

# T.A.M.P.A. – In The News May 2010

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



*Memorial Day, which falls on the last Monday of May, commemorates the men and women who died while serving in the American military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, at least, it marks the beginning of summer.*

May is a month when we can truly appreciate the best life has to offer. The air is warmer, flowers are in bloom and we look forward to all that summer promises. So, it is fitting that we take this opportunity during National Military Appreciation Month to reflect on the best that our Nation has to offer: the past and present service and sacrifice of the men, women and families of our military.

This year we celebrate the heritage of American freedom on Loyalty Day, May 1st, followed by Military Spouse Day on May 7th, Victory in Europe (VE) Day on May 8th, Armed Forces Day on May 15th, and Memorial Day on May 31st.

Each of these days, like the people of our military, have a storied and unique background. Each of these days provides opportunities to learn more about the military members and their families in our communities who have given of themselves to support and defend the principles we hold dear.

We owe these men and women a lifetime's-worth of gratitude and are especially grateful to our Wounded Warriors, their families and the families of the fallen whose own lives and dreams have been forever altered by the sacrifice of a loved one. We should all recognize them throughout this month with a simple "thank you for your service."

Your support means so very, very much. Please use the opportunities during National Military Appreciation Month to show you are behind them as they have served, and will continue to serve for you.

The Joint Chiefs and I are proud to salute the men, women and families of America's Armed Forces, this month, and every day of the year.

– **Adm. Mike Mullen**

How do you thank a veteran? How can we thank our active military for putting themselves in harm's way to serve our Country? Wreaths Across America has made it easier than ever. Help us say thank you to A MILLION veterans, service men and women, and their families in 2010. May is National Military Appreciation Month. So please join us in saying THANK YOU -click on the link below for FREE patriot appreciation cards. <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/Note-Cards/Service-Appreciation-Thank-You-Card.html>



**‘Momma Dee’ Mills is honored  
as Red Cross Community Hero**

If you call Dee Mills of Lea’s Prayers and Postage a hero, she’ll deny it.

“The ones who serve are the heroes,” she said. “I’m just a shadow in their light.”

“Momma Dee” Mills, as soldiers know her, is a 2010 Red Cross Community Hero in the Military Category for Florida’s Coast to Coast Chapter of the American Red Cross. Out of Masaryktown, FL, she heads Lea’s Prayers and Postage, a not-for-profit organization that pays postage for packages to military personnel serving in war zones overseas. The organization honors her son, Sgt. Lea Mills of the U.S. Marine Corps, who was killed in action on April 28, 2006.

Over the last four years, Mills has paid \$100,000 in postage, freeing up funds for military families and clubs to send comfort to more soldiers. It’s not uncommon for her to mail more than 100 packages in one day – roughly \$1,400. She says quick prayers over each parcel asking for spiritual and physical protection for the soldiers. When she isn’t raising funds or at the post office, she attends military funerals with other Marine moms to give support to grieving families.

“It’s just heartbreaking when you hear it because you know what they are going through,” she said tearfully.

She does all this to honor her son and in hopes that packages will not only give something that someone needs, but will say how much that person means to everyone back home. ”Payday for me is knowing that someone in a war zone got a package from home,” she said.

The American Red Cross Heroes Campaign recognizes an individual who performs a heroic deed during their lifetime. Nominations are taken by the local Red Cross chapter. Dee Mills lives in Hernando County, one of seven counties served by Florida’s Coast to Coast Chapter, a part of the American Red Cross Mid-Florida Region. Nominations categories include Community Safety, Good Samaritan Adult, Good Samaritan Youth, Military, Education, and Environment.

***And the Winner Is....***

Bob & Karen Andrews. Winning the 3 Day/2 Night Beach Getaway @ Trade Winds Island Grand on St. Pete Beach, FL.

Thanks to the generous donations of our members and supporters we were able to raise \$520 to be used for future projects and events.

