

# Leatherneck News

## Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

### Upcoming Events

- 1 August 2009—Second Annual Fallen Heroes Bass Tournament. Patoka Lake
- 2 August 2009—Strassenfest Parade. 1 PM
- 2-8 August 2009—MCL National Convention, Rochester, MN
- 8 August 2009—Care Package packout. Jasper American Legion 1 PM
- 13 August 2009 – Marine Family Support Group meets at the Jasper American Legion 7 PM
- 20 August 2009—Ball Committee meeting, 6 PM Jasper American Legion
- 20 August 2009—Regular Meeting of the Detachment. Jasper American Legion, 7 PM.
- 21-27 August 2009– American Legion National Convention, Louisville, KY
- 12-13 September 2009—Segment One Training for Detachment Officers, Indianapolis.
- 20 September 2009—Holland Parade; 2 PM
- 27 September 2009—Herbstfest, Huntingburg; 1 PM
- 2-3 October 2009—Annual Rose Fund Drive
- 11 October 2009—18th District Volunteer Firefighters Parade, Haysville.

### It's Time To Fish!

Preparations continue for the Second Annual Fallen Heroes Memorial Bass Tournament. This tournament was formerly known as the Fallen Soldier's Tournament, but was re-named to include those that put their lives on the line for us.

Conducted by Got to Love it Bass Tournaments, our tournament features cash prizes for the first 14 places, the largest bass, male/female team, Adult/Youth team, and an extra bonus for a Skeeter Boat operator. Bill Embry, a former Marine of Vietnam vintage, is the organizer of the event. This year's tournament, like last years, is set for 125 teams competing for the prize money.

Starting at 5:00 AM, teams will check in to have their live wells check prior to launch. At this time, boaters will be presented with a SILD cap in appreciation for their participation. At 6:45, the first wave of boats will be sent off. Weigh will begin in the early afternoon, accompanied by a raffle and auction of donated items.

Got to Love it Bass Tournaments will provide coffee and donuts in the morning, and hot dogs and drinks in the afternoon. Detachment members are responsible for contacting sponsors and obtaining items for the raffle and auction. All items should be turned in to Senior Vice Commandant Moriarty for inventory purposes.

### Pike County Independence Day Festivities

Otwell, Indiana once again hosted the Pike County Independence Day Parade, complete with Color Guard, marching band and the required fire trucks. In an unusual turn of weather events, the day was uncharacteristically cool, with the threat of rain imminent.

This year, the Detachment and the Marine Family Support Group joined forces once again, fielding the Color Guard and walkers. The parade vehicle, emblazoned with a giant Eagle, Globe and Anchor was provided by Chaplain John Wagner.

Gray skies, temperatures in the 60's, and an increasing wind from the east prompted parade organizers to push up the start time. Within minutes of being asked, the Color Guard lined up and off we went! A brisk, yet comfortable pace brought the Color Guard to the reviewing stand where they were joined by the Sons of the Revolution Color Guard and the Pike County Central High School Band. A superbly executed National Anthem with the High School Flag Guard saluting was fitting.

After the presentation of a trophy, the Color Guard once again took to the street and quickly finished the 3/4 mile route. All in all, it was a wonderful, well attended parade and for the first time, our shoes didn't melt to the road surface!



4 July 2009—Joined by the Sons of the American Revolution, The SILD Color Guard Presents Colors for the playing of the National Anthem

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## Commandant's Corner

Many thanks to those of you able to make it to the 4th of July Parade. Also a big thank you to the Chad Mehringer family for hosting the post parade get together afterwards. Once again, I believe that we have accomplished our mission of promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps!

I'm also grateful for the efforts of our Junior Vice Commandant Ed Herzog for helping to grow our Detachment. It's a job that requires all of our support. As he mentions in his article, there are a few members who have gotten behind on their dues. They are in danger of losing their membership. A small number may have decided not to renew their membership for a variety of reasons. Its up to us to show them why being a member is so important! Starting in September, I will post the names of "lost" members in the newsletter and encourage contact with them.

