

DEVIL DAWG MONTHLY One Marine Way, P.O. Box 1831, Riverview, FL 33568 **Detachment 1226**

Volume 36

March 2012

League Officers:

Commandant: **Dennis** Antle Sr. Vice Commandant: Debra Steele Jr. Vice Commandant: Adjutant: **Paymaster:** Judge Advocate: Walt Raysick Chaplain: Sergeant-at-Arms: **Past Commandant:** Jack Skelding Web Sergeant: Historian: Stan Horman **Newsletter Editor:** Debra Steele (Editor can be reached at address above and/or Mclriverview@yahoo.com or (813) 545-7526

Bernie Kotrady Jack Skelding. Houston Tucker Dave Blizzard George Mc Master Bernie Kotrady

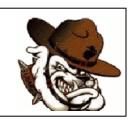
League Auxiliary

President: Sr. Vice: Jr. Vice: Judge Advocate: Chaplain: Guard:

Pat Skelding Cheryl Bain Shanda Antle Kamela Ryan **Barb Wolons** Mary Ann Raysick

Marine Corps League Detachment 1226 One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831 Riverview, Florida 33568

Mailing Label goes Here



DEVIL DAWG MONTHLY

COMMANDANT'S CORNER:

I would like to say Thank you to all those that supported Dennis Antle during his time as Commandant. I am sure he appreciates same. Please remember to honor us with your presence at the next meeting in April to elect those that you feel will most serve as your advocate and give voice to your ideas. Your help is needed to better our Detachment and the League as a whole. I look forward to seeing you there.

Debra Steele Sr. Vice Commandant

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

The MCL and MCLA just held their first breakfast at the VFW. I want to thank Barb Wolons, Kamela Ryan and Susanne Pugh for stepping up and working it. I would also like to thank all those who came out to support our breakfast. It was a total success.

At our next meeting we will have elections for a new slate of Officers. If you think you might be interested please let me know. Our joint installation will be held April 29th at the American Legion in Riverview at 2:00 pm. Nobody has volunteered to work the Flea Market so it looks like we will be closing it up till the Fall. You can read the newsletter for updates.

On April 19th through the 22nd we will be holding the MCL/MCLA Conference in Orlando. We have 4 ladies from the Auxiliary attending. I would like to see some of the members attend the Leadership Class. We need to start discussing the Fall Conference and what we want to do to help the League make it a success. They know that we are backing them up in any way we can. Looking for your ideas of what you would like to do. Think about it.

Please check the calendar in the newsletter for upcoming events. As usual if you have any questions please call me at 813-672-1778.

Semper Fi Pat Skelding

MEMBERSHIP CORNER:

Welcome New Associate Member: James Johnson.

Please remember this Detachment is what we make of it and only we can make it grow. Is there someone you know that qualifies to become a member of the Detachment? See a vehicle in a parking lot that as a USMC sticker on it? Why not ask them to join today?

Past due: Amos, Gre

Amos, Gregory - Jan 2011 Antle, Danny – Nov 2011 Antle, Jennifer – Nov 2011 Bain, Jacob – Jan 2011 Becker, Dale - Jan 2012 Bennett, Kristine - Feb 2011 Bro. Keith - Jan 2012 Correll, Carl - Oct 2011 Freeman, James Sr. – Dec 2011 Hall, Jeffery – Dec 2011 Larrow, Thomas - Oct 2011 Martin, David - Sep 2010 Miller, Everette G - Jan 2011 Regretta, Leonard Jr – Jan 2011 Scheller. Bruce - Dec 2011 Sherman, Michael - Jan 2012 Toledo, William – Dec 2011 Young, Steven - Feb 2011

LIFE MEMBERSHIP BY AGE CATEGORY

61 AND OVER \$150.00 51 TO 60 \$300.00 36 TO 50 \$400.00

Should you have any questions regarding the membership please contact Houston Tucker through our Detachment email mclriverview@yahoo.com.

