

# Leatherneck News

## Upcoming Events

- 8-11 April 2010—Central Division Conference, Westlake Oh. Contact Commandant for details.
- 8 April 2010—Marine Family Support Group Meeting, 7 PM Jasper American Legion
- 15 April 2010—Regular Meeting of the Detachment , 7 PM. Jasper American Legion
- 17 April 2010—"Nite for Marines", Jasper VFW Post 673, 7 PM
- 15 May 2010—6th Annual Armed Forces Day Run/Walk 8 AM Registration, 9 AM Shotgun Start
- 28 May 2010—Memorial Services at the Cemetery
- 29 May 2010—Memorial Services on the Square in Jasper
- 11 June 2010—County-wide flag Disposal Ceremony, 4 H Fairgrounds
- 18-20 June 2010—Department of Indiana State Convention, Hosted by HI Bearss Detachment, Indianapolis
- 8-14 August 2010—MCL National Convention, Greensboro, NC. Go to WWW.MCL2010.ORG for more info.
- 21 August 2010—3rd Annual Fallen Heroes Bass Tournament

## Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

### Appeals Court Hands Down Unjust Decision to Father of Fallen Marine

York County resident Albert Snyder got a bill for \$16,500 on Friday - the latest result of his on-going legal battle with the Westboro Baptist Church.

Church members are seeking to recoup costs from federal appeals court, which dismissed Snyder's lawsuit against them. Snyder's lawyer, Sean Summers, said the court declared last week that Snyder was responsible for the costs.

Such mandated reimbursements are common after appellate court cases, Summers said.

When the U.S. Supreme Court hears Snyder's case in the fall, its decision will ultimately make a big difference as to whether or not Snyder can eventually recoup that money, Summers said. In the meantime, it's one more unpleasant reminder of the group that sabotaged his son's funeral with a hate-filled protest.

"It's rubbing salt in an open wound," Summers said.

The Topeka, Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church, led by the Rev. Fred Phelps, preaches an anti-homosexual message. Members maintain that combat deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan are God's retribution for America's tolerance of gay men and lesbian women.

Church members have promoted that agenda with a series of intentionally provocative demonstrations outside funerals of servicemen and women who were killed in combat, during which they chant and hold signs bearing messages such as "Thank God For Dead Soldiers."

Church members staged such a protest outside the funeral for Snyder's son, Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder, in Westminster, Md.

Snyder's son was killed in Iraq in 2006 when his Humvee overturned.

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### Armed Forces Day 5K Run—Your Help is Needed!

By the time the next newsletter is published, the deadline for sponsors to get their name on the back of our shirts will have passed. All hands are encouraged to get out this month and encourage corporate and individual sponsorship for the run. Sponsorship letters, which explain what the funds are used for and what each level of sponsorship entails are available at [www.sildmarines.com/5krun.htm](http://www.sildmarines.com/5krun.htm).

If you have checks, cash, or prize donations from sponsors, get them in as soon as possible. Waiting until the last minute greatly increases the chance of errors or omissions. All donations from sponsors who want to be on the shirt must be received no later than 29 April.

Your help is also needed to sign up runners and walkers. Entry forms are already posted at several

locations in the county, are available online, and have and will be provided at meetings of the Detachment and Marine Family Support Group.

The April Regular Meeting of the Detachment is the last regular meeting prior to the run this year. Anyone wanting to help out during the run is highly encouraged to attend to learn about openings and responsibilities. Although none of the volunteer positions for the run are excessively difficult, everything must be coordinated to ensure success.

This year's run is on May 15th with registration at 8 AM and race start at 9 AM. Many volunteers are needed at 7 AM to assist in setting up canvas, tables, and other essentials.

This year's 5K Coordinator is Adjutant Dennis Englert.

