

# Leatherneck News

## Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

### Upcoming Events

- 13 December— 7 PM Marine Family Support Group Meets, Jasper American Legion
- 15 December—Toys for Tots drop boxes are pulled from all locations.
- 20 December—Regular Meeting, Jasper American Legion, 7 PM

### First Marine Corps League Birthday Ball a Huge Success

Months of planning by the Birthday Ball Committee paid off on 10 November as the Detachment celebrated with it's first formal Marine Corps Birthday Ball. A superb job by the decorating committee, an awesome meal by the catering service, with a complete ceremony and dancing afterward made the night memorable. For many of the guests, this was their

first Birthday Ball, complete with all the trimmings. During cocktail hour they were able to stroll through an impromptu Marine Corps museum, consisting of uniform articles, photos, and a multitude of military gear brought in by members to display. With each item, there was a story. "This is where I was when.....; I picked this up.....; here's what I looked like then." Great informative stories allowing members to know their fellow Marines just a little better.

Cocktail hour was followed by the official ceremony which consisted of an honor guard, color guard, and cake escorts. MSgt Dennis Englert (Ret), as the Adjutant started the ceremony with "Adjutants Call", which is used to signal participants to listen up and be ready for further commands. With "Attention" sounded, Semper Fidelis was played to accompany the march on of the Honor Guard, through which

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9 November 2007—Ball Committee members (L-R) Cathy Fromme, Betty Dee, and Dennis Englert give the ballroom a "camo" motif.

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### Detachment Member Named Dubois County Living Veteran of the Year

With only a few hours to go before the Marine Corps League Birthday Ball, members turned out to help the county recognize a fellow Marine and veteran who has earned the respect of all. In a 2 PM ceremony held by the Huntingburg VFW Post, Marine Joe Bruggenschmidt was honored as the 2007 Dubois County Living Veteran. Joe was only the second Marine in the county's history to be recognized with such an award, the first being Alvin Vaal, who

was named the 2007 Dubois County Deceased Veteran. Joe is well known for his dedication as a State Representative and State Senator for a total of 16 years. Joe is also present at almost every Detachment event, volunteering much of his time to help where needed. As in past years, Joe is a steady presence in the Toys for Tots campaign, serving as a role model for all to emulate. Thank you for your service, Joe!

## Commandant's Corner

As many of you are aware, the amount of time available to me to work Detachment affairs has decreased dramatically since I've taken on a new fulltime job. Unfortunately, this can cause delays in some actions, such as the monthly newsletter. My apologies to all. To make up for this month's late newsletter, I've included a bonus page this month with some extra pictures. I'd like to thank those of you who have volunteered so much of your time to help with Toys for Tots. For some folks, like Pat and Allen Fritz this is a labor of love, doing work they feel is important. Without them, it is unlikely that our TFT campaign would be nearly as successful as it is. Needless to say, it does take quite a few "worker bees" to make everything happen

when it needs to.

Though it's not even Christmas yet, we're already fielding questions about the 4th Annual 5K Run which will be held on May 17th. Entry forms are ready to print and will be posted on the web shortly. Within only a few short weeks we'll start our search for sponsors and signing runners up. I'll be looking for a few good volunteers to be on the 5K Committee. For now, though, it's that time of year when we pray for peace, gather with our families and celebrate the holidays. To our Marines and service members, whether deployed or in garrison, we wish a happy and joyous Christmas and New years. Please be safe..

## First Ball (Cont'd)

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the Guest of Honor Major Randall Hoffman and the Detachment Commandant Captain Dave Englert (Ret) passed through. Proper honors were paid to the colors and the 2007 National Junior Vice Commandants Pennant was fixed to the Detachment Staff.



10 November 2007—A well thought out arrangement and attention to detail turned the Jasper Inn Convention Center into a Grand Marine Corps Ballroom.

The Guest of Honor, Major Randall Hoffman, Inspector and Instructor Kilo Company gave a highly motivating speech discussing the history, present state and future of the Marine Corps. In a traditional cake cutting ceremony, the first piece of cake was given to the Guest of Honor, the second to the oldest Marine present, Korean War Marine Joe Bruggenschmidt, who then passed it to the



10 November 2007—A sampling of the items on display.

youngest Marine, Operation Freedom Marine Jason Blemper. Although more than six decades separate these two Marines, the similarities between them was a point of interest. Both were combat veterans. Both had served in the First Marine Division. Both celebrate September birthdays. As Jason and Joe shared stories with each other, they found other similarities in their experiences.

As the ceremony concluded, ball guests were treated to a menu of Prime Rib and Chicken Cordon Bleu. Liberal applications of fine wines and spirits made the meal even more enjoyable and kept things interesting during the music and dance afterwards.

Much praise was paid to the Ball Committee, deservedly, for the wonderful night they put together. Before the evening was concluded, discussions regarding the venue, setup, and conduct of the 2008 Marine Corps League Birthday Ball to celebrate the 233rd birthday was under way.

