



Marine Corp League

Detachment 1226

Volume 25

March 2011

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

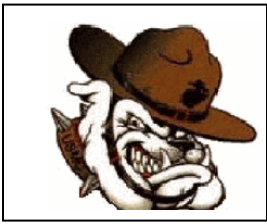
League Auxiliary

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:

As I approach the end of my first year as the Detachment Commandant I would like to thank all who have supported me during this tour. I feel that we have made several improvements over this period and this could not have been done without your support. We will elect the officers that will serve you for the coming year at the Detachments next meeting on Tuesday April 5, 2011. I am running for the office again this year and I hope that you will come out and support me. It is important that all members show up for this meeting so that your vote may be counted. I have appointed Peter White as the chairman of a committee to put together a proposal to be submitted to the Department at the June convention to host the Fall Conference in October of 2012. I think that we have a good chance of being selected. If we are It will require the support of all the Detachment and Auxiliary members to put on an event that we can be proud of. Debra Steele is working on planning for the next Poker Run and she is looking for volunteers, so if you are able and willing to help please get in contact with her. We will also be doing several Rose Sales over the next few months. Willie Little is the chairman for those events. If you are willing to help please contact Willie. Don't forget the carwash on the last Saturday of each month. If you are unable to work it then please support it by stopping by and having your car washed. We need the donation. I hope to see you all at the next meeting April 5, 2011.

Semper Fi

Dennis Antle
Commandant

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

What a great time at the recent SE Division Conference in Orlando, Fl.!

We had the distinct honor of having as special guests, National President M. Alice Blackford, National Sr. VP Gerri Tuohy, National JA Deborah Evans and Past SE Division VP Inda Adams.

We had some very informative workshops with interactions from those in attendance providing some great ideas and thoughts on how to better the Auxiliary.

At the end of this month, on the 31st thru the 3rd of April, we will again be in Orlando for the Dept. of Florida Spring Conference. If you haven't been to one, consider attending. You will have the opportunity to meet folks from all over the state, share ideas and in general have a good time.

Remember, on April 5th we will hold the second nominations and elections for the new officers for 2011/2012. Please plan on attending this important meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the VFW.

Mary Zolna, President



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 want to get you the information you are interested in. This also goes for any ideas you have regarding any issue that would benefit the League as a whole. We are here for YOU!!!!

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:
 Amos, Gregory - January
 Bain, Jacob - January
 Bro, Keith - January
 Campbell, Burtis - January
 Elliott, Robert N. Sr - January
 Hardin, Virginia - January
 Miller, Everette G - January
 Regretta, Leonard Jr - January
 Sherman, Ashley - December
 Sirvent, Eric - December
 Antle, Danny - November
 Antle, Jennifer - November

Bell, Jeanne - September
 Cox, Ronald - May
 Grant, John - July
 Larrow, Thomas - October
 Martin, David - September
 Ramos, George - September
 Sepeda, Jason - October
 Serra, Guillermo – September

February 2011 Membership Expirations:
 Bennett, Kristine
 Young, Steven

March 2011 Membership Expirations:
 Dunn, Roger

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: Joseph Pelletier, Nicole Hernandez, Albert Barnes, Robert Evans, Edwin Keller

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: We are looking for volunteers to start this committee for this year's event. Be on the look out for potential sponsors. This will be held in October or November this year. Keep an eye out for updates!

*Rose Fund: For information regarding the Rose Fund please contact Sr. Vice Commandant Willie Little. Dates for upcoming events are located in the Minutes section of this Newsletter. For more information 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. For more information contact Willie Little.

USF Golf Tournament

The Student Veterans Association is holding a golf tournament on April 9th to raise money for student veterans with extreme financial hardship.

Tell your friends and family. Great prizes and great food after the event! Register today!

For more information please contact Larry Braue, Ed.D, U.S. Army (Ret.)
 Director of Veterans Services
 University of South Florida
 Office: (813) 974-9935



Need donations to keep this going. We also need volunteers to help with this each Sunday. You can drop of any items during the sales on Sunday. Contact Jack or Dennis for further details. We need some volunteers to step up for the month of April!!



