

Leatherneck News

Upcoming Events

- 10 December 2009—Marine Family Support Group Meeting, 7 PM Jasper American Legion
- 17 December 2009—2010 Ball Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM TFT Warehouse (Hedinger Roofing)
- 17 December 2009—Regular Meeting of the Detachment. TFT Warehouse (Hedinger Roofing), 7 PM.
- 14 January 2010-Marine Family Support Group Meeting, 7 PM Jasper American Legion
- 21 January 2010—Annual Initiation Ceremony, Jasper American Legion, 7 PM

Every Tuesday and Thursday Evening 6-9PM –working party at the TFT warehouse!

Donate to TFT online at:
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Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

234th Birthday Ball

The Detachment shined brightly once again with our 3rd formal celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday. This year's festivities were held in the Celestine Community Club which was transformed for the event into a tribute to the Corps. As is customary, a formal ceremony, to include the cake cutting was held. This year, the traditional pieces of cake were presented to our Honored Guest Command Sergeant Major Chris Knies, the oldest Marine present, Cpl Edward Herzog, and the youngest Marine present, Cpl Jason Blemker. Cpl Edward J. Herzog was born on June 28, 1942 and served in the Marine Corps from April 1960 to June 1964, serving as a radio telegraph operator with 3rd Marine Division at Okinawa and Thailand and with 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton. Cpl Jason Blemker was born on June 19, 1983 and served from September 2003 to September 2007 as an Ammunition Technician with 3rd Battalion 1st Marines, 3rd Battalion 3rd Marines, and the 7th Marine Regiment Jump Platoon in Iraq. After a dinner of prime rib and chicken cordon bleu,

SgtMaj Chris Knies shared his experiences with Marines, including his tours of duty with elements of three Marine Battalions. As is often noted by members of other services, SgtMaj

(Continued on page 3)



7 November 2009— Commandant Dave Englert presents the Detachment Marine of the Year Award to Jr. Vice Commandant Ed Herzog.

14th Toys for Tots Drive in Full Swing

While the dust was still settling from the Birthday Ball, members of the Detachment and the Marine Family Supply Group were creating a new cloud of dust getting the Toys for Tots campaign into high gear.

Even before the first working party, things were happening. Thanks to Ackerman Oil, a fund raiser featuring paper cutouts of the TFT train was highly successful. Patrons of Circle A stores were able to make a donation and put a name on the cutouts for display during the two week event.

Another successful recurring event was held by the Lincoln Country Trail Riders and the Boonie Riders. Each year riders gather at Interlake, which straddles the border of Warrick and Pike counties just northeast of Lynnville. Admission consists of a \$15 toy or cash donation to use the trails. Each year, this event has collected hundreds of dollars and toys.

TFT Chairman Pat Moriarty reminds all that working parties are held every Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9 PM at Hedinger Roofing, this year's warehouse location. Pat also reports that we are

looking pretty good with the toy counts needed to furnish the need. If anyone knows of a church that has needy children in it let us know.

The final TFT working party will be held in conjunction with the regular December meeting of the Detachment. See related article on page 5.



12 November 2009— First working party of the year unpacks items from storage

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Commandant's Corner

November's newsletter is always a challenge. So much news, so little space. Even adding two very full pages did little to contain it all! We definitely don't have any moss gathering around us! Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to this newsletter making it a better product.

If you haven't made it to meeting for a while, you owe it to yourself to make some time to be there. I'm sure that I'm speaking for others in saying that the camaraderie and esprit de corps is strong and fulfilling. The meetings are a great chance to stay up to date with events and with your fellow Marines. Your input is also valued because everyone has value to add with their life experiences.

We are indeed fortunate to live where we do. Though we are in an economy that is generating a great need for help and assistance, the community as a whole has stepped up to the plate. During a recent TFT working party, I was approached by someone who had heard about us through one of our radio interviews. She went on to

explain to me that she "got it". She knew that many out there were in great need and she wanted to contribute to a cause she believed in. In addition to many kind words, she left me with a generous cash donation for TFT. I've found that to be the norm. Given the chance, most Americans will take care of those needing a hand up without prompting.

Our hearts go out to those members of the Detachment and Marine Family Support Group who have lost loved ones. SILD members Ed Oser and Dave Stutzman and MFSG Member Judy Kerstiens each lost someone close to them this month.

As JVC Herzog said during his acceptance of the MOY award, we are a family. We share the good times and the bad times. We lean on each other for support and advice. We know and understand that this time of year can be challenging for some, but we are there for each other. If you find yourself in need, physical or emotional, just ask.

