

T.A.M.P.A. – In The News June 2010

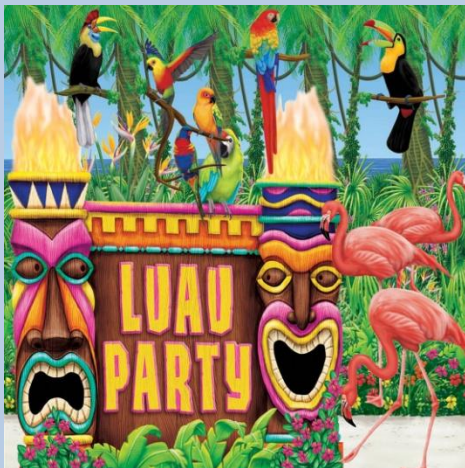
Bits & pieces to keep you updated with our USMC family.

Saturday, July 24th 3p.m. til ? 2nd Annual T.A.M.P.A. Friends & Family LUAU

Last year we had nearly 60 people in attendance enjoying the great fun, sun, pool, music and food. This event is great to invite family and friends as it is a very relaxed setting where everyone can get to know each other better. Mark your calendars now as you won't want to miss the event. More details will be posted on our website, FB and via email. Contact Bonnie@USMCFamilySupport.org and she will let you know what kind of tropical appetizer or dessert you can bring to share.

We are hoping that Robert & Weena will be able to visit us from the Daytona area so that they can set up their wonderful Tiki Bar again.

Keep your fingers crossed.



REMINDER:

Polk County IAVA/Warrior Walk

Saturday, July 31st 9a.m. - Lakeland

T.A.M.P.A. members & guest will meet and travel over together, wearing our shirts & showing our support for this first time event. Travel details will be coming via email, website & FB.

Registration & Info: <http://warriorwalklakeland.com/>

T.A.M.P.A. Hosts 3rd Annual



Sunday, August 22, 2010

Registration - 8 a.m.

FREE EVENT

1 Mile Run/Walk & 5K Run

2009 / 500+ participants,
volunteers & spectators

2010 Goal = 750+

A walker/runner is needed for each fallen hero in the state of Florida for OEF/OIF, also to represent all other states in our nation.

Event T-Shirts available/\$5

This is a commemorative event

NOT a fundraiser.

Any donations collected will help cover event costs.

Pre-register today:

kym@usmcfamilysupport.org

*If you or your organization would like to make a donation to help offset the costs of this event please contact:
Admin@USMCFamilySupport.org*

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T.A.M.P.A.'s Treasurer/Kym Sardinas was honored to be chosen as a mentor for this incredible event held in Washington DC over the Memorial Day weekend. It was a moving experience that has forever changed her life. She looks forward to making this an annual event.

Families of the Fallen Find Healing Through TAPS

Program Helps Families, and Especially Children, Deal With Their Grief

By YUNJI de NIES and TOM GIUSTO

WASHINGTON, May 30, 2010

Teresa and Megan Priestner have made the journey to [Arlington National Cemetery](#) every [Memorial Day](#) weekend for the last four years. There, mother and daughter quietly honor Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Richard Priestner, the husband and father who died when his Apache helicopter went down in [Iraq](#) in 2006.

For Megan, who was then just 10 years old, the pain was overwhelming.

"I didn't accept it. I just sat there and stared at the clock. In my head I said, 'No, he's not dead, no, he can't leave me, and no, I'm too young for him to go,'" she said.

John and Teresa grew up together, attending the same kindergarten and graduating from the same high school. After years of friendship, they fell in love when he returned home from training in the Air Force.

They had two daughters together, Breanne and Megan, and were married for nearly 19 years before he died serving in [Operation Iraqi Freedom](#).

Teresa says seeing her daughters struggle was the hardest part of losing her husband.

"If I could have taken the grief from them so they didn't have to suffer it, I would," she said through tears. "Watching them lose their dad and go through what they went through ... it was the worst."