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. We had a great success last month so let's try to out do it in March!!!

Advertising:

We have lowered the prices for the sponsorship.

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).

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**

There are only around 15 units in Florida. Our area is in desperate need to get a program such as this going. I want our youth to have the opportunity to be a part of something bigger, something they can be proud of. We desperately need local volunteers to get this program off and running. If you are interested or know someone who is interested in assisting with this program, please contact me. I will be filing the appropriate paperwork to get started and have contacted the Regiment Commander who is going to

help us as well. I will be looking for Volunteers at the next meeting. Will you step up to the plate!! Let's get involved!!!

Debra Steele
Jr. Vice Commandant

MILITARY NEWS

WARNING TO VETERANS

Forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization (VAS) not affiliated with VA.

Websites with the name "www.vaservices" ARE NOT part of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, a US Government agency. Do not go to them and if approached or called, do not offer them any information concerning yourself or data on other veterans.

The real VA website ends in .gov. Also, be aware that the Department of Veterans Affairs does not randomly call veterans, nor does it ask veterans for information which it does not already have--like Social Security Numbers. In particular, if you have not dealt with the VA previously--and in person--and all of a sudden, you receive a call from someone saying they are with the VA or something similar sounding, hang up the phone. Also, do not respond to emails which suggest that they are from the VA. The VA never conducts official business nor asks for personal information by email. Mike]

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to:

Michael G. Daugherty
Staff Attorney
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel (022G2)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

April is Paralyzed Veterans of America's Awareness Month.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America is marking the 65th Anniversary of its founding in April by encouraging all Americans to take the time out of their busy schedules to honor and help empower our nation's veterans with disabilities. The PVA Florida Gulf Coast Chapter is leading awareness efforts here in the Tampa area.

With events and activities across the country and the theme Changing Lives, Building Futures, Awareness Month highlights the unique challenges facing veterans with spinal cord injury and disease.

Please consider helping us to increase awareness by supporting or participating in our Wheelchair Awareness Bowl- A-Thon on April 9 at the AMF University Bowling Lanes, located at 13109 N 56th Street in Tampa.

If you would like to join us, please complete the attached registration and return by April 1, 2011.

As always, thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Ben Ritter
Government Relations Director

Florida Gulf Coast Chapter
Paralyzed Veterans of America
15435 N. Florida Avenue
Tampa, FL 33613
Office: 813.264.1111

MARINE TIDBITS:

America's (The World's) 911 Force

The Marine Corps has earned this nickname by being the first forces called in a crisis. During the Cold War, Marines were called upon to protect our nation's interests on an average of once every 15 weeks. Since 1990, Marines have responded once every 5 weeks, an increase in tasking's by a factor of three.

Initiatives from Monthly Meeting

Roll Call of Officers: All present.

Members Present: 21 Guests _____

Applications for Membership:

Robert Evans, Regular member
Joseph Pelletier, Regular member
Edwin Keller Associate USN Retired

Correspondence:

We received a letter from East Bay HS about their scholarship.

We had voted to discontinue scholarship at the last meeting. A motion was made by Bernie Kotrady to reinstate the \$500.00 scholarship

A thank you letter from K-9s for Veterans thanking us for the \$250.00 donation that was approved at our last meeting was received.

A letter from the new Department scholarship chairman requesting information on the status of the tickets the detachment has been sent.

Members Sick or in Distress: Robert Evans father and Elise Amos a member of the auxiliary.

Report of Standing Committees:

Marine Corps Birthday: The JA reported that it will be held on Nov. 12th. There will be a \$10.00 per person cost. Still working on a caterer and guest speaker

Toys for Tots had no report.

Poker Run: Jr. Vice reported that it is still in the planning stages may partner with the Legion Riders again this year and the anyone who would like to help to please let her know.

Rose Fund: The Sr. Vice reported that there are 5 events scheduled. (3/26; 4/9; 4/16; 5/14; and 6/8).

