



Marine Corp League

Detachment 1226

Volume 30

August 2011

League Officers:

Commandant: Dennis Antle
Sr. Vice Commandant: Debra Steele
Jr. Vice Commandant: Bernie Kotrady
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: Bernie Kotrady
Newsletter Editor: Debra Steele
Historian: Stan Horman

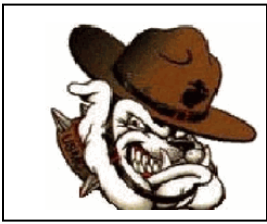
League Auxiliary

President: Pat Skelding
Sr. Vice: Cheryl Bain
Jr. Vice: Shanda Antle
Judge Advocate: Kamela Ryan
Chaplain: Barb Wolons
Guard: Mary Ann Raysick

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. First of all I would like to thank you for your input of ideas some of which we have already put into place and there are others that we will be acting on. Please understand that there are certain things that we have to do a certain way because of MCL National bylaws but we will do what we can. If at any time you have questions please feel free to come to myself or any of the officers. The car wash last month was a winner made 100.00 but then it was 100.00 we didn't have. Wish all of you had been there for the ball game on Sunday the 21st was a real good game and everybody had a good time and I would like to thank Houston for his efforts. Don't forget it will be time for the Poker run to support t Haley House before we know it and Debra can use all the help she can get. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting on the 6th of September.

Dennis Antle
Commandant

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

Well we just got back from the National Convention in Boise Idaho. What a great place! We worked hard and played hard. We did vote on some changes in our Bylaws. First we have added to those eligible to join the Marine Corps League Auxiliary. We now accept as regular members, nieces, sister-in-laws and mother-in-laws. Also our National dues has increased by \$3.00 so now new membership will cost \$33.00/year and renewals will be \$28.00/year.

While I was gone the Auxiliary held a sewing get-together that was very productive. We will be holding other "sewing nights" and I will keep you informed. This Sunday some of the members of the League and Auxiliary will be attending a Tampa Bay Rays games. It looks to be a fun day. Thanks to Houston for putting it all together. GO RAYS!

We are always looking for new members so I am asking the League to get their wives to join us. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the VFW on Riverview Drive in Riverview.

I will be emailing our upcoming events to all of you so please check your email.

As usual if you have any questions please call me at 813-672-1778.

Semper Fi
Pat Skelding

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:

Bain, Jacob - January
Bell, Jeanne - September
Bennett, Kristine - February
Grant, John - July
Martin, David - September
Miller, Everette G - January
Ramos, George - September
Regretta, Leonard Jr - January
Sepeda, Jason - October
Sirvent, Eric - December
Strom, Frank - June
Young, Steven - February

August 2011 Membership Expirations:
Donica, Herb

If anyone keeps in contact with 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 so that we can determine the reason for non-renewal of memberships.

New Members: None.

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.



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. **We are here for YOU!!!!**

A note from your Jr. Vice Commandant.

First, I would like to thank all of you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as your JVC. As you are aware the primary responsibility of this position is recruiting and retention of members. However, this is not limited to one individual; it is the responsibility of each member. To encourage you we are offering a recruitment bonus. Any Detachment member signing up two (2) new members between now & the November membership meeting will gain free admission to our Annual Birthday event. Sign-up three (3) three new members & receive a Detachment red shirt.

Membership is great and your effort is appreciated but, that is only half of the game; the second half is retaining members. Over the past few months there has been a decline in attendance at our monthly membership meetings. As your JVC one of my responsibilities is to correct this problem but I cannot do it without your help.

If you have any complaint and/or suggestion on how to improve the Detachment please, do not hesitate to let one of your Officers know. Send me an Email to mclriverview@yahoo.com or contact any Officer by phone, email, or in person. Your input is taken very seriously and is strictly confidential.

In addition, we will also begin to institute the National's "Mentoring Program" which is designed to create a bond between old and new members so new members will feel more accepted into the mainstream of the detachment. You will hear more about this as time progresses.

S/F
Bernie

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

There are plenty of activities to get involved in. Please do not feel that you have to be in all of them but please try to participate when you can. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do.

