



PINEYWOODS POOPSHEET®

MARCH 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 9

March 2008

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN: ELECTIONS!



March Meeting:

20th

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]

2007-2008 Officers

Commandant—

Roger Crone

Sr. Vice-Commandant—

Dan Singletary

Jr. Vice-Commandant—

Dennis Bradford

Acting Paymaster—

Dan Singletary

Adjutant—

Will Lane

Judge Advocate—

Phil Devlin

Chaplain—

Billy Duke

Acting Sgt.-at-Arms—

Don Kirkley



Above: Sr. Vice-Commandant Dan Singletary receives the Adjutant's report from Will Lane.

The year, 2007, was active and important for our local chapter of the Marine Corps League. Involvement in various events throughout the state, fundraising,



Above: A good turnout contemplates the events of the meeting including nominations.



Above: Harley Holloway accepts a donation from associate member Jarrie Love.

and recruiting reached an all-time high. It can be argued that we are in better shape today than we were one year ago. We made new friends in the community, began a newsletter, created a website, and aided in gathering more toys for Toys-For-Tots in Nacogdoches and Angelina Counties than ever before.

We held a successful Birthday Ball. Sadly, we also saw the passing of esteemed members.

All the accomplishments are due to hard work, our hard work. The coming year will see new challenges and new surprises. We continue to need funding, so fundraisers are certain. We shall, once again, lend a hand to the Toy-For-Tots campaign. There will be parades and a Birthday Ball, this time at the Fredonia Hotel.

At February's meeting of the Pineywoods Detachment it was time, once again, to nominate the people to lead the organization for the next year. Commandant Roger Crone was absent. He is still fighting the side effects of ill health. Senior Vice-Commandant Dan Singletary opened the proceedings.

(Continued on page 2)



Chaplain's Corner by Billy Duke

This month, there is good news and there is not so good news. I will start with the good news. The February meeting witnessed the presence of both Bryan Hatten and Billy Duke. Our senior statesmen were both healthy enough to participate. While Bryan made appearances at past meetings, , Billy has not been able to come for some time. It was very good to see them both again.

As for the not so good news, Commandant Roger Crone is still wrestling with poor health. His afflictions have left him, once more, dizzy, weak, and unable to carry out his duties. He

has decided not to stand for re-election as a result.

Also, Don Kirkley reported that he is having difficulties as well. He was forced to relinquish his responsibilities in the VFW and declined nomination for a Detachment office for the coming year. We wish our comrades well and hope they experience speedy and, as much as possible, complete recovery. They are in our thoughts and prayers.

VIET VETS PARASITE WARNING

I am writing to inform all Vietnam veterans about a potential health risk that they may have been exposed to while serving in Vietnam: the little-known danger from parasites.

My husband, who was otherwise healthy, passed away on January 20, 2006, from cholangiocarcinoma, cancer of the bile duct of the liver. It is very rare in the United States, but very prevalent in Vietnam and surrounding countries. There are two known causes of this type of cancer: from contracting hepatitis C and from ingesting a parasite from the water supply in Vietnam. My husband did not have hepatitis C; therefore, it was determined that his cancer derived from a parasite. I have received official notification from the VA that his death was service related, which is not something the VA determines without an overwhelming amount of evidence.

This cancer does not manifest itself until later in life, when you are between 60 and 70 years old. Once the symptoms occur, which usually include jaundice, it is very difficult to treat or beat. My husband was 58 years old when he passed away. If he had been informed that there was a possibility that he could have ingested a parasite while serving in Vietnam, he would have taken precautions to have his bile ducts examined, possibly extending his life. The parasite is long gone, but it left behind damaged cells, which developed into cancerous tumors in the bile ducts.

If you spent time in Southeast Asia and are having gastrointestinal issues for no apparent reason, please have your physician check for damage within the bile ducts. It may save your life. Mrs. Edward S. (Pete) Harrison, Horseheads, New York

(Continued from Elections page 1)

Harley Holloway announced that he accepted employment in Dallas, which will begin Monday, February 25, 2008. A transition team was appointed to conduct an audit to facilitate a smooth transfer to the incoming Paymaster. The audit was conducted on Friday the 22nd.