Megan even attempted suicide several times, after each one, waking up in the emergency room.

"My mom and my sister almost lost me three times," she said. "I overdosed and I was cutting myself."

But Megan, now 14, has found a place to heal in the [Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, or TAPS](#), a national organization that brings surviving families of [fallen soldiers](#) together, to process grief and celebrate life.

"This is our safe place to talk about our loved ones and to introduce them to others who never got the chance to know them," TAPS founder [Bonnie Carroll](#) said.

Carroll started TAPS in 1994, after her husband, Brig. Gen. Tom Carroll, was killed in a plane crash. She found herself with little support, and created her own network. Today, TAPS has tens of thousands of

members around the country.

"The death of a loved one is like having someone reach in and grab your heart and just pull it right out of your body.

There's no physical wound, but it is one of the most devastating experiences you can have," [Carroll](#) said.

"Going to a therapist, going to a doctor and having them say, 'Oh, you're grieving appropriately,' or, 'It will just take time,' just doesn't resonate," she said. "Sitting down with another widow, another mom, another brother and



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saying, 'I don't know if I can make it till tomorrow,' and having them say back to you, 'You will because I did and I'm going to take your hand and I'm going to walk you down this road.' That's what TAPS is about."

This weekend, TAPS held its 16th annual TAPS National Military Survivor Seminar & Good Grief Camp in Arlington, Va. Over four days, more than 1,500 people gather for workshops, mentoring, comfort and care for families who have lost a loved one in military service.

Much of the event's focus is on children, from infants to teenagers. Each wears a button with a photograph of the loved one they lost. Every child is paired with a mentor, most of whom are active duty members of the military.

"I see a lot of love and a lot of pride -- you know, kids who are wearing the buttons with pictures of their dads, their brothers or their moms. And they're just so happy to share that person," Carroll said. "This is someone who just loves them so much and always will, even though they're not physically present any longer. And to be with a mentor, one-on-one, someone who's focused on them, who's a connection to the military is so healing."

The children end the conference by writing a letter to the person who died.

Megan said her message to her father is simple.

"Just tell him that I love him and that I miss him and no matter what, he'll always be in our family," she said.

Megan is also reaching out to other children, who are going through the pain she knows all too well.

"All I want to do is help the kids and make sure they don't do what I did. For their families and them, they don't have to go through the pain and hurt I went through," she said.

Teresa said that makes her proud and thankful.

"I've got my daughter back. And I feel blessed. And she's back here helping others," she said.

Teresa said she cannot imagine how she and her daughters would have made it through this difficult time without TAPS.

"It's like having a guardian angel always around you. That's what TAPS feels like," she said. "It's your big guardian angel wrapping you in wings and you're going to be OK."

Before the day ends, the children tie their letters to red, white and blue helium balloons. Together, they count down, and release them into the sky.

"It's a beautiful thing watching all of us do it," Megan said. "Because all of us are all one, and one big happy family."

And family is what so many of these children need now, more than ever.

Marine Becomes Bone Marrow Donor to Save His Brother's Life

Kerry McCall, from south Florida, found our group via the internet and joined up to be a part of the experience. Little did she know that shortly after Matt went to PI she would be dealing with Jack's disease. Kerry sends me regular updates and will always be a part of our T.A.M.P.A. Marine Family!

HOPE HODGE

A Marine uniform didn't stop a New River lance corporal from becoming a homefront hero to the person who needed him most — his little brother.

Last April, the McCall family traveled from their Miami home to Parris Island, S.C., to celebrate what should have been a happy occasion: the graduation of a son, Matt, from boot camp.

But the mood changed rapidly when the family's youngest child, Jack, then 8, had a seizure.

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The incident was the beginning of months of testing and doctor's visits. Some specialists concluded it was epilepsy, but Jack's mother, Kerry Mc-Call, kept searching for another answer.

