



PINEYWOODS POOPSHEET

JANUARY 2008

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 7

January 2008

Richard Antioco Benavides, Junior
September 26, 1930-November 30, 2007



FAREWELL, BENNY



Master Gunnery Sergeant
United States Marine Corps (Retired)
March 1950-June 1980

January Meeting:

17th

The Author is unknown:

“A veteran, whether active duty, retired, national guard, or reserve, is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to ‘The United States of America,’ for an amount ‘up to and including my life.’ That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.”

[Togetherweserved Newsletter, August

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

Chaplain's Corner by Billy Duke



Clockwise from upper left: Benny at the 2005 Nacogdoches Air Show; Benny and Betty enjoy the festivities at the 2007 Marine Corps Birthday Ball; Betty and Benny take a break during Marine Corps Birthday Ball preparation; Benny at the October 2007 meeting. [Pictures courtesy Dennis and Mary Frances Bradford]

We at the League have lost one of our closest comrades and dearest friends. Richard Antioco "Benny" Benavides, Jr. slipped away from us on November 30, 2007, after an extended period of declining health.

Benny was born in Dallas, Texas on September 26, 1930. His parents were Richard Antioco Benavides, Sr. and Mary Rose Ortega. In March of 1950, Benny joined the United States Marine Corps where he remained for thirty years. He retired in June of 1980. Following retirement, Benny worked in civil service from which he retired, once again, in 1993.

The Detachment saw Benny off with a good turnout in Frankston, Saturday, 8 December. Along with many family members including wife and Detachment Associate Life-Member, Betty, present were Jack No-

(Continued on page 8)



Above left: This couple said they were blessed and that was enough reason to donate a cart-full of toys including a bike. **Above right:** Two Marines from the local recruiting office, Dennis Bradford, and Ronnie Bowser pose for the camera. Many local citizens seemingly could not say “No” to the Marines in their Dress Blues!



TOYS FOR TOTS A BIG SUCCESS!

The weather was wet and cold, but that did not dampen the spirits of the members who joined with local Marines, Radio Personalities, and Regional Coordinator, Ronnie Bowser to collect hundreds of toys for the annual Toys For Tots Radio Drive in the Wal-Mart parking lot Friday and Saturday, December 14 and 15, 2007.

Bowser reported that the effort paid off. The goal for this Christmas to collect 5,000 toys was met and exceeded! More than 5,200 toys were collected for needy boys and girls in Nacogdoches and Angelina counties. “We provided toys for the Women’s Shelter, Head Start, LOVE, INC, CASA, Boys & Girls Club, and Foster Kids. It was truly a blessed Christmas,” he said.

Bowser added, “Many thanks to the people of Angelina and Nacogdoches counties, United States Marine Corps, Coldwell Banker Choice, and Kicks 105 for joining forces for another great year.”



Center top: Radio personality Sean Ericson and his vocal daughters. He made broadcasts, they called to passers-by. **Center bottom:** Dennis Bradford and Will Lane “clown around” in the cold. **Below left:** Ronnie Bowser, Danny Merrell, and Matt Kuhl of radio station KYKS, “KICKS 105” made several live broadcasts from Wal-Mart parking lot, which netted cash donations as well as toys for all ages. **Lower right:** Will Lane at his post in the Nacogdoches Wal-Mart parking lot. [Pictures courtesy of Dennis Bradford]



Petraeus: Violence in Iraq Down, But Fight Not Over



Army Gen David H. Petraeus

BAGHDAD - "Violence in Iraq has dropped significantly in recent months, but it's still too soon to declare the home stretch in U.S. operations here, the commander of Multinational Force Iraq," said today.

Army Gen David H. Petraeus cited significant security progress during a roundtable [discussion] with reporters at the Multinational Task Force headquarters at Camp Victory. Following the [talk], the general spent an hour with visiting Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates.

"Weekly attacks in recent weeks are roughly 60 percent of the levels they were in June," Petraeus said, adding, "High-profile attacks are down 60 percent from their high in March, and attacks overall have dropped during the last seven weeks to levels not seen here consistently since spring 2005."

As a result, fatalities are down, too. Civilian deaths have fallen dramatically to rates not seen since late 2005. And during a year, Petraeus acknowledged, that has witnessed the most U.S. combat losses since operations first began in Iraq, the figure for November was its lowest in 20 months.