*Contact Willie Little for visits to the VA Hospital to show our support for our fellow soldiers. **There is a Marine Sgt. Tomlinson who is currently in the SCI (Spinal Cord Injury) unit. It is located pretty far back and not connected to the main hospital. If you are free to go by and visit him it would be greatly appreciated. Marines share a strong bond whether we know each other personally or not. Let's show this Marine that we have not forgotten that bond.**

*Poker Run: We are looking for volunteers to start this committee for this year's event. This will be held in October or November this year. Keep an eye out for updates! We are currently awaiting word on whether or not the Legion Riders will be co-sponsoring again this year.

*Rose Fund: For information regarding the Rose Fund please contact Willie Little.

*Honor Guard: If you are interested in participating in the Honor Guard please contact Walt Raysick. Dates for upcoming events are located in the Minutes section of this Newsletter and/or the monthly calendar.



WE ARE IN NEED of donations to keep this going. We also need volunteers to help with this each Sunday. You can drop off any items during the sales on Sunday. Contact Jack or Dennis for further details. However, the yard sales have been suspended until after Labor Day.



Come out and join us on the last Saturday of every month from 1000 to 1400 hours. We look forward to your support whether it is washing cars with us or just bringing your car for a wash. Let's get washing!!!!!!

Visit our Website at www.mclriverview.org for more information on meetings and other activities and items of interests.

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	\$5	\$50
Quarter Page	\$8	\$80
Half Page	\$10	\$100
Full Page	\$15	\$150

*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).

Advertisers: Please remember those who support us and give them our support as well!!!



HALEY HOUSE FUND, Inc.

Dave Braun
Finance / Administration
Charter Board Member

Mobile: (813) 310-8513 Post Office Box 701
Email: Prowler143@aol.com Brandon, FL 33509-0701
davebraun@haleyhousefund.org • www.haleyhousefund.org

Support our Troops & Families

Jack Skelding
District 7 Vice Commandant
Department of Florida
Ph 813-672-1778 Cell 813-830-1138
E:mail jskelding@tampabay.rr.com



As you are aware this organization works hard to get Marines overseas care packages and letters. Please visit their website below for more information. We salute you Dianne.

www.supportourmarinesinc.org



YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

We have had several meetings with the potential volunteers for this program and are continuing to do little more research to get things in order to get this program off of the ground. We now have the required amount of Registered Adult Volunteers and are finalizing the meeting spot and unit paperwork. A special Thank You to those that are volunteering their time to this program.

Debra Steele
Sr. Vice Commandant



MILITARY NEWS

Libyan rebels claim victory south of Tripoli

By Hadeel Al-Shalchi - The Associated Press
Posted : Saturday Aug 27, 2011 7:43:30 ED

TRIPOLI — Libyan rebels claimed victory over a suburb near Tripoli's airport on Saturday after an overnight battle as the opposition moves to solidify its hold on the capital while fighting Moammar Gadhafi loyalists in other parts of the country.

Residents of Qasr bin Ghashir, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) south of the capital, celebrated by firing guns and anti-aircraft weapons into the air and beating portraits of the toppled leader with their shoes. Regime troops had been shelling the airport from the area.

“You can say that bin Ghashir has been liberated from Gadhafi soldiers,” said Omar al-Ghuzayl, a 45-year-old rebel field commander now in charge of forces at Tripoli's airport. “We've been able to push them completely outside Tripoli.”

The celebration reflected the rebels' optimism after days of fierce fighting in the capital, which now appears to be largely under rebel control.

Gadhafi's whereabouts remain unknown. NATO and rebel fighters are focusing on his hometown of Sirte, his last major bastion of support.

But while fighting has died down, much of the capital remained without electricity and water. Streets are strewn with torched cars and stinking garbage. Corpses crowd abandoned hospitals. Stores are closed. Bombed planes sit on the Tripoli's airport runway.

“We have a huge shortage of gas,” Tripoli resident Osama Shallouf said.

The shortages have made it difficult to bake the traditional pastries and buy new clothes to prepare for next week's Eid al-Fitr, the holiday that caps the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

“People will start celebrating when Gadhafi is caught,” he said. “That will be our Eid.”

