to sites:

- Seminole County’s Veteran Service Officer, Ed Burford, provides county information but most can be applicable to any Central Florida county. rburford@seminolecountyfl.gov

- Charley Price, former Director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, compiles articles but also includes some political mil/vet material, a daily inspiration quote, and relays items like the Retiree Assistance Office (RAO) Bulletin. His recipients include numerous Florida state legislators. charleyprice@aol.com
- **Wounded Times** – a local blog work, by Kathie DiCesare, that is dedicated to defeating Combat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) by relaying stories, and often has video of local Central Florida veteran and military events. woundedtimes.blogspot.com
- **Bivouac Veterans News, Inc.** – A free unofficial Florida news magazine for military, veterans and their families. Printed copies are frequently found in veteran clinics, businesses and Posts. Online at www.bivouac.org. A great way to advertise your veteran-owned business or group across the state. Victor Houston brings these resources together. bivouac33@gmail.com (pronounced BIV-wac)
- **Veterans News** – emails sent on Mon, Wed, and Fri by Wayne Gatewood of Maryland. He compiles reports from multiple national resources and sends the compilation across the country. His 100,000+ recipients include state and federal legislators and Pentagon personnel. He has occasionally included this Central Florida list of events in his newsletter. wgatewood@qualitysupport.com
- **Military.com** - the largest military membership organization, connecting over 10 million to benefits, news, resources, discounts and each other. Family and Spouse Newsletter in the military community. Go to www.military.com and join for free, receive email info lists.
- **VT - Veterans Today Network** – news and stories emailed daily or available on the website; some articles are kind of “out there” or even could be tabloid-type fodder, but are thought provoking. Gordon Duff is the Senior Editor, a Marine combat veteran of the Vietnam War. gm@veteranstodaynetwork.com

Volunteers for Department of Veterans Affairs – Volunteers are needed to help veterans around the medical center. Also volunteers are needed to pick up and return veterans home after appointments. Donations of new clothes, shoes, toiletry items, Lynx bus passes, gift cards, and haircut sponsorships are needed for the Community Living Center and the Domiciliary residents. Both the Lake Baldwin clinic and the Orlando VA Medical Center at Lake Nona need volunteers. Details: 407-629-1599 x6940.

Florida Governor’s Veterans’ Service Award - The Governor’s office and the State of Florida have a special medal that is individually presented to veterans. It thanks them for their service. There is currently not a scheduled calendar event soon in Central Florida again, but there could be. Events are more likely to get scheduled in an area when there are several hundred of the requests for the medals. Go to the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs and submit your request on their form. Note: Veterans need not have served in a combat zone to be eligible. If you already received a medal, go to the website to see the pictures of the event. Perhaps you are photographed receiving the medal! The medals and photos are a very nice addition to any shadowbox or framed set of items. Visit the FDVA website at floridavets.org and see: Governors’ Veterans’ Service Awards

New National Cemetery for veterans - the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Scotts Moor of Brevard County, will open within the next year. It will serve more than 163,000 veterans, spouses and their eligible dependents living in the central eastern Florida area. If there are (or will be) remains that you need to place, the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery may be closer to you than the Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell ...something for you to consider.....

Unique PTS Therapy – Warriors, past and present with service in Iraq and Afghanistan, experiencing life altering Post Traumatic Stress may wish to inquire about a local clinical research program. The UCF (Univ. of Central FL) RESTORES is still investigational but three years of results reported by

warriors are very encouraging. Two separate therapy programs are available at **NO COST** use sights, sounds and smells to reduce fear and anxiety. One program lasts 17 weeks, and the other is an intense, shorter termed one. Both instruct you to deal with and manage your anger, depression, and re-adjustment after deployment. Contact the Program Coordinator Dr. Sandra Neer at 407.823.1668 for a confidential telephone interview.

Civil Air Patrol – Wanted: Youth and adults who have a passion for aviation, space, the military or leadership and want to learn to fly, lead, hike, camp, get in shape and push themselves to new limits. Details: 407-600-8596. capsarkin-sey@ gmail.com or fl259.org

Vet Centers are available for combat zone veterans to help with personal and family readjustment counseling and outreach services. vetcenter.va.gov The nearest centers are located in:
Orlando - 5575 S. Semoran Blvd., Suite #30, Orlando, 32822. 407-857-2800 Or 877-927-8387.
Melbourne -2098 Sarno Road, Melbourne, 32935. 321-254-3410 Or 877-927-8387.
Clermont -1655 East Highway 50, Clermont, 34711 352-536-6701 Or 877-927-8387.
Daytona Beach -1620 Mason Ave., Suite C, Daytona Beach, 32117. 386-366-6600 Or 877-927-8387.
And coming soon to Seminole County....

Mentors needed - Orange County Veterans Court IS succeeding! And so are the Osceola and Seminole County Veteran Courts. Longer term success is possible with community mentors. Be a “battle buddy” or “foxhole buddy” by assisting someone with life challenges. No proselytizing – just non-judgmental caring. Most of the offenders are DUI or possession. If you have experienced substance abuse – although not required - and came thru it, you may be very helpful to someone else. If you are interested in participating as a mentor, know someone who is interested, or are a part of an organization where Mentors can be recruited, contact Beatrice Brown, the Coordinator. It does make a difference and you can too..... Contact Beatrice Brown at 407-496-1307 wellsbrownlawgroup@gmail.com

CONTINUED PROJECTS:

Lone Sailor Monument - The Central Florida Council of the U.S. Navy League is leading a campaign to build a Lone Sailor Navy Memorial to recognize and preserve the rich Navy history in Central Florida. (You may recall seeing the statue of a sailor in his pea coat and “dixie cup” cap, hunkering from the weather on a pier with his sea bag nearby.) Originally built on the grounds of an Army Air Corps base from WWII, Orlando’s Naval Training Center (NTC) was commissioned in 1968 to provide training and education to naval recruits. Over **650,000** sailors received their “boot camp” and additional training here. One such specialized program was nuclear power training for officers and recruits. At one time the NTC Orlando was also the only location for providing recruit training for female enlisted personnel. The facility brought over \$500M annually into local economy before it was closed. Basic Training graduates were frequently seen in white “Cracker Jacks” with their families at local attractions. Also, from 1968 until 1998, NTC Orlando was also the **ONLY** location for providing recruit training for female enlisted personnel. Currently, there is no commemoration of the life’s that were changed here. Pavers are available to commemorate your service or that of a friend or loved one. Corporate and private donations of any amount are appreciated. To help, contact Mike Phillips, 407-616-3829 lonesailor@cfnavyleague.org

Caring and sharing,

Cathy Haynes
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