

## **March #2 – 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.

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!** Many Irish and their descendants have served in the military and as First Responders to protect our American communities!

**Arnold Palmer Golf Invitational offer: Military FREE** — single-day tournament admission is complimentary for all active duty and military retirees plus one guest (must show Department of Defense ID). A \$25 ticket is also available for non-retired veterans plus one guest. For more info: [birdiesforthebrave2.sheerid.com/ArnoldPalmer-2017](http://birdiesforthebrave2.sheerid.com/ArnoldPalmer-2017)

**The Charlie Daniels Band – Fri. March 17** – Music and fun go into raising funds for One Team One Fight in a program called Code Horse. Gates open at 6pm, show starts at 7pm at the Apopka Amphitheatre, 3710 Jason Dwelley Pkwy, Apopka, 32712. Proceeds will go to assist veterans affected with post-traumatic stress and/or traumatic brain injury. Presented by WWOV 103.1 The Wolf; 102.3 The Crossroads of Country and Rock; , and WLBE 790AM Central Florida's Oldies. Info/tickets: [GetOffTheBusConcerts.com](http://GetOffTheBusConcerts.com) [info@oneteamonefightptsd.org](mailto:info@oneteamonefightptsd.org) 352-409-7428

**Central FL Marine Corps Foundation Social – Fri March 17** - After Hours Social (and St. Patrick's Day Celebration!) 5pm-8pm at Buffalo Wild Wings, 11400 University Dr, Orlando, 32817. You don't have to be a Marine to join.

**SeaBee's meeting – Sat. March 18** – Local Seabee's X4 - United States Naval Construction Battalions – meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 8am (breakfast served) at the Casselberry's Veterans, Inc. & Auxiliary, 200 Concord Dr, Casselberry, 32707. Come join us!

**Honoring Our Veterans – with Horse therapy – Sat. March 18** – Zenergen offers a unique opportunity and healing experience through the power of horses. 9am to 4pm at the Equestrian Center, 418 Spring Knoll Lane, Altamonte Springs, 32714. This 501c3 – [www.zenergen.org](http://www.zenergen.org) - provides an alternative therapy to veterans. Info: 407-325-8581 or [cathyfalconer@me.com](mailto:cathyfalconer@me.com)

**RAFMAN Club fundraising dinner – Sat. March 18** – RAFMAN (Retired Air Force, Marines, Army, and Navy) sponsors this 22nd Annual scholarship fundraising dinner. 7pm-9:45pm at First Baptist Church of Orlando, Stageside, 3000 S. John Young Parkway, Orlando, 32805. New members are welcome! Info: Arthur Jarvis 407-492-1266 [afleet7@bellsouth.net](mailto:afleet7@bellsouth.net)

**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, Korean War and Vietnam veterans return home thru Orlando Int'l Airport. The nationwide 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! – This month's dates are:

- **Sat. March 18** – 25 veterans, plus their guardians and staff. Includes 11 WW2 vets including 1 woman, 11 from Korean War, and 3 from Vietnam War. Returns from BWI on SW Flt# 4886 at **9:45pm**.
- **Wed. March 29** – 35 veterans, plus their guardians and staff. Returns from BWI on SW Flt# 1037 at **9:05pm**.

The groups enter the Hotel end of the Airport terminal area and we greet them in front of the Starbucks - **Terminal A, Airside 2** – oftentimes led from the Tram by a bagpiper. Before leaving home to attend the homecoming, it is suggested that you check online to see if the flight is on time because there may be delays due to weather, mechanical or medical issues.

**Free parking** has been arranged at an off airport property – FastPark and Relax (7870 N Frontage Rd, Orlando, 32812) who has been very generous to Honor Flights with free parking and shuttles to/from the airport (Tips welcomed by drivers!) Just tell the attendant upon entering that site that you are there for the veterans/Honor Flight – they try to park us together.

**New:** Parking Vouchers WILL be available for airport garage parking from a GOAA rep. in the terminal for this event – maximum of 3 hours – **BUT you have to take a PAPER ticket upon entering the airport garage.** The vouchers will **NOT** work if you use the SunPass/EPass transponders – we cannot credit the charge back. Seek the GOAA rep. (or ‘Miss Liberty’) early before the veterans arrive.

