



Marine Corps League

Detachment 1226

Volume 12

January 2010

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:

I hope that everyone had a safe and Happy New Year. I am looking forward to this upcoming year as there are a lot of things to start planning for. There is the South East Division Conference in Mobil Alabama March 4 – 7. The Department Spring Conference in Orlando March 25 – 28. The Department Convention June 17 – 20 and the National Convention in Greensboro NC August 8 – 14. These events are always very informative and fun to attend. We will have several of our members who also belong to the Military Order of the Devil Dogs advancing to pedigree at this national convention.

If you have not already heard we have a new color guard captain, Terry Graham. Terry is looking for some new blood to step up and join the color guard. We are one of the few details in Hillsborough County and we do get called on quite a few times. I would like to thank Ken Zolna the past captain for all the good work that he did while he held that position. Thanks Ken.

We still can use volunteers to help out with the yard sales. They will continue until Memorial Day when we close down for the summer. We also need members to help with the car washes on the last Saturday of each month. These fund raisers help to support some of the projects that we have going on.

In March we will be doing the 1st nomination of officers for the upcoming year. That will be followed by 2nd nominations and elections in April. I have been grateful for the privilege of being the Commandant for the last two years but now it is time to step aside and turn the helm over to someone else. If you have a choice for who you want to lead the detachment next

year please be at the March and April meetings to have your voice heard.

I would like to close by once again 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. That said I want to encourage each and every one of you to get involved. Attend the meetings, volunteer for those projects that you can and recruit, recruit, recruit.

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

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:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! After a very busy Christmas season with Toys for Tots, the American Legion/MCLAuxiliary Christmas Party and just getting ready for the holidays, it's nice to have a little bit of a breather. Now we can gear up for creating a Valentine's Day theme basket that will be raffled off in February in time for Valentine's Day. We are looking for donations from area businesses for the basket & we will be meeting on January 24th at 2:00pm to create the basket(s) at the American Legion. Shortly after that will be the Spring Conference in late March. So in the meantime, enjoy a little "free time" and plan on attending the Auxiliary meeting on Feb. 2, 2010 at 7:30pm. By that time maybe this extreme cold will be gone for good!! Don't forget we need help at the weekly Flea Market on Sundays from 7-Noon and also good, clean items are needed for sale. This is a good time to clean out those closets & drawers – too cold to do much else!!

Mary Zolna
Auxiliary Unit 1226, President

MEMBERSHIP CORNER:

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

Past due June-December 2009

Natan Kidd	June
Robert Collins	July
Luis Rosario	Sept
Guillermo Serra	Sept
Edison Adams	Oct
Juan De La Cruz	Oct
Jerome Kirkland	Oct
John Monck	Oct

David Paff	Oct
Danny Antle	Nov
Jennifer Antle	Nov
David Im	Dec
Bruce Scheller	Dec

Jan.-Feb. Membership Expirations

Jacob Bain	Jan
Dale Becker	Jan
Keith Bro	Jan
Gene Chrismer	Jan
James Covington	Jan
Mike Sherman	Jan
Clyde Trathowen	Feb
Peter White	Feb

New Members:

Let's welcome these Marines:Greg Amos, Leonard Regretta, Jr., & Everette Miller

LIFE MEMBERSHIP BY AGE CATEGORY

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

Welcome our new life members: Debra Steele & Kathryn Ferrin

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

S/F
Willie

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 Terry Graham.
- * If you are interested in helping with the Rose Fund contact Bob Gramprrie(741-2844) or Willie Little (972-7711) for more information. Tentatively next scheduled for March 2010.
- * All, Walt is scheduling a working party at the Field of Honor on Saturday January 30th at 1000 which will complete the first 1/3 of the reflagging operation. He hopes to have 1000 flags by the end of the month to accomplish this task. We will be spreading the remaining mulch prior to reflagging which will dress up the area we reflag. It should take about two hours of work. Please come and help if you can.