Rebel leaders said Friday they'll establish a new interim government in the capital within 30 days, moving their headquarters from the eastern city of Benghazi, which fell into opposition hands early in the six-month civil war.

Mahmoud Jibril, the head of Libya's rebel National Transitional Council, said Friday the interim government needs about \$5 billion in frozen assets to pay state salaries and maintain essential services, including the army and police force.

A British official, who would only discuss the details on condition of anonymity, said Friday that his government hopes to release about 1 billion pounds worth (\$1.6 billion) of Libyan dinars printed in the U.K. to help the rebels. In March, Britain blocked the export of the bank notes, manufactured by a British currency printer.

The United States won approval on Thursday to release \$1.5 billion in frozen Libyan assets held in American banks. And U.N. diplomats are working on lifting a freeze on tens of billions of dollars for Libya.

The rebels' information minister, Mahmoud Shammam, has said some who worked in the Gadhafi regime but were sympathetic to the rebels will be welcome in the interim government, which could make the transition smoother.

"The only people we are going to exclude are the people who killed others and stole money," Shammam said.

Healing rifts won't be easy.

In the parking lot of an abandoned, bombed out fire station in Tripoli, Associated Press reporters saw rebels guarding four injured men they said were Gadhafi loyalists. Eventually, a rebel agreed to take as many wounded as he could fit in his pickup truck to a hospital, but was stopped repeatedly at checkpoints, where some kicked the prisoners, spat on them and tried to stop their transfer to the hospital.

Mohammed al-Egely, the rebels' justice minister, said he has visited detained Gadhafi fighters and that they were being treated according to international humanitarian law. He said the rebels are doing the best they can under the circumstances.

"We are in a state of war," he said. "Do you expect the fighters to bring them [prisoners] flowers? They are all fighting — and so there will be victims from each side."

International organizations have expressed concern about treatment of detainees on both sides.

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.

Photo of dog at SEAL's funeral grips U.S.

By Perry Beeman - The Des Moines Register
Posted : Friday Aug 26, 2011

DES MOINES, Iowa — A gripping photo of slain Navy SEAL Jon Tumilson's faithful Labrador retriever, Hawkeye, lying next to the Iowa native's flag-draped coffin last week has launched intense interest on the Internet and international media coverage. News photographers weren't allowed inside the Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock gym for last Friday's service, which was attended by more than 1,000 people, including some of Tumilson's fellow SEALs. But his cousin, Lisa Pembleton, couldn't resist recording the striking image of Hawkeye, appearing to guard his slain master.

Hawkeye led the family into the gym for the funeral before accompanying Tumilson's friend, the dog's new owner, to the stage during the service.

Pembleton could not be reached for comment. She released a statement to California-based Home Post, a blog about military life and families, that read: "I hadn't planned on taking any pictures other than with family. However, from my seat at the funeral, I felt compelled to take one photo to share with family members that couldn't make it or couldn't see what I could from the aisle."

Tumilson, 35, who joined the Navy after graduating from high school in 1995, was among 30 Americans killed Aug. 6 when enemy forces in Afghanistan shot down a Chinook helicopter.



News from the League

MCL collecting for family in base fire

July 11, 2011

HOPE HODGE, Jacksonville Daily News

Members of a local veterans organization are collecting donations for a Camp Lejeune Marine whose wife and infant daughter were killed in a house fire aboard the base Friday afternoon.

Tara L. Lampman, 22, and her daughter, 6-month-old Lexi Lampman, were both in their Butler Drive duplex unit in Midway Park around 2:30 p.m. Friday afternoon, when the fire started. Marine officials said more than 20 personnel from base fire and emergency response units were on the scene within minutes, but the mother and daughter had already suffered severe injuries when they arrived.

The infant was pronounced dead at Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital that day; the mother, listed in critical condition, was first treated at the Naval Hospital and then transported to N.C. Memorial Hospital at Chapel Hill, where she died just after 4 p.m. on Saturday, Marine officials said.

