



# PINEYWOODS POOPSHEET

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 2, Issue 8

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May Meeting:  
21st at 7 pm



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## 2009—2010 Detachment Officers



Detachment Officers (front row, left—right) Dennis Bradford, Senior Vice-Commandant; Will Lane, Adjutant; (back row, left-right) Jimmie Lee, Sergeant-at-Arms; Dan Singletary, Commandant; Rich Barnhart, Junior Vice-Commandant; Phil Devlin, Judge Advocate. Not pictured: Ken Rains, Chaplain; Rob Zurfluh, Paymaster.

### Commandant

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**Submission deadline is the 10th** of each even-numbered month and  
may be mailed or e-mailed to:

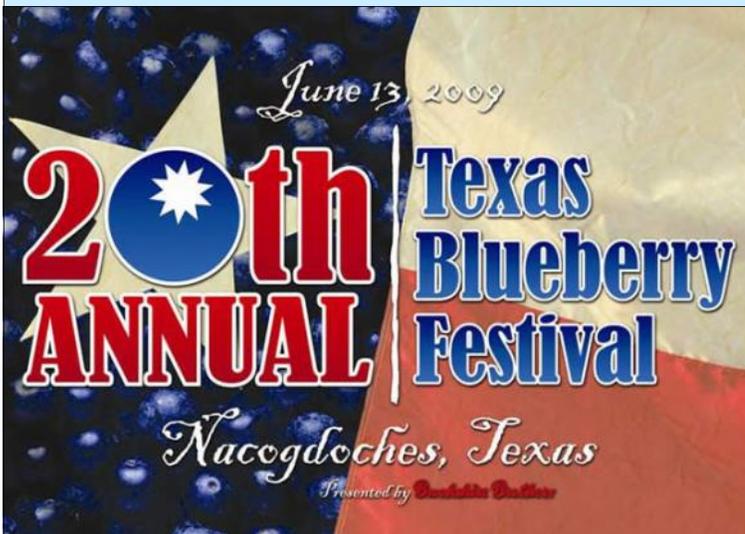
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The Detachment also maintains a **WEBSITE** at: **www.PineywoodsMarines.org**

**Join us at the 20th annual Texas Blueberry Festival, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.,  
Saturday, June 13, in historic downtown Nacogdoches.**

Our Pineywoods Detachment will be manning a booth for the first time at the festival. We plan to give away miniature United States Flags, sell raffle tickets as a fund raiser, promote the Detachment's local Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT!

We will be meeting to set up our booth at 0600 that Saturday, and be ready to go by 0700. Tear down will begin promptly at 1600, as we have to be clear of the street by 1700. We are currently selling raffle tickets for a Magellan RoadMate 1412 GPS—\$1 a chance, or 6 chances for \$5. We will draw for the winner at the end of the day (1600) at the Blueberry Festival.



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.”**



## District 2 by Dennis Bradford

Greetings from District 2 and the detachments of East Texas. The District amazes me by its continued efficiency and success, but then, these are Marines!

I received word recently that Terrell Detachment will soon be awarded its charter. Mike White and all the members are anxiously awaiting while the last-minute details are addressed at Department and National levels. Once that is accomplished they can take their place among their fellow detachments. I will be there to witness the ceremony and will pass the word regarding where and when as soon as I know. Hopefully you can join us.

On 7 March 2009, it was my distinct pleasure to drop in on the fine folks of Texoma Detachment in Denison. Commandant Jerry Lover and his staff were hard at work tending to the Detachment's business. Several members received their Life Membership cards, and two new members were welcomed as well.

Texoma's members have been doing it right for more than ten years. They built a fantastic facility north of Dallas. On donated land west of Denison, they have constructed a building that is marvelous. The accommodations include a kitchen, meeting room, and storage for the more than 40,000 toys that are collected and distributed for Toys For Tots during the Christmas season. They also offer a "Victory Garden" for the community, where anyone can plant their own veggies if there is no room at home. I was also struck by the large number of non-Marine veterans who are Associate members of Texoma Detachment; they are also active and hold those offices available to them.

It is a pleasure to have such talented and resourceful people carrying on the work of the Marine Corps League. Keep up the good work! Semper Fi!

Below left, some of the fifty members, family members, and guests at the meeting. Below right, Commandant Jerry Lover and Adjutant Jacque Stephens call the meeting to order.





## Texas Veterans Land Board Briefing Stephen F. Austin State University May 20 & 21, 2009

All veterans are invited to the Deep East Texas Contracting Opportunities Exposition. The primary purpose of the event is to allow small businesses to interact with the Stephen F. Austin State University Purchasing Department. The mission of the Purchasing Department is to secure goods and services that represent the best value to the University, while promoting full and equal business opportunities for all businesses. SFA purchases goods and services on a best value basis.

**There will also a free veterans benefits seminar:**

**Veterans Business Conference—Wednesday, May 20 at 1 p.m.**

Hear vital issues to veterans—Stay for after hours reception.