But Petraeus told reporters it's far too early to talk about turning a corner or seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Nobody in uniform is doing victory dances in the end zone, he said. There is much hard work still to be done and that there are numerous difficulties, enemies and issues that still must be addressed.

"The challenge," he said, "is to continue bringing down violence and building Iraqi security forces to confront it themselves while promoting similar advances on other fronts."

Petraeus credited the formula that brought about security progress. "More coalition and Iraqi forces -- conventional, special operations and counterterrorism -- are in the fight. They're infusing intelligence to target terrorists, and as they clear al Qaeda strongholds, they're pursuing terrorists who flee to other areas. As a result of our combined efforts, we have taken away a number of enemy sanctuaries, killed or captured numerous enemy leaders and rank-and-file members and disrupted enemy networks inside Iraq," Petraeus said.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi people who have tired of violence are becoming partners in the fight. Petraeus cited Sunni Arabs widespread rejection of al Qaeda and extremist ideologies. "As a result of this development, we have increasingly received important support and information from citizens in areas that used to be al Qaeda sanctuaries and bases," he said.

"Local citizens are committing personally to security in their areas, as well. They're volunteering for the police, army or local citizens groups that are keeping once-violent neighborhood clear of al Qaeda. They're providing tips about terrorist activities and weapons." Petraeus credited their efforts for nearly doubling the number of weapons caches uncovered. "We believe the cumulative effect of these finds has gradually degraded our enemy's ability to conduct attacks," Petraeus said, emphasizing that the capability certainly still remains.

Petraeus also cited more aggressive action by Iraq's neighbors, including Syria, to crack down on the flow of foreign fighters across their borders into Iraq. He expressed hope that Iran will live up to the promises its seniors leaders made to their Iraqi counterparts to stop training, funding, arming and directing groups that threaten Iraq's security.

Another promising development is radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's declared ceasefire this summer to rid his Mahdi Army militia of criminals and assassins. "We applaud al-Sadr's action, even as all of us in Iraq, including those in his units, recognize that some elements connected with the militia continue to carry out criminal actions and thus must be dealt with by Iraqi and coalition forces," Petraeus said.

He said [that] these recent positive trends and factors that...produced them are changing the context in many parts of Iraq, but the general conceded that the fight is far from over. "We have to be careful not to get feeling too successful," he said, noting the need for a continued amount of very tough work.

"You just keep your head down and keep moving," he said, conceding that while officials push for more progress, there will be setbacks along the way.

(Continued on page 5)

A letter from a 2nd Lieutenant

"I walked into the house where the ball was being held and I immediately saw an old Marine in his Dress Blues bearing the rank of a Private First Class. I waited until the herd around him cleared and I approached him to find out his story. He was wearing a Purple Heart on his chest and I proceeded to ask him where he was awarded this medal.

He told me that he was shot on the Island of Iwo Jima during WWII in 1945. I asked him to elaborate and he looked around and pointed at the chair behind him and said, "Have a seat young man." We sat down and he fumbled around for the words to express what happened that day in February 1945 and he got choked up and said that he cannot tell me much of what happened even though he thinks about it everyday. He revealed very little information and then humbly pointed to his son and told me that if I wanted to know what really happened I should to ask him. So I did...

This is the story of PFC "Uncle Al" United States Marine... He enlisted at 17 with the required signature of his parents. Because of his athletic ability and his speed they made him a runner for the Company Commander. These were the days when the runner actually had to run. His boat landed on the beach of Iwo Jima, opposite the side of the famous Mount Suribachi. The Company Commander ran up the shore and over the hill to survey. The Captain deemed the shore all clear and turned to call for his runner, PFC Uncle Al, following orders like a good Marine, came blitzing up the shore to take his position next to the Captain. As he was running, a Japanese sniper shot him with a bullet that went through his right eye and exited through his left jaw. During this bloody battle, only the Marines who the corpsman thought were going to live were evacuated. So Uncle Al, having received a bullet wound to the head was passed over for evacuation. He hung on for two days until they realized that he was still very much alive and could survive. They took him to the hospital and they repaired his face and sent him home.

Uncle Al stood before the guests of the ball as the oldest Marine present and gave a speech. This 78 year-old former PFC emotionally confessed that the Dress Blue uniform that he was wearing tonight was the first time he had ever put on that distinguished uniform. His family had heard that he was invited to this ball and had the uniform made so he could appear in it before us. As he gave his brief speech he claimed that he would re-enlist all over again if he had the chance.

