

**6th Annual T.A.M.P.A. Birthday
Picnic Celebration
Saturday, April 10 @ 11a.m.**



I can hardly believe that we are about to enter into our 6th year of existence. Time sure does fly when you're having fun, and keeping track of Marines, and planning for events, and sending care packages.....

We want to make sure that everyone marks their calendars now so that you don't miss this great picnic event.

We will return to Veterans Memorial Park 3602 N. US Hwy 301 in Tampa on Saturday, April 10th. Festivities will begin at 11a.m. and continue into the afternoon. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided by T.A.M.P.A. Bonnie will be distributing information via email about side items that will be needed.

Be sure to dress comfortable, bring lawn chairs, fishing poles, horse shoes or outdoor lawn games as we plan on relaxing and having a lot of fun throughout the day.

As with any of our gatherings and events EVERYONE is invited including supporters and friends.

**T.A.M.P.A. Monthly Gathering
March 27th @ 3p.m.**

MCL Facility/2612 N. Tampa St.

We've all been working hard to collect items for our Operation Tinker Bunny Basket. At this monthly gathering we will roll up our sleeves and get down to

business as we prepare over 100 Easter baskets to be delivered to Tinker Elementary kindergarteners.

If you have items for the baskets, but will be unable to attend please be sure to set up a time for the items to either be dropped off or picked up by Friday, March 26.

Admin@USMCFamilySupport.org

We will also have a brief presentation by Cpl. Michael Sherman who is establishing a Young Marines group in the Gibsonton area. He will share with us details, requirements and needs of this group and how you might possibly help.

Pizza will be provided for all attending. If you would like to bring drinks, snacks or desserts so share it is appreciated.

Don't forget those extra dollar bills for the raffle this month as we have some unique new prizes.

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GreatNonprofits is a place to find, review, and talk about great -- and perhaps not so great -- nonprofits.

If you haven't already, please take a moment to visit this site and see how T.A.M.P.A. has been rated so far and then leave a 'review' of your own or from your organization.

[VISIT/REVIEW](#)

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Donna is the leader of a wonderful women's group in Naples, FL who has

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been supplying our organization with hand made helmet liners/beanies for the troops for approximately 2 years now. These items are all hand knitted and made of 100% wool. Much love is put into this project and we appreciate the continued support they show the troops. Recently we heard from one of the units that we sent her groups items to:



We will be sending some additional care packages to this group and this time it WILL be filled with the snacks they expected.



Hello Cyd Deathe and the Members of T.A.M.P.A,

We received your package in the mail today. It was a surprise to open a box that says snacks and toiletries and find a whole bunch of hats. Thank you for them all. Although it is getting warmer out and almost to warm to wear them we still can use them when we all return home. I have taken a few pictures of some of the Marines that have taken the hats. Thank you all again for the hats, enjoy the pictures.

*Thank you,
SSgt. Frank H., USMC*



T.A.M.P.A's summer road trip to visit the Marine Corps Museum, Base

Quantico and Washington DC are Thursday, June 24th – Sunday, June 27 (Thus. & Sun./travel, Friday/museum, base, & Globe & Laurel Rest. Dinner, Sat./DC). We will be traveling in a 45 passenger charter bus from the Tampa Bay area to Quantico, VA. Can you imagine a road trip like this? All of us in a bus for several hours....it's either going to make us, or break us. ☺



We are working on keeping the travel/lodging costs around \$350/per person.

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Meals & individual tourist misc. expenses are not included. Reservations and a \$50/per person *non-refundable deposit are due no later than Friday, April 30th.

Current/Active T.A.M.P.A. members (and their immediate family members) will receive priority on the reservation list. If there is additional space we will gladly offer seats to anyone



interested in joining in on all the fun.

*if this trip is cancelled by T.A.M.P.A. for any reason, all monies will be reimbursed.

TRIP OPEN TO ALL SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS OF T.A.M.P.A.