The most significant business was nomination of the 2008 Detachment officers. These nominations are made:

Commandant	Dan Singletary
Senior Vice-Commandant	Dennis Bradford
Junior Vice-Commandant	Jimmy Lee
Adjutant	Will Lane
Judge Advocate	Phil Devlin
Chaplain	Ken Rains
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rich Barnhart

Although Rob Zurfluh was nominated for Paymaster, he was not present to accept, so his nomination was tabled until the March meeting. There was only one nomination for each office. Additional nominations may be taken at the March meeting if anyone is interested in running. Everyone is encouraged to consider service to the Detachment.

All members are reminded that the election of officers is slated for the March meeting. Everyone has a vote. Please exercise your right, attend, and make your choice.

MARINE QUOTE: "Once a Marine, Always a Marine: This truism is now the official motto of the Marine Corps League. The origin of the statement is credited to a gung-ho Marine Corps master sergeant, Paul Woyshner. During a barroom argument he shouted, 'Once a Marine, always a Marine!' MSgt. Woyshner was right. Once the title 'U.S. Marine' has been earned, it is retained. There are no ex-Marines or former-Marines. There are (1) active duty Marines, (2) retired Marines, (3) reserve Marines, and (4) Marine veterans. Nonetheless, once one has *earned the title*, he remains a Marine for life." (excerpt from *Warrior Culture of the US Marines*, copyright 2001 Marion F. Sturkey)



Veterans Service Officer

By Dan Singletary

SENIOR OFFICERS GLOOMY ABOUT MILITARY

Five Years of VA Health Care for Combat Veterans

WASHINGTON (February 26, 2008)

Military veterans who served in combat since Nov. 11, 1998, including veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, are now eligible for five years of free medical care for most conditions from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This measure increases a two-year limit that has been in effect nearly a decade.

"By their service and their sacrifice, America's newest combat veterans have earned this special eligibility period for VA's world-class health care," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake.

The five-year deadline has no effect upon veterans with medical conditions related to their military service. Veterans may apply at any time after their discharge from the military -- even decades later -- for medical care for service-connected health problems.

The new provision, part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 signed by President Bush on Jan. 28, 2008, applies to care in a VA hospital, outpatient clinic or nursing home. It also extends VA dental benefits -- previously limited to 90 days after discharge for most veterans -- to 180 days.

Combat veterans who were discharged between Nov. 11, 1998 and Jan. 16, 2003, and who never took advantage of VA's health care system, have until Jan. 27, 2011 to qualify for free VA health care.

The five-year window is also open to activated Reservists and members of the National Guard, if they served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998 and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Veterans who take advantage of this five-year window to receive VA health care can continue to receive care after five years, although they may have to pay co-payments for medical problems unrelated to their military service. Co-payments range from \$8 for a 30-day supply of prescription medicine to \$1,024 for the first 90 days of inpatient care each year.

A new survey of more than 3,400 active and retired field-grade officers finds an alarmingly downcast view of the state of the U.S. military, with 60 percent saying the nation's armed forces are weaker than they were 5 years ago and 88 percent saying the war in Iraq has stretched the military "dangerously thin." The greatest concern was expressed over the ground forces, which are bearing the brunt of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The survey, jointly conducted by the respected magazine *Foreign Policy* and the Center for a New American Security, a Washington, D.C., think tank, measured the opinions of officers holding the rank of major or lieutenant commander and above. About 35 percent of the respondents were from the Army, 33 percent from the Air Force, 23 percent from the Navy and 8 percent from the Marine Corps. More than 200 were flag officers, and 81 percent had served more than 20 years. Most of the active-duty respondents were students at senior-level military schools such as the Army War College. Two-thirds had combat experience, but only 10 percent had served in Iraq, Afghanistan or both. Other survey findings were equally troubling. Asked if they agreed or disagreed with the statement, "Torture is never acceptable," 44 percent disagreed and 53 percent agreed.

Asked to grade the health of each service on a scale of one to 10, with one meaning "no concern" and 10 "extremely concerned," the officers graded the Army at 7.9, the Marine Corps at 7.0, the Navy at 5.9 and the Air Force at 5.7.