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

Due to circumstances beyond my control, I had to resubmit the paperwork for our charter, so it will still be some time before we get it.

That aside, I still need more volunteers. I'm not asking for heavy lifters or full time volunteers. I don't need PT studs or subject matter experts. I just need people who would be willing to sacrifice one or two Saturdays a month to work with the youth.

This is your chance to help shape the youth of America and teach them the same values and principals we swore to uphold as Marines. They are the leaders of tomorrow. I want to give them the tools to succeed, but I cannot do it alone.

All materials the Young Marines are instructed from, as well as Adult Volunteer Registration forms, can be found on the Young Marines National website, <http://www.youngmarines.org> or I can send you a copy. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Semper Fidelis,

Michael W. Sherman Jr.
Corporal, United States Marine Corps
Commanding Officer (acting)
Hillsborough Young Marines
Cell: (813) 541-3452
E-mail: hcyoungmarines@tampabay.rr.com

Visit our Website at www.mclriverview.org

MILITARY NEWS

TRICARE Introduces New Benefits

Week of January 11, 2010

TRICARE introduced several new programs in 2009. The TRICARE Assistance Program (TRIAP) provides short-term professional counseling assistance. For information about TRIAP and other behavioral health resources, visit the [TRICARE Mental Health Resources Center](#). TRICARE's new [Extended Care Health Option](#) (ECHO) benefits for eligible family members who are diagnosed with extraordinary physical or psychological conditions. For more information on TRICARE's new dental program and pharmacy benefits, visit the TRICARE Active Duty Dental Program website at www.addp-ucci.com and the TRICARE Pharmacy Program webpage at www.TRICARE.mil/pharmacy. TRICARE - Military.com surveys have found that most servicemembers and their families are confused by TRICARE. [Get the facts and latest news on TRICARE.](#)

TRICARE Offers Seasonal Vaccines

TRICARE beneficiaries who are eligible to use the TRICARE retail pharmacy benefit can now receive the seasonal flu, H1N1 flu and pneumonia vaccines at TRICARE retail network pharmacies at no cost. Other vaccines still must be administered in a doctor's office or authorized convenience clinic to be fully covered by TRICARE's preventive health services cost-share waiver. Beneficiaries should call their local TRICARE retail network pharmacy to make sure it participates in the vaccine program and has the vaccine in stock. To locate a participating retail network pharmacy, visit Express Scripts' TRICARE Pharmacy Program webpage at (<http://www.express-scripts.com/Tricare>) <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE> or call Express Scripts at 877-363-1303.

TRICARE - Military.com surveys have found that most servicemembers and their families are confused by TRICARE.

(<http://www.military.com/benefits/tricare/understanding-your-tricare-benefits>) Get the facts and latest news on TRICARE.

National Blood Donor Month

January is National Blood Donor Month, and the (<http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/>) Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) is saying thank you to all blood donors this month. Many of program's 22 blood donor centers in the United States and around the world will hold special ceremonies throughout the month of January where plaques, military coins and certificates are awarded to those who make it part of their routine to give blood. To find out more about the Armed Services Blood Program or to schedule your appointment to donate, visit the Armed Services Blood Program website at (<http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/>)

MARINE TIDBITS:

“A SHIP WITHOUT MARINES IS LIKE A GARMENT WITHOUT BUTTONS.” *Admiral David D. Porter, USN, 1852*

Semper Fi Sid

INITIATIVES FROM LAST MEETING:

Officers Report

Commandant. . . Attended Toys for Tots

Sr. Vice. . . Nothing to report

Jr. Vice. . . Attended Toys for Tots

Report of Standing Committees:

Toys for Tots: 15K children served at Christmas in Tampa Bay area

Marine Corps Birthday -Mike Sherman volunteered to head up committee

Old Business

Update on Angle Occasio. . . Stolen Valor. . . to court
John Bain reported on 4th AAVN BN Christmas party. . . good time had by all. . . with thanks
Larry reported the website had made \$200. . . urged members to get sponsors

