



Marine Corps League

Detachment 1226

Volume 14

March 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 would like to encourage all members to attend our next meeting April 6th. It is at this meeting that we will elect our officers to lead this Detachment for 2010. There will be one last chance to make nominations from the floor before we vote. So if your candidate has not had his or her name placed in nomination you still have one last chance to make it happen.

The one thing I am disappointed with during my tour as your Commandant was that I was not able to increase membership as much as I wanted. I would like to remind you to keep recruiting. We need to grow. There is no reason that you should not have an application in your wallet for those times that you meet new Marines and Navy Corpsmen. We all get three applications in each copy of the Semper Fi magazine that we receive. If you need more let me know and I will get them for you. We also welcome associate membership from people who have a genuine interest in promoting what we stand for. Along with this we must keep our present membership. It does us no good to keep bringing new members in the front door while the old ones are slipping out the back door. In each copy of this newsletter is a list of members that are delinquent and those whose dues are about to come due. If your name is on this list I ask you to please renew. If you know one of our members who are on the list I ask you to please remind them to pay their dues. If you are on the list and do not desire to remain a member of this Detachment I ask you to please inform me what we have done so wrong that we have driven you away.

The information on the Department convention that will be held in Fort Lauderdale June 17 – 20 is now available on the Department website www.mclfl.org. If you are able and interested I recommend that you attend. It gives you the opportunity to meet, mingle with and exchange ideas with members from the other 54 MCL Detachments through the state of Florida. For you dogs this is the one time a year that you are able to advance from Pup to Devil Dog if you meet the requirements.

The Department convention will be followed by the National convention in Greensboro NC. August 8 – 14, 2010. This gives you the chance to meet with other MCL members from around the nation and learn how things are done in their Detachments. Dogs this is the one time a year that you get to advance from Devil Dog to Pedigree. I think that we will have four of our members going up for advancement at this convention. Let's make sure that we get the paperwork turned in on time.

I want to thank everyone for all of the hard work that you have put into making this Detachment what it is today. I can assure you that we have been noticed at both the Department and National levels of the MCL for all that you have done.

Until next month.

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:

Without a doubt, the SE Division Conference was the best Conference we've ever attended. Those Alabama Leaguers sure showed everyone what Southern hospitality is all about. The food was great and seeing old and new folks is always a pleasure. The Division Conference will be held next year in Orlando, Fl. in March so if you're interested in attending make note of it now.

Nominations were held at the March meeting with Mary Ann Raysick being nominated for Judge Advocate and I was nominated for a 2nd term. There will be 2nd nominations at the April meeting and the positions that need to be filled are Sr. Vice President and Jr. Vice President. Please consider either of these positions and remember it is for a one-year term and as always, you do what you can when you can. Elections will also take place at the April meeting. We're participating with the Detachment in their Rose Fund Drive. As you know the monies made from these events go towards scholarships and the Detachment has generously agreed to give us, the Unit, a percentage of the funds provided there is active involvement of Auxiliary members. The dates for the drive are March 20th and 27th. So if your husband is scheduled on either of those dates and

whatever shift, please help out so the Auxiliary benefits as well. A check will be presented at the June Convention for the Scholarship Fund so let's make a good showing with a generous check.

We are planning on a Ham dinner as a fundraiser and the date will be decided for sure at the April meeting. It seems the American Legion is doing a Ham dinner on Easter Sunday and our dinner was scheduled for April 10th. We need to rethink the date.

We are getting to the end of the year for the weekly Flea Market but still are in need of items and volunteers. Please help in any way that you are able. Our next meeting will be April 6th at the VFW on Riverview St. Please plan on attending this very important meeting. It will be 2nd nominations and elections.

Mary Zolna
Auxiliary Unit 1226, President

MEMBERSHIP CORNER:

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

Past due June '09-February 2010

Nathan Kidd	June
Robert Collins	July
Luis Rosario	Sept
Edison Adams	Oct
Juan De La Cruz	Oct
Jerome Kirkland	Oct
John Monck	Oct
David Paff	Oct
David Im	Dec
Jacob Bain	Jan
Dale Becker	Jan
Keith Bro	Jan
Gene Chrismer	Jan
Mike Sherman	Jan

Mar.-Apr. Membership Expirations

Robert Lehmann	Mar
Robert Ashman	Apr
Robert Becker	Apr

John Doody Apr
Larry Norton Apr

New Members: None

LIFE MEMBERSHIP BY AGE CATEGORY

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

Congratulation to our new life member
Marine Larry McAuley.

