

T.A.M.P.A. – In The News April 2009

Bits & pieces to keep you updated with the group and what is going on.

On Saturday, April 25th we celebrated our 5th birthday at Freedom Park with over 50 in attendance. The food and fellowship was wonderful. Our birthday cake was done by our very own 'Cake Lady', Paula and it was truly a sight to behold.....not to mention that it was absolutely delicious! Our new officers and Board of Directors were announced:

President: Cyd Deathe

Vice President: Bonnie C.

Secretary: Kim N.

Treasurer: Kym S.

Board of Directors:

Bruce N., Eric R., Robert M., Joy J. and Paula S.

Also announced was that Heidi R. has volunteered to be the Administrative Asst. and help Cyd with many of her daily and weekly tasks. Thanks to all our new 'volunteers' as 2009 looks to be a very productive year for the group.

The Daytona fundraiser, held in February, totaled over \$2000 between profits and tips. The money had been earmarked for liability insurance for the group. The insurance policy has been purchased for 12 months at a cost of \$808. We will determine how the remaining funds will be used at the first Board of Directors meeting in May.

The annual report for the corporation has been filed with the state of Florida according to the rules and regulations governing the state.

Donations were made to the following military support organizations:
Postage/Support Our Troops – \$100
Flag Day Celebration - \$25
Friends of the Marines - \$20
Veterans Council - \$10

TEAM T.A.M.P.A. has been formed! This team will be made up of our Marines/Veterans from our families. Adam S. will act as team captain by leading the team for the 2nd Annual Run for the Fallen (August 23, 2009) and notifying members of other runs that they will be eligible to participate in. Sgt. Stephanie R. is our 2nd member and will be running the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC in October along with Adam. Both members registration fees for the marathon have been covered by our group. Team shirts will be made with our logo and the team motto:

"We Run So Our Parents Don't Have To!"

Donation pages on the website will be available soon so that members can fundraise for the group.

T.A.M.P.A. shirts are finally in. If you would like to purchase a shirt the cost is \$10 and come in the following sizes: S, M, L, XL & XXL. Shirts can be purchased at gatherings and events or at the online store on our website.

A Spa Night is being planned for the month of May for ladies who's men are patients at the Tampa VA hospital. Location, date, etc. will be announced soon along with ways that you can help make this event a great success.

May 1st – National Silver Star Family Day
T.A.M.P.A. members have facilitated 4 additional cities/counties, in the state of Florida, being added to the growing lists of communities across the nation recognizing and honoring the sacrifices of the men and women in the Armed Forces.

Hillsborough County, Pasco County, City of Winter Haven & Polk County.

For more information about this organization and May 1st visit:

www.silverstarfamiliesofamerica.org

Joan & Art T., members who reside in Tallahassee, have requested that our group help with a veterans living unit that is being

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furnished in their area. Joan supplied us with a list of items which were needed. We felt it was easier to donate funds instead of collecting items and then getting them transported to northern Florida. A check will be sent in the next few days to help with any items that remain on the list. Joan has volunteered to purchase the items and see that they are delivered on T.A.M.P.A.'s behalf. Donations can be made for this on the website/please be sure to note the donation as the Tallahassee Veterans Project.

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All monthly financial reports can now be requested and sent directly to you via email. The Board of Directors will review and approve all reports quarterly. If you would like a report or more information please contact the treasurer kym@usmcfamilysupport.org

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The 2009 Marine Family Birthday Ball will be held at the Officer's Club at MacDill AFB in Tampa on Saturday, November 14th. Tickets will be \$50 each. The reservation is made and deposit has been paid on the facility. Remember you can start making weekly/monthly payments now towards your tickets so it doesn't it so hard all at once in November. You won't want to miss this event as it is a grand time for all who attend. Preparations are being finalized for an exciting guest speaker that you won't want to miss!

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We have been given a wonderful opportunity to purchase more Wounded Warrior Handbooks at a discounted price and with a specialized book jacket. These books are being distributed to WW's all over the state and at the monthly Helping Hands dinner. T.A.M.P.A. will begin working with other military support organizations to raise \$4,000 to purchase 200 of the handbooks. More details will come on how we will accomplish this task.

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Cell phones collections for this year have already reached over \$1,000. Have you set up

a collection box at your work, school, church, bank, etc.? If not now is the time. If you collect 7 or more phones the shipping is FREE. Phones do not have to be in working order and can be any style any age. All cell phones should be recycled and the company we use is a green company. This is an ongoing project that has funded many needs for our group and allowed us to be able to keep our operating expenses in the "black". PLEASE consider collecting phones in your area or asking a military/community organization in your area to support T.A.M.P.A. by holding a cell phone drive. You'll never know unless you ask. For more information please contact cyd@usmcfamilysupport.org.

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A Central Florida Poolee family day was held at the Tampa USMC Reserve Center on April 25th. Information about our group was distributed to over 200 recruits and their families. Sgt. Major Braddy, who supervises all recruiters for central Florida, has requested we put together a promotional packet about our group, which on approval, would be distributed in each packet that is given to new poolee and their families. What an awesome opportunity to reach more Marine families. Liegh M. has volunteered her time and services to help put together professional marketing materials for this and other upcoming projects.

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Remember to find out more about upcoming gatherings, events, projects, etc. be sure to visit the T.A.M.P.A. website regularly: www.usmcfamilysupport.org

