



SAVE THE DATE(S)

Be sure to check this page out each month for upcoming events that you won't want to miss out on. Please feel to share these events with anyone you think may be interested.

EVERYONE is ALWAYS invited!
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What we've been up to.....

See how we keep busy and just what we are always up to. Many opportunities for everyone to always be a part of.

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A Simple Act of Kindness

You just never know what you may be in for, this was truly worth it.....

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2011 Marine Family Birthday Ball Is Another Incredible Success

Sold out ballroom, parents & family, wounded, veterans, supporters all gather for a wonderful night of celebration

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Army Sgt. Joel Tavera's Home Celebration

Sponsored by Building Homes For Heroes, over 1000 gather for this true Hero Homecoming!

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Hillsborough County's Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication

ceremony was held appropriately on Veteran's Day at the park....

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What an honor it is to be invited by the Semper Max organization to attend their upcoming small non-profit conference in Washington, DC.

As your president I will have the opportunity to share about our T.A.M.P.A. organization with dozens of other small non-profits that work with our military, veterans, wounded and their families.

Networking and educating ourselves in all areas possible is vital to the growth and success of our programs and projects.

T.A.M.P.A. works closely with Semper Max as a Florida liaison for any needs they have that arise in our area and throughout the state.

Knowing I was headed to DC for the Semper Max conference, Jane from Marine Moms Bethesda extended an invitation for me to come a day early so that I could assist with their annual Holiday Cheer event for the Wounded Warriors and their families.



Another incredible opportunity as Jane has been key in reaching out to patients at Bethesda that are from our state . Together, along with Semper Max and other organizations, we all network to make sure that the patients and their families have lodging, financial assistance and emotional support during these times of injury and recovery.

I will be helping prepare and serve lunch, distribute gifts and get to meet with these incredible warriors and their families that have sacrificed so much.

Again, vital to the growth of our organization is working in conjunction with others groups in order to reach out and assist even more.

SAVE THE DATE



*To Our Community, Friends & Families
The American Legion Veterans Cemetery &
The American Legion Post #5 Families
Invite you to take part in one of the largest simultaneous
events in the country; Wreaths Across America
Saturday, December 10th @ 12 Noon
3810 West Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33609*



T.A.M.P.A. Marine Families will assist American Legion Post #5 with this event .

Our organization has donated 80 wreaths for the event and we will need to attach the bows before the ceremony and then help lay wreaths on the gravesites. Please be sure to invite family, friends and share the information with all of your contacts. We are asking everyone to arrive **no later than 11a.m.** in order to get all of the wreaths prepared in time for the ceremony at noon.

December Muster:



December 10th / 4p.m.
We will meet at the home of Denise & Jerry Vann (9055-60th St. N., Pinellas Park, FL 33782) and then make our way over to the staging area where we will decorate the float for the parade. Please be sure to RSVP to this event there is limited space on the float.

Children (2-16) must be accompanied by a participating adult.

T.A.M.P.A. will supply limited items for distribution during the parade but encourage individuals to bring any of the following items to pass/throw out:

beads, flags, patriotic items or individual wrapped candy canes. After the parade everyone is invited to join in for a late dinner at one of the local restaurants.

Please RSVP to
Admin@USMCFamilySupport.org



In mid October 10 of our ladies traveled to Port St. Joe, FL for the 3rd Annual Semper Fi Sisters Beach Blast.

Vehicles were loaned from Tucker Hall/ GM and so we were able to travel in style and luxury.

Our ladies came together to make gorgeous gift baskets for a Beach Blast Basket Extravaganza Raffle which raised \$500 towards postage expenses for Semper Fi Sisters.

We played hard, worked hard and made many new friends. A great event which we will attend again and again.



The final shipment of shirts are well on there way and T.A.M.P.A. members and supporters can once again say, "Mission Accomplished!"

Thanks to everyone who donated shirts and also funds to cover the shipping expenses.

Over 500 shirts were sent to the hospital and additional collected shirts were distributed to the Veterans Homeless Shelter of Hillsborough County.



Final Shipment



T.A.M.P.A. members & supporters gather with family & friends to welcome home LCpl Jonathan from his Afghanistan deployment.



Scott, Kris & Yolanda
2011
T.A.M.P.A.
Marine
Families Ball

A Simple Act of Kindness Opens a New Door

T.A.M.P.A. was contacted that a Marine at the Tampa VA wanted to attend the MARCENT Ball, but due to his injury could no longer wear his dress blues without special alterations.

Marine Mom Kris was quickly contacted as she is a master seamstress and we knew she could help or direct us to someone who could.