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Lea's Prayer & Postage
LAUNCHES NEW [WEBSITE!](#)

It is great to be able to share the news with all of our members and supporters. Dee, one of T.A.M.P.A.'s Gold Star Mothers, is an inspiration to all. Wherever she goes, whatever she does, she enriches the lives of those who are there. When Lea was KIA four years ago she decided to make sure this nation never forgot about all the sacrifices that were being made.

She has spent numerous hours supporting others and especially reaching out to those who wish to send care packages to our troops but cannot afford the shipping costs. Here is an update directly from *Momma Dee*:

*Dear Patriots,
Thank you so much for your continued*

support. As we are all weary of war, I can only imagine what it must be like to deploy for the third or fourth time. Our warriors need our thoughts and prayers as well as care packages.

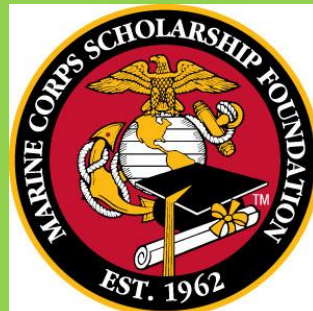
I wanted to give an update on what we have all accomplished. With everyone's help Lea's Prayers and Postage, Inc. has paid for over \$90,000.00 in postage for packages going to our troops. It is amazing what can happen when we all stick together.

*Forever Grateful,
Dee Mills
Once a Marine mom always a Marine mom*

Let's continue to support Dee and her amazing organization with donations to help her make sure that 'No package is left behind!'

**UPCOMING FUNDRAISER:
Bike Run (Not Poker Run)
Saturday, March 20, 2010
\$10 Donation to participate
Pig Roast & Live Music @ Noon
Starting 11a.m. at Bayport Inn @ 4835
Cortez Blvd., Weeki Wachee
Info: Harold (727)919-1068**

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**March 22 – 11:00a.m. Marine
Corps Scholarship Foundation
Golf
Tournament**



The 16th Annual
Marine Corps
Scholarship
Foundation Tampa
Bay Golf Tournament

will take place on Monday, March 22, 2010, at the Emerald Greens Golf Resort and

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Country Club in Tampa, FL. Registration opens at 11:00 am with a shotgun start at 12:30 pm. This year's event will also include a pre-tournament sponsor dinner along with a wrap-up dinner and awards ceremony.

The Tampa tournament was initially held in conjunction with a reunion of the "Iwo Survivors" commemorating the 50th anniversary of the landing. One "Iwo Survivor" is still a participant in the Tampa Bay Golf Tournament. Scheduled at an ideal time for supporters to come south for a winter break, the tournament supports the children of America's Marines and their higher education ambitions. This tournament has been sold out for the past 10 years and priority registration is offered to repeat players.

Our 2010 tournament is changing venues from an 18 hole to a 27 hole facility, which means more space for more players. Tournament Eagle and Globe sponsors are invited to a pre-tournament sponsor dinner, with thanks given to all for their strong commitment to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. After the tournament, a large raffle and live auction will be held during the wrap-up dinner and awards ceremony.

Info: Gene Deegan tampagolf@MCSF.org

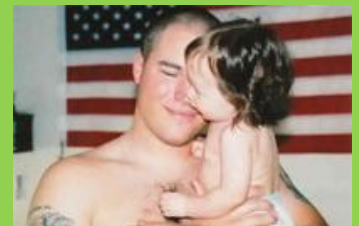
Approximately 20 T.A.M.P.A. members have volunteered to work at this event. We continue to be committed in full support of our military men, women and their families throughout our communities, state and beyond.

Bay Pines VA Breaks Ground on Two New Veterans' Facilities

Courtesy of the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System

BAY PINES, Fla.-- The Bay Pines VA Medical Center has broken ground on a project that will enhance care for area veterans. The VA Medical Center is constructing a 2-story building which will house a new Eye Treatment Center on the first floor and an Ambulatory Surgery Center on the second floor. The new building will be a freestanding building connected to the northeast side of the current hospital. Expected to open in 2011, the building is planned for almost 30,000 square feet.