The husband and father, Marine Cpl. Christopher B. Lampman, assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 27, has reached out to members of the Onslow County Detachment of the Marine Corps League for assistance, MCL spokesman Jack Jackson said Monday.

Jackson said Lampman was an organization member and had been one of the league's committee heads since last summer.

"He came to us knowing that we'd be able to be that central support system for him," Jackson said. "He knows we take care of our own."

Jackson said Lampman's primary needs are new clothing and uniforms as well as funds to pay for funeral arrangements; the organization is asking for

monetary donations so that the Marine can select the correct items.

According to releases from Camp Lejeune, Atlantic Marine Corps Communities has already arranged temporary lodging for Lampman and will move him and the other family in the duplex into new homes this week.

The fire, which severely damaged the Lampmans' living room and left smoke damage throughout the rest of the home, is still under investigation. 2nd Lt. James Stenger, a spokesman for 2nd Marine Logistics Group, said no new information on the fire or its causes was available Monday.

Donations for Cpl. Lampman can be sent to Frank Cativiela, Marine Corps League, 104 Fairfield Drive, Richlands, NC 28574. For more information, email Jack Jackson at Mclonslowcounty@gmail.com.

VA Creates Women Veterans Call Center Major Outreach Effort Launched

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has embarked on a major initiative to reach out to women Veterans in order to solicit their input on ways to enhance the health care services VA provides to women Veterans. "We are taking a proactive approach to enhancing VA health care for women Veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We are seeking the input of women Veterans so that VA can continue to provide high quality health care to the growing numbers of women Veterans."

Representatives at VA's Health Resource Center (HRC) are placing calls to women Veterans nationwide, asking them to share their experiences with VA and suggest potential enhancements that will further VA's mission to provide the best care anywhere. Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the Veteran population. Of the 22.7 million living Veterans, more than 1.8 million are women. They comprise nearly 8 percent of the total Veteran population and 6 percent of all Veterans who use VA health care services. VA estimates by 2020 women Veterans will constitute 10 percent of

the Veteran population and 9.5 percent of VA patients. The HRC, which started placing calls on June 1, is contacting women Veterans who have enrolled, but have not begun using VA services. “Through this contact center, we are placing friendly, conversational calls to women Veterans,” said Patricia Hayes, chief consultant of the VA’s Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group. “We want these Veterans and their caregivers to talk candidly about why they are not using VA, whether they are aware of the gender-specific services we offer, and what additional services they would like to see VA offer.” The HRC representatives making the calls are also informing women Veterans about the services VA offers and quickly connecting them with appropriate departments if they are interested in trying VA health care. Veterans who have complaints about VA are connected to a patient advocate who helps resolve issues. VA has trained professionals in all aspects of women’s health, including general primary care, osteoporosis management, heart disease, mental health care, menopausal services and obesity-related issues, such as diabetes. Preventive screenings for breast and cervical cancer are also areas in which VA excels. Soon, all VA facilities will offer comprehensive primary care for women from a single provider. The Women Veterans Health Care program has made significant changes in the last few years to enhance the health care offered to eligible women Veterans. This progress includes:

- Adopting key policies to improve access and enhance services for women Veterans;
- Implementing comprehensive primary care for women Veterans;
- Conducting cutting-edge research on the effects of military service on women’s lives;
- Improving communication and outreach to women Veterans; and
- Providing mental health, homelessness and other services designed to meet the unique needs of women Veterans

For more information about VA programs and services for women Veterans, please visit:
www.va.gov/womenvet and
www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth.

Legislative Info.

I have gathered and summarized information regarding the recently ended State of FL Legislative session. There were several bill related to Veteran's submitted, in excess of 50, but only 6 that were passed and have or will become law.

