



Marine Corps League

Detachment 1226

Volume 9

October 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

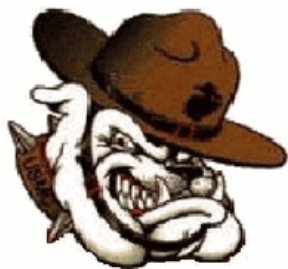
League Auxiliary

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

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Riverview, Florida 33568

Mailing Label goes Here



DEVIL DAWG MONTHLY

COMMANDANT'S CORNER:

Well September is over and the Poker Run has been completed. It was a very successful event because of all the hard work that went into it by Debra Steele and her committee. I would also like to mention Jay Steele. Although not a member of the detachment, and an Air Force retiree to boot, he put a lot of effort into making sure things ran smoothly. Thanks Jay for a job well done.

As we move forward these next few months are going to be very busy. There is the 234th Marine Corps birthday to celebrate. There are several events, balls being held throughout the area for Marines to remember our birthday. The detachments will be on November 14th. I hope that we all have the chance to attend one of them. The invitations for our celebration have gone out. It is requested that if you are going to come that you please RSVP to me at 813-672-1778. It is important as we need to know how much food to order.

November 11th is Veterans Day. That means that our color guard will be involved in several events plus the parade in Ruskin on the 14th. We have a fine color guard that works very hard. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Ken Zolna.

Toys for Tots kicks off on November 6th. We will need volunteers to help with this project. December 5th will be a very busy day as we will man several post offices to help out with the letter carriers day. Then that evening we will be collecting toys at the Lightning hockey game. So please let one of the detachment officers know if you can help.

I would like to close with the reminder that we should all be on the look out for fellow Marines and qualified FMF Navy Corpsmen to join our detachment. We all get applications in our copy of Semper Fi magazine. I would recommend that you keep at least one application in your wallet at all times for those occasions when you meet someone eligible to become a member of our detachment.

I will close as always reminding you that this is not my detachment. It belongs to you the members and we can only be as good as you want us to be.

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



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:

At the October meeting we had unexpected changes made to our Roster of Officers. Due to her work schedule conflicting with our monthly meetings, Peggy Grant resigned as Sr. Vice President. Mosaic Mines has her scheduled for the graveyard shift preventing her from attending our monthly meetings and Peggy felt under the circumstances it was unfair to the Auxiliary for her to be unable to fulfill her duties as Sr. Vice President as well as being absent at the meetings. Therefore, with her resignation immediately in effect the position has been filled by Sheilah Blizzard who moved up to Sr. Vice President; Marce Strom has moved into the position of Jr. Vice President; I then appointed Nancy Horman as Judge Advocate and also appointed Cheryl Ferretti as Secretary and Mary Ann Raysick as Guard. Thank you Peggy for your support as Sr. Vice President and to the Auxiliary and I want to thank the other Ladies for stepping up to their new positions.

We had our fund-raiser "Oktoberfest" dinner on the 10th of October & I must say the food was plentiful and delicious as usual. Unfortunately the turnout was less than stellar!! There were other activities going on at the same time one of which was the Florida Blood Services blood drive and had very good results as there were 16 donors that day. Thank you, donors!!! At our November meeting I will be addressing some issues of concern that I have pertaining to getting better results for any fund-raisers in the future we may hold. I do wish to thank those who worked on Saturday, especially the Detachment members who did the grilling for us; namely, Ken Zolna, Hank Wolons, Walt Raysick, & David Blizzard. THANKS FELLAS FOR A GREAT JOB!!!! And to the Ladies who helped with food preparations & donations I would like to thank you as well. WELL DONE!!

The ¾ size replica of the Vietnam Moving Wall will be arriving in Brandon on the 27th of October with opening ceremonies being on Friday, Oct. 30th. Assistance is needed from the Auxiliary (as well as other organizations) to help with various duties. I would like to see a good showing from the Auxiliary for this event. I have Volunteer sign-up sheets

available for anyone who is interested in participating. Please contact me for more information as soon as you can. I would like to see a good turnout to be at the Veterans' Park around 10 am with American flags waving as the truck being escorted by Police & Veteran Riders pass by on the way to Hillsboro Memorial Cemetery on Adamo Dr. If you are able to attend, please be in Auxiliary uniform. The Wall will be set up at the Cemetery until Nov. 1st with closing ceremonies at 2:00pm. Help is needed in all areas such as assisting with the various school field trips, locating names on the Wall, hospitality, parking & categorizing the memorabilia that will be left at the Wall by visitors on a daily basis. So if you can help in any way it would be greatly appreciated. The Wall will be open to the public 24 hrs daily from October 28th – Nov. 1. so there's plenty of opportunity to volunteer your time. If nothing else, please come out & view the Wall.

We have Toys for Tots coming up soon – volunteers will be needed to man the tables at St. Pete Times Forum as well as the Bucs games. This has been a very successful program in the past & let's hope it will be again this year. Even with the economy being what it is and was, last year was a huge success. More info at our meeting,

The Marine Corps League Fall Conference will be taking place next week – October 22-25th, 2009. I will be attending the Conference along with Cheryl Ferretti & Pat Skelding and our respective mates. I would like to thank everyone who donated hotel/sample size toiletries that will be taken to the Conference & donated for care packages being sent overseas. Commandant Dave Sargent will be very surprised and pleased to see what is being donated.

