



Marine Corp League

Detachment 1226

Volume 27

May 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

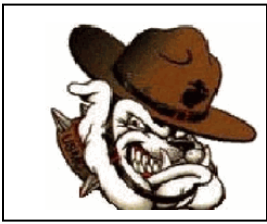
League Auxiliary

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:

As I begin my second tour as your Commandant I once again would like to thank all who supported and voted for me. I look forward to another busy year. We have a lot of irons in the fire. Our Honor Guard has a very busy month of May with all of the Memorial Day event that they have been asked to participate in. If any one is interested in joining this unit please contact Walt Raysick. We are hoping to get a Young Marine Unit up and running soon. Deb Steele is working very hard on this project but is lacking in volunteers to act as troop handlers. It will only require a few hours of your time on some Saturday mornings. If you are interested in working with the youth please contact Deb. We are also putting together a group trip in August to a Ray's baseball game. Let Houston Tucker know if you are interested. Plans for the annual poker run, Detachment picnic and MC Birthday celebration are still in the works and more information will be forthcoming when it is available. We would like to see a few more of you show up at our meetings and hope that you will become more involved in the Detachments activities. Once a Marine always a Marine.

Dennis Antle
Commandant

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

First of all I would like to thank our Jr. Past President Mary Zolna for her leadership the past two years. We are looking forward to a busy year.

There are many events coming up in this month and next. On May 29th there will be a ceremony at Veterans' Park at 11:00. Then at 1:00 there will be a service at Hillsborough Memorial Gardens in Brandon. On May 30th there will be a ceremony at Serenity Meadows, all to celebrate Memorial Day. I know that we can't be at all places but I would like us to show our support whenever we can.

On June 11th Walt Raysick will be holding a working party at the Veterans' Park to spruce up the Field of

Honor. I would like to see our Auxiliary participate in that. Give me a call at 813-672-1778 if you can help. We need to think about a donation to the Department of Florida's Scholarship fund. We will need to decide that before our Convention in June. The check will be presented at the convention in Ft. Lauderdale.

Your Officers have some fun things planned to make money for our Auxiliary. If you have any ideas for our Auxiliary please bring them up at our meeting or call me.

Hope to see you at our meetings.

Semper Fi
Pat Skelding



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:
Antle, Danny - November
Antle, Jennifer - November
Bell, Jeanne - September
Bennett, Kristine - February
Cox, Ronald - May
Bain, Jacob - January
Bro, Keith - January
Grant, John - July
Martin, David - September
Miller, Everette G - January
Ramos, George - September
Regretta, Leonard Jr - January
Sepeda, Jason - October
Sirvent, Eric - December
Young, Steven - February

April 2011 Membership Expirations:
Ashman, Robert
Norton, Larry

May 2011 Membership Expirations:
All paid to date - oorahh

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: Edward Zalenski III, Douglas Luccio, Andrea O'Neal

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:

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. Thank you.

*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. 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 any Detachment Officer or email us at mclriverview@yahoo.com.

*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.



Need 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. We need some volunteers to step up for the month of June! We need at least two people for each Sunday.



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. I want to thank you all that continue to come out and participate in this great event.

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 you support us and give them our support as well!!!

Let's hear it for our yearly Advertiser!!!



**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



YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

We have had our first meeting 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. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me.

Debra Steele
Sr. Vice Commandant



MILITARY NEWS

War crimes fugitive Mladic arrested in Serbia

Bosnian Serb military commander Gen. Ratko Mladic, center, smiles as he visits troops in June 1996 to mark the fourth anniversary of the founding of his Bosnian Serb army. Belgrade media reports on Thursday that Mladic, Europe's most-wanted war crimes fugitive, has been arrested in Serbia.

Summary of charges against Mladic

Under an indictment last amended in November 2009, the U.N. war crimes tribunal has filed these charges against former Bosnian Serb military chief Gen. Ratko Mladic:

- One count of genocide (in Srebrenica and elsewhere in Bosnia),
- One count of complicity in genocide,
- One count of persecutions on political, racial and religious grounds, extermination, murder, deportation, crimes against humanity;
- One count of murder, unlawfully inflicting terror upon civilians, cruel treatment, attacks on civilians, taking of hostages, violation of the laws or customs of war.

See full story at MarineCorpsTimes.com

Pentagon: U.S. reducing troop total in Pakistan

The Associated Press

Posted : Wednesday May 25, 2011 19:52:46 EDT

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is reducing the number of its military personnel in Pakistan at that country's request following the killing of Osama bin Laden, according to the Pentagon.