**Texas Veterans Land Board Briefing—Wednesday, May 20 at 6 p.m.**

**Contracting Opportunities Exposition—Thursday, May 21 at 9 a.m.**

For more information call Manny Guerrero at SFA 936-468-4529 or Mike McReaken—Texas Veterans Land board at 713-383-2729. Stephen F. Austin State University, Baker Patillo Student Center, 2nd Floor, 1936 North St. (Hwy 59 Business), Nacogdoches, Texas. You can also visit [www.texasveterans.com](http://www.texasveterans.com) or call 1-800-252-VETS.

Below, “Chateau Texoma” in Denison, Texas, home of the Texoma Detachment 929 (see story, page 3).



**“Casualties many; Percentage of dead not known; Combat efficiency; we are winning.” Colonel David M. Shoup, USMC, Tarawa, 21 November 1943.**



## Local Veterans Memorials and Monuments: Medal of Honor Winner PFC Oscar P. Austin

Private First Class **Oscar Palmer Austin** (January 15, 1949-February 23, 1969) was a United States Marine who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism and sacrifice of his own life in Vietnam in February 1969. PFC Austin was born in Nacogdoches, the son of Frank and Mildred Austin. He graduated from Phoenix High School in 1967 and was inducted into the US Marine Corps at Phoenix, Arizona, on April 22, 1968. PFC Austin was an assistant machine gunner with Company E, Second Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division.

There is a monument honoring PFC Austin in front of Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital. There is also a U.S. Navy ship named in his honor, the USS Oscar Austin (DDG-79), an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer. His mother, Mildred Austin, was the matron of honor at the commissioning. USS Oscar Austin's maiden deployment in late 2002 resulted in her participation in the opening strikes of Operation Iraqi Freedom. USS Oscar Austin deployed in September 2005, once again in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The ship returned from a successful deployment in March 2006. Currently, USS Oscar Austin is operating in DESRON 26.

Below is PFC Oscar P. Austin's Medal of Honor citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an Assistant Machine Gunner with Company E, Second Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division in connection with operations against enemy forces in the Republic of Vietnam. During the early morning hours of 23 February 1969, Private First Class Austin's observation post was subjected to a fierce ground attack by a large North Vietnamese Army force supported by a heavy volume of hand grenades, satchel charges and small arms fire. Observing that one of his wounded companions had fallen unconscious in a position dangerously exposed to the hostile fire, Private First Class Austin unhesitatingly left the relative security of his fighting hole and, with complete disregard for his own safety, raced across the fire-swept terrain to assist the Marine to a covered location. As he neared the casualty, he observed an enemy grenade land nearby and, reacting instantly, leaped between the injured Marine and the lethal object, absorbing the effect of its detonation. As he ignored his painful injuries and turned to examine the wounded man, he saw a North Vietnamese Army soldier aiming a weapon at his unconscious companion. With full knowledge of the probable consequences and thinking only to protect the Marine, Private First Class Austin resolutely threw himself between the casualty and the hostile soldier and, in so doing, was mortally wounded. Private First Class Austin's indomitable courage, inspiring initiative and selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

Below left, monument honoring Medal of Honor recipient PFC Oscar P. Austin in front of Memorial Hospital, Nacogdoches, Texas. Below right, PFC Oscar P. Austin in Vietnam.





## The Few, The Proud, The Marines

### A Story of Creation

(The Lighter Side of Our Corps)

In the beginning was the word, and the word was God. In the beginning was God, and all else was darkness and void, and without form. So God created the heavens and the Earth. He created the sun, and the moon, and the stars, so that light might pierce the darkness. The Earth God divided between the land and the sea, and these he filled with many assorted creatures.

And the dark, salty, slimy creatures that inhabited the murky depths of the oceans, God called sailors. And he dressed them accordingly. They had little trousers that looked like bells at the bottom, and their shirts had cute little flaps on them to hide hickeys on their necks. He also gave them sideburns and long hair. God nicknamed them “squids” and banished them to a lifetime at sea, so that normal folk would not have to associate with them. To further identify these unloved creatures, he called them “petty” and “commodore” instead of titles worthy of red-blooded men.

And the flaky creatures of the land, God called soldiers. And with a twinkle in his eye, and a sense of humor that only he could have, God made their trousers too short and their covers too large. He also made their pockets too large, so that they might warm their hands. And to adorn their uniforms, God gave them badges in quantities that only a dime store owner could appreciate. And he gave them emblems and crests – and all sorts of shiny things that glittered – and devices that dangled. (When you are God you tend to get carried away in a big way.)

On the 5th day, he thought about creating some air creatures for which he designed a Greyhound bus driver’s uniform, especially for flyboys. But he discarded the idea during the first week, and it was not until years later that some apostles resurrected this theme and established what we now know as the “wild blue yonder wonders.”

And on the 7th day, as you know, God rested. And on the 8th day, at 0730, God looked down upon the Earth and was not happy. God was not happy!