As your Commandant, I've had the privilege of representing you at various events. July is a busy time of year for the Commandant due to the annual cycle of National, with the new year beginning on July 1st. I've enclosed my annual report to the Department, which will be included in his report to National. I believe that anyone reading the last year's accom-

plishments and activities would think our Detachment is much larger than it actually is. Well Done!

I've recently taken on the job of Department Junior Vice Commandant and it is a revealing job. One of the opportunities it allows me is the ability to look at all of the Detachments within the state and get a good idea of what's working and what's not. Overall, I can say with confidence that we are doing quite well, with some opportunities to improve. We've been staying roughly in a "steady state" with new members coming in to replace those that we've lost. A bit of growth is needed. Remember, if you bring in one member, and all other members do the same, we'd double in size! Finding just one member isn't too much is it?

Thanks to the efforts of Department Commandant Russ Eaglin, the Departments first Training Conference will be held 12-13 September at Indianapolis. This first event is designed to provide instruction to the Commandants, Senior and Junior Vice Commandants of each Detachment. A later training session is planned for Paymasters and Adjutants.

Keep our Marines in your thoughts! Semper Fi.

## Membership Chairman's Roll Call by Jr. Vice Commandant Ed Herzog

While this column did not appear in either of the June or July editions, we none-the-less have attained new members within the Detachment whom I would like to acknowledge at this time.

During the month of June, Marines Timothy J. Bailey, and Derek A. Edrington, of Huntingburg, joined the Detachment as regular members. Both are currently serving in the Marine Corps on active duty and were sponsored by our Chaplain John Wagner.

At the July 16th, regular meeting we accepted Mr. Roger Junkin, also from Huntingburg into our organization as an associate member. Roger had served 8 years in the U.S. Air Force, and has been active with his church group doing similar types of community service projects such as our own 'Care Package Program' for the troops serving abroad in the designated war zones. Having spoken with Roger by phone on several occasions I realized that he could be a huge asset to our cause and by combining and sharing the experiences we could all benefit from his membership. I have sponsored Roger into the MCL and he had been referred to me by another of our associate members, Mike Hadley.

So to all three of our newest members we say "Welcome Aboard" and we are looking forward to a long association with each, even though we may not be seeing too much of the two current active duty members in the near future.

It was an extremely busy regular meeting night, which followed immediately after the 'ball committee meeting.' Two of our members attending had recently undergone surgical procedures and it was great to have them both back within our midst.

Joe Bruggenschmidt underwent knee replacement surgery, AGAIN, (let's hope they got it right this time Joe, the 3rd time is the charm), and David Saull (associate member) returned after undergoing heart surgery, at St. Vincent's hospital in Indianapolis, both are doing quite well. So glad to have both of you back again.

Recent life member signee Steve Wagner was presented with his permanent 'life membership' card and lapel pin and was appointed to fill the vacancy of Detachment Quartermaster.

And first time meeting attendee from Laguna Hills, California, via the desert sands of New Mexico where he wintered this past season, was none other than a long displaced Jasper, Indiana native, Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Joe Reuber. I had the honor of sponsoring Joe as a 'life member' just this past November, and he is home for a visit during the summer months for the purpose of attending a biannual family reunion.

Several members have known Joe from years past, and

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## Commandant's Annual Report

The following annual report was submitted on 15 July and covers the time frame of 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

Sir Commandant,

The Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment continues to fulfill its charter mission of promoting the ideals of the Marine Corps and assisting Marines and families of Marines. Some highlights are:

**Parades-** During this time frame the Detachment has **lead** five parades, providing the parade Color Guard, a parade vehicle emblazoned with USMC, Toys for Tots, and Detachment identification. The Detachment has had the honor of being joined by the Marine Family Support Group in these parades.

**Care Packages** – The Detachment, along with the Marine Family Support Group, held care package drives and packouts, most recently in conjunction with our local Big Lots store. Packages have been sent out to members of the Marine Corps *and* all other known service members from the area.

**Funeral and Memorial Services** – This year has been the most difficult for the Detachment, with the loss of several of our members. The Detachment conducted the Ceremony for the Deceased for member and non-member Marines upon their passing. For the first time, the Detachment was able to field the entire firing detail and honor squad during the funeral for Marine Flavius Rhodes, an Iwo Jima veteran.