Jack, she said, had been "very active, very healthy and normal. In hindsight, we could look back and see signs, but we didn't know what we were looking at."

The indicators — hyperactivity and slow loss of motor skills — were symptoms of XALD, an extremely rare genetic disease. The prognosis was grim.

"They told us to take him home and make him comfortable," McCall said, "that there was no treatment available."

Doctors told McCall that Jack's only hope was a bone marrow transplant, and since his condition was so advanced, the family would have to provide the donor. Only a brother would be a perfect match.

Matt McCall was at the Aviation Ground Support Equipment Technician School in Pensacola, Fla., when he got the Red Cross alert asking him to get tested as a donor. That day, he went for preliminary testing, later taking days of leave to do follow-up tests. He was a match.

Although Matt had heard that bone marrow donation could be extremely painful, he said refusing to be a donor never entered his mind.

"It doesn't matter to me; it's got to be done," he said. "I was just glad to be a match."

Growing up in a family of eight, Matt said he had a tight bond with his little brother.

"We're close in every manner of speaking," he said. "I never had my own room growing up. It was a great thing."

Though the transplant was still a long shot, the family prepared for the surgery, which was scheduled for Oct. 21, 2009.

They drilled into Matt's tailbone, transferring 900 milliliters of his marrow to his little brother. Early tests showed the new marrow had grafted beautifully.

Kerry McCall said she'd never forget the date.

"In this disease, without some treatment, (patients are) terminal," she said. "Getting the new bone marrow is new DNA. Even in the medical community, they consider that their birthday."

Since the transplant, the brothers have grown closer in another way: when Jack's hair grew back after chemotherapy, Kerry said, it was not straight and blond as

before, but reddish brown and curly like Matt's. His eye color changed, too.

"Apparently, my bone marrow grafts with his and starts to create blood cells for him," Matt said. "My DNA and his look the same."

Now an engine mechanic with VMPT-204, New River's Osprey training squadron, Matt saves up leave to visit his brother and family every few months, and calls home to talk to him four or five times a week.

In addition to his role as a donor, he has contributed to some of the medical expenses as well.

While Jack's condition is degenerative, Kerry said he is stabilizing and gradually regaining motor skills; eating solid food, learning to stand, and sitting without help.

"The important thing is that he didn't have a chance before his brother was a donor," she said. "Because of his brother having his cells, he's stabilized, which is unheard of, having this disease."

Congratulations on 27 Years Of Faithful Service!



A retirement ceremony for CWO4 Chris Hedgeorth, USMC was held at the Marston Pavilion on Camp Lejeune Thursday, June 10, 2010 with retired General Dickerson as the main speaker.

Guests included Chris' family, Retired Lt. Col Tim Maxwell, Marines from the Wounded Warrior East barracks and many more family and friends.

Chris has been a guest at several of our Family Birthday Balls and was made a lifetime honorary member in 2009.

He will continue to work with wounded warriors and their families while still getting in

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at least 2 or 3 golf days a week to make his retirement official.



*15th of May 2010
Retirement ceremony for
Sergeant Major Edgardo M. Guzman,
United States Marine Corps.*



T.A.M.P.A. was honored to present Sgt. Major Guzman with a beautiful patriotic award for his continued support of our group throughout the past 3 years. He will continue to live in the Tampa Bay area and will always be part of our T.A.M.P.A. family.

NEWSLETTER CONTEST

The T.A.M.P.A. Newsletter is a little over a year old and not a week goes by that we don't received requests from supporters nationwide and organization to be added onto our emailing list. So, we need to find a great name for our publication and we would like your help. Have a clever idea, something catchy that fits our Marine family lifestyle? Then we need you to send your suggestion to Admin@USMCFamilySupport.org on or before July 15th. Everyone is invited to participate!

The winner will be recognized in our July publication, via FB and be the proud recipient of one of our challenge coins.



