



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

Volume 41

September 2012

League Officers:

Commandant: *Debra Steele*
Sr. Vice Commandant: Bernie Kotrady
Jr. Vice Commandant: Sal DiFonzo
Adjutant: Jack Skelding.
Paymaster: Houston Tucker
Judge Advocate: Walt Raysick
Chaplain: Dave Blizzard
Sergeant-at-Arms: George Mc Master
Past Commandant: Dennis Antle
Web Sergeant: Bernie Kotrady
Historian: Stan Horman
Newsletter Editor: Debra Steele

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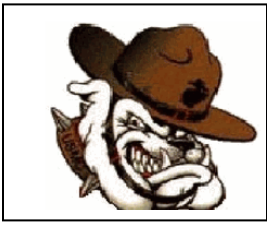
League Auxiliary

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Chaplain: Barbara Wolons
Guard: Mary Jane Cobb
Historian: Susanne Pugh
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Marine Corps League Detachment 1226

One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831
Riverview, Florida 33568

Mailing Label goes Here



DEVIL DOG MONTHLY

COMMANDANT'S CORNER:

We are at a great time at Fred's house. Thank you to all that came out to share in the fun.

We are getting close to the last quarter of the year which always brings a lot of activity. We have our first Conference from October 18th through the 21st (where I hope to see everyone taking advantage of Leadership School as well – see more information attached), the annual Haley House Poker Run on October 27th, and events throughout November and December. Please keep a copy of the calendar handy as a reminder of these worthwhile events. We are always in need of help and encourage involvement. No amount of help is too small. If you can only devote an hour of your time for an event and not the full time that event is going on, please feel free to come for just that amount of time.

You control the future of the Detachment, its growth and success. We are in this together. No one person has more control than YOU! Please keep in mind that everyone has the right to their opinion, but Majority rules! And you have a chance to voice your opinion at any time. If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or just want to vent, please feel free to email the detachment.

Debra Steele
Commandant

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

September is almost over. Some of us met at Post 148 on 9-11 at 8 AM to wave flags and show support for our country. We then traveled to Veteran's Park for Patriot's Day in memory of all who lost their lives on 9-11-01 and their families who will always grieve for their loved ones.

We had the POW/MIA remembrance at Veteran's Park the 14th September. Bill Allen spoke to us about some of the terrible ordeals he went through in POW camps.

Do not forget about our monthly breakfast at the VFW is the 3rd Sunday of the month. Hours are 9am TO

12:00 pm. We have a good team and have fun cooking and serving our guests. Come join us.

The 29th September at Post 148 is Hearts for Hero's. The Auxiliary is joining in to set up tables to sell some of our sewing articles and having a bake sale and to sell raffle tickets. There is to be a pig roast which we are looking forward to. The hours are noon until 4 PM. Bring your appetite and sweet tooth and enjoy the day with us.

Semper Fi
Kamela Ryan

MEMBERSHIP CORNER:

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 has a USMC sticker on it? Why not ask them to join today?

Past due:

Barnes, Albert - March 2012
Berrios, Ricardo - August 2012
Budd, Ronald - July 2012
Correll, Carl E. - October 2011
Donica, Herbert R. - August 2012
Elliott Sr., Robert N. - January 2012
Evans, Robert L., - March 2012
Freeman Sr. James A. - December 2011
Graham, Terry A. - July 2011
Hernandez, Nicole - March 2012
Hunt, Raymond A. - Waterloo, UK; May 2012
Keller, Edwin R. - March 2012
Larrow, Thomas M. - October 2011
Luccio, Douglas G. - June 2012
Ludwick, Larry - May 2012
Palumbo, Lewis H. - August 2012
Ray, David H. - June 2012
Sarsfield, Patrick - February 2012
Scheller, Bruce A. - December 2011
Sherman, Andrea - June 2012
Sherman, Michael W. - January 2012
Toledo, William - December 2011

DUE IN SEPTEMBER

Coston, Diano R.
 Himert Sr., Brian
 Reichard, Thomas K.
 Serra, Guillermo S.
 Weinfurter, Robert L.
 Welling, Kenneth E.