As I've said before, we're coming into the very busiest time of year for the Auxiliary. Please attend our meetings so you know what is happening and bring in some new members. Also, if anyone has items to donate to the Flea Market held on Sundays, please drop them off any Sunday during the hours of 7-noon. Volunteers are needed as well.

Thank you & Semper Fi Mary Zolna

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER:

* 2009-2010 Membership Retention Goal is 100% based on roster dated 03/31/09.

* June-Sept. past due were as follow:

Nathan Kidd	June
Robert Collins	July
Luis Rosario	Sept
Guillermo Serra	Sept

* October-November Membership Expirations:

Edison Adams	Oct
Carl Correll	Oct
Juan De LaCrug	Oct
Thomas Horman	Oct
Michelle Johnson	Oct
Jerome Kirkland	Oct
Thomas Larrow	Oct
John Monck	Oct
David Paff	Oct
Danny Antle	Nov
Jennifer Antle	Nov
Jack Lively	Nov

LIFE MEMBERSHIP BY AGE CATEGORY

61 & OVER	\$150.00
51 to 60	\$300.00
36 to 50	\$400.00

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

S/F Willie

New Members:

Let's welcome active duty Marine Lt. Col. Ben "Ty" Edwards and SSgt. Jason Sepeda.

Ill Members

None

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.

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.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4th Assault Amphibian Battalion will be hosting the 234th Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony. You are cordially invited to attend this event at 1400 on 10 November 2009 at the Marine Corps Training Center. Please RSVP by 6 November 2009 to SSgt America X. Dones at 813-805-7053.

GySgt Derrick E. Mack
Battalion I-I Admin Chief
4th Assault Amphibian Battalion

November 7th and November 8th from 9:00a.m. until 6:00 p.m. our detachment #1226 will have a tent set

up at the Ruskin Seafood festival in E.G. Simmons park. The purpose for this tent will be for recruiting, as well as our rose fund and to promote Toys for Tots. We need volunteers to man the tent. Volunteers will be admitted to the festival at no charge, and before or after your shift, you will be able to partake in the festivities. This will also give us an opportunity to get more acquainted with local businesses and to allow us to let the public know what we are all about. I would like to run in two to four hour shifts if we have enough volunteers, so please contact Jack Skelding or Terry Graham if you are available to help. If you are unable to help, please try to come by the festival and show your support.



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 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

MILITARY NEWS

Vietnam Moving Wall

Motorcycle escort and Wall will arrive at the Cemetery around Noon on Oct 27. Hillsborough County Schools has approved the Wall for Field Trips and will allow classes/schools to visit in three class increments for one hour each on Wed., Oct. 28th from 10AM - 1PM and Thurs., Oct. 29th from 9AM-1:30PM.

Opening day ceremony will be held at 1100 on Oct 30 and the Candlelight Ceremony is on Thursday, October 29th at 7pm to include the POW/MIA Table and respective Ceremony, Closing Ceremony to include the Lost Patrol, Rifle Salute and Taps at 1400 on Nov 1. Take down of the Wall after the ceremonies.

There will be visitor parking at the Mall with shuttle busses. Volunteer parking will be designated at the Cemetery. Vietnam era military equip from the Largo Museum will be located near the Wall.

Vets May Get Another Stimulus Check
October 16, 2009

[Stars and Stripes](#) | by Leo Shane III

Millions of veterans could get another \$250 stimulus check next year if President Barack Obama can convince lawmakers that the move is needed to help the economy.

The plan would follow the economic recovery checks sent out this spring to senior citizens, disabled workers and some veterans as part of the broader stimulus package.

Veterans and their survivors who are currently receiving disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation, or pension payouts would qualify. Any veteran receiving Social Security benefits would also be eligible for the \$250 check.

The plan would apply only to citizens living in the United States, Puerto Rico or Guam.

In a statement Wednesday night, Obama said the checks are designed to help "those hardest hit by the recession." An estimated 2 million veterans would be eligible for the payments, not including those among the 49 million Social Security beneficiaries who could receive checks.

Senior administration officials would not commit to when veterans will see the checks, noting that Congress still must draft and adopt legislation to authorize the payments.

But they believe lawmakers will be open to the idea, with one official noting that "the most important thing we can do to strengthen this economy is provide additional relief to those hardest hit."

Both House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said they will work with Obama on the proposal, with Pelosi saying in a statement that "providing another economic recovery payment is the right thing to do."

The announcement came just hours before the Social Security Administration announced it will not have a cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security recipients in 2010, the first time in 35 years without an increase.

White House officials said the drop in inflation rates negated the need for a Social Security COLA increase.

Another round of \$250 checks would cost about \$13 billion; Obama pledged that the money will not hurt Social Security, but offered no specifics on where the funding would come from.

