



# Marine Corps League

## Detachment 1226

Volume 11

December 2009

### League Officers:

**Commandant:** Jack Skelding  
**Sr. Vice Commandant:** Dennis Antle  
**Jr. Vice Commandant:** Ken Zolna  
**Adjutant:** Willie Little Jr.  
**Paymaster:** Willie Little Jr.  
**Judge Advocate:** Sid Atwater  
**Chaplain:** Dave Blizzard  
**Sergeant-at-Arms:** George Mc Master  
**Past Commandant:** John Bain  
**Web Sergeant:** Jacob Bain  
**Newsletter Editor:** Debra Steele  
**Historian:** Stan Horman

### League Auxiliary

**President:** Mary Zolna  
**Sr. Vice President:** Sheilah Blizzard  
**Jr. Vice President:** Marce Strom  
**Judge Advocate:** Nancy Horman  
**Secretary:** Cheryl Ferretti  
**Guard:** 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:

The month of December has seen the detachment very busy working in Support of the 4<sup>th</sup> Assault Amphibian Battalion from Tampa with the Toys for Tots program. It always amazes me to see how young these current Marines look. I guess I looked that way too when I entered the Corps when I was 17 years old. All the Marines that I have had the pleasure to come in contact with are very dedicated and professional and after working with them I feel that our Corps is in good hands.

I would like to thank Terry Graham, Hank Wolons and Tony Donofrio for all they have done for the Toys for Tots program in South County. It has been a big undertaking on there part... Job well done Marines.

The Department Spring Conference will be held March 25<sup>th</sup> thru 28<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn located in Buena Vista, FL. All of the information can be found on the Department website [www.mclfl.org](http://www.mclfl.org). These conferences and conventions are a great chance to meet Marine Corps League Members from other detachments from around the state and see how they are doing. I recommend if you are able that you attend. In addition to taking care of business there is always some time to socialize and to make new friends.

There will be a Field of Honor Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park at 1000 on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Our Honor Guard will be providing a color guard, a firing detail and a bugler to play taps. If you have not had a chance to see our Honor Guard in action this is your chance. You will also be able to participate in placing a flag in the ground for a fallen warrior.

I ask that we all keep recruiting new members, attend the meetings, and volunteer to help with those events that you are able. No one is expected to participate in all of the Detachments projects. All we ask is that you give what time that you are able to spare.

I would like to wish every one a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year

Semper Fi Marines  
Jack Skelding  
Commandant

**Email: If you received this by regular mail and have an email address, please contact me via email so we may add you to the list.**

[Debthecandlelegal@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Debthecandlelegal@tampabay.rr.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**

## CAR WASH

Car Washes will now resume on the last Saturday of every month at the Legion from 1000 to 1400 hours.

## YARD SALE:

Need donations to keep this going and volunteers to help work the yard sale on Sundays. Contact Jack or Ken for further details. This has been a moneymaker for the league

**AUXILIARY PRESIDENT COMMENTS:**

What a busy December we've had – two campaigns for Toys for Tots at the St. Pete Times Forum which resulted in a pretty good showing of support from the public even though on Saturday it rained; Monday was a much better turnout. Then this past weekend the MCLAuxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary co-hosted a Christmas party for 11 needy families. The nearly 30 children were greeted by Miss Tammy the Elf (American Legion Auxiliary President, Tammy O'Donnell) who introduced Mr. Dick Richard, a magician. They were treated to a cookie-decorating contest with prizes for the best in 3 age groups (everyone else received a prize from the grab-basket) and when the families left they each were given a very large bag of groceries donated by Publix. I wish to thank Nancy Horman & Sheilah Blizzard who assisted me in judging the cookie-decorating contest. And a thank you also goes to the American Legion Auxiliary for inviting us to participate in this event with them. Thank you Tammy O'Donnell & Kathy Dunn.

This weekend was also Herb & Janice Donica's annual Toys for Tots Party at their lovely home. We really enjoyed the festivities and it looked like the boxes were pretty full making it another successful drive.

It's nearly Christmas and the end of 2009 and at this time I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you all be blessed with peace and joy and please, remember our troops who are far from their families. May God bless them and keep them safe.