For the AM Early Birds - you can wave these veterans off in the morning no later than 5am. They process thru Security early and quickly In Terminal A, Airside 2. Information for more Flights will be forthcoming. Contact Cathy Haynes for those details 407-239-8468 chaynes11629@yahoo.com

**Blue Star & Gold Star Memorials – Sun. March 19** - The Oleander Garden Club and the West Palm Beach Elk's Lodge #1352 has invited The Patriot Guard Riders and interested others to join them in Honoring of Our Heroes Families. These memorials are Florida's 1st Gold Star Memorial. Ceremony starts at 1pm at West Palm Beach Elk's Lodge # 1352, 6188 Belvedere Rd., West Palm Beach, 33413.

**Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans – Mon. March 20** – Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, the City Commissioners and members of the Mayor's Veterans Advisory Council will be in attendance to present an official proclamation in recognition of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. All Vietnam veterans are welcome and encouraged to attend! 2pm in Orlando City Council Chambers, 400 South Orange Ave, Orlando, 32801. Parking will be available in the City Commons parking garage at 460 Boone Ave. Handicapped parking is available on every level of the garage. Bring your parking ticket for validation after the event. Info: 407.246.2728.

**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

**CFDC Veterans Business Initiative (VBI) – Tues. March 21 -** Session # 4 starts at 8:30 am. The VBI will run for eight weeks through March and April. This is a no cost program for all Military Veterans and their spouses who are seeking employment, entrepreneurial training and continuing education paths. Partners attending this session will be Rosen Hotels & Resorts, Lockheed Martin, Universal Orlando Resort and Score. Veterans and spouses please register at the [www.cfdisabilitychamber.org/vbi/](http://www.cfdisabilitychamber.org/vbi/) Info: 407-420-4875

**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.

**On this date: March 23, 1775 -** Patrick Henry ignited the American Revolution with a speech before the Virginia convention in Richmond, stating, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

**Veteran Hiring Event – Thurs. March 23 -** The Orlando VA Medical Center is hosting its first “Employer of the Day”. Andy Frain, a company, has over 150 positions in Guest Services and Security. They would like to hire veterans seeking part-time work at Camping World Stadium, Amway Arena, the Bob Carr and Dr. Phillips Center. (Security Fees are waived.) 10am-2pm interviews at Lake Nona VA Medical Center, 13800 Veterans Way, Crescent Room, Orlando, 32827. Info: Annie Artis, Veteran Employment Community Coordinator, at 407-646-5500 x27246 or new Mobile #: 407-750-0350 EllaMay.Artis@va.gov

**Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans – Thurs. March 23 -** The City of St. Cloud in Osceola County presents an official proclamation in recognition of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. All Vietnam veterans are welcome and encouraged to attend! 6:30pm at City Hall Council Chambers, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, 34769.

**Submarine Veterans meeting – Thurs. March 23 –** Sailors who served in the United States Submarines meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Casselberry’s Veterans, Inc. & Auxiliary, 200 Concord Dr, Casselberry, 32707. Food is usually available. Come join us!

**CSM William Ryan monument unveiling – Fri. March 24 –** Brevard County war hero, Army Command Sgt Major William Ryan (ret.), will be remembered when a monument is unveiled at a ceremony at Eddies Sunrise Diner, 55 East Nasa Blvd, Melbourne, 32901. Bill died in 2015 and had received numerous awards and citations for his notable service from WW2, Korea, and

Vietnam, including recognition from Korea, Britain, Canada and Russia. All are welcomed to attend. Sponsored by Families of the Shield.

**Day Trip to Orlando VA for Female Veterans - Fri. and Sat. March 24 and 25** - In honor of Women's History Month, The American Legion is hosting a day trip to the Orlando VA Medical Center at Lake Nona. Join other women veterans on a visit to the hospital campus and learn about facilities and services dedicated to your specific needs. Fri: 6pm - Women Veterans Meet & Greet Social at The Bistro, Courtyard by Marriott Orlando Lake Nona, 6955 Lake Nona Blvd., Orlando, 32827. Sat: 10am – Day Trip visiting VA Intake process, VA Benefits, and VA Women's Center. 1pm - Department of Veterans Affairs Q&A Panel with Verna Jones, as Facilitator, American Legion Executive Director from Washington DC. Info: Heather Frebe, VA Public Affairs, 407-631-4436 Heather.Frebe@va.gov

