

Leatherneck News

Upcoming Events

- 5-7 June 2009—Department of Indiana Convention. Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis. (317) - 244-3361 for reservations. Contact Pat or Dave for more info.
- 10 June 2009— Practice for Flag Disposal Ceremony, 6 PM
- 11 June 2009 - Marine Family Support Group meets at the Jasper American Legion 7 PM
- 12 June 2009—6 PM, Flag Disposal Ceremony, Dubois County Fairgrounds
- 18 June 2009—Ball Committee meeting, 6 PM Jasper American Legion
- 18 June 2009—Regular Meeting of the Detachment. Jasper American Legion, 7 PM.
- 1 August 2009—Second Annual Fallen Heroes Bass Tournament. Patoka Lake
- 2 August 2008—Strassenfest Parade. 1 PM

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Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

5th Annual Armed Forces Day Run/Walk

Heavy thunderstorms rolled through the area early on the morning of 16 May, dropping more than 2 inches of rain and a source of concern for runners and organizers alike. Mother Nature smiled on us once again, with the rain stopping long enough for the fifth annual 5k Run to be held.

With the uncertainty of the weather, volunteers and runners convened under the shelter at the Jasper Youth's Sport Complex to finish the registration process. Each runner or walker was given a package consisting of their number, a Certificate of Participation, a number of "give-a-ways" and a very nice three-quarters



length raglan shirt. Many positive comments were noted about the quality of this year's shirts.

(Continued on page 2)

Memorial Day Roll Call

Name by name, the roll call of 89 service-members was read; "Matthew Eberhart", "Here, Sir!"; "Alex B Pfister", "Here, Sir!" As the Senior Vice Commandant called each name, he received a quick "Here, Sir". As each name was read, however, it was a member of the Detachment answering as the names being read were those of our deceased comrades.

On Friday, May 22nd, Detachment members gathered at Fairview Cemetery to perform the annual solemn duty of remembering our fellow veterans who have gone before us. After a brief ceremony, prayer, and the playing of taps, those present fell into line to place a flag at the head of each grave. Each time, the name was read, a member would answer for the service-member, salute the grave, place

a flag, and render honors to the flag. This simple, yet elegant procedure was repeated for each fallen veteran. As in the past, we were joined by interested and respectful spectators who were thankful for the service.



22 May 2009- Members gather for the service and prayer.

Commandant's Corner

I hope that this newsletter finds you and yours in the best of circumstances. Our Detachment and the Marine Family Support Group certainly has their share of members having had medical issues or undergoing procedures. Please keep an open prayer line for all.

Five years of anything is an accomplishment. This year we managed to pull off another successful 5K thanks to the superb efforts of those who volunteered. A couple of individuals deserve an extra round of applause for their efforts. Starting with Betty Dee, who for the last five years has been one of the chief organizers of registration and pre-registration. Along with Tina Moriarty, they've done an absolutely fantastic job which rarely gets the recognition deserved. Also, I take my hat off to Steve Lindauer who not only pulled in a notable amount of cash contributions, but also sourced the greater majority of our attendance prizes. Finally, also most notable was the effort of one of our newest Associate Members and Marine Family Support Group members, Rex Anderson. Rex took on the job of becoming our "beta-test" for individual sponsorship. By finding donors willing to sponsor his participation in the 5k, he was able to raise over \$1,000. A great job by all with kudos!

I am always inspired by our efforts and professional conduct during the Memorial Day weekend. This year, as in past years, I respect all of you who take time during the weekend to participate in the many activities around the area. Whether you're on flag detail at the cemetery, or a participant in the Services on the Square, you help to

honor and memorialize our fellow veterans who have either lost their lives on the battlefield or have since succumbed. I receive numerous thank yous and words of appreciation from the community for the pride and professional conduct of the Detachment.

It won't be long before we start parade season again. One reason for participating in parades is to get our name out into the public and to educate the public about our mission and accomplishments. Parades tend to be an inexpensive yet effective form of advertisement.

As noted on page 4, the 2009 Ball Committee has already been meeting and is working out details for the Ball. This year's focus will be on the activities and accomplishments of the Detachment.

Very shortly we will have to ramp up planning and work on the fishing tournament. Keep your eyes open for raffle and attendance prizes.

The Department of Indiana State Convention will occur the first weekend in June. This year's convention is hosted by H.I. Bearsr Detachment in Indianapolis. Attendees at this time are myself, Senior Vice Commandant Moriarty and Chaplain John Wagner.

For those of you possibly interested. The National Convention will be held in Rochester, Minnesota. While not quite in our back yard, this is about as close as they get. If there's a chance you might want to attend, please let our Senior Vice know right away.



16 May 2009—Junior Vice Commandant Edward Herzog stands by with members of Boy Scout Troop 182 for the presentation of Colors.

5th Annual Armed Forces Day Run/Walk

(Continued from page 1) Once again, this was an officially timed event with the official results posted to a number of racing websites as well as the Detachment's web site. Trophies were given to the top three men and women overall finishers and to each of the top finishers in each of

twelve age groups.

For the second and third finishers in each age group, ribbons were presented.

Winning come to those who weren't necessarily fleet of foot, though. More than three dozen attendance prizes were donated by sponsors and given away in a random drawing after the race. Prizes included Holiday World tickets, t-shirts, and a large variety of gift cards and certificates.

