

Leatherneck News

Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

Upcoming Events

- 10 January— 7 PM Marine Family Support Group Meets, Jasper American Legion
- 21 January— Dubois County Veterans' Council Meeting, Ferdinand American Legion, 7 PM
- 17 January—Regular Meeting, Jasper American Legion, 7 PM
- 8-9 March—Spring Conference, Marion
- 24-27 April—Central Division Conference, Louisville, KY
- 17 May—4th Annual 5K Run/Walk
- 14 June—Bass Tournament, Newton-Stewart Ramp, Patoka Lake

Detachment Concludes Toys for Tots Campaign

“What a great year again!” according to TFT Chairman Pat Moriarty. During the 2007 campaign more than 2,500 children, who otherwise might not have had a Christmas, were given toys. This despite the fact that toy collections were down to about half of the 2006 level or slightly more than 1,500 toys collected.

Perhaps a slowing economy was to blame, but with the decrease in toys collected, a large portion of the Detachment's TFT reserve fund was used to purchase a total of 1,923 toys. At the end of this year's campaign, the reserve fund is at a dangerously low level which could not sustain another year like this one. It is anticipated that some fund raising activities will be

needed to boost the fund to adequate levels.

“This year's TFT campaign would not have happened if it wasn't for the Marine family support group. They stepped up Big Time!”, Pat went on to say. MFSG members were present at nearly every toy sort, order fill, and shopping trip this year.

Closing this year's campaign and looking forward to the 2008 Campaign wanted to pass the following:

“Thank you to those that did come by on Tuesday or Thursday night to help count & sort. And a BIG Thank you to the MFSG! Also I would like to publicly THANK Rex Anderson for being my sidekick throughout the campaign. he was ALWAYS there to help me.”

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Fishing Tournament to Benefit Detachment

During the regular November meeting of the Detachment, Commandant Englert put out the request to think of new fund raising ideas. One Associate Member, Jake Lueken, took this to heart and with some hard groundwork, was able to pull together the expertise to host a professional grade fishing tournament.

Former Marine Bill Embry (3rd MarDiv), owner of “Got 2 Love It Bass Tournaments, has volunteered his company's services to put together the first of what's envisioned as an annual event to benefit the Southern Indiana

Leathernecks. This year's tournament, scheduled on Saturday, June 14th, will be dedicated to Corporal Eric Lueken, an Honorary Member of the Detachment, who lost his life in service of his country on 22 April 2006.

Bill was joined by more than a dozen representatives of local area fishing clubs and organizations who have chosen to support the tournament. At this time, the tournament is planned to be held at the Newton-Stewart ramp at Patoka Lake with a First Place Team prize of \$3,060. A raffle will be held of items donated by sponsors.

Commandant's Corner

Happy New Year to everyone. By now many of you have probably made some resolutions that you fully intend to keep. One resolution that I'd like to see everyone keep is to be an active member of the Detachment. All too many times, I keep seeing the same faces, the same "core" that has held this detachment together for so long. While our percentage of active members is the envy of many veterans' organizations, I believe that we can do even better. There are many opportunities for everyone to take on at least a minimal participation in the detachment. During the first half of this year we have the 5K run and a fishing tournament. The spring conference and the Central Division conference are within easy driving distance. Some of our members could use assistance with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Perhaps you'd like to try your hand at writing a small article for the newsletter! Our Junior Vice Commandant could use some assistance contacting those Marines who have let their membership lapse. Our Senior Vice Commandant always has at least a half-dozen projects going at any given time. You might have a special project in mind that you feel the detachment should be involved in. You may just have some time on your hands to write a letter to one of our deployed warriors. If you're not involved, why not?

As you can see by some of this month's articles, we have many in the community who wish to help us. Each year, we've had many of the same people return for our 5K in support of us. Our community supports us tremendously in so many aspects, it's hard to list them all. We also have the unwavering support of the Marine Family Support Group, who has done so much to help. We should all be thankful of this support and do our best to deserve it.

This month's meeting will help to set the course for the rest of the year. During last meeting, a motion was put to the floor to dedicate a portion of our fund-raising efforts towards finding a home for the detachment. As Commandant, however, I felt that for such an important decision, we needed to have more representation at the meeting and therefore tabled the motion until this month. There will be a vote. If you're able to come to the meeting, please do. If you can't make the meeting but still desire to weigh in on the issue, please email me.

As for my resolution, I resolve to serve the Detachment in the best manner possible and for as long as the members can tolerate me!
Semper Fi.

Detachment Receives Grant

Tedious submission of a grant application paid off recently with the award of a \$1,500 grant from the Dubois County Community Foundation (DCCF). This grant was provided on the basis of a stated need to purchase League Dress uniforms (red blazers).

The stated mission of the DCCF is a vehicle through which community-spirited donors will preserve and enrich the quality of life in Dubois County for future generations by means of permanent charitable endowments.