Put your thinking caps on and let's make sure we give our publication a fitting name. You may enter as many times as you would like, just make sure to have them in by the deadline. T.A.M.P.A. members will vote on the final approval of our new name.

Florida Military/Veterans Discount at State Parks

DISCOUNTS ON ANNUAL ENTRANCE PASSES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Effective July 1, 2010 Florida's state parks will provide discounts on or free Annual Entrance Passes to those who currently serve or have served in the United States military branches, veterans with service related disabilities and surviving spouses of members of the US military who have fallen in combat. The discounted Florida State Parks Annual Entrance Pass is only available for purchase at any Florida State Park staffed ranger station. The free annual pass can only be obtained at a staffed ranger station. View list of staffed ranger stations. Effective July 1, 2010 the Florida Park Service shall provide discounts on the purchase of Annual Entrance Passes to persons who present satisfactory written documentation which demonstrates their eligibility: * 25% discount on Annual Entrance Passes for active duty and honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard who present proof of eligibility. Satisfactory written documentation to prove eligibility includes:

- * Current military identification card showing the bearer as active duty, reserve or retired member of a branch of the Department of Defense, or
- * Personal identification (i.e.: driver license) and
- * Most recent DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, showing the named individual's Character of Service as Honorable, or
- * Other current official documentation from the Department of Defense, or one of its branches, naming the bearer as active duty, reserve, veteran or retired military.

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* Free for Life Family Annual Entrance Passes for honorably discharged United States veterans who have service-connected disabilities. Satisfactory written documentation to prove eligibility includes:

- * Personal identification (i.e.: driver license) and
- * Most recent DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, showing the named individual's Character of Service as Honorable, or
- * Other current official documentation from the Department of Defense, or one of its branches, naming the bearer as veteran, or retired military, and
- * Current official documentation from the Department of Defense, or one of its branches, naming the bearer as having sustained a service-related disability.

* Free for Life Family Annual Entrance Passes for surviving spouses of deceased members of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard who have fallen in combat. Proof of spouse having fallen in combat and proof of spousal relationship are required.

- * Personal identification (i.e.: driver license) and
- * The final DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, showing the date of death as the same date as the date of separation, and,
- * Marriage certificate or license, or death certificate showing the bearer as the spouse of the military member who has fallen in combat.

pain relievers during and after surgery, decrease nausea, lower blood pressure, relieve anxiety, and even ease depression. Music soothes the soul. As President of The Silver Star Families of America, it is my pleasure to see the great undertakings our organization has provided for our wounded and ill and injured Veterans. Our new WHAM Program is especially near to my heart as I see the great influence music has on my husband, who is also a wounded and ill Veteran. Music is a natural source of distraction and listening to music every day can have a big impact on both the physical and emotional well-being of our wounded and ill and injured, especially those who suffer PTSD. In short, music makes your brain happy and helps to improve the emotional state of mind.

So won't you please help us to help our wounded and ill and injured by donating your gently used IPOD or MP3 player that might just be sitting in your drawer? We will gladly accept new ones also. Please remember that all used IPODs and MP3 players must be in good working condition and must have a USB cable and headphones. There is someone out there that will truly benefit from your donation.

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SILVER STAR FAMILIES OF AMERICA ANNOUNCES THEIR NEW PRESIDENT'S PROJECT: "WHAM"



WOUNDED HEROES AND MUSIC that is what "WHAM" is. Donate Your Gently Used MP3 Player or IPOD and it will be sent to a wounded or ill or injured Veteran or Soldier in one of the many Veteran or Military Hospitals around the Country.