## Commandant's Corner

If you're not as incensed as I am by the recent court ruling against Marine Dad, Albert Snyder, you must not have a pulse! In what I can only term as an unbelievable trampling of justice, the 8th Court of Appeals has defied the will of the American people and any sense of decency or morality. Please take the time to make your feelings known on this subject.

In March we said our final farewells to two Marines, Iwo Jima survivor William "Bill" Haskins and Vietnam veteran Theodore "Ted" Friedrich. It was an honor to spend time with both of their families and to share their stories and memories. The pride that they felt in "their Marine" was obvious in their conversations and in the displays in the funeral homes. Both Marines were given a fitting and respectful service. Bill, by the I & I, Terre Haute, and Ted, by the American Legion, Paoli.

We were also saddened by the losses of family by members Steve Wagner and Rex and Eva Anderson. Our hearts and prayers to them and their families.

I am glad to report that communications and cooperation among the Detachments within the Department of Indiana is at its highest point since I've been in the League. I've included an invitation by the David M. Shoup Detachment to join them on a bus trip to the East Coast and hope some of you can take advantage of it.

I'm also going to climb the flight of stairs to the soapbox again and urge all members to get busy obtaining sponsors and participants for the annual 5K Run/Walk. The run provides us with much needed funds for the many things we do. A little bit of your time now is needed to make it a success.

Let's help make our Junior Vice Commandant's job a little easier. First, recruit a new member. Second, send him a quick email or call him if you plan on attending the Nite for Marines. As a certain maker of shoes says: "Just do it"

Thanks to all members who turned out to support those in need. It's good to have friends when the chips are down.

## Junior Vice Commandant's Roll Call

Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> found most all of our 5K run committee members in Ireland, IN to help with their run committee by timing their IRISH TROT 5K run held during the week-long celebration of their renewed St. Patrick's Day Shamrock celebration.

This outing gave our Detachment members an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the new timing system recently purchased for our own 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Armed Forces Day run upcoming on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The system setup with the software networking did the job to near perfection and the results were quite acceptable. No major problems were encountered during the process and the very small glitches were quickly overcome and correctible.

It was a valuable learning process for all concerned and should certainly be of benefit to us for our own future events.

The Detachment received a nice donation from the Ireland event committee members, for our participation, and we would like to thank them very much and wish them much success in their future celebration days.

The following day (Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup>) found us back in Ireland once again for the very first parade of the season. The Detachment's color guard had the honor of leading the parade, and was accompanied by a small group of Marine Family Support members walking and tossing the traditional candy treats to the parade viewers and bystanders.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Unjust Decision (Contd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Snyder sued the protesters, and a Baltimore jury awarded him \$5 million in damages for invasion of privacy and emotional distress. But the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned that decision on First Amendment grounds in September 2009.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

Philadelphia lawyer Howard Bashman, an expert in appellate law, said that the loser in appellate court cases typically compensates the winner for court costs. Those costs tend to be higher when the plaintiffs win, because they must supply a complete copy of the original court case.

The winners may decide not to go after that compensation,

frequently because the legal costs involved in pursuing the funds would be more than the money they could recoup, Bashman said. Further information can be found at the family's website at:

<http://www.matthewsnyder.org/index.html>

Detachment members are urged to contact their elected representatives and express your opinions about this outrageous decision, which overturned the wishes of the jury and a second judge, as well as the common morality and desires of the American public. Freedom of Speech cannot be used as a defense for causing grievous injury to a person, regardless of the circumstances.

Monetary donations may also be made to the legal fund of Albert Snyder at the above website.

## David M. Shoup Detachment #547 Sponsoring DC Trip

Editor's Note: The following information was provided by Arthur Smith, Commandant of 547:

"We have planned a trip to Washington DC for singles and/or couples. We will be leaving on 17th of June, and returning on the 20th.

The cost of the trip is between \$450.00 and \$500.00 per person. This includes round trip on the bus, three nights at hotel, dinner Friday and Saturday night.

