



PINEYWOODS POOPSHEET September 2007

Happenings Behind the Pine Curtain

“Stay Connected, Stay Involved, and Make a Difference Through Your Marine Corps League”

Pineywoods Detachment 1189
Marine Corps League

Volume 1, Issue 3
September 2007

September Meeting:

1st

Drawing for the Weber Grill!



At right: 2007-08 State Officers
Left to right front row: Bernie O'Dell, Juanita O'Dell, Harry Bruce, Joe Chavez;
Back row: Bob Quinn, Polly Weidenkopf.

[Photo from MCLTexas website]



2007-2008 Officers

- Commandant**— Roger Crone
- Sr. Vice-Commandant**— Dan Singletary
- Jr. Vice-Commandant**— Dennis Bradford
- Paymaster**— Harley Holloway
- Adjutant**— Will Lane
- Judge Advocate**— Phil Devlin
- Chaplain**— Billy Duke
- Sgt.-at-Arms**— Bennie Benavides

Commandant Applauds Texas Detachments

In the Spring 2007 edition of *Texas Marine*, the Department of Texas newsletter, Commandant Bernie O'Dell wrote that the detachments of the Texas Department of the Marine Corps League are indispensable.

“The Detachment is the most important part of our League and each member —Marine, Corpsman, and Associate — with feet on the ground out there making a difference for others are the heart and soul of this organization.”

He concluded with, “Thanks for what you do for our Department and League. You make me proud and honored to serve with you.”

The newsletter is available on-line at www.mcltexas.org, the Department of Texas web page.

New Passenger Coach for Lufkin Veterans

T.L.L. Temple Foundation and Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center team up to supply a passenger coach to transport veterans from Lufkin to the medical center in Houston.

In 2006, former Representative Charlie Wilson and the T.L.L. Temple Foundation recognized that area disabled veterans needed better transportation to their medical appointments at the MEDVAMC. Brazos Transit District recommended a turnkey program operated by Coach USA for a daily bus to go between the Jennings Bus Station in Lufkin and the MEDVAMC. The coach is a 50-passenger bus with a restroom and capacity for two wheelchair-bound veterans.

[See: **COACH**, page 2]

Marine Corps History

2 September 1945: The Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies on board the battleship *USS MISSOURI* in Tokyo Bay. With General Holland Smith transferred home in July 1945, the senior Marine Corps representative at the historic ceremony was LtGen Roy S. Geiger, who had succeeded Smith as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

6 September 1983: Two Marines were killed and two were wounded when rockets hit their compound in Beirut, Lebanon. Heavy fighting continued for the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit peacekeeping force in the area near their positions around the Beirut International Airport.

16 September 1814: A detachment of Marines under Major Daniel Carmick from the Naval Station at New Orleans, together with an Army detachment, destroyed a pirate stronghold at Barataria, on the Island of Grande Terre, near New Orleans.

(Entries courtesy: US Marine Corps History Web Pages)

Local Marine Headed for Iraq



Above: Richard Williams following graduation from Boot Camp at MCRD San Diego in May 06.
[Photo courtesy of Dennis and Mary Frances Bradford]

LCpl Richard Williams of Nacogdoches was home for a few days leave in August before beginning preparation for deployment to Iraq in September.

Following Boot Camp at MCRD San Diego, Williams attended Avionics schools at NAS Pensacola, Florida and Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Mississippi. He is currently serving with Marine Air Group-16 at MCAS Miramar, San Diego, California and expects to be overseas for one year. MAG-16 is located at Al Asad airbase, Al Anbar Province, and provides air support for Western Iraq.

Subordinate units of MAG-16 currently are equipped with either the H-53 Sea Stallion or the H-46 Sea Knight helicopter. The H-46 has been in service since the 1960s, and are slated to be phased out and replaced with the newly developed V-22 Osprey joint service, multi-mission, tiltrotor aircraft. Dates for replacement have not been established.

We wish all the men and women of MAG-16 the best of luck and safe passage. Semper Fi!

[COACH: from page 1]

This free service began Monday, 13 August 2007, for veterans with appointments and one guest.

Seats may be reserved in advance on a first-come basis at 936-633-2740. The bus runs Monday through Friday except federal holidays at 7:30 am, will make one stop at the Brazos Transit District Facility for additional passengers, and will arrive in Houston at approximately 10 am, departing at 3 pm. The Jennings Bus Station is located at 302 South First Street in Lufkin.

