



# THE SWORD & SHIELD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LANCERS

Volume 1

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## A New Year... New Challenges... New Opportunities

A new year is beginning. We start the year on some great achievements in 2018 in spite of a hurricane, two cancelled events, and a questionable political climate.

We closed the year with Operation Deployed Santa, an effort none of us was certain we would be able to complete after Hurricane Florence caused so much damage in our area. But Post 10, lead the way living up to our motto, "Never tell me what I can't do, but how to do that which I can."

The Onslow County Sheriff's Office Unit teamed up with members to deliver toys to three extremely high risk neighborhoods, along with a Santa, and some pretty cool vehicles also.

In total Lancer Units served nine separate communities in three counties, including Post 6 in Maysville, and our Morehead City members. In a year that we didn't know if we could do it... more than 2,500 toys were distributed.

Pat and Lee Walker of Post 5, also of the Marine Corps League Jacksonville Post 265 lead the way for Wreaths Across America, and with the assistance of Triple J trucking who volunteered a semi at the last minute, were able to make sure that EVERY Veteran's grave this

year had a wreath. In all, they coordinated over 1200 volunteers in the effort. Literally until the last day it was not known if they would have enough wreaths.

Our members assisted in repairing a total of 54 mobile homes, debris removal, and minor home repairs in Hubert, Stella, and Swansboro after Hurricane Florence. They did this while many of them were facing their own damages, and evaluating how to make repairs on their own homes.

Members helped neighbors by sharing food, clothing, and other necessities.

Lancers still found time to participate in the 2018 Veteran's Parade in Jacksonville, and the Christmas Parade in Maysville.

Due to the damage in the area the fall Veterans and Active Duty Family and Friends Fun Day had to be cancelled. The County Government Complex was called in to serve as an alternate court location due to damages at the Courthouse, and there was not time to locate an alternate venue for 2018.

Damages at the location we had planned to have the Christmas Show at, also resulted in that cancellation.

But, all in all we still had a good year. the Spring Military Appreciation Day at



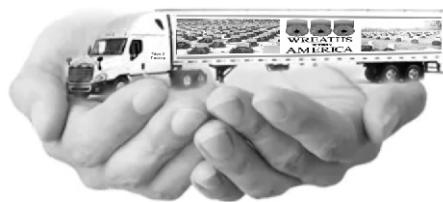
Hammocks Beach was a complete success.

Stella Post 2, Casper and his team placed three service dogs this year. Casper's own home had major damage from the hurricane.

So as we enter into 2019 with a government shutdown, and confusion over border security.. still rebuilding in this area from the hurricane.. one might ask how 2019 looks. The reality is.. pretty darn good. Here's why.

If you look at all we were able to achieve in 2018, with all we had happen... if we have just a normal year in 2019 we should be able to do amazing things!! To all the volunteers of the Military Order of the Lancers.. thank you and we look forward to a great 2019!

## A Sincere Thank You to Triple J Trucking



It was by all indications a Hale Mary Run, impossible most companies said. But never tell a Veteran something can't be done.

The Onslow County Wreaths Across America effort was running short of wreaths... it didn't look like they would have enough to honor all of the fallen, or for that matter even half. December 15th was just a couple of days away. They would lay what wreaths they could, and cover as many graves as they could... but Hurricane Florence had cost the effort many a donation, and there just wasn't enough to do what they felt they had an obligation to do.

Wreaths Across America has a policy that if one area has too many wreaths, they share with an area that is running short, if the receiving area can arrange transportation to retrieve the wreaths. A call came two days before the laying.. another county had wreaths, if Onslow County could come get them.

Come get them meant sending a semi, loading a semi, and getting more than two thousand wreaths delivered in less than a day. It meant coordinating a driver, a rig, and all the logistics that go into modern trucking. calls were put out, but it was just too short of notice for many.

Pat Walker of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary Jacksonville spoke with John M. Moore of the Military Order of the Lancers. A call was made to Lisa at Triple J Trucking who had helped with previous events. There was no hesitation on Triple J's part. A dedicated rig was sent to pick up the wreaths.

December 15th thousands gathered to lay wreaths on every Veteran grave in Onslow Veteran's Cemetery. Most did not know that a trucking company owned by a Veteran saved the day. A deep and sincere Thank You to Triple J trucking.



