

Mark Erdrich

From: Cathy Haynes [chaynes11629@yahoo.com@ccsend.com]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 17:28
To: merlin66@villageshonorflight.org
Subject: Feb/March Central FL veteran, military and patriotic events

Feb/March 2017 – Central FL list of veteran, military and patriotic events

- *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.
- *Event information is concentrated mostly on the Central Florida counties served by the new VA Hospital at Lake Nona – Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Brevard, Lake and Volusia. Other events elsewhere are considered based upon uniqueness and groups best served.
- *Every effort is made to put a space into email addresses and websites – firewalls and spam filters don't like direct links, website and email addresses. 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.

Corporate SWAT Challenge 2017 – Sat. Feb 25 – Put a team together to challenge some of the best in Central FL! This will include tactical events that involve endurance activities and strategic thinking. While the goal is to have fun and benefit the Camaraderie Foundation, this event is for competitors who are committed to a team concept and want to challenge themselves in problem-solving atmosphere. Sponsorships and Teams are available!!! Starts at 7am, Orlando Police Department Training Facility. Challenge Requirements - 22 Teams (\$2000/team), 5 to 8 participants on each team (must include at least 1 female). Each team will have a SWAT Member Advisor. For more information, email Lt. Carter Gowen at: carter.gowen@cityoforlando.net

Managing Elder Medical Care – Sat. Feb 25 - AARP Florida is hosting a FREE half-day session to help caregivers learn how to help an elder manage their medical care. 8:30am – 12:30p at Orlando Science Center, 777 East Princeton Street, Orlando, 32803. Topics covered include patient rights and resources, how spirituality affects healthcare, patient helper ideas and tips to being a better helper or advocate. At the end, a legal expert shares more about preparing legal documents to help you be prepared. Info and to reserve a spot: 877-926-8300

Pine Castle Pioneer Days – Sat and Sun, Feb 25, 26 - Annual event promotes the living history of the area with demonstrations and fun events. Pioneer crafts, historic military encampments and reenactments, traditional music, quilting, basketry and storytelling. Parade at 9am on Sat. 9am-5pm Cypress Grove Park, 290 West Holden Ave, Orlando. \$3 per person or \$5 for families. 407-427-9692. Website: www.pinecastlepioneerdays.org

Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) – Sat. Feb 25 – Military retirees can enjoy a variety of speakers from the Department of the Army, Veterans Affairs, MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) and others. Special guest will be Army SMA Kenneth O. Preston (ret.) LOTS of Information provided, including DFAS, Tricare, Navy Exchange, etc. All service branch retirees and their families are invited. Registration starts at 8am; Event hours: 9am – 3pm at The Venue at UCF (University of Central Florida) at 12777 Gemini Blvd N., Orlando, 32816 located behind the CFE Arena. Sponsored by Fort Stewart, Retirement Services Office, but ALL branches are welcome to attend!

Dedication of Afghanistan Memorial – Sat. Feb 25 – This event has been **POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER**. Donations still appreciated. Marine Families Info@MarineFamilies.org P.O. Box 7915, Tampa, FL 33673 813-965-2682

Military Medal Ceremony – Sat. Feb 25 - Eleven war veterans will be receiving over 75 belated medals and ribbons at a ceremony, 1:30pm at New Life Community Church of the Nazarene, 6512 Edgewater Dr., Orlando, 32810. One of the recipients is Michael C. Meyer, a Chaplain for Orlando Police Dept. - he will be receiving his Purple Heart, Vietnam Gallantry Cross and 6 other medals from his Army service in Vietnam. (He lost both legs in Vietnam; and soon to receive new electronic legs!) Other medals to other veterans will be a Bronze Star from service in Vietnam; Commendations, Meritorious and Achievements from services in the Korean War, Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the First Gulf War. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Service Officer, Charlie First, worked with Senator Bill Nelson's office to see that these belated medals and recognitions can be received by these veterans of all branches. (The Senator may or may not be there...Constituent Aides definitely will be.) Info: Charlie First at 407-429-0646.