DUE IN OCTOBER

Himert, Gary W.
 Horman, Thomas A.
 Morffi, Rafael R.
 Price, Kevin

LIFE MEMBERSHIP BY AGE CATEGORY

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

We have a contest for you. For any member that recruits two members or more starting now until November they will receive their Marine Corps Birthday meal free (\$15 value).

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

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:



**Rose Fund: For information regarding the Rose Fund please contact the Detachment at mclriverview@yahoo.com.



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. Thank you to those that came and helped cook, serve or purchased breakfast.



WE ARE IN NEED of donations and help to keep this going. The Detachment has not been having yard sales on Sundays as a result of a lack of volunteers to staff it. We would like to start holding the yard sales again at least a couple of times a month but if no one steps up to help out it will not happen. If you are willing to spend five hours on a Sunday to help with this project please let the adjutant, Jack Skelding know by email or phone him at 813-672-1778 so that he can put you on the schedule.



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!!!!!! We need some volunteers to keep this going.



** Hot Dogs: We are selling Hotdogs on Bingo Night at the Legion. Do you have a special dish you would like to make and showcase to help the Detachment? If so, contact Walt Raysick.



Sal DiFonzo, Peter White and Bernie Kotrady at Wednesday night Bingo (Selling hotdogs and having fun doing it).



Bernie Kotrady, Walt Raysick and Sal DiFonzo.



****Contact Willie Little for visits to the VA Hospital to show our support for our fellow soldiers. Please keep our sick and distressed members in your prayers. Ken Zolna, Stan Horman, Roger Dunn, Ken Welling's wife and JT Doody.**



****Honor Guard: If you are interested in participating in the Honor Guard please contact Walt Raysick at WRaysick@verizon.net.**

We have had a lot of activities and have many more so be sure to check your calendar for upcoming events.



Walt and Kamela Ryan, Walt Raysick and Shanda Antle at the Run for the Fallen!



I even recruited my son to work at the event! It was such a worthwhile cause and there were over 3000 runners/walkers in attendance.

Visit our Website at www.mclriverview.org for more information on meetings and other activities and items of interests.

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.

We need more advertisers. While you are out scouting for the sponsors for our Conference ask them if they would also like to advertise in our monthly newsletter.

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 (Debra.Steele.0602@gmail.com).

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



**HALEY
HOUSE FUND, Inc.**

Dave Braun
Finance / Administration
Charter Board Member

Mobile: (813) 310-8513 Post Office Box 701
Email: Prowler143@aol.com Brandon, FL 33509-0701
davebraun@haleyhousefund.org • www.haleyhousefund.org

Support our Troops & Families



Jack Skelding
District 7 Vice Commandant
Department of Florida
Ph [813-672-1778](tel:813-672-1778) Cell [813-830-1138](tel:813-830-1138)
Email: jskelding@tampabay.rr.com

Thursday Sep 27, 2012 17:08:23 EDT



As you are aware this organization works hard to get Marines overseas 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

Riverview has now advised they are not able to work with us at this time. We will be checking with the Moose to see if they will work with us in this venture. If you are interested in helping with this program, please contact Ed Zaleski through the detachment website. Once Ed has an email set up for the Young Marine program he will update us.



MILITARY NEWS

Military absentee voting picks up

By [Karen Jowers](#) - Staff writer
Posted on Marine Corps Times website:

With little more than a month to go before the election, activity has picked up among military community voters overseas.

In the first three weeks of September, when free express military mail service became available for overseas service members and their families, 5,556 absentee ballots were sent to the U.S. with the military-only mailing service — a 65 percent increase over the same period in 2010, when the free express mail service was first authorized for the election season, according to the U.S. Postal Service.

Eric Eversole, executive director of the Military Voter Protection Project, said he is not surprised. “You would expect to see a sizeable increase in the number of absentee ballots being returned in a presidential year election as compared to a mid-term election,” he said.