# Three Men and a Mission

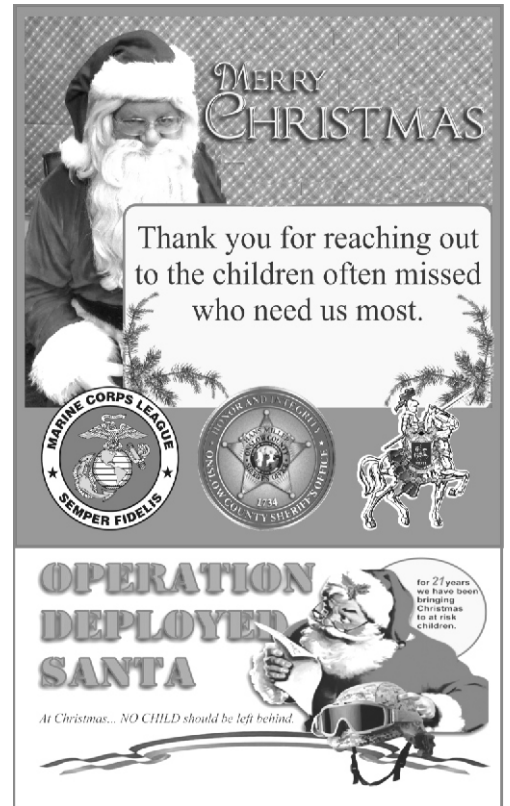
It began 21 years ago with Detective Bill Meredith, and John M. Moore of the Onslow County Sheriff's Office. They had purchased Christmas presents for a little girl whose father committed suicide earlier that year. Then they got a letter from Petty Officer Daryl Enos who was deployed to Afghanistan asking for assistance in making Christmas happen to two children whose father was killed in the war. In total, as other things came in, Moore and Meredith provided toys to fourteen children that first year.

Over the years the mission has grown, but is still coordinated by Lancers in Post 10 at the Onslow County Sheriff's Office. Volunteers at local Rescue Squads, Firehouses, and other Law Enforcement Agencies also assist by holding Operation deployed Santas at their operations also. the difference is... Operation Deployed Santa deploys to take Santa to the Children in need. Sometimes it is a child that is a shut in due to illness, or in a foster home having lost parents. Sometimes it's a neighborhood hit

hard by disaster.

But the Sheriff's Office mission is a bit different, they take Santa, Christmas, and the toys to children in high crime, high risk areas most other outreaches are unable to reach into. This year three neighborhoods were selected for the Sheriff's office effort. The number of volunteers was limited, because many were still rebuilding their homes or helping others to rebuild their homes.

Lieutenant Scott Rowe, and Chaplain Randall Butler decided that this was too important of an effort to jettison. The Chaplain of Marine Corps League Post Jacksonville volunteered to be the Santa. Toys were collected from donors in The Military Order of the Lancers, and delivered to each of the locations, with each child getting a treat, getting to meet Santa and to receive a quality toy. After completing the last delivery, as Chaplain Butler arrived at the Sheriff's Office he said, "It was worth it. All you had to do was see the smiles, or hear the "Thank You's" and you knew.



# Retired Corpsman Overcomes the Odds... Recovers

Shortly after Hurricane Florence, silence could be heard at every local rescue squad. A legend, a man many counted on was down. He had suffered a stroke.. a serious one.

Naval transported him to Duke Regional where he was stabilized. He began his long road to recovery.

Everything that could come together that day. Some would call it fate, others a miracle. Had he of waited a little longer, not taken that ambulance ride that night, not taken the symptoms seriously, we would be mourning his loss, instead we celebrate his triumph.

Lancer David Carl Marshall is expected to make a full recovery. In fact he was healthy enough by the Maysville Veterans' Parade to ride as Veteran of the Year! He rode with Mayor Ed Waltz.

When David first came to this county the term EMT and Paramedic were new to those



who responded to accidents and medical emergencies, often just loading and going to the hospital and hoping for the best.

David had much to do with many of the upgrades that lead to the saving of hundreds of lives over the years in Onslow County, and was instrumental in the building of the Emergency transport services we now have.

On his trip home, David commented, "I'm not done yet. There is still much to do." We think he will make his goals.