We need your ideas. If there is other information you would like to see posted or certain topics you would like us to discuss, please let me know. Please email your ideas to mclriverview@yahoo.com

<u>COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</u>:

We had a lot of events this month and there are always plenty of activities to get involved in. Of course, please do not feel that you have to participate in all but please try to participate when you can. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do to make YOUR Detachment what it is.



Houston Tucker, Hank Woolens, Dennis Antle and Bernie Kotrady at the Vietnam Memorial event.



Walt Ryan, Patricia Skelding, Kamela Ryan, Debra Steele, Mr. and Mrs. John Berrios, John Bain, Jack Skelding and Walt Raysick front and center at the Field of Honor working party.



Come join us on the 3rd Sunday of every month at the VFW 8108 building for breakfast cooked and served by your Detachment. For just \$6 per person you and your family can enjoy all you can eat breakfast. Proceeds are divided between the Detachment and Ladies Auxillary. Thank you to those that came and helped cook, serve or purchased breakfast.



Kamela Ryan, Bernie Kotrady, John Bain and Hank Woolens cooking up your favorites at the Sunday breakfast!!!

vyard Sale

WE ARE IN NEED of donations to keep this going. We also need volunteers to help with this each Sunday. You can drop of any items during the sales on Sunday. Contact Jack or Dennis for further details. We are considering discontinuing this program.



Come out and join us on the last Saturday of every month from 1000 to 1400 hours. We look forward to your support whether it is washing cars with us or just bringing your car for a wash. Let's get washing!!!!!!

**Rose Fund: For information regarding the Rose Fund please contact Willie Little at WLittleJr2@aol.com. We have been very successful with our Rose Fund Events. Thank you to all who have participated and continue to participate. Keep an eye out on the calendar for upcoming events.



**Honor Guard: If you are interested in participating in the Honor Guard please contact Walt Raysick at WRaysick@verizon.net. Dates for upcoming events are located in the Minutes section of this Newsletter and/or the monthly calendar.



Jack Skelding, Willie Little, John Berrios, Debra Steele, George Banes and Sal DiFonzo at the Vietnam Memorial held at Veteran's Park.



**Contact Willie Little for visits to the VA Hospital to show our support for our fellow soldiers.



** Hot Dogs: We are selling Hotdogs on Bingo Night at the Legion. Please come and volunteer to help or purchase some delicious hotdogs.

Advertising:

What a great way to advertise your product and/or services to our members!! Need attendees for a local event or cause? Please your information today.

The Riverview Detachment of the Marine Corps League has decided to add the ability for advertisements and announcements in the Newsletter. This monthly Newsletter is distributed to approximately 100 members in our community and surrounding areas.

| Size: | Monthly Cost: | Yearly Cost: |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Business Card | \$5 | \$50 |
| Quarter Page | \$8 | \$80 |
| Half Page | \$10 | \$100 |
| Full Page | \$15 | \$150 |
| *Yearly is discounted | two months. | |

If you are interested in placing an ad and/or event or you would like more information regarding same, please do not hesitate to contact Debra Steele via email (<u>Debra.Steele.0602@gmail.com</u>).

Advertisers: Please remember those who support us and give them our support as well!!!



Jack Skelding District 7 Vice Commandant Department of Florida Ph 813-672-1778 Cell 813-830-1138 E:mail jskelding@tampabay.rr.com

Visit our Website at <u>www.mclriverview.org</u> for more information on meetings and other activities and items of interests. Check out our new look!!!!!!!!



As you are aware this organization works hard to get Marines oversees care packages and letters. Please visit their website below for more information. We salute you Dianne.

www.supportourmarinesinc.org



YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

We are still working on the finalization for a place to hold the meetings for the Young Marines. We are no longer working with East Bay as they wanted to charge \$600 per meeting. Ed Zaleski is reaching out to Riverview High school and has a meeting set up this month. Ed Zaleski will be the Commanding Officer. Once we have our meeting place secure we will turn in our final packet.