Honor Guard: The JA advised of 4 events scheduled. 3/25 at the Hidden River MH Park; 5/21 Riverview Rec. Center; 5/29 Memorial Day at the Veterans Memorial Park and 5/30 at Dignity Cemetery.

Report of Special Committees: None

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Peter White and Willie Little were appointed to the scholarship committee.

Bernie Kotrady and Huston Tucker were appointed to audit the paymaster.

The members voted to approve the forming of a committee to submit a bid for a department conference or convention. Members and/or Officers appointed were Peter White, Walt Raysick, Bernie Kotrady, Tony Donofrio, Dave Blizzard, Edwin Keller, Jack Skelding and Dennis.

Walt Raysick was nominated to be submitted as the detachments nomination for the Department Marine of the Year.

Detachment approved holding Detachment social events. Huston Tucker is looking into attending a baseball game as a group.

Nomination for Officers:
Commandant Dennis Antle
Sr. Vice: Debra Steele
Jr. Vice Bernie Kotrady
JA Walt Raysick

Good of the League:

Life membership certificate was presented to Huston Tucker.

Announcements:

The JA advised that the Military Affairs Committee would be holding a reception at the Brandon Chamber of Commerce on March 10th. This event is for all who want to attend.

Visit our Website at

www.mclriverview.org and check out the new look and upgrades, thanks to one of our fellow member Bernie.

News from the League

June 20-26, 2011 Marine Week in St. Louis

Get involved in helping send an Active Duty Marine to the ballgame in St. Louis during Marine Week. The price of the ticket is \$30. Will you help to send a Marine to see the Cardinals take on the Phillies?? If so, please mail your check payable to the MCL Detachment #1226 and we will send a ticket in your name for a Marine to participate in this program or you can see any Officer at the monthly meeting and we will gladly help you. Your help in this program is appreciated.

PFC SAMUEL R. WALL DETACHMENT 1139 **PIG ROAST**

You are invited to a pig roast to support the Wounded Warriors of Florida. Price \$10 each. Will be held in Inverness on May 7th from 1300 to 1700 hrs. Call to request tickets and/or get more information. Roselyn (352) 726-0834. Hope to see you there!!

STAND DOWN GRANT

US Department of Labor announces ‘Stand Down’ grants to assist about 10,000 homeless veterans

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service today announced the availability of \$600,000 in “Stand Down” grants that will provide an estimated 10,000 homeless veterans with opportunities to reintegrate into society. The grants are being awarded under the department’s Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program.

“Stand Down events across the country will reach thousands of homeless veterans – including homeless female veterans – with opportunities to re-enter America’s workforce,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis, who is also chair of the Interagency Council on Homelessness. “Through these grants, the federal government will engage states and local communities as active partners in readying those who have served our nation for civilian jobs.” Stand Down is a military term referring to a brief respite from combat. Stand Down community events are held by local organizations that provide veterans with a wide range of social services such as food, clothing, shelter, housing and employment assistance. In 2010, more than 160 organizations across the country partnered with local businesses, government agencies, and community and faith-based service providers to hold 81 Stand Down events for homeless veterans and their families.

Stand Down grant funds must be used to enhance employment and training opportunities or to promote the self-sufficiency of homeless veterans through paid

work. Homeless individuals do not always have access to the basic supplies necessary to maintain their health and self-confidence. In addition, a lack of shelter and related resources often limits the ability of people who are homeless to prepare for job interviews, make a positive impression on prospective employers or be contacted for follow-up. Basic services such as showers, haircuts, attention to health concerns and other collaborative services provided at Stand Down events can improve participants’ chances of connecting with community-based service providers, and securing and maintaining employment.

Grantees operating within the Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program network will sponsor Stand Down events by coordinating their efforts with various local, state and federal service providers. Applications for Stand Down grants will be accepted from state workforce agencies, state and local workforce investment boards, veterans service organizations, local public agencies and nonprofit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations. For more information, contact Ken Fenner at Fenner.Kenneth@dol.gov or 202-693-4728.