Marine Sgt. Kirstie Ennis fundraiser – Sat. Feb 25 - Orlando Rocks Benefit, Inc., Booyah Bus Project and the City of Kissimmee host this beginning at 1pm. Sgt. Ennis Arrives abt 1:30, Booyah Bus Project will have its ribbon cutting at abt. 1:45, and entertainment and dinner event at abt. 3:30pm. Tickets are \$25. Kissimmee Civic Center, 201 E. Dakin Ave., Kissimmee, 34741. (Sgt. Kirstie Ennis, USMC, originally from Pensacola and now living in San Diego, served 6 years until her second deployment when she lost her left leg following a 2012 helicopter crash in Afghanistan, had more than 40 surgeries and a battle with MRSA. She was the “cover girl” and a highlighted story in “PTSD Journal” for Fall/Winter 2016, appeared in a Super Bowl commercial, and is prepping for the 2018 Paralympics.) Sponsors and donations welcomed. Info: orlandorocksbenefit@gmail.com Mary at 407-607-9527, or Vic at 407-901-0685.

Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament – Mon. Feb 27 - 3rd Annual Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Central Florida at The Legacy Club at Alaqua Lakes, 1700 Alaqua Lakes Blvd, Longwood, 32779. Registration: \$125 per golfer, Veterans: \$100, Foursomes: \$400. Club will allow special golf carts for disabled players on the course. Registration 9am, Shot Gun Start 10am. Buffet Dinner, unlimited drinks before & during play (beer, soda & water), Goody Bag and Special

Gift for each player. Various Sponsorships available but must be received no later than Feb. 15 (Flyer available) info: 407-328-7041 or email joanep@pvacf.org (PVA assists vets with spinal injury and neurological diseases like Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and ALS also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. There are 27 known veterans with ALS in Central FL. PVA also welcomes and distributes unwanted medical equipment to vets and civilians.)

Veteran Hiring event – Tues Feb 28 – 10am to 2pm at the Orlando VA Hospital at Lake Nona, 13800 Veterans Way, 4th Floor, Orlando, 32803. Come in business attire with your resume's. Hiring employers include: Mims Construction, AECOM Maintenance, Garney Construction, Milling Technologies, Inc., Orlando Int'l Airport, Orange County Sheriff's Dept., NSN Center Maintenance, and more. Info: Annie Artis, (Veteran Community Employment Coordinator) VHAORLHVCE@va.gov ellamay.artis@va.gov 407-307-9101.

FAVOB Lunch and Learn – Tues Feb 28 - The Florida Association of Veteran Owned Businesses hosts this educational event during lunchtime. 12noon - 1:15pm at Firefly Kitchen and Bar, 480 Orlando Ave. N, Winter Park, 32789. Speaker, Michael Long, will discuss how to Make Wise Decisions to Create Value in our Businesses. Being a veteran is NOT required! See FAVOB Facebook site. Info: chairman@favob.org or marketing@favob.org

Central Florida Veterans Inc. mtg – Tues Feb 28 – Meeting of veterans and groups in the Central Florida area. Meeting includes a guest speaker and sharing of information that is important to veterans. This group meets on the LAST Tuesday of every other month. (Even numbered months) in the Orlando VA Medical Center at Lake Baldwin in the Cafeteria at 5:30pm. 5201 Raymond Street, Orlando, 32803. Info: Greg Smith at 901-438-7734 farside53@gmail.com

Meat Bingo – Tues. Feb 28 – The Casselberry Veterans Inc. Auxiliary has this unique Bingo Game. 200 Concord Dr, Casselberry, 32707. You have 22 chances to win! Plus a "Money Round" and the winner gets the entire amount collected. (Meats are purchased from Petty's Meats. The January meats included stuffed pork chops, special pork chops stuffed with crabmeat, New York strip steaks, fish, clams, chicken breasts, flank steaks, pork ribs, and spaghetti pie. All are fresh cut and top quality.) Cost is only \$7, plus the money round, to play one hand all evening. Option to purchase more hands. Games start at 6pm. Info: 407-260-1404 news@cassvets.org Web Page: cassvets.org

Before March 1 deadline - If you moved within/to Florida and bought a home, have you filed for your 2017 Homestead Property Tax Exemption? Deadline of March 1 at your county office or online.