Debra Steele Sr. Vice Commandant



Lawmakers criticize VA on Fla. hospital delays

By Ledyard King - Gannett Washington Bureau Posted : Tuesday Mar 27, 2012 20:26:23 EDT taken from MarineCorpsTimes.com

WASHINGTON — Contractors building a new veterans hospital in Orlando told a congressional panel Tuesday that the complex — already months behind schedule — will be delayed longer and could cost more than \$100 million extra to finish.

Officials with the Department of Veterans Affairs have acknowledged it will be at least the summer of 2013 before the doors open at the 134-bed hospital in Lake Nona, which broke ground four years ago and is expected to serve thousands of Brevard veterans.

The complex, which includes an outpatient clinic, a 120-bed community living center and a 60-bed domiciliary, was supposed to open in October at a cost of \$665 million. Tuesday, contractors working on the project said it "definitely" won't open by next summer, either. During a hearing before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, they blamed delays on the agency's incomplete plans, a flurry of last-minute changes beyond their control and a slow bureaucracy that takes months sometimes to resolve seemingly minor issues.

"We're trying to work and we're running into obstacles everywhere we turn," said Miller Gorrie, chairman of Brasfield & Gorrie, the Alabama construction firm that won \$336.4 million in contracts to build the hospital and several other features in the complex. Another company official testified those changes so far have added \$120 million to the cost of their contract.

That prompted central Florida lawmakers at the hearing to blister VA leaders for not moving faster. When one agency official told the congressional panel that veterans can continue receiving medical services by going to other facilities in Florida, Rep. Sandy Adams fumed. "We have veterans coming back, injured in ways that they may never have survived in years past. And yet they're coming home and this hospital is not on track to be completed. They're going to have to wait," the Orlando Republican said. "With these injuries, they can't travel distances. ... How do you say they're not being affected by this delay?"

There are about 70,000 veterans in Brevard County — about 21 percent of the population over 18 years old.

The Viera VA Outpatient Clinic has more than 21,000 active patients, about 1,000 of them Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. The clinic serves an average of 1,100 patients a day. But if they need hospital services, such as dialysis treatment, they often have to travel to Tampa. VA officials acknowledged problems with the original design of the Orlando hospital, particularly the electrical system, and say problems with roof installation caused some delays. But they say many of those problems have been fixed and new steps, including a renewed focus on cost-cutting and the addition of more on-site supervisors, are being taken to speed construction of health care facilities across the country, including in Orlando.

"This will help us reduce any problems arising in the first place, fix those that do emerge and ensure leadership is constantly apprised of developments on these major projects," Robert Petzel, VA undersecretary for health, told the committee. Petzel and his aides maintain that a summer 2013 ribbon-cutting is still possible because other phases of the project are closer to completion. They also disputed that the cost of the project will increase by \$120 million based on the change orders contractors said they planned to submit, although they said they have approved \$15 million in additional costs.

Bill Vagianos, a former VA psychologist who is president of the Brevard Veterans Council, said the project — which once was planned to be built in Brevard — remains a source of frustration. The size, once 164 beds, has been scaled back and the former Vietnam War veteran is worried that the VA will not be able to offer the mental health services it was supposed to provide.

"There's a great deal of skepticism (about the VA) and it was abating with the promises of the Orlando VA (hospital)," said Vagianos, who was on the original design committee when the facility was being conceived but did not attend Tuesday's hearing. "The entire veteran community, Orlando to the East Coast, was immensely excited about the prospect of having an accessible health care facility. But obviously that's not happening."