INITIATIVES FROM LAST MEETING:

Discussion:-

Standing report of committees.

Thanks/Awards: None

MARINE TIDBITS:

Semper Fi Sid will return next month with his incite.

HERO OF THE MONTH



Marine 1st Lt. Rick Posselt

*Article retrieved from the Face of Defense
By Sgt. Roe F. Seigle
Regimental Combat Team 7*

HADITHA, Iraq, June 27, 2006 — Marines here say a lieutenant who was leading Marines and Iraqi soldiers through the volatile streets of Haditha, Iraq, June 14, showed uncommon valor when he ran into a barrage of enemy gunfire to pull a wounded Marine to safety.

1st Lt. Rick Posselt, a 25-year-old from Crystal River, Fla., said he is not the Marine who deserves the recognition. Cpl. Michael Estrella, who was killed by sniper fire during that same patrol, is the real hero and deserves the recognition, said Posselt. The mission Posselt, a platoon commander assigned to the Hawaii-based India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, led the Marines and their Iraqi Army counterparts on that day was like any other – a patrol through the winding streets of Haditha. On this particular patrol they were searching for a suspected insurgent. Haditha is a city of 30,000 nestled along the Euphrates River northwest of Baghdad in Iraq’s Al Anbar province. When Posselt came to an intersection in a marketplace, the Marines began receiving gunfire and saw Estrella, 20, fall to the ground. Shortly after the initial “cracks” of enemy gunfire pelted the ground below and spit up shards of concrete around him, Posselt said his platoon was shot at from another direction. Posselt’s first instinct was to get Estrella to safety – and he did so risking his own life in the process. As the enemy gunfire continued, Posselt ran to the wounded Estrella and pulled him approximately 15 feet to safety, further exposing himself to more gunfire. “I just did what my instinct told me to do,” said Posselt. “I was just trying to take care of my Marines.” Looking back,

Posselt feels any other Marine in his position would have done the same thing that day. “I just happened to be the Marine closest to Estrella when he fell,” said Posselt. “I had to get him off that street and that was really the only thought going through my mind.” With Estrella out of harm’s way, several Iraqi soldiers returned well aimed and disciplined fire to the enemy’s position, without injuring any civilians on the street that day. Still, Posselt does not believe he is worthy of recognition, but Capt. Andy Lynch, 31, India Company’s commanding officer, says Posselt will be recognized for his brave actions on the battlefield that day. Sgt. Jason Sakowski, 26, said he also believes Posselt is worthy of recognition. Sakowski, one of Posselt’s squad leaders, was present during the firefight and called in reinforcements and a medical evacuation while returning and directing fire at the enemy combatants. The enemy combatants then fled the area. “He (Posselt) put his life on the line without even thinking about it,” said Sakowski, a 26-year-old native of Wilkesboro, N.C. “This is my third combat deployment but it is the first time I have seen bravery to that degree.” “Muhammad,” a soldier assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division, was also present during the fire fight and was one of the Iraqi soldiers who returned fire to the enemy combatants. He agrees with Sakowski – Posselt’s actions were commendable. “He (Posselt) showed uncommon courage that day,” said Muhammad, through a translator. “He set an example for other soldiers to follow. I think he is a hero.” Posselt gives more credit to Sakowski for his role in the firefight than he gives himself for risking his life to pull Estrella to safety. “Sakowski accomplished many things at once in the middle of the firefight,” said Posselt. Sakowski called for a medical evacuation, directed fire and called in the reinforcements that arrived within a minute of being called out, said Posselt. “Sakowski made some very important decisions under fire,” said Posselt. “He stayed calm and remembered his training in the heat of a battle.” Posselt said although the Marines are mourning the loss of their friend and fellow warrior, Estrella, they are still focused on training the Iraqi Army to eventually provide security in this region along the Euphrates River on their own, allowing U.S. forces to eventually leave for good.

“I want to bring the rest of the Marines home safely, first and foremost,” said Posselt, right after a memorial service was held for Estrella at the Marines’ fortified base here. “But we also have to help get a government established so we do not have to come back here 10 years down the road with the same situation we had in 2003. We owe it to Estrella to accomplish the mission he came here to complete.”



November 2009

Marine Corps League Detachment 1226
 One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Vietnam Wall Closing Ceremony Taps at 1400	2	3 League Mtg 1930 MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1930	4	5	6 Toys for Tots Mtg 1000 hrs off of Gandy	7 Ruskin Seafood festival in E.G. Simmons park Marine Corps Ball At Hyatt
8 Yard Sale Ruskin Seafood festival in E.G. Simmons park	9	10 234th Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony 1400	11 V.A. Hospital Veterans Day Parade	12	13	14 Our Marine Corps Birthday Celebration
15 Yard Sale	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Yard Sale	23	24	25	26	27	28 Car Wash
28 Yard Sale	29	30	28			
		Look Ahead : December 5, 2009 1630 Toys for Tots / Tampa Bay Lightning Game/ Herbs Party After December 7, 2009 1630 Toys for Tots / Tampa Bay Lightning Game December 13, 2009 1100 Toys for Tots / Tampa Bay Bucs Game				