We plan to visit all the monuments around Washington to include the Vietnam Wall and the Arlington National Cemetery. Later we will be bused to the Navy Yard and have dinner at a well known Italian Restaurant. After dinner it will be a short walk to Marine Barracks to see the Evening Parade at 8th & I.

Saturday we plan to spend the whole day at the new National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico. Dinner will then follow and a return to the hotel. Then on Sunday morning we will return home.

The bus will leave Lafayette between 6:00-6:30 AM on the 17th. Anyone living south of Lafayette, (Indy and south), we will make a stop in Indy, and if needed in Richmond since the bus will be traveling on US 70.

There is a \$200.00 deposit which is a non-refundable, unless the person or persons sell his/her seat to some other person. The \$200.00 is required not later than the 15th of April, and the remainder prior to June 1st. "

Contact Art Smith at 765-563-3231 or artpatsmi@aol.com for more information and reservations.

The Executive Director of the Marine Corps League, Mike Blum, added the following:

While you are in the area, we would like to invite you and your guests to visit the Marine Corps League's new SEMPER FI STORE, located just off the Washington Beltway at the Virginia Rt. 50 Exit.

Our store hours are 9:00 to 5:00. I am sure your members would enjoy shopping for uniform items as well as Marine Corps related merchandise and gifts. Please let us know if we should expect a visit so we can be sure to have enough help to support the group.

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## Marine Family Support Group by Cindy Hembree

Our deepest sympathy's go out to Rex and Eva Anderson and Sandy Wiseman whose beloved mother passed away!! May God bless your family during this time!

The Marine Family Support Group had a great time doing care packages for our troops!!! We will plan another care package get together at our next meeting!! The support group, along with the Marine Corps League had a good time at the Ireland parade. For the cloudy and cool day the parade had quite a few spectators along the route.

Hope everyone had a great Easter!!

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## Guy Louis Gabaldon—A Marine Corps Legend

In the 1940's, Guy Louis Gabaldon was a young man from East LA, who left his real family at age 12 to live with his friends family, who were Japanese Americans. Being raised by Japanese, Gabaldon spoke the language and knew the customs, as he entered the Marine Corps after Pearl Harbor in 1941.

As Gabaldon was shipping out to boot camp, FDR was sending his Japanese family to a concentration camp in the South West (New Mexico).

During one of his battles (Saipan), Gabaldon snuck out at night, and as he spoke the language, he talked 50 Japanese soldiers to surrender.

Upon bringing them back to camp, his immediate officer in charge put him up for a courts martial, for going out without orders. Gabaldon ignored the officers warning, and continued to bring in prisoners on his own, night-after-night.

His overall commanding officer found out about Gabaldon's efforts, and permitted him to continue asking for the Japanese to surrender, as the battle came to a close. His courts martial charges were dropped.

On the last few days of this horrific battle, Gabaldon walked into Marine lines with 1,500 prisoners and civilians (verified by 5 officers). He became known in the Corps as " The Pied Piper of Saipan."

Gabaldon was up for the Medal of Honor, but it was reduced to a Silver Star, by the same officer who tried to put him up on charges. Even though the battle was in it's final days, Gabaldon was wounded off Saipan, and future commendations were forgotten about or lost until 1960.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Junior Vice Commandant's Roll Call (Cont'd)

### MEMBERSHIP

As of our last regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday evening March 18<sup>th</sup>, two newly accepted associate members brought our membership roll total to 87 members.

Joining our ranks were Mr. Donald J. Loepker, Birdseye, IN, and Mr. Thomas R. Schmidt of Jasper. Don has been long associated with the banking industry in and about Dubois County for a great many years, and Tom is a local business owner of Schmidt Contracting Inc.

Our Marine brothers and sisters, as well as all associate members and Family Support Group members would like to welcome these two gentlemen into our Detachment and look forward to many years of continued friendship and fellowship with both.