News from the League

Re: Info on VA Health Care

Attached you will find the VA web site for your use and review. Although most of you DO NOT use or depend on the VA Health Care System it is available to you as a veteran who earned that right by serving our country. IT IS NOT WELFARE. Most of you who I am sending this information to have lived their "after military" lives built on hard work, self sacrifice and dedication to family and the job at hand. Yes, I'm sure there was some LUCK involved as well ; BUT for most of us there was NO FREE LUNCH. For Vietnam Veterans, there was no "THANK YOU" or "JOB WELL DONE". If you know a Veteran who can or should use the VA Health Care System, I urge you to pass this information on to them.

I would like to point out that the VA budget is based on NUMBERS. The more of us that are registered even if you DO NOT avail yourself of your earned benefit the better it is for ALL veterans. If you need help with the site feel free to email me and I will refer you to someone at the VA.

Go to: http://www.va.gov/health/NewsFeatures

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MCL MEMBERS

Subj: MARINE CORPS LEAGUE POLICY ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Marines: As the 2012 political campaigns heat up this VIC VOLTAGGIO Spring and Summer in anticipation of the General National Commandant elections in the Fall, I wanted to take a moment to

remind you that, as a matter of League policy, Marine Corps League members wearing any part of the League uniform or identifying themselves as members of the Marine Corps League, cannot sponsor a political club; participate in any TV or radio program, or group discussion that advocates for or against a political party, candidate or cause; give interviews to the press or speak at any event promoting a political candidate or movement.

The following is the Marine Corps League's official POLICY on the aforementioned subject taken from the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures, Chapter One, Section 110:

SECTION 110 - POLICY

(b) The Marine Corps League shall never take part in any labor or management dispute or issue, and it shall be ever non-sectarian, non-political, and non-partisan; nor shall it be based on the grounds of race, color, creed, nationality, or sex; nor shall it be used as a medium of political ambition or preferment; nor shall former or present military rank or former or present civilian position be used as the basis for special consideration or preferment.

The Marine Corps League wants and strongly encourages ALL its members and families to exercise their Constitutional right and duty to vote. With that said, our membership cannot give the impression that the League supports or opposes ANY one candidate or political party.

I enjoin you, as the leadership of the Marine Corps League, to ensure all those members under your charge review the Marine Corps League's Policy as outlined above and ensure it is adhered to. Thank you for your support on this issue. God Bless America.

Vii Valtergio

Installation of Officers of Morris Dixon Detachment

MCL National Commandant, Vic Voltaggio and his Chief of Staff, Lou Callega (Sr. Vice Commandant Dept. Fl.) attended the installation ceremony of the officers and staff of the Morris F. Dixon, Jr. Detachment No. 54, Largo, FL on Sunday 3/11/12. Commandant Voltaggio was the installing officer, installing John J. Piazza, Sr. as Commandant of Detachment 54. The installation attended by over 90 guest including MCLA State President, Pat Skelding who installed the officers of MCLA Auxiliary Unit 482, Largo, Fl. Other members of the Dept. of Fl. MCL and Auxiliary also attended this gala ceremony. John J. Piazza, Sr. and his staff expressed their gratitude to Commandant Voltaggio and the Dept. officers for attending the ceremony which also included recognized Jr. Past Commandant, Frank Correa with a beautiful gavel/plaque.

VA Expands Medical Forms Program to Support Faster Claims Processing

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today the release of 68 new forms that will help speed the processing of Veterans' disability compensation and pension claims.

"VA employees will be able to more quickly process disability claims, since disability benefits questionnaires capture important medical information needed to accurately evaluate Veterans' claims," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Disability benefits questionnaires are just one of many changes VA is implementing to address the backlog of claims."

The new forms bring to 71 the number of documents, called disability benefits questionnaires (DBQs), that guide physicians' reports of medical findings, ensuring VA has exactly the medical information needed to make a prompt decision. When needed to decide a disability claim for compensation or pension benefits, VA provides Veterans with free medical examinations for the purpose of gathering the necessary medical evidence. Veterans who choose to have their private physicians complete the medical examination can now

give their physicians the same form a VA provider would use. It is very important that physicians provide complete responses to all questions on the DBQs. VA cannot pay for a private physician to complete DBQs or for any costs associated with examination or testing. "By ensuring relevant medical information can be found on one form, we will cut processing time while improving quality," added Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey.

