

Leatherneck News

Upcoming Events

- 10 June 2010—Marine Family Support Group Meeting, 7 PM Jasper American Legion
- 11 June 2010—County-wide flag Disposal Ceremony, 4 H Fairgrounds
- 12 June 2010—Marine Family Support Group Care Package packout, 1 PM Jasper American Legion
- 17 June 2010—Regular Meeting of the Detachment, 7 PM. Jasper American Legion
- 18-20 June 2010—Department of Indiana State Convention, Hosted by HI Bearss Detachment, Indianapolis
- 3 July 2010—Annual Pike County Independence Day Parade, Otwell, Line up 9:15. Parade steps off at 10 AM.
- 8-14 August 2010—MCL National Convention, Greensboro, NC. Go to WWW.MCL2010.ORG for more info.
- 21 August 2010—3rd Annual Fallen Heroes Bass Tournament

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Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

Memorial Weekend—2010

Gathering once again to honor our Nation's givers of freedom, Leathernecks from the Detachment kicked off the Memorial Weekend events with the traditional ceremony and placement of flags at Fairview Cemetery in Jasper. Typically a semi-private affair, members are afforded the opportunity to pay respects in true Marine Corps fashion.

A brief speech and a prayer set the atmosphere for the playing of Taps. The solemnity and quiet of the locale call for reverence. With nary a word, participants go to the assigned locations and the calling of the roll begins. Name after

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28 May 2010—Memorial services at Fairview Cemetery, Jasper

Armed Forces Day 5K Run

The 6th annual running of the Armed Forces Day 5K was fortunate enough to enjoy great weather again. With a entrant list of more than 180 participants, volunteers worked quickly to process forms, give information and disseminate runner's packets.

This year's run was a first, with Detachment members conducting the actual timing and officiating of the run. Using software purchased by the Detachment with

hardware borrowed and donated from Detachment members, times, age group placements, and overall winners were determined despite significant technical difficulties. Awards and certificates were presented to the top finishers shortly after the race.

This year's race saw a significant increase in sponsorship, runner participation, and overall profitability due to the hard work of the committee and the many volunteers.

Report Finds Gaps in Health Coverage *(HealthDay News) --*

WEDNESDAY, March 31 U.S. government agencies need to do more to meet the physical and mental health needs of military personnel returning home from tours in Iraq or Afghanistan, contends a new report from the Institute of Medicine.

And the added aid should extend to their families and communities as well, the report suggests.

Veterans today differ from those who returned from earlier wars, said Dr. Albert W. Wu, a professor of health policy and management at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a member of the committee that prepared the report for the institute, an independent advisory arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

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Commandant's Corner

Inspiring is the one word that comes to mind when I think of the Detachment's participation in Memorial weekend events. My only regret is that not all Detachment members find the time to join those dedicated few who seem to be at every event, every practice, and everyplace they're needed.

It's time to hang out the "Help Wanted" sign as we consider potential vacancies in next year's nominations. First and of utmost importance to our Detachment is filling next year's vacancy for Paymaster. Marine Tina Moriarty has done a phenomenal job of streamlining the job and making fiscal record keeping much easier. Tina took over "temporarily" when Paymaster Tom Messier was diagnosed with cancer. This temporary position has lasted for a number of years now and it is time for someone to step up and take over. NOW is the time so that the new paymaster may benefit from training and assistance from Tina. If you are interested in the job please let Tina or me know so that we can schedule training for you. Important point to remember is that Tina is not going any-

where, but desires to decrease her workload. Step up Marines!

As most of you know, this year will be my last as your Commandant. This is probably one of the most rewarding jobs anyone can ask for, admittedly with some challenges. I've done the job even while committed to a 60+ hour a week job, while serving as the President of the Dubois County Veteran's Council, as well as filling the dual roles of Department Junior Vice and Ad Hoc Senior Vice Commandants. I'd do it all over again, but I was also hesitant to take the job at first. Now I'm utterly grateful that I did take the job.

For anyone considering the job of Commandant, you will have the support of your fellow officers, as I have had, and I am not going anywhere, so there's always someone to turn to when you run out of time, knowledge, or patience! Anyone seeking the office of Commandant would benefit greatly from available training and developing the points of contact before election. See me if you are interested. S/F

Report Finds Gaps in Health Coverage (Contd)

(Continued from page 1)

The nearly 2 million veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan are older and many more are married than veterans from other wars, he noted. Today, the average enlisted person is 27, compared with an average age of 18 during World War II, Wu said, and more than half are married and have children.

Today's veterans also have a higher survival rate after being wounded -- three times higher than from the Vietnam War, Wu said. "People are surviving with pretty devastating injuries," he said. "Consequently, there are almost 44,000 veterans with traumatic brain injury to be cared for."