As a proud Second Lieutenant, wearing his Dress Blues with a bold strut and a confidence that could be seen by a blind man, I just stood there, humbled and crushed, feeling unworthy to wear the same uniform as this former Private First Class. I failed to remember that the only reason this uniform that I was wearing is distinguished is because of men like PFC Uncle Al. I just casually put it on and thought to myself, "Wow, this is the best looking uniform in the world!" I was definitely proud to put it on, yet I neglected to acknowledge its blood-stained legacy. I got a glimpse that night of what it really means to bear the title of a United States Marine. Here before me was a man who had every right to boast yet he didn't even want to talk about himself rather he wanted me, as a young Marine, to never forget those Marines who fought on every Island in the Pacific and who never had the chance to put on that proud uniform. This is the legacy of our nation's Marine Corps and a reminder of the valiant Marines who have secured and continue to secure that legacy."

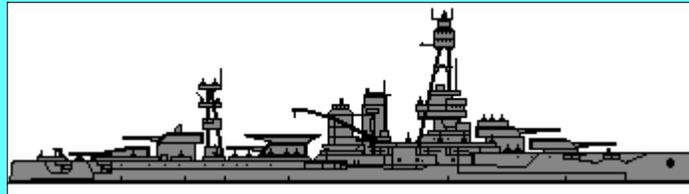
2Lt Barnes, Fox Company, TBS. [Date: 12 November 2007, Source: Seamus Garahay's "All Hands" email network, Reprinted in Togetherweserved.com, December 2007 Newsletter]

(Continued from Petraeus page 4)

Success in Iraq is not akin to flipping on a light switch, he said. It emerges slowly and fitfully with reverses as well as advances. As troops 'soldier through' those successes and strive to build on the momentum, Petraeus expressed hope that Iraqi leaders will take advantage of the security gains that have been purchased through the sacrifice of Iraqi and coalition forces. [By Donna Mile, American Forces Press Service, reprinted in Togetherweserved December 2007 Newsletter]

**HOUSTON CHAPTER
1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

**27215 CAPERIDGE DRIVE
HUFFMAN, TEXAS 77336
(281) 324-2812**



**1st Marine Division 67th Birthday celebration set for
February 2, 2008**

The Houston Chapter, 1st Marine Division Association will celebrate the 67th birthday of the 1st Marine Division on Saturday evening February 2, 2008 aboard the USS Texas. The 1st Marine Division was activated aboard the battleship Texas on 1 February 1941.

The dinner this year will take place "under cover", on the port side of the ship, near the gun emplacements. The festivities begin at 5:00p.m. with a social/happy hour and a short ceremony on the fantail at the 1st Marine Division Plaque, where we will give tribute to our division and pay tribute to our WW II Veterans followed by dinner. There will be a cash bar. The BBQ dinner will be prepared by "Haney". The 23rd Marines will provide the color guard. Entertainment will be provided by "Out of Control", a Sweet Adeline's quartet.

Ship members take \$500 cash bar. Ship members take \$25 for tickets, including For tickets or shirts contact Buzz Fanion at (832) 220-6174 bfanion@comcast.net or Michael Haney at anglerwrangler@sbcglobal.net



DOD DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM UPDATE 03:

A package of improvements in treatment and benefits for wounded service members, including some precedent-setting changes in DOD disability policies, was attached 12 July to the Senate's \$648 billion NDAA defense policy bill, approved by a 94 -0 vote. Bill S1606, initially introduced by Sen. Carl Levin (MI), called the *Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act*, would make a variety of changes in current policies, especially in helping troops whose injuries are so severe that they are unable to continue serving in the military and cannot get post-service treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The bill orders a review of all recent disability discharges where a service member received a lump-sum severance payment instead of the lifetime disability retired pay that would come from being rated with a disability of 30% or more. It would also radically change the entire military review process by assuming that anyone who has served in the military was physically and mentally fit before entering service. The assumption of fitness, which would apply to anyone who has served at least six months, would prevent the services from deciding that a service member's post-deployment problems, especially mental health issues, were the result of a pre-service condition that does not warrant severance or disability pay. Anyone medically retired from the military for combat-related reasons would be eligible for three years of military health care after discharge, a move aimed at reducing problems getting post-service treatment. The bill would address concerns that the military's process for evaluation of service members seems adversarial, and that the services – especially the Army – seem to consistently assign lower disability rating than would be assigned by the VA by ordering the military to use the VA's disability ratings schedule unless the military's ratings are higher.