### CREATIVEFORCES

OPEN STUDIO SESSIONS FOR ACTIVE DUTY & VETERANS

FREE WEEKLY ART STUDIO TIME FOR SERVICE MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES

No prior art experience, equipment or commitment required. Just drop in. Meet other service members who enjoy the arts in a relaxed, creative environment. Each session is led by an artist who has experience working with service members. Bring your own artwork, learn new skills & techniques from others, and collaborate on group projects.

[jaxarts.com/creative-forces](http://jaxarts.com/creative-forces)

WEDNESDAYS 5PM-9PM  
Jacksonville-Onslow Council for the Arts  
826 New Bridge Street



# He Rode the Wind of Grace

Michael Floyd Gray, 65, of Swansboro, died Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018. His service was at Freedom Way Free Will Baptist Church in Hubert. He was interred at Seaside Memorial Park in Swansboro.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; three sons, Michael Floyd Gray II of Mebane, Jeffrey Burns of Maysville and Jonathan Burns of Hubert; three daughters, Carrie Jo Dillahunt of Trenton, and Lynn Nipper and Heather Hauser, both of Raleigh; mother, Arlyn Gray of Maysville; two brothers, Wilbur Gray of King and Andy Gray of Atlanta, Ga.; 14 grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Mike had served as a Reserve Deputy at the Onslow County Sheriff's Office for many decades, sometimes putting in more hours than many of the full time Deputies, almost never declaring the hours.

Mike had build a reputation of community mindedness, and dedication to others. His deep personal faith was an anchor that kept

him going in good times and bad. Mike served the community of Hubert in many ways, and came to be referred to as the Sheriff of Hubert. Others called him the Mayor.

Mike served on the recovery teams of at least 12 separate Hurricanes over the years. On September 11th, he rode the winds of Grace home to be with the Lord. His funeral was held after the storm had cleared and time had been allowed for some recovery in the area. It's the way Mike would have wanted it. He didn't believe in being a burden.

Mike served the county up until a few days before his death. Most did not know how seriously ill he was, or the pain he endured. Mike's heart was worn out. He had survived five rounds of cancer, heart attacks, and always came back. This time... he took the journey home.

The Military Order of the Lancers will deeply miss Mike's faithful service to others, and his dedication to the community in which



he lived. But we will always remember his smile, and his rich soothing voice as he took time to encourage others to live a life of honor and enjoy the blessings of life.

Rest in Peace our friend.

## Onslow County Sheriff's Office Operation takes Drugs OFF the Streets

"Operation Nightmare Before Christmas", a nearly one-year operation specifically targeting people believed to be using, selling and distributing drugs throughout Onslow County" yielded 17 arrests according to a press release from the Onslow County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies from the Onslow County Sheriff's Office seized 4.3 grams of crack cocaine, 6 grams of powder cocaine, 1 gram of marijuana, 6.5 dosage units of Xanax pills, 13 dosage units of Alaprazolam, 4 dosage units of Hydrocodone pills and 26 grams of heroin during the operation.

Seven people were reported at time of publication to still remain at-large -- Adam Keith-Winfred Hansley, Jacob Allen Lewis, Emily Kay Vernon, Edward Lee Matthews, Ronald Gene Griffin, Angelina Cloris Richard, and Christopher Earl Witherspoon.

If you can provide valid information on the location of any of these seven wanted persons call Onslow County Sheriff's Office at 910-455-3113 or Crime Stoppers at 910-938-3273.

## Veterans Owed Respect

Last month, the White House shared a copy of a letter with me that a veteran wrote the president of the United States.

The veteran had surgery at the Lexington Veterans Affairs Health Care System. As he awakened from general anesthesia, he heard a member of our post-op staff whispering in his ear, "Thank you for making my children free. Thank you for my freedom. Thank you for my country being safe. Thank you for your sacrifice."

In his letter, he describes how when he returned home from Vietnam in May 1969, he was walking in the Chicago airport and people started spitting on him, covering his face, medals and name tag. They called him names and told him he was not welcome in our country.

His homecoming affected him, like so many of our Vietnam veterans, for years. Now the words our employee whispered have taken root. He calls her a "hero."

At our center, we are committed to treating every veteran, every day, with the honor, dignity and respect they have earned and deserved, just like on Veterans Day.