But Eversole is concerned that he is still seeing an “incredibly low number” of [absentee ballot](#) requests from across the U.S., according to some states he is tracking. For example, he said, Virginia has sent out 12,292 absentee ballots, compared to 41,762 sent in the 2008 cycle.

The number of Federal Post Card Applications that have been downloaded from the [Federal Voting Assistance Program website](#) has also picked up; about 527,000 had been downloaded as of Sept. 23, said Pentagon spokeswoman Navy Cmdr. Leslie Hull-Ryde. That’s up by about 55 percent over the 341,000 that had been downloaded a month ago, but is still short of 2008 levels. The applications are used to [register](#) to vote and to request an absentee ballot.

As part of the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, states were required to send absentee ballots to those who had requested them by 45 days before the election — Sept. 22. That population includes military personnel and their families voting by absentee in the U.S. or overseas, as well as overseas citizens.

“I would note that more service members received their ballots earlier this year than in 2008 because of the MOVE Act’s 45-day requirement and the increased use of electronic mail delivery,” Eversole said. “In other words, we should see an increase in ballots being returned earlier in the election window.”

Army Lt. Col. Paul Amrhein, chief of the Soldiers’ Programs Branch, Human Resources Command, said his office encourages troops to use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) if they have not received their absentee ballot from their local election official by 30 days before the election.

“This will ensure their vote counts on election day,” he said.

Officials at the Federal Voting Assistance Program office encourage troops, family members and overseas citizens to also send that local ballot if they get it after sending in the FWAB. Local election officials will count only one of the ballots.

For those using the FWAB, detailed information and the ballot itself are available [by clicking on your state on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website](#), or through unit voting assistance officers or installation voting assistance offices

News from the League

Florida VA Embarks on Mission to Get Vets the Benefits They’ve Earned

Veterans’ administrators in Florida are expanding their online services as a means to reach out to former active-duty military personnel residing in the Sunshine State that are not taking advantage of benefits they have earned.

Fewer than half the 1.65 million U.S. military veterans living in Florida are currently accessing state and federal benefits, ranging from the GI Bill to health care services, that they are eligible to receive, said retired U.S. Army Col. Mike Prendergast, executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs.

To get the Florida veterans aware of what they are eligible for, Veterans Affairs has rebranded its look online, is releasing [public service announcements](#) and has established a smart phone app for its new service personnel that have returned to civilian life.

“Some of Florida’s veterans fought for our freedom in the days before television while others never knew a time without personal computers, yet they all share the admiration of a grateful nation,” said Prendergast. “If they aren’t receiving the benefits and services they rightfully earned, we must use every approach available to reach them and set things right.”

Prendergast estimates that 40 percent of the veterans that have settled in Florida are using Veterans Affairs to access benefits.

Mark Alvarez, a Vietnam War veteran and the District 2 commander and Post 3308 commander of the Tallahassee Veterans of Foreign Wars, said many of the vets remain weary of entering the bureaucracy process they had experienced while in the military.

The state agency reports that Florida veterans draw more than \$13.7 billion a year in federal compensation, education and pension benefits, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical services and military retired pay.

However, only 260,000 receive service-related compensation or a pension from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. And currently, only one third of Vietnam veterans nationally are enrolled in VA health care or have applied for benefits they earned as a result of military service.

Florida has approximately 450,000 Vietnam veterans as citizens.

Women account for more than 140,000 of Florida’s veterans, while 230,000 are veterans of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Reach Jim Turner at jturner@sunshinestatenews.com or at [\(772\) 215-9889](tel:772-215-9889).

http://www.sunshinestateneews.com/story/florida-va-embarks-mission-get-vets-benefits-they've-earned?utm_source=constantcontact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=090612

MARINE TIDBITS:

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

5 September 1956: Eleven Marines from the 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division, stationed near Naha, Okinawa, drowned while swimming, from an undercurrent caused by Typhoon Emma. The violent storm, with 140 mph winds, struck the Philippine Islands, Okinawa, Korea, and Japan, causing some 55 deaths and millions of dollars in property damage.