The military's ability to successfully fight in various potential hot spots also drew a disconcerting response: With one considered "unable to execute" and 10 considered "fully prepared," respondents graded Syria at 5.1, the Taiwan Strait at 4.9, North Korea at 4.7 and Iran at 4.5. The officers said the Army's readiness is the worst, with an average score on a one-to-10 scale of just 4.7. The Marine Corps came

(See GLOOMY on page 4)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Detachment Meetings

- 2008
 20 March
 Election of Officers
 17 April
 Installation of Officers
 15 May
 19 June
 17 July
 21 August
 18 September
 16 October
 20 November
 18 December

Marine Corps League

38th Annual Texas State Convention
 6-8 June 2008
 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.



TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN

Congress has blocked the possible replacement of the cracked Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, deciding instead to study repairs to the existing marble monument. A defense bill President Bush signed into law 28 JAN included an amendment to prevent replacement of the tomb, pending a report to Congress. The cemetery had been leaning toward replacing the monument, which was installed in 1931, to maintain its dignity. But now that replacement of the stone has been stalled, the cemetery plans to make repairs to the monument later this year, said John Metzler, the cemetery's superintendent. The last repairs were made in 1989. The work, with guidance from National Park Service stone conservators, involves replacing the existing grouting on the monument and cleaning the stone with water and a soft brush.

Millions of people visit the tomb each year, where soldiers guard the sculpted sarcophagus at all times. It overlooks Washington from across the Potomac River in Arlington and is the scene of Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremonies by the president. A crypt beneath the monument holds the remains of three unidentified servicemen killed in the two world wars and the Korean War. A Vietnam War veteran buried there was later identified through DNA testing and removed.

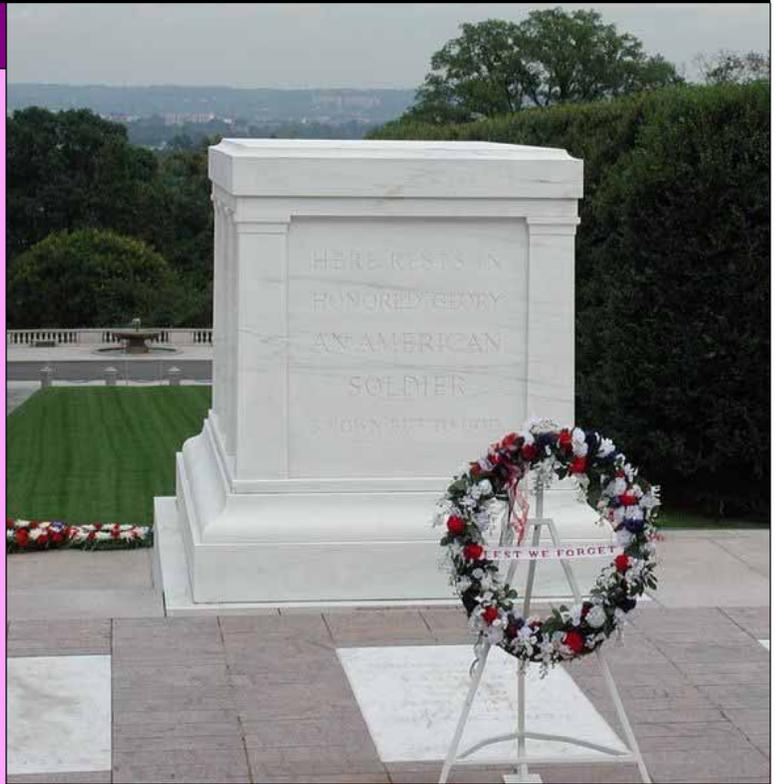
[Source: Associated Press article 9 Feb 08]

(Continued from GLOOMY page 3)

in at 5.7; the Air Force at 6.6 and the Navy at 6.8.

The military is trying to grow the Army and Marine Corps even as the Navy and Air Force continue to downsize. Asked which steps they would support to increase recruiting numbers, nearly 80 percent of respondents said they would support expanding eligibility for foreign nationals to use U.S. military service as a fast track to citizenship. Fifty-eight percent would lower education standards; 47 percent would increase enlistment bonuses; 47 percent would increase maximum age restrictions; 22 percent would allow gays to serve openly and 7 percent would increase the use of criminal or health waivers. And almost two in five respondents — 38 percent — favored reinstating a draft.