DBQ's can be found at

http://benefits.va.gov/disabilityexams. The newly released DBQs follow the initial release of three DBQs for Agent Orange-related conditions.

Veterans may file a claim online through the eBenefits web portal at https://www.ebenefits.va.gov. The Department of Defense and VA jointly developed the eBenefits portal as a single secure point of access for online benefit information and tools to perform multiple self-service functions such as checking the status of their claim.

Servicemembers may enroll in eBenefits using their Common Access Card at any time during their military service, or before they leave during their Transition Assistance Program briefings. Veterans may also enroll in eBenefits and obtain a Premium account in-person or online depending on their status.

MARINE TIDBITS:

2 March 1867: Jacob Zeilin, Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps from 30 June 1864, was this date promoted to the rank of Brigadier General Commandant, the first time Congress authorized this rank for the Marine Corps. The statute, however, was repealed in June 1874 so that the rank of Commandant would again revert to colonel upon Zeilin's retirement.

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 DaNang Airfield with Battalion Landing Team 1/3.

11 March 1778: Marines participated the action when the Continental Navy frigate *Boston*, enroute to France, sighted, engaged, and captured the British merchant ship *Martha*. As the drum of the *Boston* beat to arms, John Adams seized a musket and joined the Marines on deck until the frigate's captain, Samuel Tucker, sent him below for safety.

13 March 1943: The first group of 71 Women Marine officer candidates arrived at the U.S. Midshipmen School (Women's Reserve) at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The Navy's willingness to share training facilities enabled the Marine Corps to begin training Marine Corps Women's Reserve officers just one month after the creation of the MCWR was announced.

17 March 1967: The first woman Marine to report to Vietnam for duty, Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky, began her 18-hour flight to Bien Hoa, 30 miles north of Saigon. MSgt Dulinsky and the other officer and enlisted Women Marines that followed were assigned to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) based in Saigon. Most worked with the Marine Corps Personnel Section providing administrative support to Marines assigned as far north as the DMZ, but two Lieutenant Colonels, Ruth Reinholz and Ruth O'Holleran, served as historians with the Military History Branch, Secretary Joint Staff, MACV.

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 Southeast Washington, at 8th and I streets, because it lay near the Navy Yard and was within easy marching distance of the Capitol.

Initiatives from Monthly Meeting

Applications for Membership: James Johnson as an Associate Member.

Members Sick or in Distress: Stan Horman, Commandant Dennis Antle and Walt Ryan.

Report of Standing Committees:

Toys for Tots: No report.

<u>Rose Fund</u>: Willie Little reported that the next Rose Fund drive will be April 7th and April 28th at the Publix on SR 60 in Valrico and the Sam's Club in Valrico.

<u>Poker Run</u>: Debra Steele said that she will not be able to chair the poker run this year due to other commitments. She asked Tommy Reichard to take charge and he agreed and he will be forming a committee.

<u>Birthday</u>: Walt Raysick stated that we should select a tentative date for celebration. He recommended November 17th so as not to conflict with other events take place around that time.

<u>Honor Guard</u>: Walt Raysick advised that the next two scheduled events for the honor guard are Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day and Medal of Honor Recognition day to be celebrated jointly on March 24th and the Field of Honor on April 14th.

<u>Young Marines</u>: Debra Steele Deb Steele reported that Ed Zaleski is to talk with the principal at Riverview High School to see if it is feasible to meet there as it will cost \$600.00 a day to meet at East Bay.

<u>Picnic</u>: September 14th at Fred's house.

<u>Hot Dog Sales</u>: Walt Raysick reported that the hot dog sales raised \$300.00 for the general fund over the last two months.