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

8 September 1942: On Guadalcanal, the 1st Raider Battalion and the 1st Parachute Battalion, supported by planes of MAG-23 and two destroyer transports, landed east of Tasimboko, advanced west into the rear of Japanese positions, and carried out a successful raid on a Japanese supply base.

11 September 1992: Hurricane Iniki devastated the island of Kauai in Hawaii in one of the worst storms the islands had seen in over a century. Marines of the 1st Marine Brigade based at Kaneohe Bay, spearheaded Operation Garden Sweep, the massive cleanup effort.

11 September 2001: At 9:38a.m. a commercial airliner, piloted by terrorists, slammed into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the Department of Defense, located across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The

Marines Corps was fortunate in that no Marines were killed or seriously injured in this attack. The weekend before, most of the Department of Marine Aviation, located directly above the site of impact, had been relocated to another area of the Pentagon, during building renovation. Immediately following the attack, Marines set up a “command center” under an overpass of Interstate 395, which runs beside the Pentagon. Working alongside fellow servicemen and civilians for hours, days, and weeks after the tragedy, Marines played a large role in the rescue and recovery effort. Including those aboard the hijacked Boeing 757, 189 men, women, and children were killed in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

15 September 1950: The 3d Battalion, 5th Marines landed on Wolmi-do Island in Inchon Harbor and secured it prior to the main landing. The 1st Marine Division under the command of Major General Oliver P. Smith landed at Inchon and began the Inchon-Seoul campaign.

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

18 September 1990: A new 40-acre training facility for Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) was dedicated at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, by General Alfred M. Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

20 September 1950: Marines of the 1st Marine Division crossed the Han River along a six-mile beachhead, eight miles northwest of Seoul, Korea. Five days later, the 1st and 5th Marines would attack Seoul and the city would be captured by 27 September.

24 September 1873: One hundred and ninety Marines and seamen from the USS *Pensacola* and *Benicia* landed at the Bay of Panama, Columbia, to protect the railroad and American lives and property during the revolution.

27 September 1944: The American flag was raised over Peleliu, Palau Islands, at the 1st Marine Division

Command Post. Although the flag raising symbolized that the island was secured, pockets of determined Japanese defenders continued to fight on. As late as 21 April 1947, 27 Japanese holdouts finally surrendered to the American naval commander on the scene.

30 September 1945: Marines of III Amphibious Corps, commanded by Major General Keller E. Rockey, began landing in North China to assist the Chinese Nationalist government in accepting the surrender of Japanese forces and repatriating Japanese soldiers and civilians

Initiatives from Monthly Meeting

\$100.00 donation received from Gene Show thanking the Honor Guard for their participation in the Jack Lively's memorial service.

Report of Standing Committees:

Toys for Tots: No report.

Poker Run: Tommy Reichard reported that two stops have been confirmed. He sent out letters to all previous sponsors and riders. The cost of t-shirts will be the same and they will sell for \$8.00. He is looking for a band or DJ, for workers to help at the stops and asked members to recruit sponsors. The information has been added to the Detachments webpage.

Birthday: Walt Raysick told the members what the menu would be. There will be raffle prizes. The Commandant is working on a guest speaker. The cost is \$15.00 per person. The event will be at the Legion on November 17 starting at 1800.

Honor Guard, VFW Breakfast, Rose Fund, Hot Dog Sales and Young Marines: This information will now be located only under the corresponding sections in the Community Heading.

Report of Special Committees:

Conference Planning:

Peter White reminded members we only have 46 days until we sponsor the Department Fall Conference.

He has been working hard selling ads for the conference booklet. There are several more loose ends that need to be tied up. There are sheets on the back table for volunteers to sign up.

Group Ball Game:

There are no more ball games scheduled this year.

Unfinished Business: Tommy Reichard made a motion to increase the donation to Hearts and Heroes approved at the last meeting to \$200. This Motion was passed.

New Business: The Adjutant read a request from the Haley House to sponsor a hole for their golf tournament. The donation would be \$75.00. This motion was passed.

Good of the League:

George McMaster was presented his life membership certificate, gold card and pin. CONGRATS!!!