A special thanks to the Trade Winds Resort for the donation of this package to help T.A.M.P.A. with their fundraising efforts. For more military specials and savings at their resorts please check out their website:

[www.JustLetGo.com/VseMilitary](http://www.JustLetGo.com/VseMilitary)



**Mauldin  
Postage  
Stamp 2010**

With this stamp, the U.S. Postal Service

honors Bill Mauldin, one of America’s favorite cartoonists. During World War II, military readers got a knowing laugh from Mauldin’s characters Willie and Joe, who gave their civilian audience an idea of what life was like for soldiers. After the war, Mauldin became a popular and influential editorial cartoonist. The stamp goes on sale in March.

In 1945, he won a Pulitzer Prize “for distinguished service as a cartoonist” and the Allied high command awarded him its Legion of Merit. His illustrated memoir, *Up Front*, was a bestseller. That same year, his “dogface” Willie appeared on the cover of *Time*.

U.S. Postal Service art director Terry McCaffrey chose to honor Mauldin through a combination of photography and an example of Mauldin’s art. The photo of Bill Mauldin is by John Phillips, a photographer for *Life* magazine; it was taken in Italy on December 31, 1943. Mauldin’s cartoon, showing his characters Willie and Joe, is used courtesy of the 45th Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



## T.A.M.P.A. – In The News May 2010

### *Space Coast Marine Parents*

Florida is home to a brand new Marine Family Support Group and they would like you to join them for their first get together.

Are you a US Marine parent,  
family member or sweetheart?

How about an active or former Marine?

*Please come join us for a Combined  
Marine Family Picnic on  
July 4th in Cocoa !!*

Date/Time: July 4th, 2010, 4:00 to 8:00 PM

Location: F. Burton Smith Park,  
Small South Pavilion

Directions: State Road 520 (King St.),  
4 miles West of I-95 in Cocoa, FL,

1 mile East of the Lone Cabbage Fish Camp.

Details: This is a combined family picnic, so bring EVERYTHING you need for your family including food, utensils and drinks. Camp chairs are also suggested. We will provide a reserved pavilion with picnic tables, a gas grill and a spare cooler of ice or two. Be sure to bring a standing picture of your Marine for the Table of Honor. We will be done in time for you to attend fireworks in your community. Small donations will be accepted to cover \$50 rental fee.

*Please RSVP to:*

*Gus & Sandy Koerner  
Proud Marine Parents  
Cell: (321)591-6831*

*Email: guskoerner@yahoo.com*

*FB Group: Space Coast Marine Parents*

ADA ACCESSIBLE: parking, restrooms, pavilions, playground - ACTIVITY FEATURES: boat launch (non-motorized), disc golf course, fishing (lake), horseshoe pits, nature trail, paddling, playground, strolling, volleyball courts, DOS & DON'TS: 1) service animals only. 2) alcoholic beverages in designated areas only. 3) other restrictions as posted.

T.A.M.P.A. welcomes Space Coast Marine Parents into our Florida support group family and will plan to have a combined meeting sometime in the future. We know that Gus & Sandy have huge Marine parent hearts and will do a wonderful job helping our Marines and their families. We are always here to help and support in any way that they may need.  
*Ooooooerrrrraaaahhhh!*

### *Scottish Rites*

### *Flag Day Celebration*

*June 14, 2010 @ 4p.m.*

From: Tom Vann



We will be honoring all Military Veterans of all wars. These men and women are the ones responsible for America being a free nation. In the past 10 years our Scottish Rite Valley with the help of the patriotic public has become real leaders in patriotism in our nation.

The planning for this year's Patriotic Flag Day Program at the Tampa Scottish Rite is on the way. We will be having our annual barbeque, L.O.S.N.A. (Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America), Tedd Webb, Edyth Roberts, Valerie Gillespie, Heralds of Harmony, Bayshore Patriots, Lutz Patriots, Troop Support Alliance, T.A.M.P.A. (Tampa Area Marine Parents Association), Bob Williams, 32°, (Support Our Troops), America Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Fran Reiter, all Masonic Bodies including the Blue Lodge's, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shriner's, Grotto, Daughters of the Nile, Order of the White Shrine, and all the members of the Appendant & Allied Orders. We are planning to serve 1,000 barbeque dinners to our guests without any charge to our visitors and members.