The House of Representatives also included a wounded warrior package as part of its version of the defense authorization bill passed earlier this year, which means congressional negotiators who meet later this year to work out a compromise bill will face questions about treatment, medical retirement, and other issues. [From November Texas Marine Newsletter]

Veterans Service Officer

By Dan Singletary

MILITARY HEALTH CARE TF UPDATE 07: At a public meeting of the Defense Health Board, the Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care gave a briefing which included a general description of what their recommendations to the Secretary of Defense and Congress are going to be. While they were not a surprise; they are a real disappointment and worry for the future. Following are a few items they covered that could impact retiree financially:

- Along with many structural changes the Task Force made clear that they are going to suggest increases in enrollment fees and deductibles for retirees under 65 enrolled in TRICARE Prime;
 - A new "modest" yearly enrollment fee for TFL;
 - Changes in the incentives for everyone using the TRICARE Pharmacy Program. That translates into making co-pays to direct patients to choose the mail order pharmacy plan or the MTFs;
 - Automatic increases in enrollment fees, cost shares, and deductibles every 5 years.
- No specific numbers etc. will be announced until they present the report to the SecDef on 19 DEC. Remember these are just recommendations-nothing is final. But it is clear that there will be much more work to do on this again next year. [Source: TREA Washington Update 14 Dec 07]

"I am persuaded that a firm union is as necessary to perpetuate our liberties as it is to make us respectable; and experience will probably prove that the National Government will be as natural a guardian of our freedom as the State Legislatures."

-- Alexander Hamilton (speech to the New York Ratifying Convention, June 1788)

Global Incident Map

If you want to know what is going on in the world of terrorism, threats, explosions, airline incidents, etc., keep this web page. It's not just about terrorism - it's about what is happening every day, every minute some place in the world that could affect all of us in some way. It updates every 30 seconds, constantly. You just click on any map icon for full info at any time.

www.GloballIncidentMap.com/home.php

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Detachment

Meetings

2008

17 January

21 February

***Nomination of Officers**

20 March

***Election of Officers**

17 April

***Installation of Officers**

15 May

19 June

17 July

21 August

September

Marine Corps League

38th Annual Texas State

Convention

5-8 June 2008

Corpus Christi, TX

Hotel reservations may be made at

www.bayfrontplazacc.com,

or by calling (361) 882-8100

Rate is \$70 per night

Use Code: MCLJ

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.

VA CLAIM TIPS

Three things that will help a veteran with a claim are to know the process, to know how to find info about your illness or Injury, and to determine how the VA has handled cases like yours in the past.

1.) A web site where you can see the C&P Exam the VA uses, and print it out, and can show it to your private doctor.

www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/exams/index.htm. These 57 Disability Examination Worksheets are in use both by the doctors of VHA (Veterans Health Administration) who do the disability examinations and by the rating specialists, hearing officers, and Decision Review Officers of VBA (Veterans Benefits Administration) who do the disability evaluations.

2.) A web site you can search, review and print out various pages of regulations, etc about the VA system and claims is www.warms.vba.va.gov/TOCindex.htm, which includes:

Compensation and Pension - 21

38 Code of Federal Regulations - REGS

Book A - General

Book B - Adjudication

Book C - Schedule for Rating Disabilities

3.) A web site where you can search Veteran Board of Appeals to see how the VA has handled your illness or injury, what they were looking for, and what paragraphs in VA regs apply is <http://www.index.va.gov/search/va/bva.html>. Decisions are current through 31 AUG 07. [Source: USDR Daniel Cedusky Dec 07]