Within a few days Scott had his uniform ready for the ball and we got an added bonus of having him and his wife join us at our own ball also.

Kris received the Above & Beyond award at our event for her simple act of kindness that made all the difference for this Marine family.

Additionally, two wounded warriors at our ball, let us know they too had problems with their dress blues and uniforms due to their injuries. Kris is already on it and this may be something new that T.A.M.P.A. may adopt as an ongoing project!

MSGT QUAILES COMPLETES
2011 MCM
RAISES \$1200 FOR
WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT






**T.A.M.P.A.'s 2011 Birthday Ball Celebration
A Night To Remember!**

T.A.M.P.A. would like to thank ALL of our generous donors for their contributions to this years Silent Auction. Items ranged from patriotic items to fabulous weekend packages at nearby resorts. The bids continued at a steady pace all night until the winners were announced around 9p.m.

Over \$1,000 was raised by the Silent Auction, funds that will continue to allow us to keep up with the many programs, projects and events that we have throughout the year.

Again, we are in awe at the incredible support and dedication of our members and supporters. You all help to make it all possible!

**Chamberlain High School
Marine JROTC Celebrates the
236th Marine Corps Birthday**



Gunny Hess addresses the cadets before the celebration begins.

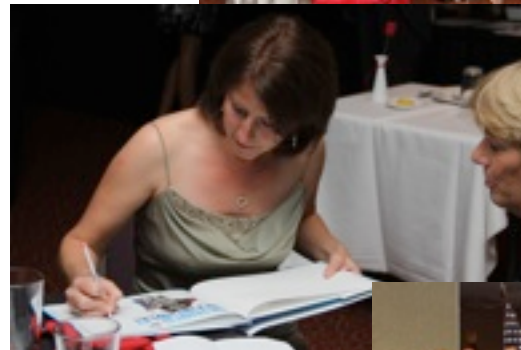


What a wonderful time meeting so many of the cadets, parents and school faculty at this celebration.

Enjoyed helping to serve the cake to very eager and hungry kids.

A huge "thanks" to Gunny for allowing us to borrow the Marine Corps flag display to use at our ball.

We look forward to working more with this unit in the future.



Ball photo CD's are available for purchase at the website online store.





T.A.M.P.A. members & supporters joined in this wonderful celebration!

More than 1,000 celebrate Joel Tavera's homecoming!

Before an exuberant, patriotic crowd of nearly 1,000 supporters, Building Homes for Heroes welcomed home Army Sergeant Joel Tavera and family to their spectacular new home in Tampa, Florida on Saturday, November 19.

The event, which attracted high-ranking military personnel, including Army General Peter Chiarelli, Navy Admiral William McRaven, Army Major General Robert Abrams, Air Force Major General (Ret.) David Scott, Army Brigadier General Darryl Williams, Air Force Brigadier General Chip Diehl, and Gary Littrell (Congressional Medal of Honor recipient - US Army), all of whom attended specifically to pay tribute to Joel's extraordinary bravery, began with a magnificent procession along the flag-lined streets of New Tampa that stepped off from the James A. Haley Medical Center, proceeded through Lutz, and into the Grand Hampton development.

There were also many local dignitaries, firefighters, community members, corporate sponsors, civic organizations, and friends and family in attendance.

Master of Ceremonies Kelly Hallman opened the program with an inspirational speech before handing the microphone over to Staff Sergeant Kenneth Dansby for a stirring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

Army Chaplain (Major) Eugene Mack then conducted an invocation and blessed the home. Next up was Building Homes for Heroes president Andy Pujol who addressed the audience, thanking all of the distinguished guests, volunteers, builders, sponsors, and members of the community for making a significant difference in Joel's life.

Army Major General Robert Abrams, Commanding General of the 3rd Infantry Division, talked about Joel's undying spirit, remarkable perseverance, and will to survive. William Ryan Homes regional president Jeff Thorson, whose organization built Joel's home, welcomed Joel home and thanked all for coming out.

Finally, the guest of honor, Army Sgt. Joel Tavera addressed the audience. Joel brought the enthusiastic crowd down by expressing how happy he is to be alive, encouraged all neighbors to come by and see him, and thanked all of those who have made a difference in his life. Before the family crossed the threshold of their new home for the first time, FBI Special Agent Steven E. Ibson made a touching speech and presented Joel with a plaque that recognized his courage and honor.

Long Awaited Parking Garage Opens

The James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital's long-awaited 1,500-space parking garage opened to patients and visitors on November 21, 2011; a celebratory ribbon cutting ceremony was held on the November 15, 2011. And for many, this was a great reason to celebrate.

