



MARINE CORP LEAGUE DETACHMENT 1226 **NEWSLETTER DECEMBER EDITION**

Important Dates to Remember:

12/18/08: 2nd Hockey game.
12/21/08: Bucs game, meet @ 1030
12/31/08: Legion New Years Party
01/06/09: Monthly Mtg MCL
01/10/09: Field of Honor

** Every Tuesday and Thursday visit to VA Hospital. See Willie for more details**
** Every Sunday Yard Sale. Help is needed. We have open dates. Please get with Jack if you are available.

Applications for Membership
December Mtg: Robert G. Lussier

WELCOME!!!!

Ill members: Bobby Elliot and Ken Ferrin

Veterans Day Photos:



Comments from the Commandant:

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I also want like to thank everyone who has worked so hard for Toys for Tots. And a big thank-you to Deb for making this news letter possible Now it is time to make our New Year resolutions. I want to see the detachment grow in membership. I would like to see us stand up a Young Marines Unit. I hope to see you all at our next meeting January 6, 2009 Semper Fi Jack

Message from the Auxillary President:

I would like to thank everyone for all their help during this busy time. I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Things we have planned for next year are February 7th a fundraiser dinner at the American Legion and an other on March 28th. We need to build up our auxiliary so please try to recruit at least one new member. We will have a visitor at our next meeting in January from Zephyrhills. They want to start an auxiliary and want to see what do at our meetings. Please try to make this meeting and show our visitor what a great auxiliary we have. Our next meeting will be January 6, 2009. See you there. Pt Skelding

Military News:

*** Veterans will soon have easier access to world class health care under a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) plan to open 31 new outpatient clinics in 16 states. The VA announced they will establish new clinics in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Vermont. The community-based outpatient clinics, or CBOCs, will become operational by late 2010, with some opening in 2009. Local VA officials will keep communities and their veterans informed of milestones in the creation of the new CBOCs.

*** Veteran's Pensions Eligibility:

You may be eligible if:

- you were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, AND
- you served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war time.

However, 38 CFR 3.12a requires that anyone who enlists after 9/7/80 generally has to serve at least 24 months or the full period for which a person was called or ordered to active duty in order to receive any benefits based on that period of service. With the advent of the Gulf War on 8/2/90 (and still not ended by Congress to this day), veterans can now serve after 9/7/80 during a period of war time. When they do, they generally now must serve 24 months to be eligible for pension or any other benefit. But note the exclusions in 38 CFR 3.12(d), AND

- you are permanently and totally disabled, or are age 65 or older, AND
- your countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law

For More Information Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000.

Marine Tidbits:

"USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) Carried 48,600 Gallons of Fresh Water for Her Crew of 475 Sailors and Marines, Which Was Enough for Six Months of Sustained Operations. On 23 August 1779, Constitution Set Sail from Boston with a Full Crew, 48, 600 Gallons of Fresh Water, 7,400 Cannon Shot, 11,600 Pounds of Black Powder and 79,400 Gallons of Rum. Her Mission . . . to Harass and Destroy English Shipping. Arriving at Jamaica on 6 October, Constitution Took on 826 Pounds of Flour and 68,300 More Gallons of Rum. Then She Headed for the Azores, Arriving There on 12 November. She Provisioned with 550 Pounds of Beef, 54,300 Gallons of Portuguese Wine and Set Sail for England. In the Ensuing Days She Defeated and Scuttled Five British Man-of-wars and Captured and Scuttled 12 English Merchantmen, Salvaging Only the Rum. By 27 January 1780, Her Powder and Shot Were Exhausted. She Then Made a Night Raid Unarmed up the Firth of Clyde. Her Landing Party, Undoubtedly Marines, Captured a Whiskey Distillery and Transferred 40,000 Gallons Aboard by Dawn. The Uss Constitution Arrived in Boston in February of 1790 with No Cannons, No Shot, No Food, No Powder, No Rum, No Whiskey, No Wine and 48,600 Gallons of Stagnant Water."

K.S. Corbett

Taken from a Marine Corps Gazette, Circa 1955

Yes brothers and sisters, even in 1955 "urban legends" were alive and well. While this story is quaint, and shows sailors and Marines to be terrific fighters, never mind prodigious drinkers this story is just that. . . a story. The truth is the USS Constitution was not christened until October 1797, while her first voyage did not occur until July 1798. It is interesting, however, her ships company included 55 Marines who manned the "fighting tops" and acted as borders and landing party members (when directed by the Captain of the ship). Till next time, I remain. . . Semper Fi. . . Sid

Looking for or Selling Items::

If you have any items that you are trying to sell or any items you are looking for, please let me know so we can post them in the newsletter. Thank you.

Debs Dialogue:

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making me feel welcome since I have joined the league.

**** If there are items you would like to see in the newsletter, please email me at Debthecandlelegal@tampabay.rr.com.