On the one-to-10 scale, respondents put their level of



Above: The Nation's Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D. C.

confidence in the presidency at just 5.5, with 16 percent expressing "no confidence at all in the president." Two-thirds of the officers said they believe America's civilian leaders "are either somewhat or very uninformed about the U.S. military." Asked whether civilian leaders set reasonable or unreasonable goals for the U.S. military in post-war Iraq, only 13 percent said they were reasonable.

The findings were published today in the March/April issue of Foreign Policy. [William H. McMichael, *Air Force Times* 02/20/2008]

(Benefits continued from page 6)

service. Additionally, some REAP-eligible National Guard and Reserve members may now make an extra contribution to the Department of Defense to increase their monthly benefit rates. Service members receive an additional \$5 per month for each \$20 contributed. With the maximum \$600 contribution, this option can add up to \$5,400 to a member's total 36-month education benefit package. Beginning on October 1, 2008, participants in REAP and the Montgomery GI Bill program for the Selected Reserve who pursue non-degree programs lasting less than two years may also be eligible to receive accelerated payments.

During FY 2007, more than 60,000 National Guardsmen and reservists were paid under REAP, more than 41,000 were paid under the Montgomery GI Bill program for the Selected Reserves, and approximately 344,000 participants were paid under the Montgomery GI Bill for active-duty members.

For more information on changes to VA's GI Bill benefits, go to www.GIBILL.va.gov or contact VA directly at 1-888-GIBILL1 (or 1-888-442-4551).



NUMBER OF VET CENTERS INCREASING

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake said an expansion by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of its Vet Centers, which provide readjustment counseling and outreach services to returning combat veterans, is well ahead of schedule. "Building on our past successes, 2008 will see a permanent increase in the number of Vet Centers, as we bring the remaining facilities on line to reach a record 232 Vet Centers by the end of the year," Peake said. "To support this expansion and augment the staff at 61 existing Vet Centers, this year we are channeling a 44 percent increase in funding to the Readjustment Counseling Service, which operates the Vet Centers, nearly \$50 million more than last year's budget," he added.

The community-based Vet Centers are a key component of VA's mental health program, providing veterans with mental health screening and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) counseling, along with help for family members dealing with bereavement and loved ones with PTSD.

In February 2007, VA announced it would open 23 new centers during the next two years. Fifteen new centers are open in permanent locations are in Binghamton, N.Y.; Middletown, N.Y.; Watertown, N.Y.; Hyannis, Conn.; DuBois, Pa.; Gainesville, Fla.; Melbourne, Fla.; Macon, Ga.; Manhattan, Kansas; Escanaba, Mich.; Saginaw, Mich.; Grand Junction, Colo.; Baton Rouge, La.; Killeen, Texas; and Las Cruces, N.M. Five additional centers are providing services in temporary space while they finalize their leases in Toledo, Ohio; Ft. Myers, Fla.; Montgomery, Ala.; Everett, Wash.; and Modesto, Calif. The final three locations where Vet Centers will open for clients later this year are in Berlin, N.H., Nassau County, N.Y., and Fayetteville, Ark.

Vet Centers provide counseling on employment, plus services on family issues, education and outreach, to combat veterans and their families. Vet Centers are staffed by small teams of professional counselors, outreach specialists and other specialists, many of whom are combat veterans themselves.

The Vet Centers have hired 100 combat veterans back from Iraq and Afghanistan as outreach specialists, often placing them near military processing stations, to brief servicemen and women leaving the military about VA benefits. These outreach specialists meet with returning veterans, work through family assistance centers and visit military installations to carry the message that VA will be there for the troops and family members after discharge.

VA TAPS \$37 MILLION FOR HOMELESS GRANTS

Peake: Applications Being Accepted from Local Providers

WASHINGTON (February 28, 2008) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is designating \$37 million to fund at least 2,250 new transitional housing beds by giving grants to local providers. "This is the largest one-time designation of funds for the homeless program in VA's history," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This is a great opportunity for community organizations to join VA in its mission of eradicating chronic homelessness among veterans." The grants are intended to offset the operating expenses for transitional housing facilities operated by state and local governments, Indian tribal governments, and faith-based and community-based organizations that are capable of providing supported housing and supportive services for homeless veterans.