Junior Vice Commandant's Roll Call

With less than five weeks remaining in this calendar year I'm left to wonder, how has this year gone by so quickly? It seems like only a few short weeks ago we began an incentive program among our membership to acquire new members into the League and Detachment. A program that I'm sad to say has not progressed or materialized nearly as well as I had envisioned or hoped for.

Designed as a challenge for our current members to step up, approach, and sign new applicants, the program contained several incentives such as a mid-year pizza party for reaching the first six month recruiting period. This goal was met and pizza was enjoyed by those present at the

regular July meeting. In addition a point system was established to record the progress made toward the 'recruiters of the year awards' to be given after the end of the 2009 calendar year.

Thus far we have acquired 15 new members during this year (which included one transfer member from another Southern Indiana Detachment.) Not bad results considering this averages over one new member per month, however, the disappointing fact is that besides myself as membership chairman, only one other person within the Detachment thus far has signed a new member. That person is none other than our Chaplain John Wagner who has signed (5) five members, the

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Lasting Impressions by Chaplain John Wagner

I think back to childhood when playing with my neighborhood friends included "Cops and Robbers" "Combat", "Cowboys and Indians" and other Gang related "games". Usually we would set the rules as we saw on TV, and we also wanted to be the "Good Guys", John Wayne, Lone Ranger, Sgt. Rock!!

We can all relate to having someone or something having an influence on us even during those innocent times in our lives. For some of us that very influence made a lasting impression and helped make us who we are today.

For this very reason, I would encourage everyone to stop and take time out of our busy life's to share some real quality time with our families especially our kids and grand-kids and I don't mean just showing them how much you love them (we should already be doing that) I'm talking about teaching and sharing in the experiences and lessons we've learned from growing up or even some of the mistakes we made and what we learned. So many times I hear about family's struggling with communication (parents with kids, Mom's with Dad's, brothers with sisters).

This past "Marine Corps Ball" helped me to realize just how easily we can take things for granted. The Ball Committee

worked hard at making this years "Ball" something to remember and because of that effort it truly was. I am still recalling and enjoying comments from people who attended. I would like to think that as a result of that experience Cub Scouts from Pack 182 of Jasper took the time to write "Thank You" posters and cards to many local veteran organizations including SILD for Veterans Day. They are also filling out "Christmas Cards" these cards are not addressed (Mail cannot be delivered if addressed to "Any Soldier") but each card written out to any "Member of our armed forces" and specially those who are recovering from combat injuries. The cards will be delivered to area VFW's, American Legions, Marine Corps League, (if you know the address of any local serviceman or woman please contact me 683-4997) What a wonderful way to say Merry Christmas to those who deserve it most. I have received stacks of cards from the Cub Scouts, namely Chad Lawson (the DJ from this years "Ball" and Den Leader of "Bear's Den") That deserves a Big "Oorahh" and Thanks! Pack 182 Happy Holidays!

Eagle Scout Presentation

Life comes full circle sometimes, Scouting Coordinator Ryan Sherer found out while preparing for the Eagle Scout Presentation of Scout Adam Meece. As it turned out, Adam is very familiar with the Detachment and its mission since his grandfather, Marine Leonard Benning, was one of the original charter members.

The 15 November ceremony, held at the Central Christian Church in Huntingburg, was an impressive event, with Scouts presenting the Colors, stating the Scout's oath and pledge, and tending to a myriad of details in the ceremony.

The Detachment was well represented in both numbers and uniforms. Scouting Coordinator Ryan Sherer performed a rendition of Red Skelton's Pledge of Allegiance, which fully explains the meaning of the pledge and why it is said. In recognition of his accomplishments Eagle Scout Adam Meece was presented with the Marine Corps League's Good Citizenship Award.

Detachment members are actively pursuing several avenues to improve the presentation ceremony. As of the regular November meeting, an effort is underway to design and approve a Detachment "challenge" coin, which may be presented to future Eagle Scout recipients.

It is anticipated that there could be up to 30 presentations made per year, which is a substantial testament to the value of the Scouting program in the area. Increased focus on Scouting is likely 2010, the centennial anniversary of scouting.



15 November 2009— Adam Meece (center in Scout Uniform) with his grandmother Anna Benning (left, as pictured) and his parents Beth and Chris Meece (right, as pictured) and members of the Detachment

234th Marine Corps Birthday Ball (Cont'd)

Knies stated what we see as obvious; the pride in being a Marine and all it means, that Semper Fidelis is much more than just a motto, it is a demonstration of the professionalism and patriotism that is the hallmark of the Marine Corps. SgtMaj Knies went on to acknowledge how Marines stick together, forever, having seen the "Once a Marine, always a Marine" attitude first hand. SgtMaj Knies was presented a large laser-



7 November 2009—Cindy Hembree accepts the first-ever presentation of the Associate Member of the Year award.

etched vase in appreciation for his service and for honoring us with his presence.