Certainly an ideal promotion for the Corps is the annual Birthday Ball. The Detachment was proud to have Col. Donald Ballard, Medal of Honor recipient, as its honored guest for its birthday ball celebration.

The Detachment has remained committed to the Toys for Tots program, having conducted a drive during each of its 13 years of existence. Our TFT program supports a 7 county area.

A healthy alternative as a fund-raising event, the Detachment's Armed Forces Day 5K Run/Walk also provides an advertising venue for us. This was our fifth anniversary run!

Another fund-raiser which has generated public awareness is our annual Fallen Heroes Memorial Bass Tournament. The Detachment is busily preparing for its second tournament.

The Detachment started a new tradition this year with the introduction of the "Nite for Marines". This is an informal dinner and entertainment night for members and prospective members. Meals are

provided at a discounted rate for members.

Also new this year is the introduction of the "Employer Recognition Program", which is used to recognize employers of members who go beyond the call of duty to support their employees who are members. Two nominations are in the processing stage at this time for public recognition.

A new website and Domain Name was also launched during this time period at [WWW.SILDMARINES.COM](http://WWW.SILDMARINES.COM). This website greatly expanded the amount of storage space and capabilities.

The Detachment is well known and recognized for its professional appearance and performance. As an active participant in the Dubois County Veterans Council, we are called upon frequently for conducting honors and ceremonial support. Most notably, we provide the Colors detail for the county's Memorial Day Services, as well as ceremonial support during the annual Flag Disposal Ceremony, Veterans Day observance, and many non-recurring events. The Detachment's Memorial Day services at the cemetery to place flags on our veterans' graves, though not a public ceremony, has become an event on display.

This Detachment, though small and scattered over a large geographic area, performs activities at the level of many much larger organizations. It is with great pride that I submit this report, without regrets of deeds undone.

Semper Fidelis  
Dave Englert  
Commandant



4 July 2009—"A brisk yet comfortable pace?" Brandee Mehringer double-times to reload her candy bucket from the truck. Following closely behind are Marine Family Support Group members.

Apply

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*Southern Indiana Leatherneck  
Detachment #931*

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Southern Indiana Leathernecks  
Marine Corps League  
P.O. Box 184

**Once a Marine, Always a Marine**

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WWW.SILDMARINES.COM

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Please deliver to:

## Roll Call (Contd)

*(Continued from page 2)*

it was nice to have him back in the area during the time frame of one of our regular meetings.

Immediately following the business portion of the meeting everyone enjoyed pizza, as a result of the Detachment attaining and surpassing it's recruitment goals for the first six-month recruiting period of 2009. We have signed 10 new members during this period and have started the next segment with 1 new member.

Although we are not exactly setting the world on fire with our numbers, we are at least not experiencing severe losses of members during this critical time with our sagging economy. We do have several members who are in arrears with their dues, and will be receiving reminders, post haste. This is an area of distinct concern since we must find the means of retaining each and every member.

Another area of concern, is the fact that only three of our members, were responsible for the recruitment of new members during the first six-months of the year. I'm hoping to see several others become more involved with the recruitment process in the very near future.

If time limits anyone's contact with a potential member, please, get in touch with me with as much information as you can gather, name, address, phone number etc. and I will gladly make the contact. If I sign the new member I will credit you with the referral points.

My home phone number is (812) 695-3115 E-mail: [smprfi@psci.net](mailto:smprfi@psci.net)

Let's make an all out effort to increase our membership rolls between now and the end of this calendar year.

Ed Herzog Jr Vice Copmmandant (Membership Chrm)

### Detachment Officers:

#### Commandant:

Dave Englert 812-357-2792

#### Senior Vice Commandant:

Patrick Moriarty 812-695-5061

#### 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

Chad Mehringer

#### Public Affairs Officer

Steve Lindauer 812-634-9685

#### Sgt. at Arms

Allen Fritz 812-683-2192

#### Historian

Pat O'Keefe

#### Quartermaster

Steve Wagner