For a full summary or text refer to the HB or SB number provided:

A Florida Veterans Hall of Fame will be established in the state Capital. Re: HB 0465

Gold Star Parents and Spouses of Vets KIA will be honored with free lifetime entrance to the 160 Florida State Parks. Re: HB 0095

Special recreational areas will be established in state forest for service disabled veterans to be able to hunt. Re: HB 0663

A person's status as a veteran may be displayed on a Florida driver license or ID card for a small fee and proof of the veteran's status with a DD214 military discharge document. Re: HB 1165

Allows active duty (incl. reserves) personnel that are deployed to receive a reduction of their FL property taxes for the time served in a combat area upon application and approval. SB 0592

Allows a voluntary contribution which goes to the DAV by anyone receiving or renewing their FL driver's license

Other Information:

--- The State House traditionally convenes in the spring of each year (usually April and May) for 60 days However next year in will convene in January to take up the topic of redistricting. Ideas, bills, and proposals will be received by your elected representatives as early as the fall. Contact your representative for exact details

--- Two very helpful web sites to research legislation and proposals and information are: myfloridahouse.gov and floridavets.org

--- If you are unsure who your elected representatives are (both State Senator and/or State Representative) you can contact your county Elections Supervisor for that information.

--- I will be attending the FL House public workshop this fall in Marion County and will pass along items of importance to the MCL Commandant.

Thank you for your interest in legislative issues and especially the Marine Corps League.

Dick Hauck, Communication and Legislative Officer

VA Reaches Out to Veterans to Explain Upcoming Changes to GI Bill Encourages Veterans to Visit VA Website to Learn More

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reaching out to inform Veterans of recent changes made by Congress to the Post 9/11 GI Bill that take effect in 2011.

General Allison Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits, said “The Post 9/11 GI Bill is incredibly important because it reduces the financial burdens of higher education so that Veterans have an opportunity to achieve their education goals. VA believes it is important for Veterans to be aware of changes to the GI Bill this year and learn more about how these changes may affect them.”

“It’s hard to believe how far we have all come with the Post-9/11 GI Bill the past two years,” stated General Hickey. “Today, more than 537,000 students have received over \$11.5 billion in GI Bill benefits to help them take charge of their future.”

Upcoming changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill effective August 1, 2011 include paying the actual net cost of all public in-state tuition and fees, rather than basing payments upon the highest in-state tuition and fee rates for every state; capping private and foreign

tuition at \$17,500 per academic year; and ending payments during certain school breaks, to preserve Veterans’ entitlement for future academic semesters. Also, certain students attending private schools in select states can now continue to receive benefits at the same rate payable during the previous academic year.

Beginning October 1, 2011, eligible individuals will be able to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for programs such as non-college degrees, on-the-job training, and correspondence courses, and they will be eligible to receive a portion of the national monthly housing allowance rate when enrolled only in distance learning courses.

VA is implementing the latest round of changes to the Post 9/11 GI Bill and has already begun processing fall 2011 enrollment certifications. Outreach by VA has helped to increase participation by colleges and universities in the Yellow Ribbon program, which helps students avoid out-of-pocket costs that may exceed the benefit. Today, more than 2,600 schools are participating in the Yellow Ribbon program. “VA is committed to ensuring Veterans have the information and tools they need to succeed,” General Hickey concluded.

Complete information on the Post-9/11 GI Bill is available at: www.gibill.va.gov. VA’s education information phone number is: 1-888-GIBILL-1. For ongoing benefit information, Veterans and Servicemembers can log into the VA eBenefits website: www.eBenefits.va.gov. To ask a question in a secure e-mail, use the “Ask a Question” tab at: <https://www.gibill2.va.gov/cgi-bin/vba.cfg/php/enduser/ask.php>.

Examinations Based on Exposure to Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp Lejeune

BACKGROUND Veterans who served at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, were potentially exposed to contaminants present in the base water supply prior to 1987. The chemical compounds involved have been associated by various scientific organizations with the possible development

of certain chronic diseases. However, many unanswered questions remain regarding the extent of base water contamination, the type and duration of exposure experienced by base personnel, and the likelihood that contaminant levels in the water supply were high enough to result in a particular disease. The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) issued Training Letter 11-03 on April 27, 2011, addressing processing disability claims based on exposure to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. This Fact Sheet is to notify compensation and pension (C&P) examiners of information that may be included in examination requests for Veterans with claims based on exposure to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.