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

Ill Members

Larry Ludwing's wife is sick; Dennis Antle's wife had a procedure; Bernie is going into hospital for heart procedure; Margaret McNeil is now home; Roger Dunn has been diagnosed with cancer; Ron Budd's wife is ill; and Susan Price, mother of GySgt Kenafik is ill.

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.
- * Rose Fund: We are set for our fundraiser on Mar. 20th at one (1) Publix and Mar 27th at two (2) Publix locations. We have all **our SEMPER FI VOLUNTEERS. THANKS IN DVANCE.** Should you have any questions, please contact Bob Gramphrie



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

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

Advertising:

How would you like to be one of the first to advertise your business or local events? What a great way to advertise your product and/or services to the members!!! Need attendees for a local event or cause? Place your information today.

The Riverview detachment of the Marine Corps League has recently decided to add the ability for advertisements and announcements in the Devil Dawg Daily. This monthly Newsletter is distributed to approximately 100 members in our community and surrounding areas.

Size:	Monthly cost:	Yearly cost:
Business Card	\$8	\$80
Quarter page	\$10	\$100

Half page	\$20	\$200
Full page	\$30	\$300

**Yearly is discounted two months

If you are interested in placing an ad and/or event or you would like more information regarding same, please do not hesitate to contact Debra Steele at 813-545-7526 or via email (on first page).

MILITARY NEWS

Dental Program for Retirees

Week of March 15, 2010
Source Military.com

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is available around the world to retired service members who receive retirement pay, "gray area" retired National Guard and Reserve members who are entitled to but not yet receiving retirement pay and Medal of Honor recipients. Spouses and children up to 21 years old, or 23 years old if they are full-time students, of these retirees are also eligible for the retiree dental program. Participants in this voluntary plan may get dental care from any licensed dentist within the program's designated service area. Eligible members may enroll in the TRICARE retiree dental program online, by telephone or by mail. Visit the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program website at www.trdp.org and click "Prospective Enrollees" for more information on rates and benefits.

Military.com surveys have found that most service members and their families are confused by TRICARE. [Get the facts and latest news on TRICARE.](#)

DoD Assessing Disability Ratings

Week of March 15, 2010

A recent review by a Department of Defense Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR) resulted in 61 percent of applicants having their status changed from a medical separation to retirement on the permanent disability list. This review is open to eligible veterans

of the DoD, Guard and Reserve and Coast Guard. Eligible veterans can request a PDBR by submitting a Department of Defense Form 294, which is available at

<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd0294.pdf>. Veterans requesting a PDBR must mail their completed and signed DD Form 294 to SAF/MRBR, 550 C St. W., Suite 41, Randolph Air Force Base, TX 78150-4743. Applicants may submit statements, briefs, medical records or affidavits supporting their application.

Message from Ray D. Adams USMC (Ret.)

Dear fellow veterans,

My name is Ray D. Adams USMC (Ret.). I recently opened Oakfield Corner Barber Shop 612 Oakfield Dr. Brandon, FL 33511. I am located between GNC and Della's Restaurant 300 yards east of Kings.

My barbershop is in the growing stage, and I truly enjoy dealing with PPOA's (People Protecting Our Asses) i.e. military, police, and firefighters.

Please print this page, and bring it to my shop for \$3.00 off your haircut. This coupon is good until Tax Day April 15th, 2010.

Please pass this on to all of your friends on your email list.

My hours are Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

Thank you, in advance, for helping a small business grow.

MARINE TIDBITS:

Aug 12, 1918 - first woman to serve in the US *Marine Corps* was Opha Mae [Johnson](#). Johnson joined the *Marine Corps Reserves* on *August 12, 1918*. About 300 more women joined the *Marine Corps* during [World War I](#).

Debra Steele
Semper Fi Sid will be back next month.

INITIATIVES FROM LAST MEETING:

Before the formal meeting actually began the Cmdt asked that LtCol Mike Reese, USMC, I&I, 4th Amphibious Tractor BN, and his Sgt. Major, Sgt. Major Guzman might take a few minutes to address the League. LtCol Reese & Sgt. Major Guzman thanked members of the League for their assistance in both the Toys for Tots Program (handing out plaques), and their support of the 4th Amphibious Tractor BN Christmas party.

Members Present: 36

Correspondence/Thank you:

We received a plaque for Golf Hole sponsorship from VFW District 12.

Thank you letter from the Musgrave family for the coffee 1226 provided Marines in AFG.

Letter from Haley Hospital announcing Jobs Fair on 13 March for 1000-1500 was received. The Jobs Fair is part of the Welcome Home American Hero's program. Walt R. will head up our support to this effort. He made a motion that we support this effort with \$200. The motion was seconded and there was no discussion so the motion passed unanimously.

Report of Standing Committees:

Toys for Tots:

Herb reported on 10 Feb a "Strategic Planning" meeting was held.