Report of Special Committees:

<u>Conference Planning</u>: Peter White reported that booklet ad sales were going good and he requested that the membership assist him with recruiting sponsors for ads.

<u>Group Ball Game</u>: Houston Tucker said that tickets will be \$35.00. That there needs to be at least 20 people to get the group rate and that two dates are possible. April 22^{nd} or May 6th.

Unfinished Business: Willie Little made a motion that we discontinue giving a scholarship to East Bay High School which was approved.

Willie Little made a motion that we award scholarships to qualified Detachment member's children or grandchildren which was approved for one year only.

New Business:

Tommy Reichard made a motion to donate \$300.00 to a Marine from his home town who is having financial difficulties while he is awaiting a kidney transplant which was approved.

First nominations of officers were made. The following members were nominated

Commandant – Debra Steele Sr. Vice Commandant – Bernie Kotrady Jr. Vice Commandant – John Berrios Judge Advocate – Walt Raysick **Good of the League**: Erick Mitchell, who attended the meeting as a guest, and is a previous scholarship recipient, expressed his gratitude to the membership.

Ken Zolna addressed the membership informing them on the status of the USO project taking place at the Tampa airport.





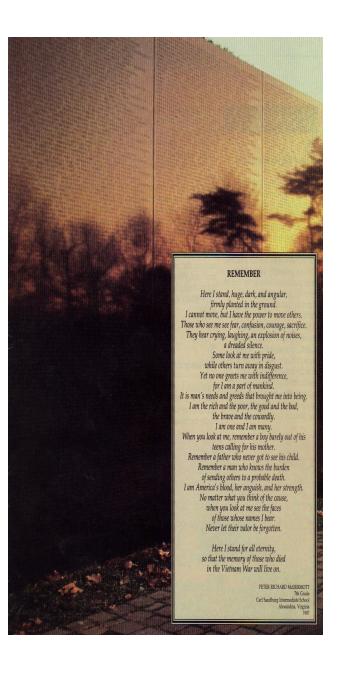
For Information Contact: Dirt 813 298-6550 or Russ 813 469-3274



Who will be the next Member of the Month?? If you are interested in telling your story, please contact Debra Steele at MCLRiverview.org.

Do you have ideas or comments you would like to see in your Newsletter? Do you volunteer for other events for your community other than those associated with the Detachment? If so we want to hear about it and receive photos. This is your Newsletter and we want your ideas and suggestions as to what you would like to see.

SO LET US KNOW. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!



April 2012

Marine Corps League Detachment 1226 One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831 Riverview, Florida 33568

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 Legion Riders Mtg @ Legion 1830 hrs | 3 League Mtg @ Legion @ 1900/ MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1900 hrs | 4 | 5 SAL Mtg 1900 | 6 | 7 | |
| 8 Flea Market 0700 to 1200 | 9 Legion Mtg E- board 1730 hrs and general 1900 hrs | 10 | 11 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs and MCL Hot Dog Sales | 12 | 13 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs | 14 | |
| 15 MCL Breakfast @ VFW 8108 from 0900 to 1200 hrs | 16 | 17 | 18 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs and MCL Hot Dog Sales | 19 MCL Spring Conference/Orlando for more info email mclriverview.org | 20 MCL Spring Conference/Orlando Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs | 21 MCL Spring Conference/Orlando | |
| 22 Flea Market 0700 to 1200 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hrs | 23 | 24 | 25 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs and MCL Hot Dog sales | 26 | 27 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs | 28 | |
| 29 Flea Market 0700 to 1200 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hr | 30 | | | | | 31 MCL Car Wash | |
| | | Look Ahead: August 12 th – 18 th – National Convention Mobile, AL October 18 th to 20 th – Department of Florida Conference, Riverview, FL (hosted by our Detachment) For more information please email us at mclriverview.org. | | | | | |