Mission Objectives

- * to encourage the establishment of perpetual endowments.
- * to cultivate the spirit of philanthropy among our fellow citizens.
- * to assist both individuals and groups in achieving their charitable objectives.
- * to provide careful stewardship in the administration and distribution of endowment funds.
- * to help identify opportunities for the best utilization of gifts to enhance the quality of life for citizens throughout the county.
- * to ensure that in our inevitably changing world, the heritage, traditions, and values that have made



The Red Blazer, pictured above is one of the Marine Corps League Dress Uniforms.

Dubois County an outstanding place to live, work, and raise a family will be preserved and enriched for future generations.

This grant will allow the Detachment to purchase a number of red blazers for use by members attending formal and Detachment events calling for formal dress. Each year, as cold weather approached, Detachment members have discussed the need for a warm dress uniform, more fitting than a red jacket.

During the January meeting, there will be a discussion of the number and sizes of uniforms to be purchased and whether uniform accessories will be purchased with the grant or will be the responsibility of individual members.

Many thanks to our Senior Vice Commandant, Pat Moriarty for his efforts to secure this grant and to the Dubois County Community Foundation for providing this grant.



A recent addition to the available uniforms is the Red Blazer for females.

Preparations Begin for Fourth Annual 5 K

Even as the Toys for Tots campaign was in full swing, Detachment Officers have been getting phone calls about the 2008 Southern Indiana Leathernecks Fourth Annual Armed Forces Day 5K Run/Walk.

This year's run will be held on Saturday, May 17th at the Jasper Youth Sports Complex, which is to the west of the Kimball Industrial Park. Much of the event will be conducted as it was last year. Official timing, a kiddie run, prizes, refreshments, and T-Shirts. A few changes were made to make the event even better. The award ceremony will be cut back to allow a faster presentation. The price of entering the run has also increased to reflect the additional costs of official timing. The regular January meeting of the Detachment will be the kickoff with regards to contacting sponsors. Those who had sponsors last year will be asked to revisit them and provide them an opportunity to sponsor the event again. We will also look for ways to expand our advertising for better coverage without a huge increase in costs.

The January meeting will also be the call for volunteers to serve on this year's committee. Whether you can provide only a few hours or several days, everyone's input is needed. The committee will be responsible for making most of the operational decisions for the run. As this is our fourth year, being a committee member shouldn't take quite the effort that previous committees have faced.



Runners and walkers prepare to begin their 5 kilometer trek during the 3rd Annual Armed Forces Day 5K Run/Walk.

Legislative News—Letter From Congressman Baron Hill 5 January 2008

Mr. Dave Englert
Commandant, Southern IN Marine Corps League
Member, Veterans Advisory Group

Dear Mr. Englert,

The 110th Congress will soon reconvene, and I look forward to continuing the work we began last year. When Congress adjourned last month, we had accomplished many of the goals we set for ourselves. These included priorities not only for the nation but, more importantly, for Hoosiers in the Ninth Congressional District. Back home, I was proud to assist many constituents in solving problems with Social Security, Medicare and the Veterans Administration to obtain important services for them and their families.

Each weekend I was home, I heard from constituents like you who expressed concern about the direction in which our nation was heading. They came to town hall meetings, special events and restaurants to share with me what was on their minds. As a member of my Veterans Advisory Group, you went a step furtherer by volunteering your time to provide input to me on a critical policy issue. At our meeting during the District Work Period in August, I appreciated your perspective and focus on the priorities concerning veterans and our service personnel.

As such, I am proud to report much progress for veterans and over the last year:

- Providing the VA with nearly \$12 billion for Fiscal Year 2008 the single largest increase in the history of the VA;
- Halting increases in TRICARE premiums that would have passed the cost of rising healthcare on to Hoosier veterans;
- Increasing the pay of our current men and women serving in the armed forces by 3.5 percent, as well as an increase in special combat duty pay;
- Increasing funding for body armor and safer vehicles
- showing support for the need to ensure our military readiness is at it best and our men and women in uniform are given the equipment they need to complete their mission;

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*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:

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Legislative News—Letter From Congressman Baron Hill 5 January 2008 (Contd)

(Continued from page 3)

-Ensuring military flag folding ceremonies at funerals are compliant with the wishes of military families.

In addition to work in these areas, and with the help of many of you, my office was able to assist many veterans with VA benefits, service medal requests and other issues concerning federal government. Finally, I am pleased to share with you that considerable policy progress was also made in the areas of property tax and immigration reform, fiscal accountability as well as taking a major step toward reducing our nation's dependence on oil.

It is with this and more that I begin the coming year with appreciation for your support and service, and with a focus that we indeed have much more work to do. I hope you will continue to serve on my Veterans Advisory Group, and I look forward to our continued work together.

It is my honor and privilege to serve you in the United States Congress.

Sincerely,

Baron P. Hill
Member of Congress

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John Wagner 812-683-4997

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