

T.A.M.P.A. – In The News July 2009

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

On Saturday, June 20th twenty-seven members of the group met at the Beef O'Brady's in Brandon for our first Family, Food & Fun. Members enjoyed good food and fellowship, lots of laughter and some nice raffle prizes. We had several visitors which included Joy & Joe's eldest son, Sgt. Stephanie R. (home on leave), Sgt. Courtney Yountz & wife (Tampa recruiter) and Paula & Neil's grandson Andrew. We were able to meet the owners and share about our group and they were excited that we have chosen their place for these meet ups. We also expressed to them our desire to have more Marine Corps memorabilia and presented them with one of our coins (thanks so much Paula) and a few Marine Corps posters to help adorn the walls.

There is plenty of room and we can make all the noise that we want. Also the outside cabana bar offers a nice retreat for some cooler evenings later in the year.

The next Family, Food & Fun meet up will on Saturday, August 8th @ 4p.m. Hope to see many of you there.

Your Board of Directors is very busy working hard for the group. Liability Insurance has been purchased, a final grant proposal has been submitted for project funding, a new deployment support connection plan is being implemented and there are possible plans of a regular gathering site at a local MCL building.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact your board members at any time. Direct your questions through bonnie@usmcfamilysupport.org and she will see that the information is given to the proper person.

July 25 - Luau / Pig roast

Get out those old flowered shirts, grab your bathing suit and a towel, don't forget to email Kym for what to bring from our Polynesian menu and head on over to Tampa for our monthly gathering. We're expecting a great

crowd with some special guests so you won't want to miss out. For more details:

[LUAU INFORMATION](#)

Word has it that Richard has built an awesome Tiki bar to make the atmosphere authentic! Guess you'll have to come and see for yourself.

Remember, if your Marine is deployed we would like to make sure they receive one of our care packages. Please forward their shipping address to cyd@usmcfamilysupport.org along with their estimated date of return. We will make sure to get some "goodies" on the way.

Dee Mills is our very own Gold Star Mother. That means that she and her family have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country by losing her son, Lea, in Iraq. Dee will tell you, 'Once a Marine Mom,

ALWAYS a Marine Mom!' Since Lea's death she has dedicated herself to also serving her country by founding Lea's



Prayers & Postage. Her non profit organization covers the shipping costs for packages that go to our troops all over the globe. She is always busy finding ways to raise funds to get every package out, thousands have been shipped. If Dee wins she will receive a \$5,000 check for the organization of her choice. That money will ship a lot of packages to our men and women serving in harms way. Please vote each day.

Voting continues through August 7th!!!!

[CLICK HERE TO VOTE](#)

Pat Conner, of HBO in Atlanta and whom we worked with for the Alive Day premier, contacted me early Friday morning with wonderful news to share:

TAKING CHANCE, an HBO presentation, received 10 Emmy nominations this week

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including best made-for-TV movie and best actor, Kevin Bacon! HBO led all networks with 99 nominations, the ninth year in a row that they have been at the top.

If you have not yet seen this riveting film, it is definitely a must see. You will need to have plenty of tissues available and it is not suggested for any families who are in the midst of a deployment.

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T.A.M.P.A. Hosts 2nd Annual



Final Day Event

Sunday, August 23, 2009

Registration - 8 a.m.

1 Mile Run/Walk & 5K Run

2008 / 230+ walker/runners needed =
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

2009 / 350+ walkers/runners needed =
WILL YOU HELP?

A walker/runner is needed for each fallen hero in the state of Florida for OEF/OIF, and this year we will need additional participants to represent all other states in our great nation.

FREE EVENT

Please pre-register today:

kym@usmcfamilysupport.org

Event T-Shirts available/\$5

This is a commemorative event not a fundraiser. Any donations will help cover event costs.

Location of Event:

E.G. Simmons Park

2401 - 19th Avenue N.W.

(off US 41 in S. Hillsborough County)
Ruskin, FL 33570

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Testimonials Needed...

We are currently in the process of putting together a new brochure for our group with a more professional layout. The board met last month and agreed that we need to include a few "testimonials" about what the groups impact has been to our community and especially our Marine families all over the United States and beyond. If you would like to help with a brief statement it would be greatly appreciated. Please return your entry to cyd@usmcfamilysupport.org and they will be forwarded to the board. Only a few will be selected as space is limited. If yours is chosen, you will be contacted directly to discuss any changes or questions that need to be made. **Please submit your entry by Friday, July 24th.**

Thank you for all your help and support in continuing to make T.A.M.P.A. the great organization that it is.

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Homecoming Banner

At the beginning of 2009 we purchased some very nice banners that the group will be able to use throughout the year at many of our events and gatherings. One of the banners is a "Welcome Home" banner.



This banner was purchased so that members could borrow it for their Marine's homecoming event. It debuted in California when Ilona borrowed it to welcome Patrick and his unit. If you would like to use this banner when your Marine comes home please contact bonnie@usmcfamilysupport.org

The banner will be loaned out on a first come, first serve basis and is to be returned promptly after the event.