Announcements: Ron Lussier displayed a Native American dance stick that he made stating that it was going to be raffled off this weekend by the Am Vets at the Veterans memorial park.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

I am disappointed that we do not have participants for this honor. We want to learn more about each and every one of our members. I would like everyone to have been at least featured once. Please submit your article with one or two pictures. I know there are great stories out there. Let's hear it.

Hero of the Month

Combat Center Marine to Receive Navy Cross

Posted on [May 18, 2012](#) by [jtozer](#) on [dodlive](#)



Sgt. Clifford Wooldridge will receive the Navy Cross from the Undersecretary of the Navy Robert O. Work during a ceremony in front of the members of his former Twentynine Palms, Calif.-based unit, 3rd Battalion, 7th [Marines](#). (Courtesy Photo)

A former Combat Center Marine will be presented with the nation's second highest award today in recognition of his courageous actions in Afghanistan. Sgt. Clifford Wooldridge will receive the [Navy Cross](#) from the Undersecretary of the Navy, Robert O. Work, during a ceremony in front of the members of his former Twentynine Palms-based unit, 3rd Battalion, 7th [Marines](#).

Wooldridge, a Port Angeles, Wash., native, was serving as a vehicle commander on a mounted patrol, June 18, 2010, in the Musa Qala district of Afghanistan's Helmand province.

The patrol came under heavy enemy fire and then-Cpl. Wooldridge ordered his Marines out of their [vehicles](#) and they began to maneuver towards the enemy fighting positions. He led a four-man fire team to outflank the 15 Taliban fighters as they prepared to attack the rest of the Marine patrol.

Opening fire, Wooldridge and his Marines killed or wounded eight of the fighters, scattering the rest.

As his fire team was withdrawing, Wooldridge heard voices from behind an adjacent wall of a nearby compound.

When he went to investigate the voices, Wooldridge found himself face to face with two Taliban fighters, whom he then killed with his weapon. Out of ammunition, Wooldridge crouched to reload his weapon when he saw the barrel of a Taliban machine gun appear from around the corner of the wall. Wooldridge grabbed the barrel and pulled the surprised fighter around the corner with it. The two began fighting hand-to-hand.

Realizing his predicament against the 220-pound former football player, the Taliban fighter attempted to pull the pin on a grenade in order to kill them both. Wooldridge used the fighter's own machine gun to kill him with several blows to the head.

For his bold actions that day and his courage under fire which disrupted the enemy attack on his platoon, Sgt. Wooldridge was decorated May 18, 2012 at Lance [Cpl.](#) Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center.

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms

October 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 League Mtg @ Legion @ 1900/ MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1900 hrs	3 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs and MCL Hot Dog Sales	4	5	6
7 Flea Market 0700 to 1200	8 Legion Riders Mtg @ Legion 1830 hrs	9	10 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs and MCL Hot Dog sales	11 SAL Mtg 1900	12 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	13 Field of Honor at Vet's Park off Hwy 301 at 1100 hrs
14 Flea Market 0700 to 1200	15 Legion Mtg E-board 1730 hrs and general 1900 hrs	16	17 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs and MCL Hot Dog sales	18 MCL Fall Conference / We are hosting for more information go to MCLriverview.org	19 MCL Fall Conference / We are hosting for more information go to MCLriverview.org	20 MCL Fall Conference / We are hosting for more information go to MCLriverview.org
21 MCL Fall Conference / We are hosting for more information go to MCLriverview.org	22	23	24 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs and MCL Hot Dog sales	25	26 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	27 Annual Haley House Poker Run /start at Legion/ Reg starts at 0900 hrs
28 Flea Market 0700 to 1200	29	30	31 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs and MCL Hot Dog sales			
Look Ahead: November 9 th – Joe Chillula Park (Kennedy and Pierce) – Veteran's Day City of Tampa November 10 th – Marine Corp Birthday Ball – Reserve Unit November 17 th – Detachment Marine Corps Birthday at Legion at 1800 hrs. For more information please email us at mclriverview.org .						