EXAMINATION REQUESTS

1. Claims Based on Exposure Service connection for any disability claimed to have resulted from contaminated water exposure at Camp Lejeune requires sufficient medical evidence that the disability is related to that exposure. This medical evidence will generally come from a competent and qualified medical examiner who provides an opinion establishing a rational nexus or link between the claimed disability and the exposure. It is up to a competent medical authority, based on each Veteran's individual case, to determine whether it is at least as likely as not that the claimed disease or disability has resulted from the contaminant 2

2. Information Included with Examination Requests When examinations are requested, it should be kept in mind that these claims represent a unique situation for VA medical examiners. Examiners must determine, on a case-by-case basis whether a particular claimed condition is linked to contaminated water exposure. Therefore, when requesting examinations, regional offices will provide examiners with the documents listed below in order to assist examiners with their assessment and determination: Internet websites related to the issue of contaminated water at Camp Lejeune Diseases potentially associated with exposure to contaminants present in the Camp Lejeune water supply between 1957 and 1987 Websites describing potential health effects of exposure to chemical

contaminants present in the water supply of Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 Notice to Examiners Evaluating Claims Based on Service at Camp Lejeune.

3. Inadequate Examinations This information in the documents provided with the examination requests is intended to provide examiners with an adequate basis for providing a reasoned opinion. This opinion is a critical element for evaluating the claim. Therefore, if the examiner fails to provide a reasoned opinion and resorts to a statement such as "an opinion cannot be made without resort to mere speculation," the examination will be returned as inadequate.

4. Rescissions The Guidance in VBA Training Letter 11-03 supersedes the Camp Lejeune section of VBA Training Letter 10-03, Environmental Hazards in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Other Military Installations. As such, the information contained in the documents accompanying the examination requests replaces any prior documents or VBA Fast Letters received with examination requests for claims based on environmental exposures at Camp Lejeune.

5. References VBA Training Letter 11-03, Processing Disability Claims Based on Exposure to Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp Lejeune, April 27, 2011.

MARINE TIDBITS:

This month we will look to get back to basics.

Corps Values:

HONOR: I will bear true faith and allegiance ...; Accordingly, we will: Conduct ourselves in the highest ethical manner in all relationships with peers, superiors and subordinates; Be honest and truthful in our dealings with each other, and with those outside the Navy; Be willing to make honest recommendations and accept those of junior personnel; Encourage new ideas and deliver the bad news, even when it is unpopular; Abide by an uncompromising code of integrity, taking responsibility for our actions and keeping our word;

Fulfill or exceed our legal and ethical responsibilities in our public and personal lives twenty-four hours a day. Illegal or improper behavior or even the appearance of such behavior will not be tolerated. We are accountable for our professional and personal behavior. We will be mindful of the privilege to serve our fellow Americans.

COURAGE: I will support and defend...; Accordingly, we will have: courage to meet the demands of our profession and the mission when it is hazardous, demanding, or otherwise difficult; Make decisions in the best interest of the navy and the nation, without regard to personal consequences; Meet these challenges while adhering to a higher standard of personal conduct and decency; Be loyal to our nation, ensuring the resources entrusted to us are used in an honest, careful, and efficient way. Courage is the value that gives us the moral and mental strength to do what is right, even in the face of personal or professional adversity.

COMMITMENT: I will obey the orders ...; Accordingly, we will: Demand respect up and down the chain of command; Care for the safety, professional, personal and spiritual well-being of our people; Show respect toward all people without regard to race, religion, or gender; Treat each individual with human dignity; Be committed to positive change and constant improvement; Exhibit the highest degree of moral character, technical excellence, quality and competence in what we have been trained to do. The day-to-day duty of every Navy man and woman is to work together as a team to improve the quality of our work, our people and ourselves.

Initiatives from Monthly Meeting

Applications for Membership:

Rick DuBien

Members Sick or in Distress:

Ginger

Report of Standing Committees:

Toys for Tots: Ed Zawaleski reported he attended the meeting. The decision was to engage in media work. They are still working the details with the sporting events. Next meeting is 10 August. Walt Raysick brought up that Plant City wants to use the “Toys For Tots” theme for their annual Christmas parade in December.