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4th Amphibious Reserve Unit Tampa Lt. Col. Lewton moves to Quantico



On July 2nd some of the members of our group were honored to be in attendance for the Change of Command Ceremony at the Gandy reserve center in Tampa.

Upon completion of the formal ceremonies we had the

opportunity to present Lt. Col Lewton with a “Thank You” plaque for his continued support to T.A.M.P.A. He will be moving to Quantico where he will be attending *War School* and moving up the ranks in his Marine career.

We wish Lt. Col. Lewton and his family a safe move and best wishes on their new path.

Articles that may be of interest.....

[Vets Eligible for Cell Phone Discounts](#)

[Maid Brigade Give Away For Vets](#)

[Breast Cancer Survivor Tries To Link Illness To Bad Water](#)

[Military Family of the Year Contest](#)



PREPAY Now!

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. Remember you can start making weekly/monthly payments now towards your tickets so it doesn’t hit so hard all at once in November. You won’t want to miss this event as our Marine families know how to kick up their heels and have one heck of a time. Payments can be mailed or completed online.

For additional information and ticket sales please contact kym@usmcfamilysupport.org Our 2009 theme is: *Policing the Whole Damn World Since 1775* with special guest speaker Sgt. Major Braddy of the Orlando Recruiting Station. This is one Marine that you will definitely want to meet as he has that “hard charger” spirit that has lived for generations in the USMC.

Be sure to invite your family and friends to this wonderful time of celebrating our beloved Corps birthday.

A New Devil Pup!

Congratulations to proud daddy, wounded warrior Jordan P., and Grandma Candy D. (Lakeland) on the new arrival of Little Miss Lachlan Harlowe P., born on July 10th at 12:45p.m. in Tacoma, Washington weighing 10 lbs. and measuring 22”.



After living in Lake Mary, FL for over 20 years, members Tawnie & Scott E. made the big move to a beautiful retirement community in Leesburg. Tawnie has been busy waiting for furniture deliveries, supervising maintenance /installation guys and greeting Scott with a “Honey Do” list each day.

The community is full of plenty to do and plenty of people to do it with. They even have a Marine Corps group!

Now, we will await the news of Scott’s many escapades as he blends in with his new neighbors, we are sure to hear some great stories and get a lot of laughs. Watch out Leesburg, your resident character has finally arrived!

If you will be traveling to Quantico any time soon, be sure to stop in at the Marine Corps Museum. What an incredible tribute to our Corps past and present.

Look for our very own T.A.M.P.A. engraved brick along the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park. The brick is located at the top of the path in front of the Chapel (directions can be obtained at the information desk).

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 monthly. If you would like a report or more information please contact our treasurer kym@usmcfamilysupport.org

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Founder of Wounded Warriors Retires



Lt. Col. Maxwell, one of the founders of the Wounded Warrior Regiment, has retired after 22 years of dedicated service. He deployed six times and was

injured in Iraq, suffering a severe traumatic brain injury, on October 7, 2004.

The retirement ceremony, along with his and Shannon's wedding vow renewal, took place in the lobby of the gorgeous Marine Corps Museum outside of Quantico on Friday, June 26th.

There was standing room only as the ceremony began and visitors to the museum viewed the event from the second floor balcony. Imagine their excitement when the Asst. Commandant of the Marine Corps., General Amos, took the stage to offer his kind words to Tim and his family.

What a bitter sweet event it was for our family and so many others. As I sat there I wondered if the new man in charge would love and care for his wounded warrior families as well as the Maxwell's have. Our family is a living testimony of the tremendous sacrifices they have made for our nations wounded.

We wish Lt. Col. and his family our very best. They truly deserve some time to just relax and enjoy life after giving so much for



so long. But, you can rest assured that we have not seen the last of them and their work, they'll 'be back', you can count on it!

Is Your Marine Currently Deployed?

In keeping with our groups mission statement we, as a board, are trying to come up with better ways to give "support" to our members, especially those who are going through the very

difficult time of having their Marine(s) deployed.

Robert M. is retired from the United States Air Force, a Marine dad and a very active T.A.M.P.A. board member. Robert's son, a USMC grunt, has been on multiple deployments which have allowed Robert to learn first hand the effects these deployments have on both the Marine and their families. He has spent numerous hours helping my son through the many hurdles that exist in our VA system and devotes much of his personal time to researching PTSD, TBI and other long term effects of being at war. He has a huge heart and a strong desire to help.

He is currently in the process of setting up a communication system for our "deployed" families. Those who probably need that extra bit of TLC to help them get through one day at a time until their loved one has safely returned home. He will work with families, via phone and email, on an individual basis according to their needs and wishes.

For those of us who have dealt with deployment, we know that keeping all to your self is probably not the way to go. Having people around and in contact, who have walked in your very shoes, can and will make all the difference.

If your Marine(s) is currently deployed, or will be deploying shortly, please contact Robert directly: Robert@usmcfamilysupport.org

Be a part of this new program and help us learn how to continue to make it a success.