Veterans Golden Age Games – Deadline Wed March 1 - The Department of Veterans Affairs wants military veterans who are enrolled in VA health care -- ages 55 and older -- to get ready for the 2017 National Veterans Golden Age Games. Applications began on Feb. 1 and will end on March 1. This year's games will take place May 7 - 11 in Biloxi, Mississippi, with nearly 800 athletes from across the

country expected to compete. Competitive events include air rifle, badminton, boccia, bowling, cycling, golf, horseshoes, nine ball, powerwalk, shuffleboard, swimming, table tennis, and track and field. Exhibition events include air pistol, archery, basketball, blind disc golf and pickleball. Apply online through MARCH 1 at www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov. Represent our communities!

City of Orlando Mayors' Veterans Advisory Council – Thurs. March 2 – 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

Happy Birthday Navy Reserve! March 3, 1915

Rebuilding For Heroes Golf Tournament – Fri. Mar 3 - 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament to benefit veterans and our "Every Day" Heroes. 8:30 start time at Dubsdread Golf Course & Taproom, 549 W. Par St, Orlando, 32804. Proceeds to benefit the renovation and repairs needed to the homes of very-low income families, seniors and veterans. www.rtorlando.org Info: Alaina at 407-898-3777 ext. 3 or alaina@rtorlando.org

Fundraiser for CPO Sharona Young - Sat. March 4 – VFW Post 4387, VFW Auxiliary and Semper Fidelis America sponsor this event at VFW Post 4387, 3500 S. Goldenrod Rd, Orlando, 32822. Entertainment and dinner starts at 3pm. \$25 advance ticket, \$30 at the door. Sponsors and donations welcomed. CPO Sharona Young (ret.) USN, an Orlando resident, was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and medically retired from the Navy Reserve in 2014. She volunteers as Secretary for PVA (Paralyzed Veterans of America) Central Florida in Sanford. (PVA assists vets with spinal injury and neurological diseases like Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and ALS also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. They receive and distribute unwanted medical equipment to vets and civilians.) Event info: VFW Post – 407-273-6581.

Winter Park's St. Patrick's Day Parade – Sun. March 5 - 39th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade & Celebration of Winter Park. Units line up at 1pm for 2pm start time. Last year included WW2 veterans as special guests along with military units and First Responder bagpipe and drum groups. Fun and frolic (all in good taste, of course) will be the order of the day as thousands of Winter Park residents and more line Park Avenue to watch you strut your stuff, as is said these days. The celebration continues with Irish music and dance in Central Park afterward. Info: stpatsparade@outlook.com

Veterans Business Initiative (VBI) - Mon. March 6 - VBI will run for eight weeks through March and April. This is a no cost program for all Military Veterans and spouses who are seeking for employment, entrepreneurial and continuing education.

The VBI will be held beginning at 8:30am at the CFDC located at the National Entrepreneur Center, Orlando Fashion Square, 3201 E Colonial Dr A20, Orlando, 32803. Info: Rogue Gallart rogue@nationalec.org or Jaime Quarnoccio at jquarnoccio@careersourcecf.com

HBI (Home Builders Institute) Classes –deadline of March 6 – HBI offers 3 certifications in 4 Weeks and job placement at No Cost to Military Members, Past or Present. OSHA 10, First Aid/CPR/AED, Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate, Training, and Job Placement Promotion Class. 9am – 2:30pm - Mon-Thurs. Classes begin March 6. 9200 Southpark Center Loop, Orlando FL 32819 (Inside Everest University off John Young Parkway.) Info or to secure your seat: Jamacan Penney-Vassey 407-259-5069 jvassey@hbi.org

Women Veterans honored – Mon. March 6 - American Legion Aux. Unit 347 will host a luncheon for the female veterans who reside in Lake, Marion and Sumter counties. 12noon at the Legion Post 347, located on the corner of Rolling Acres Rd. and CR-466 in The Villages. NO cost for the veterans, but any guests are asked to make a \$5 donation. Pre-registration ends on Feb. 26, and is needed for an accurate meal count. Bio's and photo are requested. Register and Info: Donna McGlone at 352-753-9688 donna244mcglone@gmail.com (please put "Women's Veterans Luncheon" in subject line.)

Marine Corps League Orlando - Tues, March 7- Cpl. Larry E. Smedley, Detachment 064 Monthly Meeting, 7pm – 8pm at the at American Legion Florida Department bldg., 1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810. Info: mclcfl@gmail.com or mcl.orlando.commandant@gmail.com (Cpl. Larry Smedley was an Orange County resident and enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was killed in Vietnam on December 21, 1967 after heroic actions were seen in battle. He earned the Medal of Honor, awarded posthumously; he was 18 yrs old.)