Bowing to tradition and creating a new tradition, Commandant Englert asked the corpsmen and medics in the audience to stand and be recognized. Each were thanked for their service. Members of the Marine Family Support Group were also asked to stand for recognition. In the words of the Commandant, mission accomplishment for the Detachment would be much more difficult without the support of these Marine Families. Commandant Englert then introduced the 2009 Ball Committee and asked them to stand for a round of applause. A round of applause was given for the wait and catering staff.

Continuing a tradition started only last year, the presentation was made to the Marine chosen as the Detachment's Marine of the Year. Selection of this year's Marine of the Year (MOY) was completed by the MOY committee, which consists of those who already rate the award. Based upon his work since joining the Detachment and his devotion to duty in his role as the Detachment Junior Vice Commandant, Corporal Edward Herzog was honored as this year's recipient. In receiving his award, Ed noted the loss of his family members over time and how his fellow Marines have filled in as his family ever since.

Starting a new tradition this year and in recognition of the many accomplishments of our Associate Members, the Commandant, in coordination with the MOY committee, authorized the Associate of the Year Award. The honor of being the first fell to Cindy Hembree, an ever-active member of the Detachment. Cindy is also one of the originators of the Marine Family Support Group and coordinates the many activities of that organization. Cindy was also awarded the Citizenship Award for her work.



Chaplain John Wagner prepares a cart for the birthday cake.

"I challenge everyone to sign up just one member.

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

other (10) ten members have been sponsored by myself. This leaves the 'recruiter of the year' awards program without the third person eligible for the top three spots that I had originally hoped to recognize officially. So, unless someone completes the signing of a new member and has them voted upon and accepted at the final meeting this year, there will be no more qualifiers. Needless to say this is a huge disappointment to me, as the incentive provided, and the fire I had hoped to ignite involving participation simply was not present to any extent.

NEW MEMBERS

At our last regular meeting I was honored to sponsor a new regular member into the

Detachment as a Life Member, a person who has been a special friend to me for almost 50 years, as we served together prior to, and during our overseas tour. I'm proud to welcome to the Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931 my old Marine buddy Frank J. Billington III from Tacoma, Washington. We're mighty glad to have you aboard with us Frank and are looking forward to a long and lasting friendship with you, even though the distance between us is great and we don't expect that you will be attending our functions, our hearts and bonds of friendship are with you forever.

At that same meeting we were fortunate to welcome a transfer member from the Knox County Detachment in Vincennes, IN a more local

Marine who actually grew up in the immediate area. Thomas G. Marks completed his transfer paperwork and also became a Life Member of our Detachment, and we're certainly happy to have him with us. Tom has attended the last two monthly meetings and we hope that he will continue to participate with us on a regular basis throughout the years ahead. Tom lives in nearby Loogootee, IN, just a short jaunt north across the White River and has family and relatives in and near the surrounding area.

Our membership numbers have been increasing albeit rather slowly, however the newly accepted members are of the highest caliber of individuals one could hope and wish for.

Membership "Blitz" to be held in January by Membership Chairman Ed Herzog

After the first of the year our intentions are to create a membership 'blitz' by appearing on the local radio and TV stations to talk about the Marine Corps League, its ideals, purposes, and goals and hopefully to create a broader base of interest among the general public. With the many parades and military functions our Detachment has been participating in during the past several years, the public has been slowly becoming aware of our presence, how-

ever on occasion someone will approach one of the members and state that they were simply not aware that an organization such as ours was in existence locally. That is one of the main objectives of the campaign, to educate the public, making them aware that we are here, and we do provide many community services for veterans and the public in general.

We fully intend to become known as the 'best Marine Corps League Detachment' within the Department of

Indiana. I have no doubts in my mind that we are well on our way to achieving that goal, and that ideology is shared by our Detachment Commandant Dave Englert as well.

Commandant's note: My intent during this blitz is to focus the efforts of all members towards membership during a typically slow time of year for us. This is the time of year when people are most likely to join an organization because of "cabin fever". I challenge everyone to sign up just one member.



Adapt and overcome! Low ceilings required innovation.

Life Membership Makes Sense by Jr. Vice Commandant Ed Herzog

I would like to present a short example of the merits of a 'life membership.'

Based upon the current yearly dues of \$30 per year, a regular member, near or at 40 years of age, could pay a one time amount of \$400 for his current age group, and would be completely paid up in just 13.3 years, at age 53.

