

# Leatherneck News

## Upcoming Events

- 4 July—Pike County Independence Day Parade, Otwell. Parade starts at 10:00 AM
- 10 July—Family Support Group Meeting, Jasper American Legion, 7 PM
- 17 July—Regular Meeting, Jasper American Legion, 7 PM.
- 7 August—Monthly Ball Committee Meeting, 7 PM, Jasper Country Buffet
- 10-16 August—National Convention, Orlando FL.
- 4-5 October—Fall Conference Jasper Inn Convention Center, Jasper

## Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

### First Annual Fallen Soldiers Bass Tournament

Months of preparation culminated on the 14th of June at the Newton-Stewart Ramp of Patoka Lake with the debut of the Fallen Soldiers Bass Tournament. Fishing teams began lining up at 4 AM for registration and boat inspection. By 5:20, with almost an hour to go before the launch of the boats, registration was closed as the field of 125 boats was filled.

While the teams fished, youngsters were challenged to a casting contest. Each of the 11 participants was declared a winner and received a



That's only the second biggest bass! John Schroering looks on as event coordinator Bill Embry prepares to weigh his bass.



14 June 2008—Charlie Hentrup & John Schroering attempt to hold up all of their winnings

prize. For the grownups though, winning was not so easy. On a day that could only be described as tough, the team of Charlie Hentrup and John Schroering took first place with a total weight of 19.42 lbs, and also came up with the second largest bass of the tournament. Complete results can be found at [www.got2loveit.com](http://www.got2loveit.com).

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### Detachment Comes up Big at State Convention

The hard work and of the Southern Indiana Leathernecks was once again noted at the annual Awards Banquet at the Department of Indiana 2008 State Convention. In recognition of the Detachment's activities supporting Marines, their families, local service members, and the community as a whole, Department Commandant Mike Lieber presented the Detachment the 2008 Detachment Americanism Award. Those who were members of the Detachment between 1 June 2007 and 1 June 2008 are eligible to wear the Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon.

Two members of the Detachment were singled

out for their contributions. Senior Vice Commandant Pat Moriarty was bestowed the Department Marine of the Year award for his work at the Detachment and Department levels. Serving in several offices at both levels as well as serving as the area TFT Chairman, Pat is most deserving of this award.

PAO Steve Lindauer was selected as the Department's winner of the Individual Americanism Award, which is given to the member who displays selfless dedication to duty and portrays the Marine Corps League in a most positive light. Congratulations to Steve on his award.

## Commandant's Corner

Like most of you, I'm a bit weary after the back to back to back events of the last few months. Maybe now we can catch our breaths as we settle into parade season. That's not to say that we're not staying busy though.

For those of you not at the last meeting; thanks to the efforts of our Web Sergeant, Tina Moriarty, we are well on our way to modernizing our website. Space limitations with our current arrangements have gotten to an unmanageable level, requiring steps to be taken. First, we've contracted with DT Hosting for a domain name and server hosting. Our new web address, once finalized will be [www.sildmarines.com](http://www.sildmarines.com) and it will offer a much greater storage capacity which will allow us to do much more with the website. The transition will take some time but should be complete in the next 30 days or so.

We've also finalized the design of our Marine Corps League standard (i.e. parade flag) which is being submitted to the National Ship's Store for purchase. At the time of publication, an estimated delivery date was not available.

The 2008 Marine Corps Birthday Ball Committee is in the process of forming and will meet at the Jasper Country Buffet at 7PM on the first Thursday of each month. The Ball will be on the 1st of November this year, so plan ahead!

Senior Vice Commandant Pat Moriarty, Paymaster Tina Moriarty, and my wife joined me at the 2008 Department of Indiana State Convention. I was indeed proud, as always, as the Detachment and its members were duly recognized. Award submissions for the National Convention have been

made, however, if anyone would like to submit a member for an award, all you have to do is write it up and get it to me.

The First Annual Fallen Soldiers Bass Tournament was a great success due to the numerous individuals and organizations that supported us. Thank you to all who helped.

Our Detachment does have some tough times ahead. Several of our members are facing their final battle. Our Chaplain John Wagner and I have had the good fortune to spend time with these Marines and their families as they stoically face the most difficult challenge. Please keep our fellow Marines and their families in your thoughts and prayers as well as our Deployed Marines, soldiers, sailors and Airman. Semper Fi.



14 June 2008—The team of Bohnert and Bohnert begins their high speed pursuit of the elusive bass.

## This Month in Marine Corps History

**4 July 1801:** President Thomas Jefferson reviewed the Marines, led by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, LtCol William W. Burrows and the Marine Band, on the White House grounds. The smartly uniformed Marines performed drills and fired various salutes in observance of the new nation's 25th anniversary.

**6 July 1990:** One of the oldest and most versatile attack aircraft in Marine Corps history, the A-4 Skyhawk, retired from the Corps' active aviation structure after over 30 years of service. The last two Skyhawks from MAG-32 flew their initial flight from Cherry Point to NAS Patuxent River on this date.