EMMA METCALF  
DIRECTOR, LEXINGTON VAMEDICAL CENTER  
LEXINGTON KENTUCKY

## GAO Report Identifies Lack of Leadership Issue at VA

A new report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on veteran suicides indicates that little of the money set aside for outreach by the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) was used in the past two years.

The outreach is done in the form of Public Service Announcements on radio and television as well as messages and or ads on social media.

Social media, in particular, is now considered an important way to reach troubled vets and their family members.

The report from the GAO said 20 veterans commit suicide each day and that the majority of them never had contact with the VA.

It said the VA set prevention and outreach as priorities but that outreach declined due to things such as leadership turnover and even vacant positions that are not filled.

For example, VA officials reported that leadership was often not available to make decisions about outreach programs and or to authorize expenditures.

The report said more needs to be done in 2019.



# Flashback / 1964, A Galaxy Far Far Away

The 1963 model was essentially unchanged from the 1962, except for some freshening and added trim; windshields were reshaped and a four-door hardtop 500/XL was added. A lower, fastback roofline was added mid-year to improve looks and make the big cars more competitive on the NASCAR tracks with less drag and reduced aerodynamic lift at high speed. This 1963½ model, the industry's first official "½ year" model,[15] was called the "sports hardtop" or "fastback" (it shared this feature with the for 1963½ Falcon).[15] Galaxie buyers showed their preference as the new sports hardtop models handily outsold the "boxtop" square-roof models. The sports hardtop was available in both Galaxie 500, and Galaxie 500/XL trim. Mercury also received the new roofline (under the Marauder badge) in Monterey, Montclair, and Park Lane models. This year, a no-frills big Ford, priced around \$100.00 below the base Galaxie sedans. was offered, badged as the Ford 300. It was offered for 1963 only, and was replaced by the Custom series in 1964. The "Swing-away" steering wheel became optional.[16]

At the beginning of the 1963 model run, the 292 Y-block V8 was replaced as the base V8 engine with the Fairlane's new small block 260. The 260 proved under-powered for the heavy full size Ford and was replaced midyear (coincident with the introduction of the 63 and 1/2 models) with the 289 V8. The 289 was then the largest of the "small block series" that was first used (221 cubic inch version) in the 1962 Fairlane. The 260 was offered on the Falcon Sprint and later, in mid 1964, in the early version of the 1965 Mustang. By 1965 model introduction (in the fall of 1964), the 260 (which had disappointing performance in all versions including the Sprint and Mustang) was replaced by the 289 in all models. Ford continued to offer the FE series 352 in the 1963 full size, as well as 3 versions of the 390 V8 (regular, high performance, and police). Five different transmissions were offered for 1963. A 3-speed manual column shift was standard on all models except the 406 V8, which required the heavier duty Borg-Warner 4-speed manual. A three speed manual with overdrive was optional, but



rarely ordered. The two-speed Ford-O-Matic was common with the 6-cylinder and small block V-8s, while the majority of big blocks (352 and 390) were ordered with the 3-speed Cruise-O-Matic automatic transmission. The availability of several different rear end ratios, along with 5 transmissions, and 8 different engines, led to a huge number of different driveline combinations for 1963.

The most produced combination for the Galaxie and Galaxie 500 was the 352 V8, with Cruise-O-Matic and the 3.0 rear end ratio. Ford's "Club," "Town," and "Victoria" monikers for body styles were retired in 1963, replaced by generic labels, "2-door", "4-door", and "Hardtop."

Model year 1964 was the fourth and final year of this body style. Interior trim was altered, and the exterior featured a more sculpted look which was actually designed to make the car more aerodynamic for NASCAR. The formal-roof "boxtop" style was no longer available, all non-wagon models now featuring the "fastback" roof design that was the runaway best-seller in 1963. The base 300 was replaced by a line of Custom and Custom 500 models. The 289

continued as the base V8 and was standard in the XL series. XL models got new thin-shell bucket seats with chrome trim. Federal regulations now required lap-style safety belts for both front outboard occupants. The ignition switch was moved from the left side of the steering column, to the right, but otherwise the attractive instrument panel remained unchanged from '63.

The 1964 XL two-door hardtop became the best seller of any XL produced in any year.

The 427 cu in (7.0 l) engine was used in 50 lightweight fiberglass-equipped cars for drag racing. These competed in North America but were still too heavy and Ford introduced the lightweight Fairlane Thunderbolt.