CRDP/CRSC OPEN SEASON

Retired servicemembers eligible for both Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) and Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC), may participate in the CRDP/CRSC open season to choose which payment they prefer to receive. Federal law states retirees can receive CRDP or CRSC - not both. This year's annual open season is 1 JAN 08, to 3 JUN 08. Beginning in late December, all eligible retirees will be mailed a CRDP/CRSC Open Season Election Form. Retirees need to return the form only if making a change from CRDP to CRSC or vice versa. If a retiree prefers to keep things the way they are, no action is needed and the current payment will continue uninterrupted. The election form includes a comparison of the CRDP and CRSC entitlement amounts as well as information about the tax ramifications. If a retiree wants to change from CRDP to CRSC or vice versa, the form needs to be completed and mailed, and post-marked no later 31 JAN 08. If the form or envelope is dated after this date, it will not be processed and the current payments will continue. Return your form quickly and your change of payment should be effective by the first business day of FEB 08. Typical processing time is 30 days. Your change in pay will occur on the first business day of MAR 08, if it does not occur in February. For March payments, there will be a retroactive adjustment for the payment that would have been paid on the first business day in February. Your election will remain in effect unless changed in a subsequent annual open season. [Source: MOAA News Exchange 5 Dec 07]

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EAT

During the holidays, we all tend to worry about gaining weight. Here's some interesting information.

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beers and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you!

(Continued from page 2)

ble, Phil Devlin, Don and Dee Kirkley, Buck Lee, Dan Singletary, Rob Zurfluh, and Dennis and Mary Frances Bradford. Following services at Autrey Funeral Home, Benny was interred at Garden Oaks Cemetery in Berryville. Members of the I & I staff in Waco were present to render full military honors.

Many of us knew Benny only from his participation in the Pineywoods Detachment, but he was honored, too, by the many VFW and Cootie members from around the State who were also present.

Our Chaplain, Billy Duke is still on the mend following his battle with shingles, and Bryan Hatten is doing much better following major surgery.

[Pictures courtesy of Pineywoods Detachment]

MARINE QUOTE: "Come on, you sons of b***! Do you want to live forever?"**

GySgt. DANIEL DALY, USMC

[Two-time Medal of Honor winner]

VETERAN CHARITIES UPDATE

If you are thinking about making contributions to various veterans charities, please read the following.

The American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP), a leading charity watchdog, issued a report card this month for 29 veterans and military charities. Letter grades were based largely on the charities' fundraising costs and the percentage of money raised that

was spent on charitable activities. Following is an alphabetical summary of charities and grade assigned:

- Air Force Aid Society (A+)
- American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation (F)
- American Veterans Coalition (F)
- American Veterans Relief Foundation (F)
- AMVETS National Service Foundation (F)
- Armed Services YMCA of the USA (A-)
- Army Emergency Relief (A+)
- Blinded Veterans Association (D)
- Disabled American Veterans (D)
- Disabled Veterans Association (F)
- Fisher House Foundation (A+)
- Freedom Alliance (F)
- Help Hospitalized Veterans/Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (F)
- Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (A+)
- Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation (F)
- National Military Family Association (A)
- National Veterans Services Fund (F)
- National Vietnam Veterans Committee (D)
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (A+)
- NCOA National Defense Foundation (F)
- Paralyzed Veterans of America (F)
- Soldiers' Angels (D)
- United Spinal Association's Wounded Warrior Project (D)
- USO (United Service Organization) (C+)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars and foundation (C-)
- Veterans of the Vietnam War & the Veterans Coalition (D)
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (D)
- VietNow National Headquarters (F)
- World War II Veterans Committee (D)

[Source: FDVA News Clips 13 Dec 07]

TRICARE DATA BREACH

A limited amount of Tricare beneficiary data has been placed at risk through unauthorized access to claims information. Proactive measures are being taken to ensure that affected Tricare beneficiaries are informed. Analysis thus far has not produced indications of the beneficiary data being misused. Patient data was found to be accessible in a manner that did not meet stringent security specifications for the Department of Defense or Tricare's information technology services provider Electronic Data Systems (EDS). The data included personal information such as the full or partial Social Security number of the primary beneficiary, and for a dependent, name, birth date and limited health information. The data was held on a Web application server that allowed external entities an unauthorized level of access without going through the required authentication process if the Web address was known. That situation has since been remedied. EDS has sent out approximately 4,700 notification letters informing affected beneficiaries of the risk. The envelopes contain a cover letter from Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, Tricare Management Activity.