**National Medal of Honor Day – Sat. March 25** – The Museum of Military History hosts this Commander's Call weekend event that will feature guest speaker Maureen Miller. She will share stories, photos and artifacts about her son, Medal of Honor recipient Army SSG Robert J. Miller, from 11:30 am to noon. For his heroic actions while serving with the Special Forces Operational Detachment in Afghanistan 2008, Miller saved the lives of 7 Special Forces team members and 15 Afghanistan National Army Soldiers but unfortunately paid the ultimate sacrifice. Additional special exhibits will highlight the achievements of other Medal of Honor recipients who went above and beyond the call of duty for actions of valor and heroism such as William Carney, Larry Smedley, Hershel "Woody" Williams, Baldomero Lopez and others. Food, drinks, and dog tags will be available for purchase. Museum admission fees will be reduced from regular rates during event hours. Commander's Call hours: 10am – 2pm. Regular hrs: 10am-6pm Tues-Sun. 5210 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, 34746. (407) 507-3894

**Veterans Art Center Grand Opening – Sat. March 25** – Florida's first art center for veterans healing opens in the Tampa Bay area, Gas Light Square, 6798 Crosswinds Dr. N., St. Petersburg, 33710. Featuring art exhibits, displays, and music with the Formal ceremony beginning at 3 pm. Global Ambassador for Arts and Entertainment for the US Military, First Responders and their families, honoring Gold Star families; Billboard charting artist B. Taylor will be present, with raffle prizes, street performers and more. Info: vactb.org Prior to the event: An annual patriotic ceremony honoring Vietnam Veterans and also War Dogs, to be held at Tampa's Veterans Memorial Park, 3602 N. US Highway 301, Tampa, FL 33619.

**Brews for Barks fundraiser – Sat. March 25** - Fundraiser for K9s for Warriors at Orlando Brewing, hosted by Orange County Young Republicans. Donations to the charity will get you free food, beer, koozies, prizes, etc. Orlando Brewing, 1301 Atlanta Ave, Orlando, 32806. Donation Levels (while supplies lasts): \$10\* - \$1 off beer, (1) food ticket, B4B Koozie; \$20 - \$1 off beer, (1) food ticket, B4B Koozie, B4B Sunglasses; \$50 - \$1 off beer, (1) food ticket, B4B Sunglasses, Jeremiah's Italian Ice Voucher, Genuine 50 Caliber Bullet Bottle Opener. \*Active military and veterans get the \$10 deal for only \$5!

**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

**WWE's Veteran Career Panel & Networking Event with Hire Heroes USA – Tues. March 28** - This free Veteran Career Panel & Networking Event with Hire Heroes USA, in partnership with Full Sail University and the Central Florida Sports Commission, will consist of career coaching, an industry panel Q&A session featuring executives from companies in the Greater Orlando Area, and a networking event attended by recruiters, hiring managers, and human resources professionals from 40 Orlando-area companies. Attendees will receive a WWE branded resume portfolio, opportunity to take a professional LinkedIn profile photo, free resume revision, and more! WWE: World Wrestling Entertainment) 8am - 2pm at Full Sail University, 141 University Park Dr., Winter Park, 32792 Info: Aaron Hall, Military liaison, [ahall@fullsail.com](mailto:ahall@fullsail.com) 407.679.0100 x6071

(Human Resources professional interested in representing your company at a networking table during the event, contact Hire Heroes USA's Melissa Conner at [mconner@hireheroesusa.org](mailto:mconner@hireheroesusa.org))

**“Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” on March 30** of each year. The State of Florida officially recognized this date in 2014. Though there is some debate, March 29 is generally viewed by some as a more appropriate date. On that day in 1973, the last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil.

**“How to do Business Workshop” – Fri. March 31** – Orange County Public Schools provides a Procurement Services workshop that has been noted by FAVOB (Florida Association of Veteran Owned Businesses). This is a great opportunity for a veteran owned business to enter into one of the largest businesses in Central Florida. 9am to 11am, OCPS Facilities Services, Building 101F, 6501 Magic Way, Orlando, 32809. Info: Nestaly “Dolly” Morales, Office of Business Opportunity, Goods & Service, 407-317-3700 Ext. 2025021, [Nestaly.morales@ocps.net](mailto:Nestaly.morales@ocps.net) (Workshop will also be offered on Fri. April 28.)

**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](http://www.cfnl5k.org) or [www.cfnavyleague.org](http://www.cfnavyleague.org) Info: Chris Townsend at [flytowny@gmail.com](mailto:flytowny@gmail.com) 407.230.3333

Not-for-Profit Groups: Opportunities for FREE table to share your information may be available – limited numbers and space. Contact the resources above.