## Chronic Marine Syndrome (CMS) by Martin V. Habecker III USMC RET

In response to the person who talked about Marine Disease; I've discovered another condition; it's called Chronic Marine Syndrome (CMS). This condition affects men and women of all ages. Symptoms to look for are:

1. Pride in oneself and the organization they represent.
2. A strong willingness to put in extra attention to detail to get the job done.
3. May wear articles of Marine clothing; T-shirts, jackets, watches, well into their 80's.
4. Will not hesitate to stand up or put their hand over their heart, or even salute when the National Anthem is played.
5. Does not succumb easily to political correctness.
6. Is sure of who they are.
7. Is often either respected or hated by others, due to their abilities and talents.
8. May donate toys to needy kids at Christmas.
9. Some have been known to wear their hair in a high and tight well into their 90's.
10. Will look you in the eye when talking to you.
11. Will give you a firm handshake.
12. Knows what honor, courage and commitment mean.
13. Can usually be found in some type of leadership position in whatever organization they work for.
14. Will often regard their drill instructors with the same respect as their parents.
15. Often found in either law enforcement or various professions.
16. Is extremely thorough at what they do.
17. Does not wear a bunch of patches to adorn their uniform. Their title of Marine is often sufficient.
18. Often arrives at work earlier than expected. If they wear a shirt and tie in their job, you might see the tie clip between the third and fourth button centered.
19. Had spent time training at one of two places; Parris Island or San Diego.

20. May be able to field strip their rifle, up to 60 years after leaving active duty.

21. Can recite the nomenclature of the M1, M14 or M16.

22. May often have his pencils sharpened to a perfect precision point.

23. Will not back down from a fight.

Other symptoms include willingness to take on a challenge and maintaining a positive attitude in the face of adversity. Yes, CMS is real, and very hard to treat. The person with this condition often utters phrases such as Once a Marine always a Marine, or OooooRah. Some may even say Semper Fi on many occasions. It is best if you know someone with this condition to just leave them be. These people tend to be fiercely loyal to their Marine Corps.

Folks, this condition, although not curable can be treated. Some successful treatments have included;

1. Frequent visits to the base where the last served or looking at their Marine memorabilia.

2. Get them around other Marines to help them flourish.

They need other Marines who have shared the same ex-

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### Detachment DVD Available

First made available at this year's ball, a video DVD containing over 1,000 photos with background music, was donated for use by the Ball Committee to raise funds for this year's ball and to provide startup funds for the 2008 Ball.

This presentation covers detachment events and ceremonies held from May 2006 through October 2007 and is dedicated to past and present day Marines.

DVDs are available by contacting Dave Englert at (812) 630-2099 or email [englertd@psci.net](mailto:englertd@psci.net). Suggested donation for the DVD is \$20 to cover costs and provide startup funds for the 2008 Marine Corps League Ball.

# More Ball Photos



Allen Fritz demonstrates how stressful shipboard life is.



The Fallen Comrade Table



Marine Family Support Group members proudly display pictures of "their" Marines!



Yes, an ambulance was needed. Why do you ask?

Guests enjoying themselves!

Apply  
Postage  
Here

*Southern Indiana Leatherneck  
Detachment #931*

Southern Indiana Leathernecks  
Marine Corps League  
P.O. Box 184  
Jasper, Indiana 47547-0184  
Phone: 812-357-2792

Email: marines@psci.net

**Once a Marine, Always a Marine**

Please deliver to:

**WWW.FULLNET.COM/  
U/JARHEAD**

**The Marine Corps Ball—A Primer (Part III—The Meal and afterwards)**

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periences.

3. Have them get memberships in organizations such as the Marine Corps League, The Marine Corps Association, Together We Served or have them join Leatherneck.com.

4. Some may require extra special attention such as buying items from grunt.com or watching movies about the Marine Corps, this is only natural and nothing to be afraid of.

Whatever you do, remember that Chronic Marine Syndrome must be managed carefully. For example: In Michigan, a young man attempted to mug a Marine Korean War veteran who had advanced stages of chronic Marine Syndrome. It wasn't

pretty! The mugger was severely beaten and required multiple stitches.

Remember folks, Chronic Marine Syndrome is real, while there may not be a cure, we can live with it. Any questions, please see your local Marine. or go to 1-800-IMA-Marine for more information. Thank you for your time. Warning: Risks of Chronic Marine Syndrome may include a severe ass whoppin' to those who attempt to start a fight with fellow Marines.

Remember not everyone gets this condition; onset often occurs after being given the title Marine, since a select few earn this title, not everyone will develop CMS.

**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**  
Chad Mehringer  
**Paymaster**  
Tina Moriarty 812-695-5061

**Adjutant**  
Dennis Englert 812-482-2987

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Jeramey Osborne 812-295-6005

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Steve Lindauer 812-634-9685

**Sgt. at Arms**  
Allen Fritz 812-683-2192

**Historian**  
Pat O'Keefe 812 630-2567

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Tim Rue 757-880-3138