They also contain an informational letter about the incident from EDS, including identity protection information. EDS has established a specific "help line" to handle questions and concerns. The beneficiary notification letters contain the number (800) 556-3195 that can be used in the U.S. and from overseas. Those located outside the United States must dial the country's AT&T USADirect access number first to prevent being charged a long distance fee. EDS is offering beneficiaries put at risk a free, one-year subscription to a credit monitoring and protection service. Through this service, beneficiaries will have access to specialists with a leading identity theft and mitigation firm. These specialists will be able to respond to concerns about any actual identity theft as well as provide more detailed information on credit, fraud and identity theft matters. Additionally, those affected will receive up to \$20,000 identity theft protection coverage with no deductible as it relates to this matter. Additional information about the incident can be found at the Tricare Web site press room at www.tricare.mil. Information on steps Tricare beneficiaries can take to protect themselves from identity theft is available at www.tricare.mil/tmaprivacy/itpr.cfm. Veterans are once again reminded that financial protection up to one million dollars against identity theft is available at nominal fees if they are concerned about their government and/or commercial companies keeping their personal data secure. Companies offering this service can be found online. Information on the one I use is available at <http://www.lifelock.com>.

[Source: TMA News Release 07-94 dtd 7 Dec 07]



The small community of Chireno seemed to grow by several hundred folks when they held their annual Christmas Parade. All veterans groups were asked to participate, and rather than each one provide its own float, all veterans rode on one. The Pineywoods Detachment was represented by several members including Buck Lee, Will Lane, Dan Singletary, Ed Klein, Rob Zurfluh, Phil Devlin, and Dennis Bradford. A good time was had by all and we look forward to doing it again next year. [Photo courtesy of Kara Lane]

**Pineywoods Detachment I 189
Marine Corps League**

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Editor: Dennis Bradford
**Submission deadline: 20th/month



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



Pictured at right: Members Ken Raines, Dan Singletary, Dennis Bradford, Will Lane, and Don Kirkley presented Billy Duke, center, with the Marine Corps League Distinguished Citizen Medal while attending the VFW Christmas party recently. Duke was ill and could not attend the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in November.



Marine Corps History

10 January 1995: The Pentagon announced that 2,600 U.S. Marines would be deployed to Somalia for Operation United Shield to assist in the final withdrawal of UN peacekeeping troops from Somalia. The decision came in response to a UN request for American protection of its peacekeeping forces serving in the war-torn African nation.

11 January 1945: The first elements of Marine Aircraft Group 24, commanded by Colonel Lyle H. Meyer, landed at Lingayen, Luzon, Philippine Islands, to provide close air support for Army forces. Over the next three months, MAG-24 and MAG-32 would fly a total of 8,842 combat sorties and drop more than 19,000 bombs as part of the Fifth Air Force in support of the Sixth Army.

16 January 1991: Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm as forces of the allied coalition launched an all-out air campaign against targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait in an effort to liberate Kuwait and enforce the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. Overall, in the theater of operations, the coalition forces included more than 415,000 U.S. troops.

[Entries courtesy: US Marine Corps History Web Pages]

Life Membership Honor Roll	CONSIDER LIFE MEMBERSHIP	BIRTHDAYS																		
<p>The following Detachment members are Life Members of the Marine Corps League</p> <p>Betty Benavides Dennis Bradford Strimple Coyle Roger Crone Phil Devlin Don Kirkley Dale Koonce Buck Lee James Lee Jack Noble Jack Sanderson Dan Singletary Joe Stewart</p> <p><i>Semper Fi!</i></p>	<p>Life Membership Dues National Marine Corps League Website</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Grp</th> <th>Current</th> <th>As of 01/01/09</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-35</td> <td>\$400</td> <td>\$500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>36-40</td> <td>\$350</td> <td>\$400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>41-50</td> <td>\$350</td> <td>\$400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>51-60</td> <td>\$250</td> <td>\$300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>61-over</td> <td>\$125</td> <td>\$150</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>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.</p>	Age Grp	Current	As of 01/01/09	0-35	\$400	\$500	36-40	\$350	\$400	41-50	\$350	\$400	51-60	\$250	\$300	61-over	\$125	\$150	<p>The following Detachment members have a birthday to celebrate in January.</p> <p>No Known Birthdays</p> <p>Happy birthday and many happy returns! Also, apologies to any we have missed.</p>
Age Grp	Current	As of 01/01/09																		
0-35	\$400	\$500																		
36-40	\$350	\$400																		
41-50	\$350	\$400																		
51-60	\$250	\$300																		
61-over	\$125	\$150																		