VA began its national effort to eradicate chronic homelessness 20 years ago by providing \$5 million for a pilot program to support contract residential care and to create domiciliary care for homeless veterans in San Diego. Today, VA supports more than 15,000 beds in transitional housing facilities or in VA residential treatment programs nationwide. The Department is the largest federal provider of direct assistance to the homeless, including outreach and case management, treatment, rehabilitation, transitional residential care, therapeutic work and assistance with permanent housing. As part of its homelessness programs, VA also supports special programs for the treatment and rehabilitation of those suffering from mental illness and addictive disorders.

For more information, visit VA's grant and per diem program Web page at www.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=3 or contact VA's grant and per diem program office toll free at 1-877-332-0334, or e-mail VA at homelessvets@mail.va.gov.

"To judge from the history of mankind, we shall be compelled to conclude that... to model our political systems upon speculations of lasting tranquility would be to calculate on the weaker springs of human character." Alexander Hamilton

"It is the madness of folly, to expect mercy from those who have refused to do justice; and even mercy, where conquest is the object, is only a trick of war; the cunning of the fox is as murderous as the violence of the wolf." Thomas Paine



NEW LUFKIN VA CLINIC UNDERWAY



Above: Artist's rendition of the new VA Outpatient Clinic located at 2206 North John Redditt Drive in Lufkin. Completion date is 2009.

In late August 2007, the Department of Veterans Affairs awarded Don Langston Construction, Inc. the contract to build a new community-based outpatient clinic for veterans in Lufkin. Projected to be completed in early 2009, the clinic will be located on approximately seven acres of land at 2206 North John Redditt Drive and West Loop 287. Once completed, this 37,000 square-foot facility will replace the current Lufkin clinic located at 1301 West Frank Avenue and 1514 Ellis Avenue.

Langston Construction, located at 1000 South Medford Drive in Lufkin, has built other medical facilities in the area including the Woodland Heights Medical Center, the Palmer Dental Clinic, and the Croley Dental Office in Lufkin, and the Livingston Pediatric Clinic in Livingston, Texas.

"We look forward to offering a modern, state-of-the art health care facility for our veterans in the Lufkin area," said Edgar L. Tucker, MEDVAMC director. "One of the greatest benefits of the new clinic is that veterans will be able to obtain both primary and mental health services at one location."

Currently, the Charles Wilson VA Outpatient Clinic in Lufkin provides primary care, laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, and mental health services to veterans in the area. In fiscal year 2006, there were 44,117 outpatient visits to the clinic.

More Education Benefits Coming to Reservists, Guardsmen Changes Affect Those with Multiple Tours

WASHINGTON (March 3, 2008) - Some members of the National Guard and the Reserves who serve on active duty will see a significant increase in their educational benefits, thanks to improvements announced today by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). "Reservists and National Guardsmen who serve multiple tours on active duty may get an increase in their educational benefits, in keeping with the value of their service to our nation," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake.

Under new provisions, members who accumulate three years on active duty, regardless of breaks in service, may be eligible for the maximum

payment under the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP). Previously, reservists and guardsmen had to serve two continuous years on active duty to receive the highest payment.

The new eligibility rules are retroactive to October 1, 2007. The top payment under REAP is currently \$880.80 per month. The new law, part of the National Defense Authorization Act, also expands the period of eligibility for certain Guard and Reserve members who complete their service obligation before separation from the selected reserve.

Members meeting these criteria may be eligible to use REAP benefits for a period of ten years following discharge. Benefits typically end upon separation for members who do not complete their full, obligated

(See Benefits on page 4)



LOOKING FOR INFORMATION AND PHOTOS



Above: The Southeast Texas Platoon, Platoon 293, MCRD, San Diego, California, August 1967.

THE RIFLEMAN'S CREED "MY RIFLE: THE CREED OF A UNITED STATES MARINE"

This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life. Without me my rifle is useless. Without my rifle, I am useless. I must fire my rifle true. I must shoot straighter than the enemy who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me. I will. My rifle and I know that what counts in war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, or the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count. We will hit.

My rifle is human, even as I am human, because it is my life. Thus, I will learn it as a brother. I will learn its weaknesses, its strengths, its parts, its accessories, its sights and its barrel. I will keep my rifle clean and ready, even as I am clean and ready. We will become part of each other.

Before God I swear this creed. My rifle and I are the defenders of my country. We are the masters of our enemy. We are the saviors of my life. So be it, until victory is America's and there is no enemy.

