



# Marine Corp League

## Detachment 1226

Volume 20

September 2010

### League Officers:

**Commandant:** Dennis Antle  
**Sr. Vice Commandant:** Willie Little Jr  
**Jr. Vice Commandant:** Debra Steele  
**Adjutant:** Jack Skelding.  
**Paymaster:** Rob Becker  
**Judge Advocate:** Walt Raysick  
**Chaplain:** Dave Blizzard  
**Sergeant-at-Arms:** George Mc Master  
**Past Commandant:** Jack Skelding  
**Web Sergeant:** Jacob Bain  
**Newsletter Editor:** Debra Steele  
**Historian:** Stan Horman

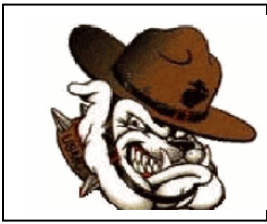
### League Auxiliary

**President:** Mary Zolna  
**Sr. Vice:** Nancy Horman  
**Jr. Vice:** Jackie Wyatt  
**Judge Advocate:** Mary Ann Raysick  
**Secretary:** Pat Skelding  
**Guard:** Cheryl Bain

### Marine Corps League Detachment 1226

One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831  
Riverview, Florida 33568

Mailing Label goes Here



# DEVIL DOG MONTHLY

## COMMANDANT'S CORNER:

Good day Marines. Well the detachment picnic was a great success and a good time was had by all wish every one could have been there. Having the LEGION Riders on board is working out to be a great partnership. I will look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting on Tues Oct 5th at 19:30. Until then.

Semper-Fi Marines  
Your Commandant  
Dennis Antle

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

No comments this month.

Mary Zolna  
President

[Debra.steele.0602@gmail.com](mailto:Debra.steele.0602@gmail.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**

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER:

Our great members such as you guys are the ones who help us achieve our membership goals. Please go forth and seek new members.

Past due:

- Adams, Edison - Oct 2009
- Collins, Robert - July 2009
- Cox, Ronald - May 2010
- De La Cruz, Juan - Oct 2009
- Grant, John - July 2010
- Im, David - Dec 2009
- Kidd, Nathan - June 2009
- Kirkland, Jerome - Oct 2009
- Lehmann, Robert - March 2010
- Monck, John - Oct 2009
- Paff, David - Oct 2009

Sherman, Mike - Jan 2010  
Rosario, Luis Sept - 2009

August & September 2010 Membership Expirations:  
Bell, Jeanne - September  
Coston, Diano - September  
Donica, Herb - August  
Martin, David - September  
Ramos, George - September  
Serra, Guillermo - September

**If anyone keeps in contact with any of the above past due members, please call them and ask them to renew their membership and if they do not want to renew their membership, please ask them why. We need this information for statistical purposes.**

**New Members:**  
Brian Himert

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIP BY AGE CATEGORY**

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

Should you have any questions regarding the membership please contact Rob Becker (813) 480-4281 or the league.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

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

\*Poker Run Update: We have sent letters to those who sponsored and participated in the run last year asking for their continued support. The Run will be held November 6, 2010.

\*Rose Fund: For information regarding the Rose Fund please contact Ken Zolna.

## YARD SALE:

Need donations to keep this going. Contact Jack or Ken for further details.

## CAR WASH

Come out and join us on the last Saturday of every month from 1000 to 1400 hours. Come give us your support whether it is washing cars or having your car washed.

### Advertising:

*What a great way to advertise your product and/or services to our members!! Need attendees for a local event or cause? Please your information today.*

The Riverview Detachment of the Marine Corps League has decided to add the ability for advertisements and announcements in the Newsletter. 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 via email ([Debra.Steele.0602@gmail.com](mailto:Debra.Steele.0602@gmail.com)).

**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.**



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

A youth program emphasizing honesty, courage, respect, industry, loyalty, dependability, and a sense of devotion to God, country, community and family.