**Run As One - After the above event** at the same location at **Baldwin Park** – a group of hands-on programs will walk in remembrance of Clay Hunt. He was a Marine veteran who died by suicide in March 2011 and was the topic of a 60 Minutes report. Clay was an original member of Team Rubicon, The Mission Continues Fellow, and avid sportsman who battled PTSD and depression. The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act will help reduce military and veteran suicides and improve access to quality mental health care. Persons are invited to run/walk/dog walk/ baby carriage push, etc. Participating will be Team Red, White and Blue, Team Rubicon, and others at over 150 locations across the country. No charge, unless you want a T-shirt (\$20).

**K9's for Warriors fundraiser – Sat. April 1** - America Legion Auxiliary Unit 183 Old Glory sponsors this event with a Classic Rock Cover Band, “40 Years After” playing 60's, 70's and 80's music. Raffle prizes, games, food, and lots of fun. Open to all, 2pm – 5pm at the Post, 2706 Wells Ave, Fern Park, 32730. K9s for Warriors works with our veterans who suffer from PTSD post 9/11. Most of the dogs come from local rescues then go through extensive training before matched with a veteran. The veteran then goes to their facility in Ponte Vedra Florida for hands on training with their new service dog for approximately three weeks where they stay on property during that time. On average, it takes \$27,000 for all costs to pair one dog. They have saved countless lives of veterans suffering from PTSD and helped them acclimate back into society. Event info: 407-831-8004 sandrastepp8563@ gmail .com

**Melbourne Air and Space Show – Sat & Sun. April 1, 2** – See [airandspace.com](http://airandspace.com) for hours and ticket info.

**Good Deeds Day – Sun April 2** – Join Hands On Orlando (HOO) for Fun, Food and Fellowship. This Field Day will include a cookout, basketball, horseshoes, cornhole, and more. 11am – 1pm at William R. Just Center, 1405 W. Michigan St., Orlando, 32805. HOO allows veterans, active military and their families to perform community service projects with others to make a difference. Info and RSVP to Brittany Chaney, 407-375-9389, [brittany@handsonorlando .com](mailto:brittany@handsonorlando.com)

**Hero's Commons Grand Opening – Wed. April 5** - The Orlando Regional Realtor Foundation and the City of Orlando, along with their project partners, announce the grand opening event for the first two homes completed in the Heroes' Commons at Jefferson Park Veterans Housing project. 10am – 12noon at 1203 W. Jefferson Street, Orlando, 32805, will include the presentation of the first two homes, as well as tours of the remaining homes currently under construction. The Heroes' Commons at Jefferson Park development involves the design, construction, and donation of six single-family, energy efficient, ADA compliant homes to well deserving veterans. The project's design maximizes connectivity and "green space" between the homes, which in turn encourages a supportive and inclusive environment. In addition, this development will serve as a catalyst for community building and revitalization within the Parramore neighborhood and Orlando's urban core. Info: CJ Davila at 407-513-7546 or [cjd@orlandorealtorsfoundation .org](mailto:cjd@orlandorealtorsfoundation.org).

**100 years ago, today - April 6, 1917** - Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I in Europe.

**Packaging for the Troops – Sat. April 8** – Join K.I.S.S. (Kids In Support of Soldiers) and let the Troops know that we still remember they are still serving far away from those they love and that love them. Packages are put together at Casselberry Vets & Aux, 200 Concord Dr, Casselberry, 32707. 10am for about an hour. Open to the public. If you have a loved one overseas, let us know and we will add them to our mailing list and they will receive a package every month they are gone. Info: 321-279-6092 [akissfromhome@ yahoo .com](mailto:akissfromhome@yahoo.com)

**75 years ago, today, - April 10, 1942** - During World War II in the Pacific, the Bataan Death March began as American and Filipino prisoners were forced on a six-day march from an airfield on Bataan to a camp near Cabanatuan. Some 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans

were forced to walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.

## **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

**Fri. April 28 - USMCCA Foundation Golf Tournament** – U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association, Foundation tournament. The proceeds go to the Semper Fi fund to help wounded Marines and their loved ones. James “Red” Carpenter at jcar1@tampabay.rr.com 352.688.6720 Sponsorships welcomed.

**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/](http://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](mailto: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/](http://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 Post 9/11 veterans/warriors and their families. 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