New Business

Freedom Excursions boat discussed. . . for Vets in hospital. . . need \$10K. . . MCL 1226 voted to donate \$300 for kick-off meeting on 6 February 2010
Field of Honor 1000 on Saturday. . . 114 new names to be read

Good of the League

Joyce Stillwell became Life Member
History Lesson. . . General Logan. . . hero of Belleau Woods and Nicaragua

Announcements

Spring Conference. . . 25-28 March at Lake Buena Vista. . . \$99 per night. . . \$40 per person for banquet
Platoon Picture for Boot Camp at Parris Island. . . see Willie for details. . . \$10. . . all the way back to the 50s
Color Guard to support circus.

HERO OF THE MONTH

Belong to a prominent family from Philadelphia James Willing was a brother of a member of the first Continental Congress. Beginning in 1774 he lived and worked in Natchez, Mississippi along the Mississippi River. Willing was considered an average merchant who was slowly frittering away his family's fortune and growing more and more in debt. He was also a vocal agitator for the Revolution against King III and the English oppressors in America.

Willing returned to Pennsylvania in 1777 and early in the fall had several conferences with the Commerce Committee of the Continental Congress. Reportedly Willing drew a vivid picture of the probability of Loyalist (pro Crown) activity in the Natchez, Mississippi area and warned the Mississippi River would be closed to American traffic and further suggested an expedition to the lower Mississippi to enlist or compel the support of West Florida (remember Spain controlled the area that is now Florida, parts of Mississippi and Alabama, and Louisiana). The Commerce Committee, without the general knowledge of the Continental Congress, commissioned Willing a Captain in the Navy (although here's the deal, he was also referred to as an Army Officer as well as a Marine Officer by historians or whomever was (re)telling the story) and assigned him the expedition.

Willing's instructions were to deliver some dispatches for New Orleans, to bring up the Mississippi and Ohio part of the stores Spain had agreed to deliver at New Orleans for the use of the United States at Fort Pitt, and to "capture whatever British property he might meet with".

After receiving these instructions, Willing proceeded to Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh, PA). The armed boat Rattletrap was assigned to his command. On January 10, 1778, with a crew of about thirty men (both Marines and sailors) he set out on the westward voyage down the Ohio River. The river was partly frozen over and the river was difficult to navigate.

The commander for the English forces at Kaskaskia, Illinois upon hearing of the expedition believed that Illinois was to be attacked. Traveling down the Ohio (on the Rattletrap), Willing did seize animal pelts and a cargo of brandy (much to the delight of the enlisted Marines). The English commander interpreted these seizures as a

sign of what he might expect should the Americans come to Illinois in greater numbers.

By February 16th or 17th the expedition reached the plantation of Anthony Hutchins which was a short distance above Natchez, MS. Hutchins was made prisoner and his slaves and some other property seized. Rearming and refitting at the plantation's wharf Willing and the Marines proceeded on to Natchez.

On the afternoon of Friday, February 19th, Captain Willing and his command disembarked at Natchez. Orders were sent to all parts of the town that the residents should convene the following morning to be made prisoners of war, and that Willing would take possession of the jurisdiction. Mindful of their remoteness from protection (from either the Spanish or the English), the residents proposed that they would not take arms against the United States, nor help to supply or give assistance to its enemies if their persons, slaves and other property would be left secure.

On February 21 Willing signified that with the exception of the public officials of the Crown of Great Britain who held property he was in agreement with the proposal. The property of all British subjects not resident in this district was likewise exempted.

Most accounts of Willing's expedition say that his force embarked on "a career of confiscation and cruelty" as they moved south beyond Natchez. At Manchac, LA on February 23 an advance party of Marines and sailors captured the Rebecca, a British ship "mounted with sixteen guns, four pounders, beside swivels." The Rebecca had been sent to scour the Inland Passage and frustrate rebel attacks.