Legal Check-up Clinic – Wed. March 8 – Low or no income veterans can receive free legal advice. Hosted by Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida at 122 E. Colonial Dr., Suite 200, Orlando, 32801. 10am – 2pm. Also assistance with forms for family law, consumer, bankruptcy, housing and other civil legal matters. Receive advice on criminal issues from the Public Defender's Office. Screening for eligibility for VA benefits and other veteran related matters; Meet with Social Workers who can provide assistance and referrals for additional community resources. Info: Lena Smith at lenas@clsmf.org (352)629-0105 ext. 2912.

Central Florida Navy League luncheon and meeting – Wed. March 8 – All persons who support the sea services, 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, 1724 N. Alafaya Trail, Orlando, 32826. Interesting speakers and networking potential includes the simulation technology businesses. \$20 with credit card payment on website (cfnavyleague.org) or \$25 at the door. 3rd largest Navy League in FL with diverse membership including nearby technology industries. Contact Bob K. (Membership Chair.) at navleaguecenfl@juno.com 407-977-7575 (NEW! The Navy League offers national E-Membership for only \$25 per year! Prior

military service is NOT required. Support the sea services – Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines – with membership.)

AAAA (Army Aviation Association of America) Social – Fri. March 10 – Multi-branches of past and current military aviation personnel gather for networking, supporting good causes, and fun! (aka “Quad-A”) Social this month is 5pm – 7pm at Frogger’s Grill and Bar, Alafaya Square, 27 Alafaya Woods Blvd, Oviedo, 32765. Info: 407-381-5311.

Tico Warbird Airshow – Fri, Sat, Sun March 10, 11, 12 – Valiant Air Command hosts this 40th Annual Warbird Airshow. Space Coast Regional Airport in Titusville. Fri. night has a twilight show ending with fireworks and music. Sat. and Sun gates open at 8:30am with the airshow beginning 1pm – 5pm. Advance tickets \$20 adults, \$5 children. Gate Tickets \$25 and \$10 for children. Three-days fast paced flying program of historic and current military prop & jet warbirds, and military & civilian aerobatic demonstration teams, including the USAF Thunderbirds Demonstration Team. Airborne and ground reenactor demonstrations, static displays, flight simulators, exotic hot rods and antique cars, kid’s carnival, airplane and helicopter rides and much more. Gift shop and autograph tent, multiple food and souvenir vendors. Check online for ticket upgrade options, amenities, and restrictions. Valiant Air Command 321.268.1941 www.valiantaircommand.com

The Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution – Sat. Mar 11 – Hosted by Brevard Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). Join veteran and historical groups as they commemorate the last naval battle of the American Revolution – just off of Cape Canaveral in 1783. 9:30am assembly with step-off at 10am of Color Guards, parade of organizations, and ceremony follows that commemorates a ship loaded with silver heading to the Continental Army in Philadelphia and escaping British ships trying to capture it. Brevard Veteran Council Center, 400 South Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island, 32952. All patriotic Color Guard units are invited; all units will receive a commemorative flag streamer. After the event, visit the Military Museum and Memorial . Info: Steve at swilliams16@cfl.rr.com 321-632-5663 or Phil at wright.gen@gmail.com

Navy League Social – Tues. Mar 14 - Join the Central Florida Navy League for food, wine, networking and a great time on at Cooper’s Hawk Winery & Restaurant, Waterford Lakes. Cash bar and appetizers, 5pm-7pm at 529 N Alafaya Trail, Orlando, 32828. The Navy League is composed of citizens in support of the United States sea services – Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines, but we welcome Army and Air Force too!. Many members are military veterans but military service is NOT required. www.cfnavyleague.org

Orange County Mayors’ Veterans Advisory Council –Wed. March 15– 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 Col. Edwin Marrero for attendance and location information. emarrero81@cfl.rr.com

