Military Order Of The Purple Heart Receives $2.1 Million Donation
Funds Will Be Used To Help Provide Pain Management For Combat Wounded Veterans
by Joe Potter

Well over 1,000 combat wounded veterans across the United States will receive free assistance with pain management as the result of a $2.1 million donation by LifeWave, a global health technology company based in San Diego, Calif.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart, an organization for combat wounded veterans, will be administering the assistance made possible through this generous donation. In a packed house, estimated at more than 650 by Richard Kinney, the group’s vice president. That turnout may have had more to do with food than politics because locally produced and catered pork, chicken and beef, potato salad and Cole slaw was served up by Land O’ Lakes member Jim McBride. Aside from the food, the star of the evening was Bondi. She delivered an unvarnished recap of the accomplishments and challenges of her three years in office, an office she would like to retain in 2014. She announced major successes against so-called pill mills, particularly thanking Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco for his contribution in this cause.

Bondi said that when she took office, 98 of the highest 100 producing pill mills in the country were in Florida. Now, she said, “that number is down to zero and oxycodone deaths have been reduced by half.” But clearly, what bothers Bondi even more has been the proliferation of synthetic drugs which are now being packaged to lure children.

Holding up two packages of synthetic marijuana – one with a picture of Scooby-Doo, the other named Cotton Candy – Bondi railed about the pervasiveness of these products.

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The Dade City Board of Commissioners was ready on Monday night to speak with Jessica Martinez about a dilapidated structure that stands on land that she owns.

City officials had deemed the structure unsafe, and Martinez, according to City Attorney Karla Owens, wanted to appeal the ruling.

Martinez, however, did not show up for Monday night’s meeting. Nor did she attend another recent meeting, said Owens, who added that she had contacted Martinez by phone.

“I told her that if you don’t come (to the meeting), we have to move forward,” Owens said.

City Building Official Mike Barthle said that the building at 14608 10th St. has foundation and roof issues. The building is valued at just under $4,600, and city officials said that it could cost just over $3,400 to demolish the uninhabited house.

“It’s basically unsafe,” Barthle said of the house. “I’m willing to work with anyone, but there’s a time when we have to move on.”

Owens agreed.

“This is two and a half months now that we’ve put this off – at her request, but she doesn’t show up,” she said. “We’ve done everything (that we’re legally required to do). We’ve done everything we could.”

The consensus of the board was to move forward with demolition proceedings, although it was not immediately known when that work might start.

It was estimated that more than 650 people attended last week’s meeting of the Pasco County Farm Bureau.

The local MOPH chapter meets at 6 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at DAV Chapter 65 located at 5325 Eighth St. in Zephyrhills.

The LifeWave donation will include health technologies designed to deliver these veterans fast, natural and drug-free relief. “LifeWave honors those brave men and women of the armed services who defend the United States, often with their lives... I am personally delighted that this partnership with the MOPH has occurred and we will be able to help those who are suffering in pain with our technology,” said LifeWave founder and CEO David Schmidt.

The MOPH was chartered by Congress in 1958 and is comprised of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat. MOPH’s national headquarters is located in Springfield, Va. The order now includes about 45,000 total members.

For information, call McMillan at (813) 782-3425 or e-mail him at emcmillan1@verizon.net.

The most recent statistics from the University of Florida indicate that agriculture and its related industries generate $1.05 billion a year while keeping nearly 25,000 people employed.

While cattle and citrus crops have dominated county agriculture in the past some new crops making inroads are soybeans, hay and wheat.

To help the Society continue saving lives. For more information about breast cancer, contact the American Cancer Society at 1-(800) 227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

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