Our next meeting will be January 5, 2010. It may run a little longer as we need to install the new members. Hope to see you there.

Mary Zolna  
Auxiliary Unit 1226, President

**MEMBERSHIP CORNER:**

100% Membership Retention based on HQ roster dated 03/31/2009

Past due June-November 2009

Nathan Kidd	June
Robert Collins	July
Luis Rosario	Sept
Guillermo Serra	Sept
Edison Adams	Oct
Juan De La Cruz	Oct
Michelle Johnson	Oct
Jerome Kirkland	Oct
John Monck	Oct
David Paff	Oct
Danny Antle	Nov
Jennifer Antle	Nov

Dec-Jan. Membership Expirations

Danny Antle	Dec
Jennifer Antle	Dec
Bruce Scheller	Dec
Armando Arroyo	Jan
Jacob Bain	Jan
George Banes	Jan
Dales Becker	Jan
Keith Bro	Jan
Burtis Campbell	Jan
Gene Chrismer	Jan
James Covington	Jan
Virginia Hardin	Jan
Daniel Pickard	Jan
Mike Sherman	Jan
Mark Tocci	Jan
Houston Tucker	Jan

**NEW MEMBERS:**

Let's welcome 4 new members: Jeffery Hall, Willie Toledo, Eric Sirvent, Ashley Sherman

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP BY AGE CATEGORY:**

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

OOHRAH!!!!!! to these new life members:  
Joyce Stilwell, Eric Gaston, Ron Lussier,  
& Ed Sweeting

Should you have any questions regarding life membership, please contact Willie Little, Jr. (813)972-7711.

**Ill Members**

Cpl Mike Sherman's Father and Grandfather. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers.

**Deaths**

None

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

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

\*If you are interested in becoming a member of the Honor Guard, please contact Ken Zolna. Upcoming Honor Guard events are Jan 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. See calendar for details.

**Rose Fund--**

**Our ROSE FUND** fundraiser was a tremendous success. Thanks to the 20 Marines/Auxiliary for their **support**. In going forward, our Rose Fund events should be on dates that are **symbolic** to our Country's Freedom such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day and the 4th of July.

Contact Bob Gramprrie(741-2844) or Willie Little(972-7711) for more information.



**YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE** - - *We need to step up for this cause*

We are slowly but surely making progress. If you would like to volunteer to help with the unit, you can get an application online at [www.youngmarines.org](http://www.youngmarines.org) by clicking the "Volunteer" link and clicking "View our Registered Adult Application here." If you are unable to get it online, please contact me and I will send you a paper copy. We truly need volunteers to step up to help this program.

I look forward to getting this unit up and running, and I hope more Marines will step up and assist us in this journey.

Semper Fidelis,  
Michael W. Sherman Jr.  
Commanding Officer - Hillsborough Young Marines  
Blackberry: 813-541-3452  
E-mail: shermanmw@verizon.net

Visit our Website at [www.mclriverview.org](http://www.mclriverview.org)

**MILITARY NEWS****Free Writers Workshop for Vets**

To help veterans give voice to their experiences, the University of Iowa Veterans Center and the UI Division of Continuing Education are co-sponsoring a free Writing Workshop Jan. 15-17 in the UI Distance Learning Site on the second floor of the U.S. Bank building at 30 S. Dubuque St. in downtown Iowa City. More Information can be found at [uiowa.edu](http://uiowa.edu).

## The Osprey Goes to War

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan -- When a couple of MV-22 Osprey tilt rotors joined a fleet of CH-53 helicopters, dropping out of the predawn darkness Friday in the northern end of the Now Zad valley in Helmand Province to deliver the first of more than 1,000 NATO and Afghan troops, it marked not only the first large assault since President Obama's announcement that the U.S. would be sending more troops here, it also was the first major combat operation for the Osprey.

The Marines are hoping that the operation - a sweep to begin to secure the area around the city of Now Zad dubbed Cobra's Anger - will become a key step toward resuscitating the image of the Osprey, which can take off and land like a helicopter, but in the air can tilt its motors forward to fly like a fixed-wing plane.

"It certainly passed its first big test here with flying colors," said Maj. William Pelletier, a spokesman at the Marine Corp's main base in Afghanistan and Helmand Province, Camp Leatherneck.