DRESS BLUES TROUSERS –

The following findings have been ascertained in the quest for viable source(s) for Dress Blues Trousers (DBT); and in particular for MCL members requiring sizes exceeding a 44 inch waist:

Source for DBT in all sizes up to 44 Regular: (Prices approximately \$32.00 per pair) Navy and Marine Corps Uniform Support Center – Telephone Orders - Phone: 1-800-368-4088 (757-502-7450). To complete your order you will be given instructions on how to provide Marine/MCL identification.

Source for DBT in sizes exceeding 44 Regular: (Prices approximately \$90.00 per pair; or more per fabric required) - TBS (The Basic School) Uniform Shop, MCB, Quantico, VA – Phone: 703-432-6455/54 – Ask for special order clerk - At time of order the customer must provide sizes of: Waist; Seat (circumference of buttocks); overall body Height.

DBT will require hemming upon receipt; allow up to eight (8) weeks delivery.

Senate Declares March 30th as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"

Resolution Introduced by Senator Richard Burr

Washington D.C – The U.S. Senate yesterday declared March 30th as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day," agreeing unanimously to a resolution introduced by Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

On March 30, 1973, all U.S. troops withdrew from Vietnam under the terms of the Treaty of Paris. This March 30th, the Senate has encouraged Americans across the country to recognize Vietnam veterans for their sacrifice and demonstrate a warm welcome to these soldiers who returned from war to a politically divided country.

"I'm pleased that the Senate has agreed to set aside a day to give our Vietnam veterans a warm, long-overdue welcome home. I strongly encourage communities throughout North Carolina and across the country to observe this day with activities and events that honor these veterans for their service. It's time they receive the recognition they have earned and deserve. This day also provides our nation with an important teaching moment. Never again should our men and women serving in the armed forces receive the same treatment as those returning from Vietnam," said Senator Richard Burr.

Senator Burr introduced the resolution for the second consecutive year on February 16, 2011. For Senator Burr's remarks on the introduction of the resolution, [click here](#).

The United States became involved in Vietnam because policy-makers believed that if South Vietnam fell to a communist government, communism would spread throughout the rest of Southeast Asia. The US Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese in 1961, and in 1965, ground

combat troops were sent into Vietnam. On March 30, 1973, after many years of combat, all US troops withdrew. More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives and more than 300,000 were wounded in Vietnam.

Senators John Boozman (R-AR), Thad Cochran (R-MS), James Inhofe (R-OK), and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Mike Johanns (R-NE) co-sponsored the legislation. The resolution now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Dept. Commandant receives Carter Award



(left to right) Dept. of FL Comm Bill Backes, Past Comm Lane Parker of Hammonds, S.C., who is a past recipient of the award, and Cal Walters, the Assistant SE Division Commandant.

HERO OF THE MONTH



USMC Capt. Brian Chontosh

Those of you who might not know, the man on the left is the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and he is proud to know the man on the right. Maybe you'd like to hear about a real American, somebody who honored the uniform he wears.

At 29 Palms in California Brian Chontosh was presented with the Navy Cross, the second highest award for combat bravery the United States can bestow.

It was a year ago on the march into Baghdad. Brian Chontosh was a platoon leader rolling up Highway 1 in a humvee when all hell broke loose, Ambush city. The young Marines were being cut to ribbons by mortars, machine guns, and rocket propelled grenades. The kid out of Churchville was in charge. It was do or die and it was up to him so he moved to the side of his column, looking for a way to lead his men to safety. As he tried to poke a hole through the Iraqi line, his humvee came under direct enemy machine gun fire. It was fish in a barrel and the Marines were the fish and Brian Chontosh gave the order to attack.

He told his driver to floor the humvee directly at the machine gun emplacement that was firing at them and he had the guy on top with the 50 cal unload on them.

Within moments there were Iraqis slumped across their machine guns and Chontosh was still advancing, ordering his driver now to take the humvee directly into the Iraqi trench that was attacking his Marines.