Billy and Helen Duke Support Area Vets

Chaplain Billy Duke and his lovely wife, Helen, serve once each month at the Charles Wilson VA Outpatient Clinic (CWVAOC) in Lufkin.

"It's simple," he says. "[We serve] coffee, orange juice, sandwiches, and cookies. You hear many-a -story from these Vets."

Billy also represents the Marine Corps League and VFW on the CWVAOC Volunteer Committee.

We encourage more participation from the Pineywoods Detachment. If you are interested, contact Billy.

Marine Quote: "The more MARINES I have around the better I like it!"
GEN. MARK CLARK, U.S. ARMY

Chaplain's Corner by Billy Duke

This from Ken Henry, Department of Texas Chaplain.

I received this from a friend and thought it was nice and held a lot of truth.

Enjoy. Have a seat, relax, and read this slowly.

Some Things To Think About...

I believe...

That we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.

That no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

That true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance. Same goes for true love.

That you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.

That it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

That you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

That you can keep going long after you can't.

That we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

That either you control your attitude or it controls you.

That regardless of how hot and steamy a relation-

ship is at first, the passion fades and there had better be something else to take its place.

That heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

That money is a lousy way of keeping score.

That my best friend and I can do anything or nothing and have the best time!

That sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down will be the ones to help you get back up.

That sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.

That just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.

That maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.

That it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.

That no matter how bad your heart is broken the world doesn't stop for your grief. That our background and circumstances may have influenced who

we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

That just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other, and just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they do.

That you shouldn't be so eager to find out a secret. It could change your life forever.

That two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different.

That your life can be changed in a matter of hours by people who don't even know you.

That even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you - you will find the strength to help.

That credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.

That the people you care about most in life are taken from you too soon.

That you should send this to all of the people that you believe in.

I believe... I just did.

Also, Betty Benavides says that Benny is still having problems. Some good days and some not so good. They both remain in our thoughts.

State VSO Has Tips for Marines Filing Claims

Jesus Torres, Department of Texas Veterans Service Officer, has advice for all veterans filing claims with the Veterans Administration.

“Here are some great tips...[for] all Marines who make application for benefits with the VA, ...be on the lookout for hucksters.”

VA CLAIM FIXERS: The US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) is receiving an increasingly number of claims for VA benefits from veterans or survivors who avail of the services of a “Claims Fixer.” VA often finds these claims contain fraudulent evidence that has been submitted by the Fixer. When it is suspected that a claim involves a Fixer it is investigated with a resultant delay

in processing the claim. If it is determined that fraud was committed, the veteran’s right to VA benefits is forfeited. This is a lifetime forfeiture meaning the veteran and/or their dependents lose all rights to ever be considered for VA benefits for the rest of their lives. Claim Fixers have no connection within VA. If approached by someone claiming to have an “IN” with the VA, the VA office should be notified immediately. Claim Fixers cannot affect the outcome of your claim. They can only jeopardize your entitlement to VA benefits.

To protect yourself against Claim Fixers: **AVOID THEM.** Anyone charging a fee to assist you is a Claims Fixer. **DO NOT** sign any form unless it is completely filled out and all the information con-

tained on the form is accurate. If possible, you should fill out the forms yourself.

DO NOT sign any affidavits or statements unless they are accurate.

DO NOT sign any statement in support of another person’s claim unless the information is accurate.

DO NOT submit any medical evidence or doctor’s statements unless the information is factual.

DO NOT allow any affidavits or statements to be submitted in support of your claim unless the information in the document is accurate.

DO NOT pay someone the benefits you have earned in defense of your country. They have no right to those benefits.

Veterans Service Officer

By Dan Singletary

It is no longer necessary to drive to Ft. Hood or Ft. Polk if you have a problem with your ID, DEERS, or DoD vehicle decals. There is an ID/DEERS office located in the National Guard Armory at A.L. Mangham, Jr. Airport. They can address the needs of all branches of the Armed Forces, and are open from 0800-1700 M-F, Contact Sgt. John Cody at 936-568-0871 to find what documents to bring for help.



Memories...