Greeters needed! Honor Flights Resume their Spring 2017 trips! Come Welcome them Home! –Sat. Mar 18 – Orlando Int'l Airport –After a day spent in Washington DC, veterans of WWII and Korean War veterans return home thru Orlando Int'l Airport. The nation-wide organization has three local hubs that take veterans on a single day trip to our nation's capital where they visit the WWII, Korea, and Vietnam War Memorials, Marine Corps Iwo Jima and the Air Force Monuments, and witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. Come welcome these former warriors home! "Welcome Home" receptions at the airports make a difference! Bring your flags, banners and signs! – Dates are:

- Sat. March 18 – 25 veterans, plus their guardians and staff. Time and Flt# TBD
- Wed. March 29 – 35 veterans, plus their guardians and staff. Time and Flt# TBD

Information for more will be forthcoming. Contact Cathy Haynes for those details - chaynes11629@yahoo.com 407-239-8468. For the Early Birds - you can wave these veterans off in the morning no later than 5am. They process thru Security early and quickly.

Florida Association of Veteran Owned Businesses mtg (FAVOB) – Tues March 21 - 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. Florida is NOT one of them. Our goal is to change that in big business, and with our state, our cities, and counties too. See FAVOB Facebook site. Info: chairman@favob.org or marketing@favob.org

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) mtg – Wed. March 22 – Join others who are in this unique status of service to our country. 7 PM at the Orlando Elks Lodge, 12 N. Primrose Dr., Orlando, 32803. Activities include parade participations, and currently working on getting out the JROTC Purple Heart Awards for the local high schools and college ROTC units. It's always nice for a member to personally present the Award Certificate, Medal and Ribbon at the school awards ceremony. Info: Marcus at mmichles@att.net 407-382-9737 or cell 407-304-6061.

Poker Run for the Vietnam Moving Wall Tribute fundraiser - Sun. March 26 - Poker run to benefit the Vietnam Moving Wall Tribute (April 27 – May 1 in Eustis) Poker Run is seeking sponsors, large auction items and several volunteers. Will be "open to all vehicles." Info: Peggy S at veteransinfoandevents@gmail.com 407-484-2159

Wounded Warfighter & Lone Sailor 5K/10K Run - Sat. April 1 – Central Florida Navy League sponsors this in Blue Jacket Park, 2501 General Rees Ave. Baldwin Park, Orlando, 32814. Sponsors and participants still welcomed! Discount for early

registration and for groups of 10 or more. Time: 7:30am - Colors and National Anthem; 7:50am - 10K Race Start; 8:05 - 5K Race Start; 9:15 - Kids Race Start. End of Program: Award Ceremony and Silent Auction. Too early or too busy on that day? Please consider the Virtual Race option: April 1-14. www.cfnl5k.org or www.cfnavyleague.org Info: Chris Townsend at flytownny@gmail.com 407.230.3333

Melbourne Air and Space Show – Sat & Sun. April 1, 2 – See airandspace.com for hours and ticket info.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 27 - May 1 - Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall at the City of Eustis. Volunteers, sponsors, vendors for this event are welcomed. Also yearly music Fest event April 28-30th. Info: Erin Bailey 352-483-5491

Thurs. May 4 – Sun. May 7 – Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion –This is the 30th annual gathering and not to be missed. Wickham Park in Melbourne. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will be escorted on Sun. April 30 with hundreds of various vehicles. Info: 321-408-2698. Vendors call: 321-652-4185 or vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS Pro Bono Legal Services - Free Legal Advice Clinic for veterans is being offered in two locations:

- Seminole County Public Library in Casselberry, Meeting Room 1 &2, 215 N Oxford Rd, Casselberry, 32707. Every 2nd Thursday of the month from 1 – 4 pm. Contact Kayla Meyer, Pro bono Coordinator, 407-834-1660 ext. 110, coordinator@scbalas.com
- Orlando VA Lake Baldwin in the Medical Center Cafeteria, 5201 Raymond St., Orlando, 32803. The 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 3:30pm. Contact Jay Mobley at 407-841-8310 ext. 3163.

Veterans Resource Radio – Rob Newton on the radio: Thursday’s at 1pm on WLBE 790 – my790am.com; Friday’s at 2pm WQBQ 1410 “The Q” on tune in radio, and at my-oldies.com. (Both stations are in Leesburg.)

Univ. of Central FL Business Incubation Program for Entrepreneurs – Assistance with the many aspects of starting or advancing businesses, including veteran owned businesses. Expert advice, mentoring, and classes available – See incubator.ucf.edu/ for more information and enrollment. A wide variety of class topics are offered on various dates and locations - held in Apopka, Winter Springs and Kissimmee. This is a must if you want to start or grow a business.