In essence, music can be a stress responder and relaxation is promoted, and the body is returned to a healthier balance. Music helps improve mood and even mobility, reduce the need for sedatives and

*For questions or information
Contact silverwham@gmail.com
To donate an IPOD or MP3 Player please mail to:
SSFOA
WOUNDED HEROES AND MUSIC
P. O Box 457
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
(A receipt for your donation will be mailed to you upon receipt of donation)
And please be sure to check out our website.
<http://www.silverstarfamilies.org/Programs.html>
Blessings And Thank You,
Sunshine Roth, President
Silver Star Families of America
www.silverstarfamilies.org
CFC #90733
"We are here to add what we can to life, not to get what we can from life."*

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Greetings!

To celebrate this holiday season, The Armed Forces Military Museum is offering you 20% off of your holiday party rental during the months of November and December. To take advantage of this offer your event must be booked no later than August 31st. Present this coupon when booking your event with Tammy Perez at 727-539-8371 ext. 107 or by email at tammy@armedforcesmuseum.com

We appreciate your support and look forward to making your event a memorable one!

Best Wishes!
Nadine Piazza

Director of Operations
The Armed Forces Military Museum

Online Promo Code: 1210
Offer Expires August 31, 2010

The Ruptured Duck?

*Written by Sunshine Roth & Nancy Spoerke
used with permission*



As I first read about this lapel pin I thought who would want one with a name like that? This award is for being honorably discharged from the military. It's nickname is the Ruptured Duck. It is the Honorable Discharge Lapel pin (and patch), yes it is an official emblem, adopted by the War Department. It was awarded to US military members who were discharged under honorable conditions.

They originated in 1919, though not produced until the 1940's.

So how did it get it's name?

There was a myth about the device looking more like a duck in flight rather than an eagle. But the myth was started on purpose. It was to help save a career of a famous actress named Hedy Lamarr. She had come up with ideas to improve weapons and her husband felt humiliated that it was her and not him that was known to have accomplished that. He plotted to murder her. She drugged her husband, left Germany, and came to the US with the aide of the Underground Railroad. In her words, she made a statement that translated to her escape as a broken bird or Ruptured Duck. Those that manufactured the Duck began labeling the boxes with that name and it has stuck with it.

The Ruptured Duck's original purpose was to allow the person to continue wearing their uniform after discharge until they could afford civilian clothes. It also identified those veterans as no longer being active duty. The pin was to allow a civilian to identify their former military status easily when applying for work or veteran's benefits. In 1943 the words National Defense was dropped from the description.

The Ruptured Duck is the only official all-branch Honorable Discharge lapel pin for all eras. Though branches of the military do have their own Honorable Service pins. A person is only allowed to receive one of the discharge pins, no matter how many discharge papers they may have with re-enlistments.

It is no longer routinely awarded, although it is available to qualified individuals.

Veterans eligible for cell phone discounts

by Parker Leavitt - Jun. 13, 2009 12:00 AM
The Arizona Republic

Military veterans and active-duty personnel are eligible for significant discounts on cell phone plans - if they know to ask.

There are over 23 million veterans in the U.S. and nearly 600,000 in Arizona. Many are unaware of the potential savings on their monthly cell phone bills.

Monthly military discounts range from 15 percent on Verizon Wireless plans to 10 percent off - and no activation fee - on T-Mobile agreements. Alltel, Sprint and AT&T offer similar discounts. Cricket Wireless could not be reached for comment.

While not everyone knows about the discounts, those who do say that getting the companies to register them for the cheaper plans is no easy task.

Phoenix resident Janis Johnson said she called her cell phone company to register her husband, an Air Force veteran. At first, a customer service representative said no veteran discount existed.

"Then she said we should get the 15 percent discount, but we were supposed to go to the Web site," she said.

Johnson eventually gave up when she could find no place online to register.

Kenneth James Madetzke, 60, of Phoenix, had better luck. The Vietnam War veteran was able to sign up for AT&T's discounted plan and saves about \$8 a month.

"It makes me feel good to have the money savings and be recognized as a veteran," Madetzke said. "The disappointment was that there was no advertisement. I had to pull it out of them."