### MARINE TIDBITS:

"A Gunnery Sergeant is the Marine Corp's answer to Vince Lombardi with a hangover." Attributed to Lynn Ashby in a Marine Corps Gazette article in November 1996.

Semper Fi Sid

### INITIATIVES FROM LAST MEETING:

#### Discussion:-

Standing report of committees.

#### Thanks/Awards:



*Our own Elf Perez passing out toys!!*



*Toys collected at Terry Graham's house. Great Job!!*



*Walt and Mike working at the Post Office for Toys for Tots. Way to Go!*



*John and Cheryl with guess who. SANTA.  
Toys for Tots Bike Run 2009*

## HERO OF THE MONTH



*John A. “Johnny the Hard” Hughes was one of the greats of the Corps.*

He was born in New York City November 2, 1880. He joined the Corps as an enlisted man and transferred to the officer ranks. He served his formative years in the Philippines, Cuba, and in the American incursion of Vera Cruz, Mexico in April of 1914 where he was awarded the Medal of Honor for “. . . fighting at the head of his company, and was eminent and conspicuous in his conduct, leading his men with skill and courage.” In 1916 in the Dominican Republic he was grievously wounded in action. He received a gunshot wound in the left leg causing a compound fracture. During this period the enlisted men nicknamed Captain Hughes “Johnny the Hard.” The title was bestowed because he was apt to bawl-out or loudly criticize any one from a buck private in the rear rank to a Colonel on the general staff if the other Marine wasn’t living up to Hughes high standards. Throughout this period he was known by his men as keen as a razor, indefatigable in the line of duty, a soldier of the sea from top to toes, and an “old Corps” hand. Hughes was over 6 feet tall, slim, and in perfect physical condition and expected his Marines to be the same.

Major Hughes’ defining moment came in June of 1918 in the wheat fields and woods of an obscure hunting preserve in northern France. When the history of the WWI is written, it is no easy task to assign to each of the titanic battles its proper place in the scale of importance. But if justice is done, the battle of Belleau Wood certainly takes its place beside that of Thermopylae and the other crucial

battles of world history. It was here that a mere handful (a little over a thousand) determined, devoted men turned the awful tide. They were soldiers and Marines of the 2<sup>nd</sup> American Division of the American Expeditionary Force. These men were lead by the likes of Major Hughes.

During the desperate fight in June of 1918 Major (soon to be promoted LtCol.) Hughes led 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Marines in a manner that eventually led to the woods being, “in the hands of Marines.” The Navy Cross citation read, in part, “. . . for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service as Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, 6th Regiment Marines. In the operations of his battalion at Belleau Woods from the 10th to the 13th of June, 1918, Lieutenant Colonel Hughes showed himself a gallant, courageous and determined commander of men. Inflicting severe losses on the enemy, capturing many prisoners, twenty machine guns, six light mine launchers and other booty. The brilliant success of this battalion was in a great measure due to his coolness in all crises, unflinching good humor and accurate judgment. Lieutenant Colonel Hughes led his men superbly under most trying conditions against the most distinguished elements of the German Army, administering to those organizations their first defeat.” He was so cool under fire that once when his headquarters had just undergone a hellish artillery attack with both high explosives and mustard gas he removed his mask to send a situation report to his higher headquarters. It simply read, “Have had terrific bombardment and attack.... Everything is ok... Can you get hot coffee to me?” In addition to the Navy Cross he was awarded the Croix de Guerre with Palm (the second highest award for bravery) from the Government of France for his actions at Belleau Woods.

Colonel Hughes, USMC died on May 25, 1942 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Semper Fi Sid



# January 2010

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	1	2
3 Yard Sale	4	5 League Mtg 1930 MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1930	6	7	8	9 Field of Honor Veterans Park 1000
10 Yard Sale Color Guard VFW 1500 hr.	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Yard Sale	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Yard Sale	25	26	27	28	29	30 Carwash 1000 to 1400 hr. Legion
		<b>Look Ahead:</b> February 14 <sup>th</sup> : Valentine's Day March 25 <sup>th</sup> thru 28 <sup>th</sup> : The Department Spring Conference at the Hilton Garden located in Buena Vista, FL				