Leading his Marines and sailors Willing went on to seize other boats, raid plantations on the Mississippi, Thompson's Creek and Amite, and even followed some settlers into Spanish territory taking their property. It was reported that excesses and wanton destruction accompanied the seizures. Hogs were shot, cattle killed, bottled wine broken or confiscated, and dwellings burned. Along the lower Mississippi Oliver Pollock organized volunteers from New Orleans cooperated with Willing's men in plundering the British stores along the river.

Willing fostered the impression that a large army under General Clark was advancing on the colony. Instead of the thirty men who had started out on the Rattletrap, instead of

the hundred or more of plunder-seeking adventurers that had joined along the way, the West Floridians (the Spanish) estimated the American forces at five to eight thousand.

By March Willing had reached New Orleans. Estimates of the plunder vary considerably, ranging from \$15,000 to \$1,500,000. Pollock reported that Willing took and sold 100 slaves worth 140 pesos each, and that proceeds from these and other plunder amounted to \$25,000. Another \$37,500 was profited by Willing and the Marines as they sold the Rebecca (which was armed as a war vessel). The physical damage done by the forces, however, was much greater than the meager profits secured.

The Americans presence in the Spanish owned and controlled New Orleans became a problem for Governor Gálvez. The British protested Willing's plundering on the lower Mississippi claiming it was Spanish territory. British war ships were sent to New Orleans to reclaim their property and defend British subjects. As a result of British reinforcement of West Florida and the establishment of a virtual blockade of the river Willing was stopped from sending supplies upstream to the Revolution (one of his missions) and the English bank of the Mississippi was lost back to the far numerous and armed English military forces.

With his avenues north endangered and having overstayed his welcome with Gálvez and Pollock, Willing became an extreme annoyance to the Spanish government. Willing's stay had now stretched into months. Pollock wrote the Congress expressing concerns about Willing's judgment and began developing ways for Willing and his men to return north, part by land and part by water through the Spanish Territories.

On July 14, 1778 Governor Gálvez issued a letter to the Spanish commanders along the Mississippi to allow Willing and twenty-five Americans (five Marines and sailors had been killed) to be allowed safe passage north. But with the settlers were so angry (by the destruction earlier in the year by Willing and the Marines coming south on the Mississippi) the journey north was too deemed to hazardous and no one took advantage of the opportunity. A month later Lieutenant Robert George, USMC requested permission to lead the men north through Spanish territory. Gálvez, upon receiving an oath that they would follow his route and not offend any English subjects along the way gave his permission. They traveled north by way of Opelousas, Natchitoches, and the Arkansas River. The Marines and sailors ended up in St. Louis where they

were placed under the command of Gen. George Rogers Clark.

Willing finally got away from New Orleans by sloop bound for Philadelphia. His journey home was an unfortunate one. The sloop was captured and Willing was taken prisoner. He was sent to New York. Toward the end of 1779 he was exchanged for British Colonel Henry Hamilton.

Willing's and the Marines actions succeeded in temporarily crippling the British naval forces on the Mississippi and interrupted the flow of supplies, mainly lumber, from Natchez to Pensacola and Jamaica (where most of the British ships in the Royal Navy were built or refitted).

Story by O.L. Hupp and edited by Sid Atwater



February 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 League Mtg 1930 MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1930	3	4	5	6
7 Yard Sale	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Yard Sale Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Yard Sale	22 HC Veterans Council Mtg at Veterans Park 1800 hrs	23	24 Veterans Park War Memorial Committee Mtg 1700 hrs	25	26	27 Carwash 1000 to 1400 hr. Legion
28 Yard Sale						
		Look Ahead: March 4 th thru 7 th - South East Division Conference in Mobil, Alabama March 25 th thru 28 th : The Department Spring Conference at the Hilton Garden located in Buena Vista, FL June 17 th thru 20 th - The Department Convention August 8 th thru 14 th - National Convention in Greensboro, NC.				