Once again, based upon those same yearly dues, paid on a yearly basis, he will have paid in an additional \$390 by the time he reaches 53 years of age, and should he wish to become a life member at that point, would still have to pay another \$300 to do so, and consequently would not become fully paid up for an additional 10 years thereafter at age 63. (A TOTAL OF AN ADDITIONAL \$690)

As mentioned these figures are based on the current yearly dues rate of \$30 per year.

NOTE: Many organizations have already raised their yearly dues to \$35 and even \$40 per year.

Sometime during the 13 year period mentioned above it's quite likely that the MCL will follow suit, and chances are the life membership age scale will also increase. Most likely in \$100 increments as it had before.

So, for the above example, as possibly with many others, it would definitely be a money saving opportunity on a personal level. Each individual's situation is different of course, and in some cases the savings could be even more, and some a bit less.

I just wanted to bring to light some of the money saving benefits to those who might have been, or who are considering purchasing a life membership. Please give it some serious consideration, and I would be more than happy to accommodate anyone as far as answering any questions one might have.

Spouses, girl friends, brothers, sisters or parents of existing members! Do you have a difficult time searching for that 'just right' gift for

that hard to buy for person? Christmas is coming! A life membership would be a super gift, perhaps given as a group, and would be a surprise not easily guessed, but greatly appreciated.

Remember too, the life memberships are available for Associate Members as well as Regular Members. Same rates, same basic benefits.

Please feel free to contact me personally for additional information. Or call Commandant Dave Englert, or any other officer you might be more familiar with.

My contact information is: Detachment #931 Membership Chrm. Ed Herzog 1096 W 500 N Jasper, IN 47546-9489 Phone (812) 695-3115 email: < smpofi@psci.net >



Cutting the cake.

Each individual's situation is different of course, and in some cases the savings could be even more, and some a bit less.

December Meeting Location Changed/2010 Ball Committee Meeting

As we've done in year's past, the Regular December meeting of the Detachment will be held at the normal time and date, but will be at the Toys for Tots warehouse, located at Hedinger Roofing, 2803 Market St , Jasper.

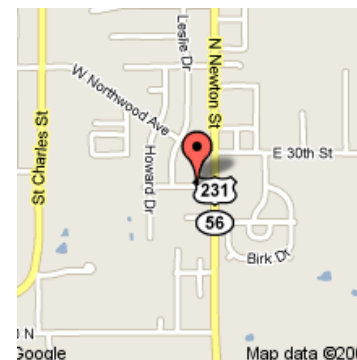
Uniform for the meeting is "work casual". There will be a brief "official meeting" for the conduct of Marine Corps

League business, followed by the sharing of merriment and a work party to close out this year's Toys for Tots Campaign. Member's families are welcome at this meeting.

Also on the agenda is the formation and first meeting of the 235th Marine Corps Birthday Ball Committee. Anyone interested on serving on the committee is urged to attend the 6:30

PM meeting. Those desiring to serve but unable to attend should contact Commandant Englert at the earliest opportunity.

This first meeting will establish the committee and chairperson, review lessons learned and discuss guest speaker and location opportunities for the 2010 Birthday Ball.



Hedinger Roofing, 2803 Market St , Jasper. (Behind True Value and Ben Franklin's)

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Detachment #931*

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Marine Family Support Group News by Cindy Hembree

The Marine Family Support Group and members of the SILD got together to package a total of 33 care packages for our Marines and other military members on 14, Nov. 2009 at the American Legion in Jasper. A good time was had by all. We will set a date for our next care package party at our meeting in Jan. 2010. We also sent some of our items to the V.A hospital and other organizations. These items included bulky items such as large bottles of water, boxes of cereal, and excess items which greatly exceeded our needs.

One of our MFSG members, Judy Kerstiens, lost her father, when he passed away on Monday 23 November



14 November 2009—Sorting the goodies prior to packaging helps to ensure that all care packages are complete.

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 812-482-5724

Scouting Coordinator

Ryan Sherer 812-631-0006

Date Set for Third Fallen Heroes Bass Tournament

Though many months away, preparations are already underway for the 2010 Fishing Tournament. Next year's contest, the 3rd in the series is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 21, 2010, according to tournament director Bill Embry.

Schedule de-confliction and approval of the event was completed during the regu-

lar November meeting of the Marine Corps League. Members should note that it is not too early to start thinking about raffle and auction items for this event. Several large ticket items are desired for the raffle. Auction items in the past have encompassed a wide spectrum to include baked and handcrafted items.