A Pentagon spokesman, Marine Col. David Lapan, said Wednesday that there are more than 200 U.S. military personnel in Pakistan, but he provided no details on how many had been withdrawn since Pakistan made its request.

"We were recently (within past two weeks) notified in writing that the government of Pakistan wished for the U.S. to reduce its footprint in Pakistan," Lapan said. "Accordingly, we have begun those reductions." Lapan later said the personnel who have been pulled out were troops who had been training Pakistani forces in counterinsurgency skills. He did not say whether Pakistan had set a specific new limit on the U.S. numbers.

The U.S. also has military personnel assigned to the Office of the Defense Representative-Pakistan, based in Islamabad. Lapan said the total exceeds 200, but he was not more specific. He said that it has fluctuated

between 200 and 300 over time, depending on the training program being executed.

News from the League

Info from US House of Representatives, Committee on Veteran's Affairs

Today, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has announced its jump into the world of new media to better communicate directly with America's veterans and their families.

We want to hear from you – those we proudly serve – from what is going on in your communities to how we can better serve you. Through Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, we will also keep our veterans, their families, and survivors updated on existing laws, pending legislation, and changes to legislation the veterans' community needs to know. Our mission is to serve and represent, and the Committee hopes through new media we are able to do so more on a more personal level.

How can you help? Follow us on Twitter; Like us on Facebook; and watch our latest videos on YouTube. Thank you for your continued support, and above all, your service to our nation. We are honored to serve you.

Very Respectfully,

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

VA Processing Hundreds of Applications for New Family Caregiver Benefits in First Week

WASHINGTON – In the first week for open applications, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has assisted more than 625 Veterans, Servicemembers and their Family Caregivers in applying for new services under the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act 2010. “We are off to a good start having helped hundreds to apply, but we know there are thousands more who will qualify and need to apply today,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “I encourage

eligible Veterans and their Family Caregivers to apply now to receive the benefits they have earned.”

New services for primary Family Caregivers of eligible post-9/11 Veterans include a stipend, mental health services, and access to health care insurance, if they are not already entitled to care or services under a health plan. The stipend portion of this service will be backdated to the date of the application.

Comprehensive Caregiver training and medical support are other key components of this program. VA began processing applications for eligible post-9/11 Veterans and Servicemembers to designate a Primary Family Caregiver on May 9, 2011. On top of receiving the 625 plus applications, Caregiver Support Coordinators have also assisted nearly 1,200 other Caregivers in finding more than two dozen other Caregiver benefits VA provides.

Applications can be processed by telephone through the Caregiver Support Line at (855) 260-3274, in person at a VA medical Center with a Caregiver Support Coordinator, by mail or online at www.caregiver.va.gov with the new Caregiver Application (VA Form 1010-CG). The website application also features a chat option that provides the Family Caregiver with a live representative to assist in completing the application form.

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

MARINE TIDBITS:

Heartbreak Ridge --Heartbreak Ridge was the site of the last major U.N. offensive of the Korean War. The North Koreans knew Heartbreak Ridge as Height 1211 and considered it the most difficult battle of the war. By winning Heartbreak Ridge, U.N. troops secured a portion of the 38th parallel that defined the final demarcation line when the armistice was signed in 1953.

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

Initiatives from Monthly Meeting

Roll Call of Officers: All present

Members Present: 17 Guests 1

Prior to the start of the regular meeting Past Commandant John Bain installed Dave Blizzard as the Detachments Chaplain

Applications for Membership:

Thomas Reichard

Correspondence:

We received a Thank you card from Eagle Scout Nathaniel Pedigo thanking the Detachment for his Good Citizen Award.

Members Sick or in Distress:

Debra Steele's grandmother passed away
Charlie Cox is suffering with shingles.

Report of Standing Committees:

Toys for Tots: John Bain reported Rob will be in charge of this years toy ride and that the Nam Knights are taking the lead on this project. He also reported there will be a new OIC of the I & I staff at the reserve center.

Rose Fund: Willie Little reported on two successful events and said there will be one in Sept., Oct., and Nov.

Poker Run: Deb Steele reported that she is still working on forming a committee with the Legion Riders. She also asked that any riders in the Detachment please give her a hand.

Birthday: Walt Raysick advised nothing new. He will keep us informed as we get closer the event.

Honor Guard: Walt Raysick updated the Detachment on upcoming event that will take place over the Memorial Day Weekend. It will be busy.

Young Marines: Debra Steele is still trying to find volunteers to act as troop handlers so we can get this project underway.

Picnic: John Bain advised that the Detachment will be held early in September at Fred's house. More details will be made available as we get closer to the event.