The Ford Country Squire station wagon, while wearing "Country Squire" badging, was actually part of the Galaxie 500 line. Some Country Squires had "Galaxie 500" badging on the glovebox indicating the series name. These station wagons featured the same trims as Galaxie 500s, and were a step up from the base-model Country Sedan.



## Did you know?

### North Carolina State Employment Veterans Preference

Preference in state government employment is given to wartime veterans, spouses of disabled veterans, and surviving spouses of disabled veterans or of veterans who died in action or as a result of service-connected disability.

### North Carolina Veteran Recreation Benefits Hunting and Fishing Licenses

All 50% or more disabled veterans can get a lifetime hunting-fishing license for \$10 to \$110 depending on the type of license.

### Active Duty Hunting & Fishing

NC residents on active duty outside the state and home on leave for 30 days or less do not need to purchase a license.

Active duty members and their families stationed in North Carolina can buy hunting & fishing licenses at the resident rate.

### North Carolina Veteran Financial Benefits Military Retirement Income

### Tax

If you had at least five years of creditable military service as of August 12, 1989, all your military retirement income is tax free.

### Property Tax

Honorably discharged North Caroling veterans who are 100% permanently and totally disabled by the VA are eligible for up to a \$45,000 deduction in the assessed value of their home for property tax purposes.

The surviving spouse is also eligible if they are drawing DIC from the VA.

### PAY INCREASE

The Defense Department has released the active-duty and reserve drill pay tables for 2019.

Most military members will see a 2.6 percent increase in their base pay for 2019. Allowances, such as Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), will also see an increase next year.

Military retirees, those who receive disability or other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, federal retirees, and social security recipients will see a 2.8 percent pay raise in their monthly checks in 2019.

It is the biggest Cost Of Living Allowance (COLA) increase in seven years, equaling as much as \$369 a month for those at the top of the retirement pay charts. RETIREMENT AND VETERAN BENEFITS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE SHUTDOWN.

### Arizona Memorial will REMAIN Open During Government Shutdown.

Four Pearl Harbor nonprofits are shelling out about \$18,000 a day to keep the USS Arizona Memorial visitor center staffed and open to the public during the government shutdown, which coincides with one of the busiest visitation times of the year, officials said.

Pacific Historic Parks, which supports the Arizona Memorial, along with the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park, Battleship Missouri Memorial and Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum -- which all operate in the orbit of the Arizona Memorial -- are contributing to the funding for the park service to continue offering services at the memorial.

The Arizona Memorial needs dock repairs, and since May no visitors have been able to step foot on the memorial, although Navy launches used for transportation motor past the memorial and Battleship Row on harbor tours. The Navy boats were not affected by the shutdown with the Defense Department previously funded through fiscal 2019. The dock is expected to be repaired by March.

Confusion nationally as to whether the Arizona Memorial visitor center was open or closed since May (it has always remained open) created a dropoff in visitors for all four Pearl Harbor museums.

### More Benefits for Veterans than just Disability

Check out this page provided by department of Veterans Affaris with lots of lincs to lots of resources.

<https://vip.vba.va.gov/portal/VBAH/Home>

USNSCC is a national youth leadership development organization that promotes interest and skill in naval disciplines while instilling strong moral character and life skills through leadership and technical programs modeled after the Navy's professional development system. USNSCC is comprised of two programs. The Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) program is for young people ages 13 through the completion of high school. Also included under the USNSCC umbrella is our junior program the Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC), for young people ages 10 through 13.



CAMP LEJEUNE BATTALION  
Company Street West Bldg M215  
Camp Johnson, NC 28542  
<http://www.seacadets.org/join>

**Having fun while learning. It is the key ingredient!**  
**Young Marines is open to all youths ages 8 through 18 or completion of high school; whichever comes last. Membership requirements are youth must be in good standing in school and no criminal history.**

Young Marine Creed

1. Obey my parents and all others in charge of me whether young or old.
2. Keep myself neat at all times without other people telling me to.
3. Keep myself clean in mind by attending the church of my faith.
4. Keep my mind alert to learn in school, at home, or at play.
5. Remember having self-discipline will enable me to control my body and mind in case of an emergency.