We are looking for volunteers to get this program off the ground. If you are interested please contact me. Please help the Orlando Devil Dogs Young Marines to construct a Monument to the Four Chaplains "They died so that others might live"

Help by buying a Four Chaplains Commemorative Coin or Coins that I will have available during the up-coming Department Fall Conference Price \$15.00 each 2 for \$25.00

Michael Sherman, Jr.  
Cpl USMC  
Commanding Office (acting)  
Hillsborough Young Marines  
[hcyoungmarines@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:hcyoungmarines@tampabay.rr.com)

## MILITARY NEWS

*Retroactive Stop Loss Pay (RSLSP) RETROACTIVE STOP LOSS SPECIAL PAY*  
*Those eligible must submit their claim by Oct. 21, 2010.*

The DoD Web site (<http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>) links to service-specific sites, where you can get more information, or begin the RSLSP claim process. The 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act established Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP), providing \$500 for each month/partial month served in stop loss status. Service members, veterans, and beneficiaries of service members whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009 are eligible for RSLSP.

To receive this benefit, those who served under stop loss must submit a claim for the special pay (by Oct. 21, 2010). Throughout the year, the services have been reaching out to service members, veterans and their families through direct mail, veteran service organizations, and the media. But there is still money left to be claimed, and the deadline is approaching. The average benefit is \$3,700.

Note on Eligibility  
Effective Dec. 19, 2009, per the Defense Appropriations Act, stop-lossed service members who

voluntarily reenlisted or extended their service, and received a bonus for such reenlistment or extension of service, became no longer eligible to receive retroactive stop loss special pay. The following service-specific sites provide more information and allow you to begin the RSLSP claim process.

- Army: 877-736-5554

Website: <https://www.stoplosspay.army.mil>

E-mail [RetroStopLossPay@CONUS.Army.Mil](mailto:RetroStopLossPay@CONUS.Army.Mil)

- Navy: 901-874-4427

Web site:

[http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/MILPERSMAN/7000FinancialMgmt/7220\\_410.htm](http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/MILPERSMAN/7000FinancialMgmt/7220_410.htm)

E-mail: [NXAG\\_N132C@navy.mil](mailto:NXAG_N132C@navy.mil)

- Marine Corps: 877-242-2830

Website: <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/stoploss>

E-mail: [stoploss@usmc.mil](mailto:stoploss@usmc.mil)

- Air Force: 800-525-0102

Website: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss/>

E-mail (active): [afpc.dpsos.stoploss@randolph.af.mil](mailto:afpc.dpsos.stoploss@randolph.af.mil)

E-mail (guard/reserve):

[arpc.contactcenter@arpc.denver.af.mil](mailto:arpc.contactcenter@arpc.denver.af.mil)

### **Marines secure USNS Alan Shepard during exercise Valiant Shield**

From official Marine Corps Website

9/23/2010 By Cpl. Michael A. Bianco, 31st MEU

USS ESSEX — The early morning silence was broken as CH-46E Sea Knight and AH-1W Super Cobra Attack helicopters appeared over the horizon and raced toward a simulated enemy vessel during a mock visit, board, search and seizure aboard USNS Alan Shepard, Sept. 18.

The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's Force Reconnaissance Platoon and Maritime Raid Force, flown by Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, circled around the vessel as Super Cobras provided security.

Then, two CH-46E helicopters hovered over the ship just long enough for Marines to fast rope onto the deck.

“The Cobras distract the target by circling and making noise, and allow the Marines to slide down the rope and onto the flight deck,” said Capt. Peter Hersey, Force Reconnaissance Platoon Commander. Once on board, the Marines secured key spaces including the bridge and engine room, in order to stop the ship's progress.

Throughout the evolution, the Force Recon Marines rose to the challenge, seizing the key control areas and securing the vessel. Suspects were detained and searched, and simulated casualties were evacuated to rally points.