Report of Special Committees:

Conference Planning: Jack Skelding reported that the Hotel had made a proposal and that he and Peter White have scheduled another meeting to go back with a counter proposal.

Group Ball Game: Houston Tucker said tickets are available for \$35.00 each. Must have a minimum of 20 people. Dates avail are August 7th or 21st. We will vote on which date we prefer at the June meeting

Unfinished Business: We needed to make a decision on a storage locker for flags, ect. to be put in the store room at the Legion. Walt Raysick found one at Lowes. Same will be purchased.

New Business:

The Commandant advised the membership that the Officers had approved a donation of \$250.00 to a Marine who was on leave in Tampa and was robbed.

A motion was made and seconded to donate \$200.00 to the Legion & Legion Riders to support their pig roast. All the profit from this event will be donated to the Hillsborough County Vietnam Veteran's Memorial construction project. Motion approved.

A motion was made and seconded to split rose fun donations with the auxiliary based on their participation. (If 10 people work and 2 are auxiliary members they will get 25% of the collection, 10 divided by 2 equals 25%)

Good of the League:

Ron Lussier spoke of the significance of the dance stick and tomahawk that he wanted to raffle off and expressed his disappointment at the lack of interest. The items are no longer avail for the raffle.

Announcements:

Houston Tucker spoke about the Florida chapter of the 3rd Marine Division. He said that membership in the chapter is \$10.00 a year. He will be bring applications to the June meeting.



2011-2012 MCLA Officers

From Left to Right
 President- Pat Skelding
 Sr Vice- Cheryl Bain
 JA- Kamela Ryan
 Jr Vice- Shanda Antle
 Chaplain- Barb Wolons
 Guard- Mary Ann Raysick



2011 – 2012 Marine Corps League Officers

From Left to Right:
 Pay Master Rob Becker;
 Jr. Vice Commandant Bernie Kotrady
 Sr. Vice Commandant Debra Steele
 Judge Advocate Walt Raysick
 Commandant Dennis Antle
 Adjutant Jack Skelding
 Sgt At Arms George McMaster

HERO OF THE MONTH

All veterans of any branch are the heroes of the month. As we celebrate Memorial Day, let us remember its meaning. I have taken excerpts of various parts of history for our remembrance.



General John Logan

In 1865, [Henry C. Welles](#), a druggist in the village of Waterloo, NY, mentioned at a social gathering that honor should be shown to the patriotic dead of the Civil War by decorating their graves.

In the Spring of 1866, he again mentioned this subject to [General John B. Murray](#), Seneca County Clerk. General Murray embraced the idea and a committee was formulated to plan a day devoted to honoring the dead.

Townpeople adopted the idea wholeheartedly. Wreaths, crosses and bouquets were made for each veteran's grave. The village was decorated with flags at half mast and draped with evergreen boughs and mourning black streamers.

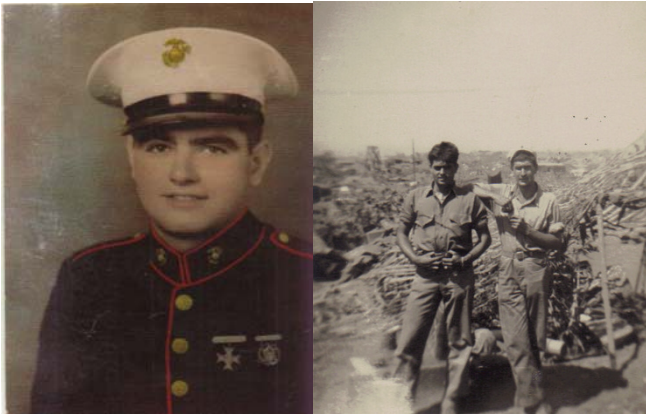
On May 5, 1866, civic societies joined the procession to the three existing cemeteries and were led by veterans marching to martial music. At each cemetery there were impressive and lengthy services including speeches by General Murray and a local clergyman. The ceremonies were repeated on May 5, 1867. The first official recognition of Memorial Day as such was issued by [General John A. Logan](#), first commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. This

was [General Order No. 11](#) establishing "Decoration Day" as it was then known. The date of the order was May 5, 1868, exactly two years after Waterloo's first observance. That year Waterloo joined other communities in the nation by having their ceremony on May 30.