### YOUNG MARINES

189. Swansboro  
VFW Post 9960  
246 VFW Road  
Swansboro, NC 28546  
POC: Lisa Farmer  
Email: [swansboroyoungmarines@gmail.com](mailto:swansboroyoungmarines@gmail.com)  
Phone: (910)376-6356



## Stolen Portable Vietnam Wall and Trailer Recovered.

Members of a Vietnam veterans support center in Clinton Township Michigan on Thursday morning picked up a missing trailer and were relieved to find a memorial wall still inside.

The reunion capped off a hectic 24-hour period for the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154 who discovered the trailer and its contents, along with a truck, had been stolen from the center on 15 Mile Road during Christmas.

"I'm just giddy over having it back," said VVA secretary Mike Schneider of Eastpointe. "When I heard we had gotten it back, I wanted to get out of the car and dance. What is in the trailer is priceless."

The memorial wall is made up of five large panels that includes the names of 2,654 Michigan residents who died serving in the Vietnam War, along with a short bio and photo of each.

VVA officials on Wednesday discovered the white 25-foot-long trailer was missing from their property, along with a dark blue 2003 F-250 Ford diesel pickup truck. The truck, which has approximately 115,000 miles on it, has yet to be recovered.

The trailer was recovered in the area of Iroquois and Canfield streets on Detroit's east side. Thieves pried open the lock and stole a microwave and generator but the 5-foot memorial was left behind.



Word of the theft spread rapidly on social media. Sandra Richards, an office manager for Wayne's Towing in Detroit, saw a story being shared by St. Clair Shores Mayor Pro-Tem Candice Rusie on Facebook and recognized the trailer, which had been towed to Wayne's Towing.

Richards, a Sterling Heights native who served in the U.S. Navy in the 1980s, was soon in touch with VVA officials.

"When you're in the military, it's just part of your family, an extension of your family," she said. "I wanted to make sure they got it back. That wall is sacred ground to me, and to others."

VVA officials say the the memorial is a "tribute to the guys who died in Vietnam." It's been displayed at military events, car shows and other events in communities in southeast Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. It was created in 2005 for an air show at Selfridge Air National Guard Base and donated to the local VVA.

## Another Scam Shut Down...

A nonprofit that sought and collected donations supposedly for paid phone cards for veterans and their families was ordered by a Minnesota court Thursday to shut down after the state attorney general's office found the charity fraudulently collected hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Along with closing operations, Colorado-based TREA (The Retired Enlisted Association) Memorial Foundation must come up with more than \$400,000 that will be distributed to legitimate veterans-support groups in the state, according to the Minnesota attorney general's office, which prevailed in Ramsey County District Court.

The foundation "did not purchase a single phone card to veterans or their families for years — all while it collected hundreds of thousands in contributions from Minnesotans," read a statement from the office of Attorney General Lori Swanson.

TREA, based in Centennial, Colo., "has agreed to this settlement," said Swanson's spokesman, Ben Wogsland. TREA has 60 days to pay out the money to veterans-related charities, which have yet to be identified, and 90 days to close shop, Wogsland said.

While TREA solicits money around the country and has many chapters in every U.S. time zone, Minnesota is the first state to win such a court order against TREA, Wogsland said.

Between 2012 and 2017, the foundation raised at least \$14 million nationwide and more

than \$345,000 of that total from Minnesotans through professional fundraiser Jeremy Squire and Associates, according to Swanson's office. Most of the money, Wogsland said, went to pay the fundraiser.

About half of the mailed solicitations sent in Minnesota using the name "The Armed Forces Aid Campaign" that promised the donations would help provide a phone card to allow a soldier or veteran call home.

One mailing pledged the foundation would "use your gift to put a live, activated VA Hospital Phone Card in the hands of one of America's Heroes."

No cards were handed out after 2014, and TREA's total spending on phone cards from that year through 2017 represented less than 0.9 percent of the nearly \$9 million it collected in donations.

"Minnesota is home to more than 330,000 veterans and is one of the most generous states in the country," Swanson said. Charities that take advantage of the desire to give back to service members, veterans, and their families using deception have no place in Minnesota."

TREA Memorial Foundation Chairman Thomas Liebaert, of Superior, Wis., signed off on the settlement. He was not immediately available to comment about the court order. A message also was left with another TREA signatory, national president Philip Hilinski, of Akron, Ohio.