While waiting for doctor's appointments at the VA hospital, Madetzke often tells fellow veterans about the discount. Most, he said, know nothing about the deals.

Bill Messer, president of Vietnam Veterans of America's Arizona State Council, said he used Verizon and hadn't heard of the discount.

Verizon spokeswoman Jenny Weaver said the firm makes an effort to inform veterans of the savings, with in-store posters and military-magazine ads.

"There aren't any posters up in the Phoenix metro area right now, because of some of the other promotions we have going on," Weaver said.

Most services require a military identification card, veteran identification card or military discharge papers as proof of veteran status. Some companies require online registration to get the discount.

Many companies, including Verizon, also offer discounted plans for customers 65 and older.

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June Marine Corps History

1 June 1918 - "Retreat Hell! We just got here," said the 5th Marine Regiment in France.

6 June 1917 - 5th Marine Regiment sails for France.

6 June 1918 - Marines advance into Belleau Wood against German machine guns.

8 June 1995 - Team of 40 Marines rescues Air Force pilot shot down over Bosnia-Herzegovina six days earlier.

10 June 1871 - Captain McLane Tilton leads 109 Marines in naval attack on Han River forts in Korea.

10 June 1898 - 1st Marine Battalion led by Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Huntington lands at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

12 June 1948 - President Truman authorized first women Marines in the regular Marine Corps.

18 June 1885 - Marines land in Panama to protect trans-isthmus railroad.

20 June 1951 - 1st Marine Division reaches "The Punchbowl" in Korea.

22 June 1954 - President Eisenhower authorized the use of the first official Marine Corps Seal.

23 June 1836 - Colonel-Commandant Henderson and 462 Marines report for duty in the Second Seminole War.

25 June 1971 - Last Marine ground troops depart Vietnam.

25 June 1950 - Korean War began.

30 June 1834 - Congress placed the Marine Corps under Navy jurisdiction.

SAVE THE DATES!

T.A.M.P.A. Organizes
3 major events each year;
Run For the Fallen (R4F),
Marine Family Birthday Ball &
Wreaths Across America (WAA)

We're reminding you in advance so....

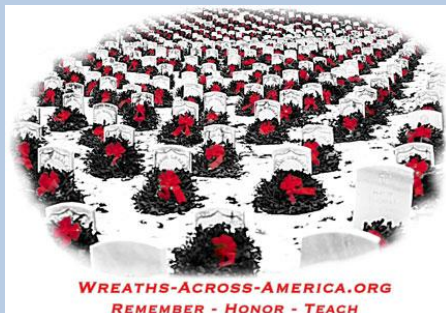
- 1) you can mark your calendars now!
- 2) there will be minimal date conflicts.
- 3) you can begin sharing the information with ALL of your contacts.



Sunday, August 22nd @ 8a.m.



Saturday, November 13th @ 6p.m.



Saturday, December 11th @ 10a.m.



June Birthdays

- 02** Ray, PMD of Cpl David B.
- 05** Renee, MPW of SSgt Matt and mom of Brandon, Samantha, and Marissa
- 07** Stacey, PMS of SSgt Matt, daughter of Nancy and Ed, and mom of Ethan
- 08** Marine Krista, daughter of Carol
- 08** Cpl David, daddy of Kimmy and son of Johnnie and Mike
- 11** Jo, PMM of Sgt. Billy K.
- 17** Jennifer, PMS of OIF Veteran Kenny
- 23** Sgt. Stephanie, daughter of Heidi and Eric
- 24** Joe, PMD of Sgt Joey
- 26** Brandon, son of SSgt Matt and Renee
- 27** Andrea', PMM of LCpl Joshua
- 27** Samantha, daughter of SSgt Matt and Renee



April Anniversaries

- 03** Tawnie and Scott, PMP of Veteran Sean

Remember to check out the **COMMUNITY CALENDAR** on our website to keep up with upcoming events in the area.