So he thought about his labors, and in his divine wisdom God created a divine creature. And this he called Marine. And these Marines, who God had created in his own image, were to be of the air and of the land and of the sea. And these he gave many wonderful uniforms. Some were green, some were blue with red trim. And in the early days, some were even a beautiful tan. He gave them practical fighting uniforms, so that they could wage war against the forces of Satan and evil. He gave them service uniforms for their daily work and training. And he gave them evening and dress uniforms – sharp and stylish, handsome things, so that they might promenade with their ladies on Saturday night and impress the shit out of everybody! He even gave them swords, so that people who were not impressed could be dealt with accordingly.

And at the end of the 8th day, God looked down upon the Earth and saw that it was good. But was God happy? No! God was still not happy! Because in the course of his labors, he had forgotten one thing; he did not have a Marine uniform for himself! But he thought about it, and thought about it, and finally satisfied himself in knowing that, well – not everybody can be a MARINE!





### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### Detachment Meetings

(next three months)

21 May

18 June

16 July

Meetings are held third Thursday of the month, at 7 pm at the DAV Hall, 3110 Appleby-Sand Road  
Call (936) 559-3781 for info

#### Posting of Flags

#### Nacogdoches County Courthouse

0700 Memorial Day (25th & 30th), Flag Day, & July 4th

#### Memorial Day Service

#### Nacogdoches County Library

10 a.m., 25 May 2009

#### Department of Texas State

#### Convention, Dallas, Texas

4 - 7 June 2009

#### Pineywoods Detachment Booth

#### Texas Blueberry Festival, Nacogdoches

13 June 2009

#### 2009 Pineywoods Detachment

#### Marine Corps Birthday Ball

7 November 2009

Fredonia Hotel Nacogdoches, Texas

Watch Detachment website for more information

### Website News

We have updated the "In Memoriam" page on the Detachment website with profile of Medal of Honor winner PFC Oscar P. Austin, who was born in Nacogdoches.

You can always visit the website to find information about upcoming events, Detachment Officers, membership information (including printable applications), membership requirements, uniform regulations, and detachment gear.

There are also Detachment pictures and videos

The website is at: [www.PineywoodsMarines.org](http://www.PineywoodsMarines.org) . If you think of something that we should add, please tell the Web Sgt Rich Barnhart when you see him at a meeting, or email him at [Jarhead@PineywoodsMarines.org](mailto:Jarhead@PineywoodsMarines.org) .

Remember that there would be nothing on our website if members didn't contribute!

### DET FUNDRAISER

The detachment will be manning a booth at the 20th Annual Texas Blueberry Festival, on the red-brick streets of downtown Nacogdoches on Saturday, June 13th.

We will be giving away miniature U.S. flags, promoting the Detachment's local Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and selling raffle tickets for a Magellan RoadMate 1412 GPS.



### Posting of U.S. Flags in Nacogdoches

We will be posting flags at the Nacogdoches County Courthouse on patriotic Holidays for the rest of the year.

Upcoming days include: Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th; Flag Day, Sunday June 14th; and, Saturday, July 4th. Meet at the VFW Post at 0630, or at the courthouse at 0700. We will furl and stow the flags at 1700. Note: on Memorial Day we also post flags at Memorial Hospital (at the PFC Oscar P. Austin Monument) and Oak Grove Cemetery.

### GET YOUR DETACHMENT GEAR



Pineywoods detachment "goodies" are now available from two sources for those who want to wear our colors proudly. All manner of items are available from **Café Press** at <http://www.cafepress.com/pwm1189b> . These items are "printed" on the clothing or hat.

Embroidered clothing and hats, as well as backpacks and portable stadium seats and other goodies are available in Nacogdoches at **Unlimited Designs** on NW Stallings Drive, next to License to Laugh, the defensive driving folks. It is also possible to have the embroidery sewn on the MCL red uniform cover there. Pricing is reasonable, and Kim Cartwright and staff are most helpful. Keep it local!



"One man with courage is a majority."  
Thomas Jefferson

"May our country be always successful, but whether successful or otherwise, always right."  
John Quincy Adams



## Marine Corps History

**16 May 1945:** The 22d and 29th Marines continued the attack against Half Moon Hill, a day characterized by the 6th Marine Division as the "bitterest" of the Okinawa campaign. By the 18th, the famed "Shuri line" had been breached.

**10 May 1945:** The 22d Marines, 6th Marine Division, executed a pre-dawn attack south across the Asa River Estuary and seized a bridgehead from which to continue the attack toward Naha, the capital of Okinawa.

**15 May 1862:** Corporal John Mackie, the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor, was commended for service in the USS GALENA during action against Confederate shore batteries at Drewry's Bluff which blocked the James River approaches to Richmond.

### Life Membership Honor Roll

The following Detachment members are Life Members

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

***Semper Fi!***

### CONSIDER LIFE

#### Life Membership Dues

National Marine Corps League

<u>Age Grp</u>	<u>Cost</u>
0-35	\$500
36-40	\$400
41-50	\$400
51-60	\$300
61-over	\$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.

### BIRTHDAYS

The following Detachment members have a birthday to celebrate in APRIL:

- Rich Barnhart
- Robert Noggler
- Wilbert Morrison

#### MAY

- Jack Noble
- Judith Crone
- Robert Zurfluh
- Roy Taylor

Happy birthday and many happy returns!

Also, apologies to any we have missed.