At left: The year was 1970, and the view is of LZ Baldy, Republic of Viet Nam, from the control tower looking northwest. The staging pads are to the left and right behind the camera. MAG-16 maintained a detachment attached to HQ/7th Marines to operate the 2000-foot landing strip and to control air traffic into and out of the LZ. [Photo courtesy of Dennis Bradford]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Events You Should Know

Detachment Meetings
2007
 6 October
 3 November
 1 December

2008
 5 January
 2 February
 Nomination of Officers
 1 March
 Election of Officers
 5 April
 Installation of Officers
 3 May
 7 June

Pineywoods Fair
10-14 October 2007
At the Convention Center
 October 10 3 pm-10:30 pm
 October 11 4 pm-10:00 pm
 October 12 4 pm-11:00 pm
 October 13 11:30 am-11:00 pm
 October 14 12 noon-5:00 pm
 We may have a booth so mark your calendar and sign up for times. This will take maximum effort!

Marine Corps Ball
Thursday 8 November 2007
 Registration at 6 pm
 Dust off your Blues

Veterans Day Parade
 10 November @ 11 am
 Form-up begins @ 8:30 am

Marine Corps League

38th Annual Texas State Convention
 1st weekend in June 2008
 (tentative)
 Corpus Christi, TX

 As more information becomes available about these and additional events it will appear in future issues of your newsletter. If you have events of interest to the Detachment, contact the editor.

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Marine Corps League**

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**"Once a Marine,
Always a Marine"
*Semper Fidelis***



Drawing for Grill Sept 1st

The drawing for the WEBER gas grill donated by Lowe's shall be held at the meeting on September 1st. Don't miss the excitement as we learn who the luck winner is.



Life Membership Dues

National Marine Corps League Website

<u>Age Grp</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>As of 01/01/09</u>
0-35	\$400	\$500
36-40	\$350	\$400
41-50	\$350	\$400
51-60	\$250	\$300
61-over	\$125	\$150

To become a Life Member, you must already be a "Member in Good Standing". That means becoming a member and paying your initial dues first. Yes, according to the Bylaws, you could join the League, pay your dues and then pay your Life Membership Dues all in the same day.

Sergeant Major of Marines



The grade of Sergeant Major dates back to the thirteenth century when that title applied to the Chief Tendant of a Knight's Military Retinue. The grade is peculiar in that it has at various times been applied to Commissioned Officers as well as NCO's. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Sergeant Major was a Field Officer below the grade of Lieutenant Colonel, equivalent to Major today, who usually performed duties as Adjutant. In mid-seventeenth-century England under Cromwell, A Sergeant Major was actually a General Officer rank equivalent to today's Major General. From the eighteenth century to the present, Sergeant Major has become the title of the highest NCO Grade (except in the British Army, where the Sergeant-Major is a Warrant Officer).

Whether the grade was that of Commissioned or Noncommissioned Officer, the responsibilities of the rank always have been those of Superintendence over the Organization's drill, discipline, Morale, and Administration.

The Marine Corps grade of Sergeant Major was created by Congress in 1798. The first incumbent was Sergeant Major Archibald Summers. For exactly a century, until the Spanish-American War in 1898, the Corps had but one Sergeant Major billet, which is the origin of today's post of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, re-instituted in May 1957.



At left: Explosive Ordnance Disposal badge earned by those intrepid few who deal with "things that go bump in the night."

Life Memberships

The following Detachment members are Life Members of the Marine Corps League.

- Bennie Benavides
 - Dennis Bradford
 - Strimple Coyle
 - Roger Crone
 - Phil Devlin
 - Don Kirkley
 - Dale Koonce
 - Buck Lee
 - James Lee
 - Jack Sanderson
 - Dan Singletary
 - Joe Stewart
- Semper Fi!**

Agent Orange may be linked to High Blood Pressure

The Institute of Medicine, a branch of the National Academy of Science, announced that there may be a link between Agent Orange exposure and high blood pressure in some veterans. The evidence is limited, however, and only suggestive.

The findings of two recent studies of Viet Nam veterans who handled the defoliant were consistent with some earlier studies that examined the health effects of herbicides, but other recent studies failed to show any link.

The announcement also indicated that there may be a link between AO and a rare condition called AL Amyloidosis that results in protein deposits in and around organs. Clearly, more studies are needed.

BIRTHDAYS

The following Detachment members have a birthday to celebrate in September.

- Bennie Benavides**
- Dennis Bradford**
- Mary Frances Bradford**
- Bryan Hatten**
- Joe Stewart**

Happy birthday and many happy returns!
Also, apologies to any we have missed.