Research Project - Active military, reservists, guardsmen and veterans needed – If

you or someone you know has experience overseas, a research project is ongoing at the UCF RESTORES lab at the University of Central Florida. The project determines if smells influence their experience in virtual environments similar to those we use in the treatment of combat-related PTSD. Participation takes approximately one hour, and those who volunteer will be compensated for their time. You can help others who suffer from PTS by your participation. Call UCF RESTORES: 407-823-3910.

OIA USO - Volunteers and donations needed - USO at the Orlando International Airport averages over 100 guests daily and over 7500 guests since the opening in September. This USO is unique in that ALL veterans are welcomed, not just active duty and retired military. It is open from 6am to 10pm, 365 days a year. It is staffed by 400 volunteers (and parking is free for volunteers). There are no government monies received to operate the facility – it operates by our donations. For more information or to volunteer, contact Annamae at annamae@usocentralflorida.org or 407-825-8761.

Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry - Gulf War Syndrome veterans - The VA is urging veterans who serviced in the Southwest Asia Theater of operations to complete an online survey and report any concerns or symptoms that they may be experiencing as a result of airborne hazards during active duty in that region. Info: www.hillandponton.com/airborne-hazards-open-burn-pit-registry/

Camp LeJeune Contaminated Drinking Water - Marine Corps veterans sickened by the contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Eligible veterans stationed at the Marine base for at least 30 days cumulative (not necessarily consecutive) between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987. There are currently eight presumptive diseases linked to the water: Adult leukemia, Aplastic anemia, Bladder cancer, Kidney cancer, Liver cancer, Multiple myeloma, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Parkinson's disease. Veterans who suffered an illness not on the list can still apply for benefits. But they must go through the normal VA claims process. Veterans who have already been denied benefits are expected to be eligible to reapply. About 14,000 Lejeune veterans and family members live in Florida, the second highest total in the nation behind North Carolina. The base's water was tainted with industrial solvents and components of fuel from a variety of sources, including underground fuel tanks that leaked.

Veteran Pension Scams - Veterans' benefits, including their pensions, are being targeted in a new scam. As part of the scam, criminals pose as attorneys or financial advisers and extend an offer to assist the veteran with their pension. The scam involves convincing veterans to transfer their assets into a special trust account, then charging them exorbitant fees to help complete lengthy, complicated paperwork associated with the transfer. The veteran is told the asset reallocation will allow the person to qualify for aid and attendance benefits. But, this is not true. If you are approached by scammers, contact your local police or sheriff's department. (per Military.com | Week of January 30, 2017)(Thank you, Ed Burford! Seminole Co. VSO)

Hepatitis C – It is **imperative** that veterans get tested! If positive, get treated. The

VA will test you, and treat you. Consult your primary care team. One in 10 Vietnam veterans, and one in 30 baby-boomers, will test positive for this liver problem “time-bomb” that may lead to liver cancer. Blood Banks already test for this – if Hep C negative, your blood will help save a life. (FYI – Hepatitis C was formerly known as Hepatitis Non-A, Non-B until the 1980’s.)

Veterans in crisis – For you or someone you know. Suicide is a medical emergency. If you are experiencing thoughts of suicide, know that you are not alone and care should be sought immediately by calling 911. Free, confidential resources are instantly available through the Military Crisis Line to aid you if you are in crisis.

Call 800-273-8255 and press 1,

OR chat online now for 24/7 access to trained counselors who understand what service members and military families are coping with. Website at **veteranscrisisline**
OR: **text 838255** for 24/7 confidential assistance. They are there because they care....

Camaraderie Foundation in Central Florida provides resources for private and confidential Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) counseling for warriors and their families. And for First Responders. They also have connections in other areas, other states. It works. **It HAS saved lives, saved marriages and saved families.**
camaraderiefoundation .org Contact 407-841-0071

Caring and sharing,

Cathy Haynes

Member/supporter of numerous veteran and military organizations in Central FL 407-239-8468

chaynes11629@ yahoo .com


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Central Florida veterans advocate | 11629 Peach Grove Lane, Orlando, FL 32821

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