Built in 1972, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital is one of the country's busiest VA hospitals with a bustling medical campus that sees about 4,000 outpatient visits a day and more than one million outpatient visits a year. With so many visitors on the land-locked, highly urban Tampa site, parking close to the hospital is exceedingly difficult to find—and has been for many years.



"Our Veterans, staff, visitors and community partners have waited almost 25 years for a parking garage," said Kathleen Fogarty, the hospital's new director. "It couldn't open soon enough."

Currently, the hospital has about 2,181 on-site parking spaces with an additional 400 available at University Mall about three miles from the hospital with shuttle service provided. However, when the new six story garage opens, the hospital's on-campus spaces will increase to almost 3,700.

Besides additional parking, these spaces will help ease traffic flow around the crowded campus providing patients, employees and visitors quicker, easier access to the main hospital and outlying facilities.

The garage is Phase I of a major expansion of the hospital's Polytrauma Center which includes a two-story, 150,000 square-foot addition to be built over the main therapy area of the current Spinal Cord Injury Center. This new state-of-the-art healthcare center adds 56 beds and will consist of polytrauma and multi-purpose rehabilitation wards. Scheduled completion of the polytrauma expansion as well as renovation of existing areas is planned for early 2013.

**DEDICATION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
3602 N. US HIGHWAY 301
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33619**



Front View of Memorial



One of the 2 Helicopters in Memorial area



Back View of Memorial



November 11, 2011

Tampa, Florida -- With a ceremony under sweeping oak trees and two huge metal helicopters, veterans of the Vietnam War dedicated Hillsborough County's first public memorial to the conflict.

Many of the men and women who filled Veterans Memorial Park on Veterans Day morning had a loved one -- a husband, brother, or father -- whose name was among the 155 carved in stone on the six-foot-high wall that serves as the centerpiece of the memorial.

The names belong to each person from Hillsborough County killed during the war.

On the back of the black wall is an etched mural of scenes from the fighting in Vietnam. Air Force planes fly overhead just above Army helicopters -- icons of the war -- as Navy ships ply the seas and Marines and soldiers do battle.

The mural is based on a sketch by military artist Tim Lawn.

The wall sits at the center of a square brick plaza that's framed by two helicopters that flew in the war, a Huey and a Cobra attack helicopter.

Organizers intend this to be the first of twelve memorial areas in the eastern Hillsborough County park, which sits along the Bypass Canal.

Each area will be dedicated to a different conflict, from the Seminole Wars through the ongoing war in Afghanistan. Joining those memorials will be a large museum building, which planners hope to break ground on in 2016.

Veterans and friends raised more than \$70,000 to contribute to the effort, which also has financial backing from Hillsborough County taxpayers.

Veterans Memorial Park is on U.S. 301, about halfway between the Selmon Expressway and Interstate 4 and just south of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Its address is 3601 Highway 301, Tampa.

In Appreciation

We would like to express our sincere appreciation

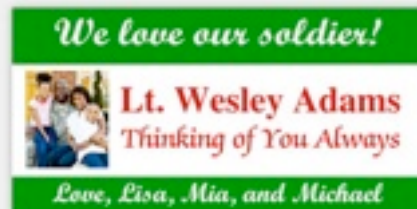
to all of our faithful members, donors, volunteers & supporters.

Without your help we could not continue to accomplish all that we do.

We look forward to another successful year!



FREE Banners and Jumbo cards to support our troops



Military families can always get free banners & jumbo cards at

BuildASign.com/Troops

Tampa Area Marine Parents Assoc., Inc.



T.A.M.P.A. was founded in April of 2004 as a support group for families located in the state of Florida who have a family member serving in the United States Marine Corps.

Members include Active Duty, Reserves, Retired, Veterans, wounded warriors, those in Boot Camp, Poolees in the Delayed Entry Program, family members (Mothers, Fathers, Wives, Husbands, Sisters, Brothers, Grandparents, etc.) and friends.

We also welcome with honor any Gold Star & Silver Star families.

While this is primarily a support group for Marine families, ALL military branches and patriotic supporters are welcome and encouraged to become a part of our organization.

The Mission of the Tampa Area Marine Parents Association is to give support to our Marine family members in whatever areas are needed and whenever possible while continuing to be an active and visible presence to all branches of the military in our communities, the state of Florida and wherever we are led. Continually reaching out to any Marine, their parents, spouse, siblings, extended family and friends in order to give them the opportunity to become an active part of our support group, and in doing so always following our strong values of God, Family, our Nation and the United States Marine Corps.

www.USMCFamilySupport.org



= Marine Families

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