VBSS serves as a routine part of the MEU's deployment training and is used to educate Marines on how to board, search and secure enemy controlled vessels.

Whether interdicting a vessel transporting drugs and weapons, or a terrorist controlled ship, the 31st MEU possesses the ability to combine air and land assets in an organized strike against any threat that arises.

“No matter what circumstances we encounter, the 31st MEU must be prepared to complete the mission at hand,” Hersey said. “VBSS training has undoubtedly expanded our capability for mission accomplishment,” he added.

The 31st MEU is currently conducting CERTEX as a part of its deployment in the Asia-Pacific Theater and is preparing for exercises and training alongside foreign military forces from Japan, the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Korea.

### **MARINE TIDBITS:**

**Gung-Ho:** The Chinese used this term to describe Marines in China around 1900. In the Chinese language, gung-ho means *working together*. That's what the "American Marines" were always doing, "working together," the Chinese explained. The term stuck to Marines like glue. Today it conveys willingness to tackle any task, or total commitment to the Corps.

## Initiatives from meeting minutes

Roll Call of Officers: Cmdt X Sr. Vice X Jr. Vice X JA A Adjutant X Paymaster X Chaplian X Sgt-at-Arms X

Members Present 24 Guests     

Special Event: Prior to the meeting received a brief from a member of the Shriners about a POW/MIA event they were holding on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. They invited all members to attend the event.

Applications for Membership: One. Brian Himert. Approved

Correspondence:

We received an email on wounded Marine requesting cards be sent.

Several flyers for various events received and read by the Commandant.

Report of Standing Committees:

Marine Corps Birthday: Mike was not available to give a report. Due his continued absences the Commandant asked for a volunteer to step up and take charge of putting something together. Walt Raysick (an FMF Corpsman) stepped up along with Bernie Kotrady and Ken Zolna.

Poker Run: Debra Steele informed the membership that we need to get more involved. She challenged each member to recruit one sponsor or donor. The Auxiliary will man the registration desk. The Legion will provide the hotdogs and hamburgers for sale. T-shirts will be purchased and the Legion Riders are onboard.

Toys for Tots: Herb Donica gave a brief on the status of program. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> is kick off date with 2 events on that day (Letter carriers day and a hockey game). Dec 11<sup>th</sup> VFW in Ruskin will host a party sponsored by the Ruskin Chamber of Commerce. Toy ride will be held on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>.

Rose Fund: Ken Zolna advised that there will be a Rose Fund drive on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at the Publix store in Valrico. He has members in place to man the tables.

Honor Guard: Walt Raysick told the detachment that the Honor Guard participated in two funerals and provided a color guard for the Run for the Fallen. He also gave an update on upcoming events that the Color Guard will be involved with. He then asked the members of that group that were present to stand up and be recognized.

Report of Special Committees: NONE

Unfinished Business: Rob Becker updated those present on the status of membership.

New Business: Commandant announced that the Judge Advocate Terry Graham has resigned his post. Dennis announced his intention to appoint Walt Raysick as the new Judge Advocate. Walt agreed to accept and the membership approved. Walt will be sworn in at the next meeting.

Walt Raysick made a motion to approve the spending of up to \$150.00 for new signage for the car wash. Motioned received 2<sup>nd</sup> and it was approved. He will check container to see if old signs are still usable before money is spent.

After much discussion the membership agreed that the financial information no longer be published in the newsletter.

Good of the League:

Walt Raysick read to the membership and interesting article about Marine Corps Hymm.

John Bain advised the detachment of a Marine with no living relatives that was going to be buried at Sarasota Natl Cemetery. He requested that those members that are able too to attend the funeral. He reminded us that we Marines are all members of the family of Marines.

**Announcements:**

Jack Skelding informed the detachment that we now have a National Officer in the detachment. Ken Zolna who was appointed as a national assistant Sgt-at Arms.