Chuck Arnold, coordinator of the veterans program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, said that "today's veteran is facing so much more than in the past -- family issues, unemployment when returning, etcetera." "While the veteran is trained to handle difficult situations, families are not," Arnold said. "There needs to be more education and training for families, to include children."

To address these issues, the institute's report, released March 31, recommends that the U.S. Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs:

- Fund research on the readjustment needs of veterans, their families and the communities they return to. Research should examine such issues as the social and economic ef-

- fects of multiple deployments on families, including domestic violence and maltreatment of children, and "culturally sensitive treatment approaches" for minorities.

- Prepare for the long-term needs of returning veterans with multiple traumas and traumatic brain injuries, including likely complications and rehabilitation services.

- Recruit more mental health professionals to help veterans deal with post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD), depression, substance abuse and other issues that many face.

- Reduce the stigma within the military community of mental health treatment.

- Examine whether the mental health needs of female veterans are being met, including treatment for sexual harassment and assault. Women now constitute 14 percent of deployed U.S. forces, the report said.

- Consider a so-called "third-location decompression" program, which would involve sending military personnel to some location to readjust to a non-combat environment before returning home to their families.

"We wanted to identify physical and mental health and other readjustment needs of veterans and their

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Junior Vice Commandant's Call by Edward Herzog

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the kind words and well wishes from those Detachment members and friends, regarding my recent surgical procedure. All in all I'm doing quite well although still under severe limitations and restrictions as to certain activities. Unfortunately, after attending and assisting with the fellow 5K committee members during several month's preparations for this year's 6th Annual run, I was unable to attend the event due to doctor's orders.

NEW MEMBER

Also at this time I would like to welcome aboard our newest Detachment member Mr. Jeffery J. Bettag from Ferdinand, Indiana. Sponsored by Sr. Vice Cmdt. Pat Moriarty, former Retired Lt. Col. Bettag was voted upon and accepted in to the Southern Indiana Leatherneck Det. #931 during our May 20th 2010 meeting, as an associate member. We certainly appreciate receiving applications from prospective 'associate members' who show a distinct interest in the future betterment of the Marine Corps

League itself, especially those who have the knowledge and expertise of prior military service. Mr. Bettag will be surely be an asset to our organization.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND FESTIVITIES

Once again, our Detachment participated in the honoring of our nation's deceased veterans, and once again the personal exhilaration was overpowering. Placing the flags upon the individual gravesites is an honor that I hope to be able to take part in personally for as long as I am physically able. It's such a wonderful gesture to our heroic warriors of past wars, that hopefully will continue forever, along with the flag lowering ceremony and acknowledgment of the county's 'deceased veteran of the year' award given each year. At some point in time each of us will have our names read from the list of those who have gone on to our final duty station. We, as all that have gone before us ask very little, ONLY TO BE REMEMBERED.

Report Finds Gaps in Health Coverage (Contd)

(Continued from page 2)

families," Wu said. "We also wanted to see what the gaps were."

The gaps, he said, included an abundance of mental health issues. "There are at least 40,000 cases of PTSD," Wu said, as well as depression, substance abuse and suicide among returning veterans.

There are also social outcomes, Wu said, including financial hardships, unemployment, homelessness, domestic violence, marital problems and mistreatment of children.

Caregivers are stressed from taking care of injured family members, he said. And many veterans, particularly reservists and members of the National Guard, return to find that their old job wasn't held for them and they have trouble finding a new one, he said. "There are a lot of readjustment needs that we are just beginning to look at," he said.

Physical needs of veterans are being met, for the most part, Wu said, but their mental health needs are not. "The mental health providers in many places are really overwhelmed with huge case loads," he said. "Some social workers talk about having 700 or 800 cases that they are responsible for, which is extraordinary."

Other veterans face long waiting periods before they

can be seen, and many have to endure long travel times. Moreover, the Veterans Affairs department has problems keeping mental health professionals, Wu noted.

The VA and the Defense Department need to come up with good estimates of the number of mental health professionals needed and determine where they are needed, he said.

In addition, the number of people seeking help will undoubtedly grow because the peak of health service needs, historically, comes 30 years after a conflict. "The peak needs are going to be somewhere around 2040, and those projections haven't been done," Wu said. "We need to know what the need is and then make a plan for it."

As for solutions, Wu noted that there is very little to base solutions on, which is why the report stresses the need for more research before the committee can come up with more specific recommendations.

The report was done under a mandate from Congress in 2008. For the just-completed first phase, the committee used scientific literature, media reports and testimony from veterans and their families gathered at town hall meetings to identify what it determined to be the most important needs of veterans and their families.