In 1965, a committee of community leaders started plans for the Centennial Celebration of Memorial Day. The committee consisted of VFW Commander James McCann, chairman, American Legion Commander Oliver J. McFall and Mayor Marion DeCicca, co-chairman, along with Village Trustees, M. Lewis Somerville, Roscoe Bartran, Richard Schreck, Tony DiPronio, and VFW Vice-Commander, Kenneth Matoon. Their goals were: "to obtain national recognition of the fact that Waterloo is the birthplace of Memorial Day through Congressional action" and "to plan and execute a proper celebration for such centennial observance." In May of 1966, just in time for the Centennial, Waterloo was recognized as the "Birthplace of Memorial Day" by the United States Government. This recognition was long in coming and involved hours of painstaking research to prove the claim. While other communities may claim earlier observances of honoring the Civil War dead, none can claim to have been so well planned and complete, nor can they claim the continuity of observances that Waterloo can.

The Centennial Celebration that year brought dignitaries from government, military, veteran's organizations and descendants of the original founders of Memorial Day. A once luxurious home on Waterloo's Main Street, built in 1850, was purchased from the county and restored. Now the Memorial Day Museum, it houses artifacts of the first Memorial Day and the Civil War era. Memorial Day is commemorated each year in Waterloo. The parade, speeches, and solemn observances keep the meaning of Memorial Day as it was originally intended to be.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH:



SINK OR SWIM

Written By: Anthony "Tony" Donofrio

I arrived at San Diego Boot Camp on November 10, 1943. Soon after that elements of the 2nd Mar. Div. landed on Tarawa. Due to the large number of marines that drowned, the Marine Corps ordered all marines in boot camp to be qualified at swimming. The Marines that did not qualify were sent to a composite platoon for 10 days to qualify after graduation which is where I ended up. However, after the instructor tried to drown me twice. I qualified. I then received orders to Camp Pendleton with the K Bat. 4th Bn, 13th Marines 5 Mar. Div. It was not long before we were back in the pool. This time jumping from a 15 ft. tower pretending the pool was covered with oil, swim the length of the pool under water splashing the oil away as we came up for air. I MADE IT.

On September 4, 1944 we shipped out of San Diego for Camp Tarawa on the big Island of Hawaii. After three months of intense training and landings from LST's in ducks, the Sgt and four from each gun crew left for Hilo to board the LST 807. The ducks were manned by U.S. Army 471st Amphibian Truck Co. The rest of our gun crew was boarded onto an APA 211.

On January 15, 1945 our convoy left Hawaii for Eniwetok arriving on February 5th, then on February 7th to Siapan to allow the infantry to board the amphibian trackers on the LSTs. From there to

Two arriving on the 19th to sounds of Navy gunfire. This is when you begin to recognize every second. 3:00 a.m. Real steak and eggs were served; 9 a.m. we watched the first wave head for the beach and then 2 p.m. I boarded our duck. We left the ship for a long slow trip to the beach. When we reached the beach the beach-master waved us in.

When the front wheels hit the soft lava the duck could not get any traction to get out of the water and by now we were starting to draw fire. The beach master told us to back out till he could get a cat to bring us in. As we circled in the water a shell landed very close and just then a large wave hit the duck and started to flip over. Unfortunately I was sitting on the rail and was thrown into the ocean. It looked as if the gun and duck were coming over on me and my first thought was "Oh God not this way". Just then the wave broke and the duck pulled away from me. It was Sink or Swim and I swam to the beach. The sun was setting and we got into position and were ready to fire the next morning. At first light all hell broke loose. It is something I will always remember.

On March 16, 1945 it was announced the Island was secured and on the 27th we boarded transports and left for Hilo and Camp Tarawa. The war had ended. On August 22nd we left Hawaii for Japan.



I also was able to help oversee the dismantling of the Kamikaze suicide boats at Nagasaki. I left Japan on April 18, 1946 and was discharged on May 17, 1946.



June 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	3	4
5 Yard Sale	6 Legion Riders Mtg at Post 148 1830 hrs	7 League Mtg 1930 / MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1930	8 Rose Fund event	9	10	11 Field of Honor
12 Yard Sale	13 Legion Mtg	14	15	16 Dept Convention Ft. Lauderdale	17 Dept Convention Ft. Lauderdale	18 Dept Convention Ft. Lauderdale
19 Yard Sale Dept Convention Ft. Lauderdale	20	21 K9 for Veterans Casino Night	22	23	24	25 Car Wash @ Legion 1000 hrs/ Korean War Remembrance @ Vet's Park
26 Yard Sale	27 Veterans Council Mtg @ Brandon Regional Center 1800	28	29	30		
	Look Ahead: October – Poker Run and Convention November 5 th – Marine Corps Ball @ Hyatt November 12 th – Marine Corps Birthday					