Summer Picnic:

Will be at Fred's house (exact date to be announced). John Bain is organizing this event.

Marine Corps Birthday :

Mike Sherman volunteered to head up committee

Annual Poker/Bike Run:

Looking for volunteers.

Color Guard:

Terry Graham

Old Business

Judge Advocate reported that a review of existing meeting minutes to see what the unit had previously decided upon regarding money coming into 1226 was conducted. It was reported that in Dec 08 we had voted that 10% of all revenue (with Rose Fund as exception) coming into unit be directed to Building Fund. Additionally, the Paymaster reminded everyone that 50% of monies collected from the Funeral Fund go into Building Fund. No motion was made. Cmdt expressed desire to ensure this was done. Paymaster had for the past two years (+) had accomplished this task. 2009 Poker Run was exception, but that had been done with motion, a 2nd, discussion & vote to give 100% of proceeds to Haley House.

New Business

Nominations for next years Officers were held. Former Commandant Bain was given chair. Nomination for Commandant. .Dennis Antle
Nomination for Sr. Vice Cmdt . .Willie Little
Nomination for Jr. Vice Cmdt. .Debbie Steele
Nomination for Judge Advocate. Terry Graham

Motion made and seconded to buy POW/MIA flag for Color Guard. American Legion Post has donated flag so no purchase necessary. Motion retracted.

Good of the League

Four Life Members received their membership cards and pins.

Announcements

- Car Wash (see calendar)
- Spring Conference, Lake Buena Vista (see calendar for dates) \$99 per night \$40 per person for banquet.

HEROES OF THE MONTH -

Joseph Foss - C.O. VMF-121



He was born in 1915 to a Norwegian-Scots family in South Dakota. He learned hunting and marksmanship at a young age. Like millions of others, 11-year old Joe Foss was inspired by [Charles Lindbergh](#), especially after he saw Lindy at an airport near Sioux Falls. Five years later he watched a Marine squadron put on a dazzling exhibition, led by Capt. Clayton Jerome, future wartime Director of Marine Corps Aviation. In 1934, Joe began his college education in Sioux Falls, but he had to drop out to help his mother run the family farm. However he scraped up \$65 for private flying lessons. Five years later he entered the University of South Dakota again and supported himself by waiting on tables. In his senior year he also completed a civilian pilot training program before he graduated with a Business degree in 1940.

Upon graduation he enlisted in the Marine Corps reserves as an aviation cadet. Seven months later, he earned his Marine wings at Pensacola and was commissioned a second lieutenant. For the next nine months he was a 'plowback' flight instructor. He was at Pensacola when the news of Pearl Harbor broke, and since he was Officer of the Day, he was placed in charge of base security. Thus he prepared to defend Pensacola from Jap invaders, riding around the perimeter on a bicycle. To his distress, he was then ordered to the aerial photographers school and assigned to a VMO-1, a photo reconnaissance squadron. But he insisted he wanted fighter pilot duty, even after being told "You're too ancient, Joe. You're 27 years old!" After lengthy lobbying with Aircraft Carrier Training Group, he learned all about the new F4F Wildcat, logging over 150 flight hours in June and July. When he finished training, he became executive officer of **VMF-121**. Three weeks later, he was on his way to the South Pacific, where Americans were desperately trying to turn the tide of war. Arriving in the South Pacific, VMF-121 was loaded aboard the escort carrier *Copahee*.

Guadalcanal

On the morning of **October 9**, they were catapulted off the decks, in Joe's only combat carrier mission. Landing at Henderson Field, he was told that his fighters were now based at the 'cow pasture.' He was impressed with the 'make-do' character of the 'Cactus Air Force. The airfield was riddled with bomb craters and wrecked aircraft, but also featured three batteries of 90mm anti-aircraft guns and two radar stations. As 'exec' of -121, he would normally lead a flight of two four-plane divisions, whenever there were enough Wildcats to go around. He was the oldest pilot in the flight, four years older than the average age of 23. The flight would become known as 'Foss's Flying Circus' and rack up over 60 victories. Five of them would become aces; two would die in the in the fight for Guadalcanal.

On October 13, 1942, VMF-121 scored its first victories when Lts. Freeman and Narr each got a Japanese plane. Later that same day, Joe led a dozen Wildcats to intercept 32 enemy bombers and fighters. In his first combat, a Zero bounced Joe, but overshot, and Joe was able to fire a good burst and claim one destroyed aircraft. Instantly, three more Zeros set upon him, and he barely made it back to 'Fighter One', his Wildcat dripping oil. Chastened by the experience, he declared "You can call me 'Swivel-Neck Joe' from now on." From the first day, Joe followed the tactics of Joe Bauer: getting in close, so close that another pilot joked that the 'exec' left powder burns on his targets. The next day while intercepting a flight of enemy bombers, Joe's engine acted up and he took cover in the clouds. But suddenly a Wildcat whizzed past him, tailed by a Zero. Joe cut loose and shot the Zero's wing off. It was his second victory in two days.