In Their Boots: When He Came Home



Intheirboots.com

Before Sgt. Richard Massimino's deployment, he adored his wife, Natasha, and they both looked forward to a happy, fulfilling life with their three children.

However, upon his return, it became apparent that Richard was suffering from severe post traumatic stress disorder compounded by Traumatic Brain Injuries sustained during his service.

He began lashing out at Natasha and his family. And since she is not able to trust the care of their children to him, Natasha must become the primary caregiver for their family.

Watch this evocative documentary from In Their Boots about how this military family struggles with PTSD and TBI and adapts to the new husband and father that has returned home.

<http://www.military.com/news/article/when-he-came-home.html?ESRC=family.nl>

MarineParents.Com 2010 Convention



Join us and "laissez les bons temps rouler" at the upcoming 6th Annual Marine Parents Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana! Home to jazz, Creole, the 4th Marine Division, and the Marine Corps Reserves, New Orleans provides a relaxed and vibrant atmosphere to Connect & Share™ with other Marine Corps families. Marines and the families, significant others, and friends whom support them are all invited to attend April 16-18, 2010 for an opportunity to network and learn from each other, a series of respected speakers, and innovative break out sessions.

Bonnie & Cyd will be traveling to New Orleans to represent T.A.M.P.A. at this national convention. It's not to late for you to join in on the fun and help with the work. We will have a booth at the event sharing about the group and what we are doing for Marine families in Florida and beyond. If you would like to attend this event with us please make your reservations and let us know asap. The more the merrier!

Transition Online, is the largest transition information, tools for separating



Assistance TAOnline.com, source of assistance jobs, and today's military. On

this career site for military veterans, service members can find the resources needed to transition from their much appreciated military service, to the perfect civilian career.

[SITE LINK](#)

The Wounded Artist Project

is sending art kits (currently our Beginner kits) to war wounded, ill and injured, and their caregivers (parents, spouses, etc.), recovering in military medical facilities or at home across the U.S. This includes also PTSD and TBI.

While art is recognized as a good method to pull out trauma in a person's life, we will be focusing on having the wounded develop art skills that may lead them to deciding on a college major or career. We have a YouTube channel with introductory art instruction videos for anyone to access. We imagine that someone who does a lot of perspective drawing may decide to become an architect or urban planner; those drawing the human body (especially after following their own charts and operations) may become a medical or scientific illustrator, a nurse or even a physiologist; those drawing cars and mechanical stuff may go into product design. We stress that the kits alone don't make someone become an architect or an MD; they still face a lot of work ahead of them. We are sure that someone, someday will look over the shoulder a wounded GI sitting in a hospital bed using one of our kits, and ask, "Wow, you really drew that?" Contact ray@thewoundedartistproject.org for more details and to volunteer.

How You Can Help: The Wounded Artist Project is a Michigan-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that sends art kits to war wounded recovering in military hospitals. We are in start-up mode and need funding and/or donations. They are tax-deductible. It costs us approximately \$25 to produce one BEGINNER's kit. Visit The Wounded Artist Project website to support our wounded service members or to request additional information about how you can help: [this link](#) is just a click away!



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The Coming Home Project invites you to join other veterans and families to support one another in the journey of return and re-entry, share stories and experiences of service, learn to manage stress with self-care and wellness skills and find comfort and strength, safety and trust, in community with fellow veterans and families.

Renew mind, body, spirit, and relationships in a beautiful, tranquil setting.

Learn relaxation, breathing, movement and other techniques for managing strong feelings, reducing stress and enhancing well-being.

Improve your communication and relationships.

Find comfort, strength, safety and trust in the presence of others who share the experiences and impact of serving in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

Share stories and experiences of service, use writing and drawing to express what is sometimes hard to say, support and learn from one another. Programs are confidential.

Includes: Lodging, meals and travel scholarships.