Rose Fund: Willie Little reports several of the Publix stores contacted already had the Boy Scouts booked for the dates previously discussed. The new dates are now 20 August at Big Bend and 301 and 17 September at Boyette Road. Looking at Sam's Club as a new location. Willie anticipates conducting 7 more collections between now and next June. Willie presented a propose rose fund budget for the distribution of the donations; emphasis of scholarship donations is on local high schools and members children/grand children versus state support. A vote on the proposed budget will take place at the next meeting.

Poker Run: Debra Steele reported the Poker Run will take place 29 October. The Legion Riders will be actively involved. She will be sending out more letters to businesses

Birthday: Walt Raysick reported no changes. Date still is on for 12 November and the cost remains \$10.00 per head. Walt has a sign-up sheet and will be collecting the monies in the next couple of months. Bernie Kotrady offered up if a member brings in 2 new members between now and November, the \$10.00 cost is waived.

Honor Guard: Recent new members have expressed interest in participating. Next event is the “Run For The Fallen” 21 August at E.G. Simmons Park. No requirement for the 9/11 Steel Presentation on 9/9. The Honor Guard will participate in the POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony Friday 16 September at Veterans Park.

Young Marines: Debra Steele states she has applications in hand and is finalizing the insurance paperwork on a meeting place. The leaders are in place.

Picnic: John Bain reports waiting on Fred to return. Tentative dates are the first or second weekend in September

Report of Special Committees:

Conference Planning: Peter White has received a letter from State HQ stating the inspection of the facilities for the Fall 2012 Conference has passed and will be placed as an agenda item for membership vote at the Fall 2011 Conference.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Dave Blizzard addressed several of the issues that surfaced as a result of the membership survey. Dave addressed the officer seating arrangement that is in accordance with National and State directives, the attempt to build more spirit in the membership, and the development of a rotating member talk whereby one member each month will provide a 5-10 minute "We Are Marines" presentation discussing something pertaining to the Marine Corps; history presentation, personal experiences, stories, etc. Dave also reinforced the need for us to use our Naval jargon. Dave related a personal experience regarding the death of his Platoon Sergeant in Vietnam and the recent contact with his brother.

Walt Raysick presented a brochure for the Military Appreciation Concert to be held at the Tampa Convention Center on 21 August.

Good of the League: Debbie Steele discussed some of the results of the survey; comments/participants will remain anonymous. The new seating chart, Reports of the Officers being posted on the back table, meetings limited to one hour, preferred method of communication are a result of the survey.

Houston Tucker announced he had 20 lottery tickets for the Marine Corps Tankers Association scholarship fund.

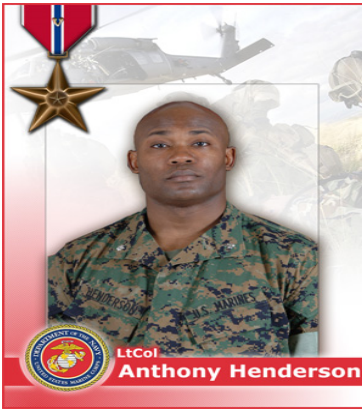
Several members of the Detachment were awarded the Distinguished Service Award.

Announcements: The next Detachment 1226 MCL meeting will be conducted 6 September.

Semper Fidelis! Example of Adapt, Improve, and Overcome.



HERO OF THE MONTH



For Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Henderson, it was a lifetime of service and professional development in the U.S. Marine Corps that prepared him to command 1,200 Marines in southern Afghanistan and engage in the most vicious combat fighting he had ever seen.

"Your preparations for those types of moments span your entire career," said Henderson. "At 18 years of education and training, it's what prepared me to listen and learn."

Just two months into his deployment in southern Helmand Province, Henderson, who was the Commander of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Division, was tasked to devise a combat plan to overrun a historic Taliban stronghold in the Gamshir area known as the Jugroom Fort. Jugroom Fort was a 19th century British fort, built out of mud, which spanned five kilometers and was surrounded by tunnels, machine-gun bunkers, minefield and IEDs. It was typically defended by 200-400 Taliban fighters at any given point in time.