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28 May 2010—Taps

Memorial Weekend (Contd)

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name is read; for each a salute, a flag, a salute. Over and over, the process continues, unhurried, each with the same level of respect and decorum until the last name is read.

During the flag placement, ample time exists to contemplate the names on the stones, the stories of each name and of the families left behind. After all of the flags have been placed, members seemed unable or unwilling to speak in any louder than hushed tones. Many members stayed around for long after the completion of the evening's events to talk and share a few stories.



28 May 2010—Marines Allen Fritz and Steve Lindauer render honors to one of the fallen.



28 May 2010—Marine Allen Fritz (L) looks on as Marine Joseph Bruggenschmidt admires a Korean War "challenge coin" given as a personal gift in recognition of his service by Sr. Vice Commandant Moriarty.

"The Marines Do it Right."

Comment Overhead during planning session for Memorial Day Services.



29 May 2010—(L to R) Marines Ed Herzog, John Wagner, and Marion Altmeyer lower the National Ensign to half-mast during the 2010 Memorial Day services conducted by the Dubois County Veteran's Council.

On Saturday, the Detachment continued the Memorial Day weekend observances by participating as an integral part of the Dubois County Veteran's Council observance on the Square in Jasper. Due to the professionalism displayed by the Detachment in year's past, the honor of lowering the flag was once again left to us. Some in the audience asked the question; "How do they know when to stop without looking up?" Can you answer that question?

Sunday, May 30th gave many members a chance to rest, but not all was quite. Senior Vice Commandant Moriarty and Commandant Englert made a tour of the cemeteries with the Holland American Legion Post Honor Guard. Stopping at Stendal,

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Marine Family Support Group by Cindy Hembree

The Marine Family Support Group will be doing care packages on Saturday 12-June-2010 at the American Legion in Jasper at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcomed to join us!! Please bring your addresses with you or send them to me! Several of our Marines are heading for deployment in the next few months! Please keep them and all our Military in your prayers!!

Please keep the Blemker family in your prayers..Leanna had surgery on Wed. 02-June-

2010. We pray for a swift recovery for Leanna!! God Bless! Cindy



Armed Forces Day Ride

Members of the Detachment joined the Patriot Guard Riders during their Armed Forces Day Memorial Ride with a stop in St. Raphael's Cemetery in Dubois. St. Raphael's is the resting place for Corporal Eric Lueken, USMC and Sgt David L. Moore, USA.

With more than forty vehicles, the Patriot Guard drew a crowd of around one hundred people to the cemetery to observe their hour long service.

Stopping at each of the graves of the two heroes, the Ride Captain told the audience a little about each of them and what their loss meant. A short prayer by the PGR Chaplain was followed by a placement of a small flag by each of the PGR members. After respects were paid at both graves, taps was played to a tearful crowd.

Color Guard members were Marines Tim Rue, Dave Englert, John Wagner and Allen Fritz.

Memorial Weekend (Contd)

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Holland, Selvin, Zoar, and St. Paul's cemeteries, the group held five services to groups of 25 to 30 members of the public at each location. With unerring precision, each service con-

sisted of an introduction, a prayer, a 3 minute speech about the meaning of Memorial Day by Commandant Englert, a rifle salute and the playing of taps. At each location, the audience members

were visibly moved by the proceedings and were thankful for their presence.

On Monday, May 31st, Detachment members gathered for the final event of the weekend, the collection of flags from the cemetery.

"...no care packages, no phone cards, no parades for the fallen; Only through our gatherings and keeping of the flame do we honor them...."

Excerpt of Memorial Day Speech by Commandant Englert"



30 May 2010—Commandant Englert and Senior Vice Commandant Moriarty joined the Color and Honor Guards of the Holland American Legion for services at the cemeteries.



30 May 2010—Enjoying a few lighthearted moments between ceremonies!

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Report Finds Gaps in Health Coverage (Contd)

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In the next phase, Wu said, the committee will turn its attention to more detailed findings and recommendations based on reviewing additional data and the results of ongoing research. That will take about 30 months to complete, he said.

In the interim, Wu noted, a wealth of federal agencies as well as state, community and private groups can offer help to veterans, but many of their programs are underused because people don't know they're available. "There is no single source of all of these programs," Wu said. "There is also very little evaluation of these programs. This needs to be organized so that real people can use these services."

SOURCES: Albert W. Wu, M.D., M.P.H., professor, health policy and management, Bloomberg School of Public Health, and professor, medicine, School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; Chuck Arnold, coordinator, veterans program, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Piscataway, N.J.; March 31, 2010, report, National Institute of Medicine, Returning Home from Iraq and Afghanistan: Preliminary Assessment of Readjustment Needs of Veterans, Service Members, and Their Families

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