Eligibility: All veterans and active duty military personnel who have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001 and their families. (Including: children, single veterans, wounded warriors, surviving family members and all family types.) Everyone is welcome as they are and all are treated with respect. There is no particular political or religious belief or affiliation that is represented or required. The intention of the Coming Home Project is to serve veterans and families and contribute to their well-being and healing.

A Note for Women Veterans: We encourage female OIF and OEF service members and veterans to apply to our Veterans and Family Retreats. For the first time, we plan to small groups for women veterans only during the family retreats. Check out our featured article in [Veterans of Foreign Wars Magazine](#) March 2010 issue. Or download the article [here](#).

For more information and to apply: [2010 Retreat Schedule](#)

Applications are now open. Early application is advised as retreats fill quickly.

www.cominghomeproject.net

contact@cominghomeproject.net ~ 415.353.5363

The Tampa Yankees present Friends and Family Night sponsored by Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo every Saturday home game of the 2010 season!

The offer includes a family 4 pack special! 4 tickets, 4 hot dogs, 4 chips, and 4 sodas and 1 FREE Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo pass for only \$38!

Kids get to RUN THE BASES before the game, 6-6:15 PM. Player autographs on the concourse from 6:10-6:30 PM.



Tampa Yankees
1 Steinbrenner Drive
Tampa, Florida 33614
(813) 673-3055
www.tybaseball.com



Busch Gardens Tampa Bay made a HUGE announcement celebrating it's Sesame Street arrival, they are offering children 5 and younger a FREE Commemorative Busch Gardens

Preschool Pass in 2010. Kids can explore the new play land for FREE all year long!

Sesame Street Safari of Fun Opens to the public on March 27, 2010!

To sign up for the FREE Commemorative Busch Gardens Preschool Pass:

1. Visit SesameStreetSafariOfFun.com
2. Click on FREE Preschool Pass
3. Begin Registration Process Online.

*Participants MUST be FL residents. Bring registration confirmation and valid form of ID including the child's date of birth, to the ticket

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window at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. Valid ID includes a copy of a certified birth certificate or travel passport. Please note: school ID's or children security ID's will NOT be accepted.



March Anniversaries

30 Dawn and Stephen, PMP of LCpl Owen

If you would like a birthday/anniversary added to our list so it can be posted in the newsletter, need a change or have a correction please send detailed info (as listed above) to: admin@USMCFamilySupport.org



Order off our limited time Red,White and Bloomin' menu in the month of **March** and help us donate \$1,000,000 to Operation Homefront. Select from our two **new steak and shrimp combinations**: the Outback Special® or the Victoria's Filet® & your choice of shrimp (Grilled Shrimp on the Barbie, Gold Coast Coconut Shrimp, or Shrimp Scampi) as well as many of our signature items.



[Click here for our Red, White & Bloomin' menu](#)

**March 20 & 21 -
9a.m. - 5p.m.**

MacDill Airfest

MacDill AFB, Tampa

OPEN TO PUBLIC

(gates open @ 8a.m.)

Info: (813)828-SHOW

www.macdill-airfest.com



March Birthdays

- 03 Charlene, PMM of Sgt Jordan
- 03 Kathy PMM of Lcpl Ryan
- 03 Stephen, PMD of LCpl Owen
- 06 Heidi, PMM of Sgt Stephanie
- 07 Denise, PMM of OIF Veteran Michael
- 08 Ammie, PMS of OIF Veteran Adam
- 08 Anthony, PMB of Sgt Stephanie
- 08 Misty, PMW of LCpl W.
- 13 Robyn N., PMM of LCpl Scott M.
- 16 Robert N. PMD of LCpl Scott M.
- 21 PFC Alex, son of Natalie D, and younger brother of LCpl Nick
- 24 Jade, PMS of LCpl Owen



Tampa Area Marine Parents Association, Inc. a/k/a T.A.M.P.A. is a civilian organization with 501(c) (3) non-profit status is not a government agency and is solely supported by the generosity of its members, individuals, corporations and foundations in support and appreciation of our American military men and women.
Federal Tax ID #02-0775646