While the Wildcats' primary responsibility was air defense, they also strafed Japanese infantry and ships when they had enough ammunition. Joe led on such mission on the 16th. Mid-October was the low point for the Americans in the struggle for Guadalcanal. Japanese warships shelled the U.S. positions nightly, with special attention to the airstrips. To avoid the shelling, some fliers slept in the front lines. Foss grew to appreciate the Navy's fighter doctrine and found that the "Thach Weave" effectively countered the Zero's superior performance, because "it allowed us to point eyes and guns in every direction." Joe was leading an interception on morning of the 18th when the Zero top cover pounced on them and downed an F4F. But Foss was able to get above them and flamed the nearest, hit another, and briefly engaged a third. Gaining an angle, he finally shot up the third plane's engine. Next he found a group of Bettys already under attack by VF-71. He executed a firing pass from above, flashed through the enemy bombers, and pulled up sharply, blasting one from

below. Nine days at Guadalcanal and he was an ace! Two days later Lt. Col. Bauer and Foss led a flight of Wildcats on the morning intercept. In the dogfighting, Joe downed two Zeros, but took a hit in his engine. He landed safely at Henderson Field with a bad cut on his head, but otherwise unharmed.

'Cactus Fighter Command' struggled to keep enough Wildcats airworthy to meet the daily Japanese air strikes. On the 23rd, it put up two flights, led by Foss and Maj. Davis. There were plenty of targets and Joe soon exploded a Zero. He went after another, which tried to twist away in a looping maneuver. Joe followed and opened up while inverted at the top of his loop. He caught the Zero and flamed it. He later described it as a lucky shot. Next he spotted a Japanese pilot doing a slow roll; he fired as the Zero's wings rolled through the vertical and saw the enemy pilot blown out of the cockpit, minus a parachute. Suddenly he was all-alone and two Zeros hit him, but his rugged Grumman absorbed the damage, permitting Foss to flame one of his assailants. Once again, he nursed a damaged fighter back to Guadalcanal. So far he had destroyed eleven enemy planes, but had brought back four Wildcats that were too damaged to fly again.

October 25 was the day that the Japanese planned to occupy Henderson Field; they sent their fighters over, with orders to circle until the airstrip was theirs. It didn't work out that way, as the U.S. ground forces held their lines and 'Cactus' did its part. Joe Foss led six Wildcats up before 10 AM, and claimed two of the Marine's three kills on that sortie. Afterwards, he berated himself for wasting ammunition on long-range shooting. He kept learning how important it was to get close. (*The great German ace, [Erich Hartmann](#), said "Get close enough until the airplane fills the whole windscreen; then you can't miss."*) In an afternoon mission on the 25th, he downed three more, to become the Marine Corps' first 'ace in a day'. He had achieved 14 victories in only 13 days.

Despite rugged living conditions and the stress of daily combat flying, Foss retained his enthusiasm. He and some other fliers of VMF-121 occasionally went prowling with their rifles in the jungle, looking for Japanese soldiers, but Col. Bauer stopped this activity; trained fighter pilots were too valuable to risk this way. They slept in six-man tents and ate the wretched powdered eggs that are mentioned in almost every pilot's memoirs. One guy had a gramophone that they played scratchy records on. They bathed in the Lunga River; many grew beards rather than try to shave in cold water. They kept the beards neatly trimmed, not for appearances, but to ensure their beards didn't interfere with the close-fitting oxygen masks. 'Washing Machine Charlie' and 'Millimeter Mike' harassed the field nightly, so some pilots tried to sleep in the daytime.



April 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 Color Guard at 8108 at 1100 hr.
4 Yard Sale	5	6 League Mtg 1930 (Elections) MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1930 (Elections)	7	8	9	10 Field of Honor Veterans Park 1000 hrs
11 Yard Sale	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Yard Sale Growl in Bushnell	19	20	21	22	23	24 Car Wash
25 Yard Sale	26 Hillsborough Cty Veterans Council Mtg/ Veterans Park at 1800 hrs.	27	28 Veterans Park War Memorial Committee Mtg/ Veterans Park at 1700 hrs.	29	30	
		Look Ahead: June 17 th thru 20 th – The Department Convention August 8 th thru 14 th – National Convention in Greensboro, NC. September – Poker Run – To be Announced				