Publication of this, or any, newsletter requires information from many sources. Since its inception in July of 2007, the *Poopsheet* has relied upon information and photos, most of which were provided by the editor.

Simply stated, the problem is this. The Detachment history and the story we have to tell has been illuminated from a limited perspective. Obviously, the editor cannot be everywhere at once, nor is one view the best view. In order to be the best newsletter we can produce, and to provide the complete picture of who and what we are, it will be necessary to acquire more information from other sources.

This is a call to all members. If anyone has photos they will share, please scan them onto a CD or *Scandisc* device, or allow them to be scanned and returned. The more photos from you, our valuable members, the better the *Poopsheet*, and the more personal the newsletter will be.

Photos, however, are only half the story. We need more information from members regarding what is going on with their families and themselves. We are the ones who come to the meetings, but like the Marine Corps, our organization is one of families. Therefore, when one of our kids or us graduates, gets a scholarship, has a baby, gets promoted, retires, ... you see what I mean. We are Brothers. These events are important to us all. Please share them, since, in some way, they affect us all.

Remember, the *Pineywoods Poopsheet* belongs to all of us. It is not the creation or property of any one individual. The editor is merely that, the "editor." He obtains information from sources, including you, and edits that information to create the newsletter.

Let's keep our newsletter full of living, breathing news about us and what we are doing. Let's use it to keep other detachments and friends around the world informed regarding our activities and the things that are important to us. We are here to "make a difference," but we need the information to show how we are doing that.

FYI: Service Retiree Publications Online
Use it and pass it on to your friends and neighbors.

Army Echoes:

<http://www.armygl.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp>

Navy Shift Colors: <http://www.npc.navy.mil/RefernceLibrary/Publications/ShiftColors/>

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis:

http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page?_pageid=278,2017336&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Air Force Afterburner:

<http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/docs/afretire/Afterburner/AfterburnerCurrent.pdf>

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**Submission deadline: 5th/month

"The name of American, which belongs to you... must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism." George Washington

"It is the duty of every good citizen to use all the opportunities which occur to him, for preserving documents relating to the history of our country."

Thomas Jefferson

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



Marine Corps History

8 March 1965: The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at DaNang, Republic of Vietnam as the first U.S. ground combat troops to be committed to that conflict. The 3,500 men arrived both across the beach with Battalion Landing Team 3/9, and at Da Nang Airfield with Battalion Landing Team 1/3.

25 March 1945: After 35 days of bitter fighting, the amphibious assault on the rocky fortress of Iwo Jima finally appeared over. On the night of 25 March, however, a 300-man Japanese force launched a vicious final counterattack in the vicinity of Airfield Number 2. Army pilots, Seabees and Marines of the 5th Pioneer Battalion and 28th Marines fought the fanatical Japanese force till morning but suffered heavy casualties --more than 100 killed and another 200 American wounded. Nearly all of the Japanese force was killed in the battle.

27 March 1953: The 5th Marines, supported by the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, in the first full day of fighting after the Chinese assault the previous evening of Outpost Vegas on Korea's western front, counterattacked to regain enemy-held positions. Companies E and F of 2/7, down to only three platoons between them, managed to regain partial control of Outpost Vegas that day.

31 March 1801: On this date, LtCol Commandant William W. Burrows rode with president Thomas Jefferson to look for "a proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on." President Jefferson was a personal friend of the Commandant, and deeply interested in the welfare of the Corps and accompanied Burrows on horseback on the morning of 31 March. They chose a square in South-east Washington, bounded by 8th and 9th streets, and a & I streets, because it lay near the Navy Yard and was within easy marching distance of the Capitol. (Entries courtesy: US Marine Corps History Web Pages)

Life Membership Honor Roll

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

- Rich Barnhart
- Betty Benavides
- Dennis Bradford
- Strimple Coyle
- Roger Crone
- Phil Devlin
- Billy Duke
- Don Kirkley
- Dale Koonce
- Buck Lee
- James Lee
- Jack Noble
- Jack Sanderson
- Dan Singletary
- Joe Stewart

Semper Fi!

CONSIDER LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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 National Bylaws, you could join the League, pay your dues, and then pay your Life Membership Dues all in the same day.

BIRTHDAYS

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

Don Kirkley

Happy birthday and many happy returns!

Also, apologies to any we have missed.