



# Marine Corps League

## Detachment 1226

Volume 5

May 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:** Peggy Grant  
**Jr. Vice:** Sheilah Blizzard  
**Judge Advocate:** Marce Strom  
**Secretary:** Nancy Horman  
**Guard:** Cheryl Ferritti  
**National Asst. Chaplain:** Glenda Travis

### 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:

Marines

We held our installation of officers on May 3rd. The installing officers was the National Sr. Vice Commandant, Vic Voltaggio. There was also a nice turn out of Department Officers. I believe there were seven in attendance. This included the current and two past Department Commandants There was also a nice turn out of Department Auxiliary members. I was a little disappointed by the lack of turn out by our own Detachment members. To those of you that were there I want thank you for your attendance.

In this month newsletter we will be starting a new column, the Membership Corner. It will list the names of those members who dues are due or past due. Please take the time to check it out to see if your name is on the list. It is intended to help the Detachment keep all of its members up to date with their dues.

I would like to personally thank Ken Zolna and all the members of the Color/Honor Guard for their dedication and service to the Detachment. This has been a busy month for them and I know it takes time away from their families for them to participate in all the events that we had to cover this month.

I am looking forward to another successful poker run this September 19th. Debra Steele and her committee are doing a excellent job of organizing this event. It is now time for all of the Detachment members to pitch in and help recruit sponsors or supports. Sponsors are where we make our money and supporters provide items to be raffled off at the runs end. This is a great project and the money goes to a good cause, the

Haley House. Last year the Detachment was able to donate \$5000.00 to the Haley House from our 2nd annual poker run. I think that we will be able to do better this year.

We all need to be recruiting new Members into our Detachment. I am sure that we all know Marines or run into them from time to time. I will always introduce myself to Marines I run across and give them a little talk about the Detachment. Then I will present them with a membership application. There is no reason that any member should not have an application in their pocket. We each receive three every month in the Semper Fi Magazine. Marines/Former Marines are easy to spot. Most have bumper stickers on their cars that readily identify them. We are all loud and proud of our service in the US Marine Corps. So lets see if we can get some more members into the Detachment.

The Department convention will be held in Kissimmee Jun 11 - 14, 2009. It is a chance to meet with other Marines from around the state. It is a good time and I would recommend that everyone attend if possible. You can find further information on the web site [www.mclfl.org](http://www.mclfl.org).

I would like to thank Larry Ludwick for his effort with our website. If you have not visited it please do at [www.mclriverview.org](http://www.mclriverview.org).

I will not be in attendance at the June meeting as Marine Hank Wolons, myself and our wives will be touring in China for three weeks. We should have lots of stories when we get back.

I hope to see you all at the July meeting.

Semper Fi

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**

#### **AUXILIARY PRESIDENT COMMENTS:**

I wish to thank the ladies who helped by not only attending, but by providing food and doing cleanup at the joint Installation of the new officers for the MCL & MCLA. I have received many positive feedback emails from our guests who thoroughly enjoyed visiting with us and participating in the ceremony. I look forward to the coming year as your President and it is my desire to see the Auxiliary grow in membership as well as supporting those in need through fund-raising events. And I certainly want to thank Pat for the last two years for her dedication and hard work as President of the Auxiliary. She did an outstanding job.

On May 25th there will be Memorial Day Ceremonies at various locations; among them is Serenity Meadows where the Honor Guard for the Detachment #1226 will do the Rifle Salute.. Please attend if you are able and I thank in advance those who have volunteered to help me serve refreshments. Also, the Detachment will do the honors at Ruskin for a flag raising. There will be a ceremony at the Veterans Park located on HWY 301N at 11am on the 24th. As you can see, there is plenty planned for Memorial Day weekend so please do your best to attend one or more of these functions to honor our Veterans.

Detachment members, please let your spouse , daughters and other female family members know that we would like to have them join the Auxiliary. We meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at the VFW on Riverview Dr. They can call me at 661-9145 and I will be glad to answer any questions. Our next meeting will be June 2, 2009.

Mary Zolna

#### **MEMBERSHIP CORNER:**

\* 2009-2010 Membership Retention Goal is 100% based roster report dated 3/31/09(memberships that were current).

\* April's past due was as follows:

Robert Ashman  
Larry Norton

\* May-June Membership Expirations

Robert Knoth	May
Larry Ludwich	May
Dennis Antle	June
Nathan Kidd	June
Bernard Sherman	June
Frank Strom, Jr.	June

\* Congratulations to our new **life members.**

David Blizzard  
Richard Erickson

Please contact Willie Little, Jr. regarding **life membership** at 813/972-7711.

S/F  
Willie

#### **New Members:**

No New Members

#### **Ill Members**

Bob Crampie  
Walt Ryan (feeling better)  
Debra Steele's son Keith

**YARD SALE:**

Need donations to keep this going. Contact Jack or Ken for further details. This has been a moneymaker for the league.