As mentioned our numbers are now 87 members total, including (33 paid life members, 29 paid regular members, and 25 paid associate members.)

As always, I would urge all members to fulfill your commit-

ment to the Marine Corps League and specifically to the Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment, by signing new members. Growth is essential, lest we become stagnant and begin to regress rather than progress.

### NITE for MARINES

The deadline is rapidly approaching for notifying me if you plan to attend the NITE for MARINES on Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Jasper VFW. Nothing special is being planned other than a general session of laughter and fellowship among those attending, and presently those are very few at this time.

Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>, will be the deadline for notification, and unfortunately if no more than those few who have indicated they are planning to attend, I may be forced for the most part to contact the club manager and basically cancel, as I see little sense in the Detachment footing the

cost of additional waitress help if not needed. We have been offered the private side room at no cost regardless but it too may not be necessary.

The band for the evening will be Terry Lee and the Rock'a'Boogie band. Terry is originally from England, and the band members are quite talented, and play a huge mix of 50's, 60's, and 70's selections. Terry himself donned in his red tuxedo style getup plays a fantastic keyboard, and sings almost everything under the sun. Also gets a little bit wound up at times much like Jerry Lee Lewis did with his familiar antics.

Hope to see more members and friends attending rather than having to declare the event dead for lack of interest.

### RADIO INTERVIEWS

Detachment public affairs officer Steve Lindauer has made arrangements for radio

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"Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>, will be the deadline for notification. (Nite for Marines)"



**SILD on the Road**—Chaplain John Wagner (left) enjoys the Detroit Auto Show with Associate Member David Saul (right) and David's son, Mark.

"The Marine Corps, is so small, we don't have room for heroes, but we have legends. "

## Guy Louis Gabaldon—A Marine Corps Legend (Contd)

*(Continued from page 3)*

In 1959, an officer who served with Gabaldon ran into him on a fishing trip. This officer upon returning to his home made calls and looked for Gabaldon's military record from Saipan - through Marine Corps records. Upon finding the details, it was also noted that Gabaldon was awarded The Navy

Cross, which he had never received.

In 1960, Guy Louis Gabaldon was honored with The Navy Cross for his efforts in the Battle of Saipan. Although he was reluctant to return to a Marine base to receive it, he did show up for the award ceremony.

It was noted that Gabaldon had captured 10 Times the number of enemy troops

that Sergeant York had captured

In the ceremony, The Commandant of the Marine Corps said; " Our great Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard ranks are full of genuine heroes. The Marine Corps, is so small, we don't have room for heroes, but we have legends.

Today, you are meeting one of them....Guy Louis Gabaldon."

## Junior Vice Commandant's Roll Call (Cont'd)

interviews at three local area radio stations all on Tuesday April 6<sup>th</sup>. Two of the sessions will be taped for later release play at a date yet to be announced.

The first interview will be in Washington IN, with **WWBL "the bullet"** at 8:30 A.M. followed by a live broadcast at **WBDC** in Huntingburg at 11:00 A.M., and finally a 2:00 P.M. taped interview in Jasper at **WITZ**.

Primary topics of discussion will be the next major undertaking which will of course be the Armed Forces Day 5K run, as well as familiarizing the general public as to who we are, and what we do in and around the various communities within the local

counties and southern Indiana area in which our members reside.

Please listen in to one or more of the local stations for further information regarding air times.

### SPRING IS SPRUNG

I trust most everyone is pleased that warmer weather has arrived, not that the winter season had been exceptionally harsh, but for some reason it seemed awfully long this past year. It's nice to be able to get out and work in the yard, enjoy the warmer days, and just be able to shed the cumbersome winter clothing.

A new parade season is upon us and we as usual expect to have a full plate of

activities on the agenda once again. So, members it's up to you to individually to make a concerted effort to participate in some of the Detachment's scheduled events, and enjoy the camaraderie with your fellow Marines and associate members.