"It was a very complex attack. We had forces moving by land and air - plus we were coordinating with the British forces," said Henderson.

The mission began on April 28, 2008, and for the next month, there were several sustained battles as the ISAF forces slowly closed in on the area. The major combat operation commenced on May 28, 2008. Henderson led his Battalion to the southern end of Fort Jugroom, while still keeping his eye on the overall battle plan.

As Henderson's Battalion approached the Fort, the enemy began firing on the rear echelon trucks, essentially closing them in between the Fort and enemy fire. Henderson decided to push his men into the interior area of the Fort to engage directly with the enemy.

"Marines had to physically get the Taliban out of the Fort and it was the most vicious fighting I had ever seen," reflected Henderson. "The enemy had defensive positions in and outside the Fort, and grenades and rocket fire were exchanged between 10, 20 and 30 meters."

"There were fighters and Marines all over the place. The enemy was around everyone and everyone was around the enemy."

At this point, Henderson's men and the other one thousand Marines fighting at Fort Jugroom had been awake for two whole days with temperatures reaching 110 degrees. With 3-4-foot wheat fields surrounding the Fort, Henderson knew that fighting into the night would be dangerous - from the threat of enemy attacks and the heat.

"I grew up on a farm and I knew that wheat fields collect extreme heat. I had to make a decision that would result in the least amount of casualties," reflected Henderson.

As the firefight subsided, the Marines retreated to nearby shelter. However, the next day, intelligence reports indicated that the enemy was packing up and heading toward the Pakistani border. It became a major victory for the ISAF forces and Henderson's Marines.

"We spent the next two weeks clearing the Fort and the surrounding villages where the Taliban had stocked weapons and ammunition," said Henderson.

"For them, Jugroom was the final defense and there was nothing left to defend."

Henderson's tour in Afghanistan lasted six more months after the battle for Jugroom Fort. Two years later, he is stationed with the Joint Chiefs Regional Operations Staff in Washington, D.C., and Henderson can only wish to be back in Afghanistan.

"It's humbling and fulfilling to lead Marines," reflected Henderson. "I have a constant yearning to be back there and amongst them."

MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

No Submission this month. If you would like to be the Member of the Month, please contact Debra Steele.



September 2011

Marine Corps League Detachment 1226
 One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831
 Riverview, Florida 33568

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	3 Legion Steak Shoot @ 1500 to 1700 hrs
4 Flea Market 0700 to 1200 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hrs	5 Legion Riders Mtg @ Legion 1830 hrs & Labor Day Food and Entertainment 1300 to 1700 hrs	6 League Mtg @ Legion @ 1930/ MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1930	7 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs	8	9 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	10 Legion Steak Shoot @ 1500 to 1700 hrs
11 Patriots Day @ 1205 @ Joe Chillura Courthouse Square, Tampa	12 Legion Mtg E-board 1730 hrs and general 1900 hrs	13 Legion Taco Tuesday 1600 to 1900 hrs.	14 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs	15	16 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs POW/MIA Day @ 1000 Veterans Memorial Park	17 Rose Fund at Publix on Boyette Legion Steak Shoot @ 1500 to 1700 hrs
18 Flea Market 0700 to 1200 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hrs	19	20 Legion Taco Tuesday 1600 to 1900 hrs.	21 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs	22	23 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	24 MCL Picnic @ Fred's house @ 1100 Legion Steak Shoot @ 1500 to 1700 hrs
25 Flea Market 0700 to 1200 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hrs	26	27 Legion Taco Tuesday 1600 to 1900 hrs.	28 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs	29	30 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	
<p>Look Ahead: October 6th – 9th – Fall Conference; October 15th - Field of Honor @ 1000. This day will be significant in that we will honor the 30 Special Warfare Operators killed in a CH-47 crash on Aug 6 in Afghanistan; October 29th– Haley House Poker Run; November 5th – Marine Corps Ball @ Hyatt; November 10th – Marine Corps Birthday; November 11th - Dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at 0900, Veterans Memorial Park; November 12th – Marine Corps Birthday Celebration</p>						