We are expecting at least 2,000 Patriotic Americans to come and wave our wonderful American Flag in front of our facility. In addition, we will be having



# T.A.M.P.A. – In The News May 2010

Florida Blood Service mobile unit to collect blood donations that will assist in meeting the needs of our community in providing this important gift of life. Also, the Salvation Army will be present to pass out water and the American Flags to our guests who will be waving the Flags in front of the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Let's all show America that we really love our country and the Flag that has led us to victory in many past wars. God Bless America!

Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center –  
5500 Memorial Highway - Tampa, FL 33634-7336  
Flag Waving begins at 4:00 PM  
Barbeque Meal will start being served at 4:30 PM  
Valerie Gillespie and her group will start entertaining in the main hall at 4:45 PM.  
Patriotic Program starts in the main hall at 7:00 PM.  
If you have any questions, please call me at the following numbers:  
(813) 978-1803 or (813) 503-5475

knowing you all support us the best you can and we cannot thank you enough for all that you do for anyone who is deployed. Thank you again for everything.

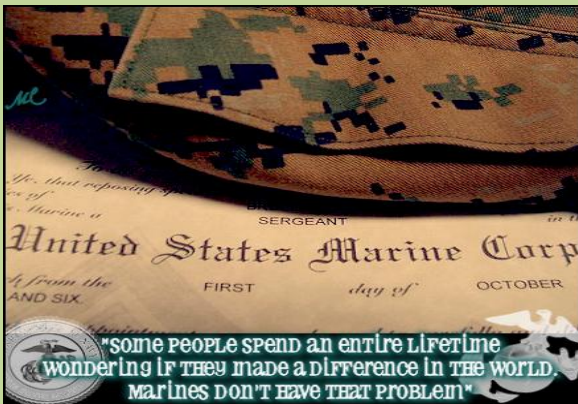
Take care,  
SSgt. Frank Hendrickson, USMC  
Dear T.A.M.P.A.

Thank you so much for sending care packages to the troops. My boss received numerous boxes from you during our eleven month tour in Afghanistan. We shared the goodies with Marines in the field and Soldiers from many other nations. All those that benefited from your generosity were grateful and glad that people at home care so much.

Thank you.  
Major, USMC

.....  
**You cannot exaggerate about the Marines. They are convinced to the point of arrogance, that they are the most ferocious fighters on earth- and the amusing thing about it is that they are.**

Father Kevin Keaney 1st Marine Div. Chaplain  
Korean War



## News from our deployed Marines:

Hello Members of T.A.M.P.A.,

Just received your packages in the mail a couple days ago. Thank you so much for them. I was just telling the other Marines that we were running low on snacks and then your 2 packages shows up. It was great and now we have snacks. We always appreciate everything that you all do for us while we are away from our family and friends. It means a lot to us



Point to Point Ride sponsored by:  
Lea's Prayers & Postage, Inc.  
Sunday, June 6, 2010  
Sign up: 11:30a.m. @

## T.A.M.P.A. – In The News May 2010

Deep South BBQ  
Corner of Hwy 50 & Cedar Lane (Hernando)  
Kickstand up at 12:30 heading for  
Sleepy Hollow  
100% of donations goes to help pay for troop  
postage.  
50/50 Raffle @ 3:30p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> 120 riders get t-shirt  
Everyone gets a pin!  
<http://leasprayersandpostage.com/>

---



Military families can always get FREE banners & jumbo cards at **BuildASign.com/Troops**

---



T.A.M.P.A./June Gathering  
Join us as we celebrate the Armed Forces Military Appreciation Day at George M. Steinbrenner Field with the Tampa Yankees on Saturday, June 26th.

We will be participating in the Triple Play for this event. Triple Play includes: Private party room prior to game, fresh grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chicken sandwiches, cole slaw, potato salad, Pepsi products, an exclusive Tampa Yankees baseball cap and reserved tickets to the game. Price \$13 per person. You will need to RSVP to [bonnie@USMCFamilySupport.org](mailto:bonnie@USMCFamilySupport.org) or on the FB page online. Please prepay for your tickets (\$13/each) through the website:

<http://www.usmcfamilysupport.org/Donations.asp>

Please join us for a great night of fun, food and of course our Armed Forces! Feel free to invite your friends and family, we look forward to seeing you there.

A graphic with the text "You're Invited!" written in a large, stylized, red cursive font on a white background.