Let's make the public aware of our presence by showing up in large numbers as a group, and let everyone know how we support the local community functions.

HAVE A GREAT SPRING,  
SUMMER, AND FALL SEASON  
THIS YEAR.

Semper Fi,,,  
Ed Herzog JVC



5th Marine Division

*Family reunions must have certainly been interesting around the Haskins house. . .*



The Iwo Jima Monument

## Last Known Iwo Jima Marine of Daviess County Passes

William "Bill" Homer Haskins, 86, of Washington, died Sunday, March 28, at Select Specialty Hospital in Evansville. Born on Aug. 1, 1923, Mr. Haskins served in the Marines during World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart. He was Daviess County's final surviving Iwo Jima veteran.

He was a founding member of the Golden Notes gospel quartet and sang with the quartet for five decades, including the group's appearance on the nationally televised "Ted Mack Show" in the late 1950s and the quartet's weekly Sunday radio show. He was a lifetime member of the American Legion,

and Disabled American Veterans and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He retired from Naval Weapons Support Division Crane in 1985. Bill was graduated from Plainville High School in 1943.

Bill is the father of Charter Member Marine David "Hak" Haskins and has one grandson still serving in the Corps as a CH-46 mechanic in Miramar and one grandson recently discharged.

According to his brother, Jack, Mr. Haskins was on the third wave of the amphibious assault on Iwo Jima. Seriously wounded in the legs, Bill was evacuated to the beach by two

corpsmen, who carried his stretcher across the black sands through fire. Bill later found out that neither of his rescuers survived the assault.

Both brother Jack and son Hak noted that Bill was never very talkative about his time on Iwo Jima, but that in the last weeks of his life, he commented that he thought about it quite a bit.

Family reunions must have certainly been interesting around the Haskins house. Bill Haskins was the only Marine among the seven brothers, but not the only serviceman. Among his brothers, there was a soldier, a sailor, and an Airman! Imagine the confluence of sibling and interservice rivalry!

Apply

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Detachment #931*

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Marine Corps League  
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## Health Care Bill Impact on Tricare/VA reprinted from MOAA newsletter

Health care reform legislation passed last week explicitly states TRICARE For Life, Medicare, and most aspects of VA health care are considered "qualifying coverage". This guarantees that beneficiaries of these programs won't be subject to penalties for having insufficient insurance coverage.

However, the legislation inadvertently omitted explicit mention of TRICARE and certain categories of VA health care coverage.

As soon as these omissions were identified, multiple legislators rushed to introduce legislation to make the explicit changes. As you can imagine, there was some competition among several legislators to make the case that they were the ones watching out for the troops.

In the end, the House passed corrective language to protect TRICARE introduced by Armed Services Committee Chair Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO), and the Senate passed a bill to protect all facets of VA health care introduced by Veterans Affairs Committee Chair Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI).

Both bills passed their respective chambers by a unanimous vote.

Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA) was hoping to win Senate approval of the TRICARE-specific bill before the start of the recess, but there wasn't time to finish the administrative work. We fully expect the Senate will pass the technical correction as soon as it returns in mid-April. Similarly, we fully expect the House to pass the bill protecting the inadvertently omitted VA beneficiaries.

Do we think there was any real threat of military beneficiaries actually being assessed financial penalties designed for people who elect not to get health coverage? Not really. Everyone in the Administration and every senator and representative of both parties supports making sure that doesn't happen.

That said, these bills will help provide military and VA beneficiaries important peace of mind.

### Detachment Officers:

#### Commandant:

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#### Senior Vice Commandant:

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#### Chaplain

John Wagner 812-683-4997

#### Jr. Vice Commandant /Membership

Ed Herzog 812-695-3115

#### Paymaster and Web Sergeant

Tina Moriarty 812-695-5061

#### Adjutant

Dennis Englert 812-482-2987

#### Judge Advocate

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#### Historian

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