Overall Male & Female winners were: **Male-**

- 1- Phillip Stuzman - Time: 17:22:60
- 2- Frank Inman Jr. - Time: 18:36:00
- 3- Adam Meyer - 19:55:70

Female-

- 1- Molly Reckelhoff - 20:30:90
- 2- Melanie Krueger - 21:12:70
- 3- Kim Kissling - 21:14:20



16 May 2009—Official Timing adds to the professionalism of the event.

Memorial Day 2009—A Personal Perspective *(By Junior Vice Commandant Edward Herzog)*

I was honored to be (1 of 3 Marines) participating in the flag lowering to half staff at the annual county wide Memorial Day celebration on Saturday morning May 23rd 2009.

Standing along with our Detachment Commandant (retired Captain Dave Englert, and our Detachment Chaplain John Wagner, we all felt a great deal of immense pride being among our many Veteran brothers from throughout the entire county who represented their individual VFW & Legion Posts, MCL Detachment, DAV Chapters, POW/MIA committees, Civil War reenactment troopers, honored guests, political dignitaries, supporters, onlookers, and well wishers.

The commentaries, short prayers of thanks, and acknowledgements of the feats of bravery shown by those who have given their lives for their country so that those of us who remain can continue the honored traditions of remembering their sacrifices, were exhilarating beyond imagination.

To see the crowd of people as they witnessed the ceremony gives all Veterans a renewed feeling of pride and honor in knowing that we are not totally forgotten and that the efforts of so many who have gone before us were not in vain.

After the lowering of the flag and returning to the view-

ing area, one of my sons, daughter-in-law, and three of my grandchildren approached and we stood together proudly for the remainder of the ceremony, after which I was able to explain to the eldest how someday should he become part of one of the military organizations of our great country, he as a Veteran could then continue the tradition of honoring all of our nations heroes in a similar manner for future generations.

I sincerely hope they will carry the lesson learned from this brief ceremony with them for the remainder of their lives, and help to educate their peers as to the importance of what Memorial Day really stands for. Not the long week-end holiday for fishing, camping, picnics, swimming etc. ,but to honor those who made these activities possible for all Americans to enjoy. Those brave individuals who themselves would have loved to be present with their own families-friends-loved ones, but who died with honor so as to allow us to live in peace.

Following the ceremony a number of those present expressed their well wishes, and thoughts about how nice it was to see the young grandchildren surrounding their Papaw, and that they were so proud to see them in attendance.

Needless to say, having them present gave me an additional boost of pride, and will be something I shall never ever forget.

Legislative Affairs— Current Events

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee last week approved the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act (S. 475, Sen Burr, R-NC), which would let a spouse choose the same state of residency as the service member. If passed, it would reduce some administrative and tax filing difficulties incurred by spouses as they relocate, and let them vote in the same state as their service member.

S. 475 has 37 Senate cosponsors (22 Republicans and 15 Democrats). The House version of the bill (H.R. 1182, Rep Carter, R-TX) has 97 cosponsors (81 Republicans and 16 Democrats).

Although the spouse domicile bill is gaining some momentum, it will need broader congressional support to assure passage. You can help military spouses by asking your legislators to cosponsor H.R. 1182 and S. 475. You can locate your legislators at the following link:

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/dbq/officials>

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee approved a number of measures just prior to the Memorial Day holiday weekend, including:

- S. 801, the Caregiver and Veterans Health Services Act of 2009, to establish a permanent VA program to train, support, and assist caregivers of severely disabled veterans, and improve services for rural veterans.
- S. 423, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009, to authorize a two-year appropriations process for VA health care to protect against funding shortfalls that occur when Congress fails to pass the annual appropriation by Oct. 1.
- S. 407, to authorize the same COLA adjustment as Social Security (which will probably be zero for 2010) for VA disability compensation and survivor annuities.
- S. 728, the Veterans Benefits Enhancement Act of 2009. Among other changes, it would make traumatic injury insurance (TSGLI) coverage retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001 for severe service-caused disabilities, regardless of where the injury occurred. That retroactive coverage now applies only to injuries incurred in a combat zone. Other injuries are covered only if they occurred on or after Dec. 1, 2006. The bill also increases funeral and burial allowances for veterans, and raises VA mortgage insurance limits.

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Detachment #931*

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Ball Committee Meeting

MCL Detachment 931 ball committee members, met Wednesday evening at the Celestine community club, the site chosen for the 2009 Marine Corps Birthday Ball, which will be held Saturday November 7th, 2009.

Preliminaries for this years 234th Marine Corps Ball were discussed, and ideas and suggestions for this years celebration were put on the table for further research and discussion.

The committee members will next meet on at the American Legion in Jasper, Thursday evening at 6:00 P.M. immediately prior to the regular Detachment meeting.

Third Marine Division Reunion

The following reunion announcement is published as requested :

"THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD IT'S ANNUAL FAMILY REUNION AUGUST 25 - AUGUST 30, 2009 IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, AT THE EL TROPICANO RIVER-WALK HOTEL. ANYONE WHO SERVED IN, WAS ATTACHED TO, OR SERVED IN SUPPORT OF THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION AT ANY TIME SINCE IT WAS FORMED ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1942 IS ELIGIBLE AND CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

FOR MEMBERSHIP AND REUNION INFORMATION, CONTACT: JEFFREY A. DEMENT, 23830 W. OTTAWA ST., PLAINFIELD, IL 60544, 815-436-3783 (HOME), 815-354-3783 (CELL), email - jeffdement@aol.com OR VISIT THE THIRD MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC. WEBSITE AT www.caltrap.com ".

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

Vacant