Flag Presentation  
Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010  
Tampa International Airport

An American flag which was flown over Mt. Suribachi @ Iwo Jima will be presented to the airport for permanent display. Please come out and support the MCL Detachment #54 from Largo, numerous Marines, veterans, wounded warriors, other military organizations and supporters for this special presentation ceremony.

If you would like additional information on this event please feel free to contact:  
Frank Correa  
MCL Commandant  
[Rhondamia7@aol.com](mailto:Rhondamia7@aol.com)

---

# T.A.M.P.A. – In The News May 2010

## Senate OKs military family anti-scam measure

The Associated Press

Posted : Wednesday May 12, 2010 20:48:23 EDT

BOSTON — The U.S. Senate has approved legislation designed to help prevent the families of military personnel from falling prey to predatory lenders.

The bill, co-sponsored by Massachusetts Republican Scott Brown and Rhode Island Democrat Jack Reed, would create a military liaison within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The Office of Service Member Affairs would monitor financial scams targeting military personnel and their families.

The Defense Department and Government Accountability Office have found members of the military, particularly those deployed overseas, are especially vulnerable to deceptive and abusive financial offers.

The legislation was approved Wednesday on a 98-1 vote.



Here's something pretty cool! The Hershey Company proudly supports the HEROES AT HOME program by producing Limited Edition HERSHEY'S KISSES Brand Milk Chocolates that feature a patriotic theme exclusively for Kmart stores. In addition to the special bags, The Hershey Company donates to HEROES AT HOME for continued service to those in need and you can post a thank message to those in our military on their website! HERSHEY'S KISSES – HEROES AT HOME [www.hersheys.com](http://www.hersheys.com)

HERSHEY'S supports HEROES AT HOME with Limited Edition HERSHEY'S KISSES® Brand Milk Chocolates program donation. You can show your support by posting a thank you message to those in the military.

# 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)*

*With June already here we have decided to let you know, in advance, dates for these events so....*

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



Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 8a.m.



Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6p.m.



Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10a.m.

# T.A.M.P.A. – In The News May 2010

## Your Mission Should You Choose To Accept It....

The Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of Polk County in conjunction with the Polk County Veteran's Council would like to invite you to a patriotic Themed "Warrior Walk" around beautiful Lake Hollingsworth in Lakeland, Florida on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup> @ 9:00a.m.

The purpose of this event is to honor our U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who have been killed in action while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

To pre-register for this event please visit: <http://warriorwalklakeland.com/>  
The first 250 registrants will receive a FREE t-shirt the day of the event.

Melissa Sanchez, who has put this event together, has asked that T.A.M.P.A. come out and participate as a group. We will be meeting and traveling over together, wearing our shirts and showing our support for this first time event. Mark your calendars now. More information coming soon.



**May Anniversaries**

26 Ray and Jamie B. - PMP Cpl David

## Military History Facts:

**May 8, 1942** - During World War II in the Pacific, the Battle of the Coral Sea began in which Japan would suffer its first defeat of the war. The battle, fought off New Guinea, marked the first time in history that two opposing carrier forces fought only using aircraft without the opposing ships ever sighting each other.

**May 14, 1942** - During World War II, an Act of Congress allowed women to enlist for noncombat duties in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and **Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corp.**



## **May Birthdays**

- 01 OIF Veteran TJ, son of Kate & Tom L.
- 02 LCpl Joshua, son of Andrea' & David
- 03 Patty H., PMM of LCpl Michael
- 04 Scott, PMD of Veteran Sean
- 08 Alyssa G., PMS of LCpl Gordon S.
- 09 Maj Les, son of Dana P.
- 11 LCPL Kelly, son of Jay & Dennis
- 11 Jessica M., daughter of Marjie A.
- 12 Megan S., PMW of Cpl Brandon
- 18 LCpl Austin, son of Ralaine & brother of Cpl Aaron
- 18 Marjie, PM of Jessica
- 20 Cpl Adam L., son of Debbie
- 20 OIF Veteran Bradley P., son of Trish
- 26 Joey, PMB of Capt. Les

**TAMPA.**  
www.usmcfamilysupport.org

**P.O. Box 7915 Tampa, FL 33673**  
**(813)965-2682**