**CAR WASH**

Car washes have been suspended until the water restrictions are lifted.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

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

\*Poker Run Update: Registration will be at the Harley Davidson in Brandon starting at 0900 on September 19, 2009. PLEASE RECRUIT AS MANY SPONSORS AND/OR RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS AS POSSIBLE. This is for an extremely good cause.

\*If you are interested in becoming a member of the Honor Guard, please contact Ken Zolna.



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

They now have a location to meet (Riverview Moose Lodge) and just need some volunteers to step up to help with the program. Please contact Mike Sherman for details.

Visit our Website at

[www.mclriverview.org](http://www.mclriverview.org)

**MILITARY NEWS**

## Okinawa Marines OKd for Guam Move

May 15, 2009

The United States on Thursday welcomed ratification by Japan's parliament of a multi-billion-dollar plan to transfer 8,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa island to Guam by 2014. The agreement was signed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Japanese Foreign Minister Nakasone on Feb. 17, and ratified by Japan's Diet on Wednesday.

Washington "welcomes the Japanese Diet's ratification" of the agreement, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said in a statement.

The agreement is part of a wider 2006 bilateral accord on transforming U.S. force deployments in Japan. The U.S. government "remains committed to completing the realignment package, including the relocation of 8,000 U.S. Marines and their dependents from Okinawa to Guam," Kelly said.

Some 25,000 U.S. service personnel and their dependents currently live on Okinawa, Kelly said.

"These Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen are a key component of the United States' and Japan's defense strategy," he said. "We greatly appreciate the generosity of the people of Okinawa and their role as host to U.S. forces in Japan."

Under the agreement, Japan would pay up to 2.8 billion dollars for infrastructure and other work in relocating the Marines and their dependents to the U.S. Pacific territory.

Okinawa -- where a bloody battle was fought in the closing days of World War II -- has since the war been the reluctant host of more than half of the 40,000 U.S. troops based in Japan.

## **HERO OF THE MONTH** **Lt Col Alfred Austell Cunningham**



**Born:** March 08, 1882

**Place of Birth:** Atlanta, Georgia

**Wife:** Josephine Jefferies

**Commissioned:** January 1909

**Died:** May 27, 1939, Sarasota, Florida

**Place of Burial:** Arlington National Cemetery,  
Section 7 Site 10177

**Bio:** Alfred Austell Cunningham, the Marine Corps' first aviator, was born 8 March 1882 in Atlanta, Georgia. He accepted a commission as second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in January 1909 when he was 27 years old. The year before Cunningham entered the Marine Corps, the United States Navy had first taken official notice of the aero plane as a possible weapon for use in the Fleet when in 1908, Orville Wright demonstrated his plane to Government officials and Naval officers at Fort Myer, Virginia.

In 1911, Lieutenant Cunningham, was stationed at the Marine Barracks, Philadelphia. He had become imbued with a fervent desire to fly when he ascended in a balloon eight years before, and was by now experimenting with an airplane, the famous "Noisy Nan." He had leased it for \$25 a month from a civilian aviator, risking his neck if not his career in his aerial activities. "Aerial", perhaps, is a misnomer, because Noisy Nan never actually became airborne but Cunningham's enthusiasm continued to soar even as he hoped she would. His profound faith in the

airplane and his love of flying finally was rewarded. On 16 May 1912, Cunningham was detached from duty at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, and ordered to the aviation camp the Navy had set up at Annapolis, to learn to fly. He reported 22 May 1912 which is recognized as the birthday of Marine Corps aviation. Actual flight training was given at the Burgess Plant at Marblehead, Massachusetts, because only the builders of planes could fly in those days and after two hours and forty minutes of instruction, Cunningham soloed on 20 August 1912.

**Bio submitted by: Henry Hoffman, Jr.**

### **MARINE TIDBITS:**

"IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PRODUCE SUCH ANOTHER SHABBY SET OF ANIMALS IN THIS WORLD."

Captain Carmick, USMC

9 July 1799, in a letter to the Commandant of the Marine Corps after reviewing the Marine detachment aboard the USS CONSTITUTION. Obviously the Captain was not impressed with the Marines upon their return from a training voyage.

Semper Fi. . . Sid

### **INITIATIVES FROM LAST MEETING:**

#### **Voted On:**

- \* \$250 TO legion Rider for their Bike Run (100% of proceeds go to JT)
- \* 50% of all proceeds from the Color Guard will be placed in the Building Fund.

#### **Discussion:-**

Nomination for Marine of the Year: John Bain.

#### **Thanks:**

- Received Commander Award from Toys for Tots.
- Thank you from Nat Richards/ Eagle Scouts.
- Thank you from JT's Mom to All.



# June 2009

**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 1930 MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1930	3	4	5	6
7 Yard Sale	8	9	10	11 Department Convention	12 Department Convention	13 Department Convention
14 Department Convention	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Yard Sale	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Yard Sale	29	30				
	<b>Look Ahead:</b> September 19, 2009 at 0900 hrs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Poker Run for the Haley House November 7, 2009 Marine Corps Ball November 14, 2009 Marine Corps Birthday Celebration					