**7 July 1941:** The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was activated at Quantico, Virginia. Within a year of activation, the Wing would participate in the Marine Corps offensive at Guadalcanal. That bitter campaign would be the first in a se-

ries of legendary battles in which the Wing would add luster to its reputation. The 1stMAW would earn five Presidential Unit Citations for gallantry in campaigns spanning World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

**11 July 1798:** President John Adams approved "An Act for Establishing and Organizing a Marine Corps", and it became law. The following day, the President appointed William Ward Burrows the Major Commandant of the new Corps. In August, Major Burrows opened his headquarters in Philadelphia, at that time still the capital of the new nation.

**14 July 1993:** The USS IWO JIMA was decommissioned after over 30 years of service in a ceremony at Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia. The ship was named for the World War II battle during which three Marine divi-

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## This Month in Marine Corps History Contd

(Continued from page 2)

sions ousted 20,000 entrenched Japanese troops. The Iwo Jima was commissioned 26 August 1961, and it was the first ship specifically designed as an amphibious assault ship from the keel up.

**18 July 1918:** The 4th Brigade of Marines began an attack near Soissons, France, as part of a three-division counterattack against the Germans. In the first two days of battle, the brigade sustained 1,972 casualties.

**24 July 1944:** The V Amphibious Corps, commanded by Major General Harry Schmidt, landed on Tinian, in the Mariana Islands. The following morning, the 2d and 4th Marine Divisions began a shoulder-to-shoulder southward sweep of the island. Organized enemy resistance faded within a week, and on 1 August, MajGen

Schmidt declared the island secure.

**26 July 1947:** The National Security Act of 1947 became effective, reaffirming the status of the Marine Corps as a separate military service within the Department of the Navy. The Act Provided for Fleet Marine Forces, and confirmed the Corps' mission of seizing and defending advanced bases, as well as land operation incident to naval campaigns.

**28 July 1918:** Brigadier General John A. Lejeune assumed command of the 2d Division, U.S. Army in France, and remained in that capacity until August 1919 when the unit was demobilized. He was the first Marine officer to hold an Army divisional command, and following the Armistice, he led his division in the march into Germany.

## Legislative Affairs

On June 19, the House of Representatives approved a major GI Bill upgrade for men and women who have defended the nation since September 11, 2001. MOAA, The Military Coalition, and many other veterans' and higher education associations are pleased to have played a role in winning this historic victory. But it didn't come easy.

Senators Jim Webb (D-VA), Chuck Hagel (R-NE), John Warner (R-VA), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Representatives Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Harry Mitchell (D-AZ) took the lead in sponsoring the largest and most widely supported fix. Almost everyone in Congress agreed a fix was needed, but some felt the Webb plan was too generous. Others in Congress didn't support adopting it outside the normal funding rules and wanted to raise taxes on millionaires to pay for it.

The White House initially opposed the Webb plan as too generous but also wanted to include a provision in the plan to let people who serve 10 years transfer their education benefits to family members.

In the end, House leaders and the White House agreed on a bill that included the best of both plans.

The new GI Bill will reimburse veterans' tuition for schooling up to the highest state college cost, pay a housing allowance based on the location of the school, and provide up to \$1,000 annually for books. Under certain conditions, it would provide extra money toward attending a private university. Veterans will have up to 15 years after separation to use the benefits.

Servicemembers who have completed six years of service and agree to serve an additional four years will be able to transfer part or all of the benefits to their spouses immediately. Once they complete 10 years' service they can transfer them to children.

The upgraded benefits apply to people who have served in uniform since 9/11/01. Some who served at least 90 days since then but subsequently separated or retired could qualify for the upgraded benefit. But no one already retired will qualify for the transferability option.

Senate passage of the bill is expected. Activated National Guard and Reserve troops will be able to earn GI Bill benefits for each tour of 90 days or more they serve up to full benefits for 36 months of aggregate active service.

### The Big Three Bills During June 2008

**Emergency War Supplemental Appropriations Bill:** Hill leaders and the White House struck a deal to fund the war.

**Medicare Bill:** House and Senate leaders are still haggling over reversing the 10.6% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments and prevent capping Medicare therapy payments as of July 1.

**Defense Authorization Bill:** With delays in finishing the above-mentioned bills, Senate consideration of the defense bill (and planned amendments on TRICARE fees, SBP, concurrent receipt, reserve retirement age, etc.), will likely slip to July.

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## The Marine Corps Emblem

The history of the Marine Corps emblem is a story related to the history of the Corps itself. The emblem of today traces its roots to the designs and ornaments of early Continental Marines as well as British Royal Marines. The emblem took its present form in 1868. Before that time many devices, ornaments, and distinguishing marks followed one another as official marks of the Corps.



*The large "living" emblem (left) is actually composed of thousands of Marines. The photo was taken aboard MCRD Parris Island in 1919.*

### 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

#### Judge Advocate

Jeramey Osborne 812-295-6005

#### Public Affairs Officer

Steve Lindauer 812-634-9685

#### Sgt. at Arms

Allen Fritz 812-683-2192

#### Historian

Dave Englert

#### Quartermaster

Tim Rue 757-880-3138