**Visit our Website at**  
[www.mclriverview.org](http://www.mclriverview.org)



**911 MEMORIAL:**



PICNIC: GREAT TIME!!!!



## HEROES OF THE MONTH:




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### THIS MONTH IS DEDICATED TO POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE

I'd like to share with you the story of a POW/MIA who I knew vicariously. In 1980, while assigned to Special Projects at HQMC, I was directed to serve as escort for the wife and three daughters of Col Donald G. Cook to receive a posthumous Medal of Honor.

Then Captain Cook was reported missing in action on December 8, 1964 and was declared dead on February 26, 1980. He had been seriously wounded and reported MIA while, in fact, he had been captured by the Viet Cong in the IV Corps area of Viet Nam. He was taken while moving with a Vietnamese Marine Unit that was attempting to recover the personnel from a downed- helo.

When I took the assignment to escort his family I connected immediately with his story as I had served as an advisor on my second tour in Vietnam.

The story of then Captain Cook at the hands of the VC is horrible in detail, but it is also a tale of great valor.

The tale of his selflessness was so extensive and well-documented by his fellow prisoners that a decision was made to award him the Medal of Honor.

However, the details of Col. Cook's capture were unknown for quite some time, thus his family was only told that he was MIA. The facts were that he had been captured in December '64 and died in the hands of the VC some three years later.

Please allow me to read a portion of his citation:

“-Despite the fact that by so doing he would bring about harsher treatment for himself, Colonel (then Captain) Cook established himself as the senior prisoner, even though in actuality he was not. Cook willingly and unselfishly put the interests of his comrades before that of his own well-being and, eventually, his life.

Giving more needy men his medicine and drug allowance while constantly nursing them, he risked infection from contagious diseases while in a rapidly deteriorating state of health. This unselfish and exemplary conduct, coupled with his refusal to stray even the slightest from the Code of Conduct, earned him the deepest respect from not only his fellow prisoners, but his captors as well. Rather than negotiate for his own release or better treatment, he steadfastly frustrated attempts by the Viet Cong to break his indomitable spirit, and he passed this same resolve on to the his fellow prisoners.

Knowing his refusals would prevent his release prior to the end of the war, and also knowing his chances for prolonged survival would be small in the event of continued refusal, he chose nevertheless to adhere to a Code of Conduct far above that which could be expected.”

Here is the stunning aspect of Col Cook's story: he had been on a three day TAD assignment to Viet Nam from Okinawa in 1964. Can you imagine?

During the first two days that the Cook family was in Washington I found it surprising that the decision of where the Medal Ceremony was to take place apparently was still under consideration. My



assumption was that President Carter would make the presentation in the Rose Garden, Oval Office or some other appropriate place in the White House.

The family was asking me and I was embarrassed not to have the answer until the end of their second day in DC. The decision was very disturbing to all concerned, and that was that the Medal of Honor would be presented in the Pentagon by the Secretary of the Navy Edward Hidalgo.

The venue for the ceremony was the Hall of Heroes in the Pentagon. The hall of Heroes offers impressive displays, Citations, and photos; nevertheless, it is a hallway in the Pentagon and not the Oval Office of the Carter White House. When I saw the family off the day after, in some inexplicable way I felt a level of personal responsibility for this egregious failure to fully honor Donald G. Cook, Colonel, USMC POW/MIA deceased.

David W. Blizzard  
Col. USMC ret.



# October 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	4 Legion Riders Mtg at Post 148 1830 hours	5 League Mtg 1930 MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1930	6	7	8	9 Field of Honor at Veterans Park at 1000 hrs.
10	11 Legion Mtg	12	13	13	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Carwash 1000 to 1400 hours
31	Look Ahead: Poker Run: 11/6/10 starting at the American Legion Post #148 Veteran's Day Ceremony: 11/11/10 Detachment Marine Corps Birthday at American Legion: 11/13/10 Toys for Tots Run: 11/27/10					