Over into the battlement the humvee went and out the door Brian Chontosh bailed, carrying an M16, a Beretta and 228 years of Marine Corps pride. He ran along the trench, with its mortars and riflemen, machine guns and grenadiers and he killed them all.

He fought with the M16 until it was out of ammo. Then he fought with the Beretta until it was out of ammo. Then he picked up a dead man's AK4 and fought with that until it was out of ammo.

Then he picked up another dead man's AK47 and fought with that until it was out of ammo. At one point he even fired a discarded Iraqi RPG into an enemy cluster, sending attackers flying with its grenade explosion.

When he was done, Brian Chontosh had cleared 200 yards of entrenched Iraqis from his platoon's flank. He had killed more than 20 and wounded many more.

But that's probably not how he would tell it. He would probably merely say that his Marines were in trouble, and he got them out of trouble. Ooh-rah, and drive on.

"By his outstanding display of decisive leadership, unlimited courage in the face of heavy enemy fire, and utmost devotion to duty, 1st Lt. Chontosh reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

Excerpts taken from a story written by journalist and broadcaster Bob Lonsberry 2005

MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

We are going to start something new wherein each month we will tell a story of a member of our detachment. There is some great history to be told that you can not learn in any text book!!! Do not be surprised if I call on you for a future story. Thanks.

Our first story is from Ian McDonald.

I joined in 1959 at our Royal Marine depot in Kent England on 2nd December. This was the first time I had left my birth place in Edinburgh Scotland. To a young 19 year old this was a frightening experience “Bonnie Scotland” felt like it was on the other side of the world. However I was determined to pass out as a fully trained RM Commando (the abbreviation RM translates to Real Marine). I finally finished training in Sept 1960 a total of 35 weeks. On completion of training I was drafted to 45 Commando RM in Aden now called Yemen this was an active service draft as there was unrest in the Aden Protectorate. After a 12 months deployment I returned to UK to carry out further training .My next draft was to Singapore and Borneo for a 2 and a half year deployment also on active service because of unrest between Borneo and Indonesia. I then spent the rest of my time operating between Northern Ireland and arctic warfare training in Norway also working as a instructor to both Army and Royal Marine ranks. I was both parachute and naval diving instructor but not quite up to Navy Seal standard. I spent a total of 30 years service in The Royal Marines and have often been asked “would you do it all again” to which my reply has always been “Yes sir ! and I would not change a thing”

Once again very many thanks on behalf of Margaret and I for the warm and friendly hospitality that you Americans are so good at.

It is a privilege and honor to be an associate member of the USMC league Riverview detachment.



Plaque Presentation at the S.E. Division Conference

Walt Raysick, Judge Advocate; Jack Skelding Adjutant; Ian McDonald, British Royal Marine; Debra Steele, Jr. Vice Commandant and Willie Little Jr., Sr. Vice Commandant

History of the 45 Commando can be located at

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/royalmarines/units-and-deployments/3-commando-brigade/45-commando-royal-marines/history/index.htm>



April 2011

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Department Convention in Lake Buena Vista	2 Department Convention in Lake Buena Vista Dunedin * See below
3 Yard Sale Department Convention in Lake Buena Vista	4 Legion Riders Mtg at Post 148 1830 hours	5 League Mtg 1930 MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1930	6	7	8	9 USF Golf Veteran Fundraiser @1100 Rose Fund PVA Bowl-a-thon
10 Yard Sale	11 Legion Mtg	12	13	14	15	16 Rose Fund – Walmart Gibsonton
17 Yard Sale	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Yard Sale	25 Veterans Council Mtg @Brandon Regional Center 1800	26	27	28	29	30 Car Wash @ Legion 1000 hrs to 1400 hrs.
<p>Look Ahead: May 7th – Pig Roast in Inverness – 1300 to 1700 hrs See contents of Newsletter for upcoming Rose Fund and Honor Guard Events *April 2nd – Dunedin Military Tattoo at 1900 hrs/Dunedin High School Memorial Stadium. Tickets call Band Director : 469-4100</p>						