

# Leatherneck News

## Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

### Upcoming Events

- 7-8 March 2009—Department of Indiana Spring Conference Holiday Inn, Terre Haute. Hosted by Joseph A. Bray Det. #471
- 12 March 2009 – Marine Family Support Group meets at the Jasper American Legion 7 PM
- 19 March 2009— Meeting of the 5K Run Committee, 6:15 PM.
- 19 March 2009—Regular Meeting of the Detachment. Jasper American Legion, 7 PM. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- 17-19 April 2009—National Central Division Conference, Neenah, Wisconsin. Hosted by Winnebago Detachment.
- 30 April 2009—1st Night for Marines—watch your mailbox and this newsletter for more information
- 16 May 2009—Fifth Annual Armed Forces Day 5k Run/Walk.
- 5-7 June 2009—Department of Indiana Convention. Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis. (317) - 244-3361 for reservations. Contact Pat or Dave for more info.

### 5K Armed Forces Day Run/Walk

Preparations for this year’s run are spinning up quickly. With approvals from the appropriate government agencies, the course is ours and the park is open.

As in the past, this year’s run and walk will start from the west side parking lot of the Jasper Youth Sports Complex. The run is 5 kilometers or 3.1 miles on one of the best courses possible. Runners typically finish the course in 16 to 30 minutes. Walkers occasionally take up to 50 minutes to finish.

The Kiddie Run will return this year and is sure to bring a smile on everyone’s face as the kids run. They tend to put all they have into their run!

Because this is our fifth year, the run committee has decided to put out extra effort. For example, instead of a regular t-shirt, this year’s shirt will be a three quarter length shirt. The logo will be pocket sized instead of the full size

logo to make the shirt more comfortable to wear.

This year’s run will be held on Saturday, May 16th which is Armed Forces Day. Volunteers will be needed for set up at 6:00 AM. Registration will begin at 7:00 AM and race start will be at 8:00. After the completion of the 5K Run and Walk, the Kiddie Run will be held, with awards ceremony immediately afterwards.

At this time, maximum effort is needed towards gaining sponsorship for the run. Sponsors help defray the cost of shirts, water, advertising, etc. Sponsor letters are available on the web site ([www.sildmarines.com](http://www.sildmarines.com)) and give details on sponsorship levels, our mission and other important details. Care should be taken to ensure that all sponsors are documented so that they may receive proper recognition. Donations must be collected no later than 20 April 2009.

### Membership Chairman’s Roll Call

Let’s go Team, Let’s Go!!!  
Although our numbers have not been increasing the past several months, much behind the scenes work is being done, devising a system to aid in preparing, printing, and mailing letters and notices to our current members and potential members.

Letters have been sent to those listed on the membership roster as being ‘unpaid’ asking for their dues renewal, and a number of recruiting letters have also been mailed to those on my list of potential future members. Unfortunately my list is nowhere as lengthy as I would have hoped it to be, so my appeal once again goes out to ALL MEMBERS to submit possible candidates that you feel worthy of membership in our MCL brotherhood.

Surely everyone knows of at least a few close friends, acquaintances, neighbors, relatives or someone unknown to them personally that may be recommended by one of the former. Photos, appearing in local papers of Marines, home on leave, or news items that might mention the former military service of someone in your vicinity. Marriage notices may reveal the past accomplish-

ments of former military members, and is another source of such information.

We must all scan the papers, ask friends for possible leads, and attempt to obtain as much information as possible. If personal contact is not possible, simply send me an email or drop me a short note with whatever you have. A quick phone message would be greatly appreciated and I promise to get back with you as soon as possible.

Current economic conditions do not provide us with an ideal situation for solicitation of prospective members, thus making it even more important for all of us to put forth an extra effort toward this cause. Don’t forget to mention that we also have available, ‘life memberships’ for those who prefer to avoid the hassle of paying dues each year. Depending upon a member’s age, several of the levels present quite a deal monetarily, and allow a paid up status for a lifetime in just a matter of a few short years.

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## Commandant's Corner

It's great to have fantastic Officers! I've had several contributions for this month's newsletter, making it a whole lot easier. I've even added two pages to this month's letter since I had the material on hand.

Nominations for the election of officers were taken during the February meeting. Elections will be held during the March meeting. I am pleased that all Officers have pledged to serve if re-elected in their current positions. Please show your support by participating in the elections and throughout the year.

From the feedback I've received so far, the largest share of sponsors is being gathered by Marine Family Support Group member, Rex Anderson. Rex has been creative in his search for sponsors, even going so far as to get people to sponsor his personal participation in the run. I challenge each of you to meet Rex's motivation level!

There are several conferences and conventions coming up over the next few months. The Department of Indiana Spring Conference will be in Terre Haute this month. The Division Conference is next month in Wisconsin and the State Convention will be in June in Indianapolis. If you've never been to a conference or convention, I recommend attending at least one in your life. I'm usually rewarded by running into a Marine whom I served with, or someone with a mutual acquaintance. The conferences are usually shorter and less formal; the convention usually at least a day longer with events and a formal dinner. Either event will help to give a larger perspective on the Marine Corps League. I'd like to personally invite all members to come to the State Convention in June.

Speaking of invitations. Don't forget to make your reservations for the Nite for Marines. Sounds like it will be quite a bit of fun and a chance for us to get together casually.

## Military History—The Meaning of the Flag Draped Coffin—Submitted by Chaplain Wagner

I hope you take the time to read this.... To understand what the flag draped coffin really means.... Here is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers.

Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?



Have you ever noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.



The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.



The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.



The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance



The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.'



The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that They pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

(Continued on page 3)

## Marine Corps History—The Marine Corps War Memorial (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)



The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.



The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.



The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.



The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their nations motto, 'In God We Trust.'



After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today

## Membership Chairman's Roll Call (Cont'd)

Life Membership Chart  
As of 01.01/2009

Under 35	\$500
36-40	\$400
41-50	\$400
51-60	\$300
61- Over	\$150

Also it is very important to educate people that it is not necessary to have had any prior military service to become an 'associate member' of the Marine Corps League, and that we are always actively seeking those who would care to join under that status. Their support of our ideals and principles are a very important asset and it would please me deeply to have a even balance of both 'associates' and 'regular' members within our detachment. Remember, NUMBERS COUNT GREATLY, when legislative proposals are presented to those in power.

Our voices must be heard in order to maintain the status quo of every benefit available for past, present, and future members of our armed forces. Congressional members readily send our troops into harms way, many times without hesitation, but yet are

not willing to honor the promises made to those who do our country's battles. Many times it seems as though when cuts need to be made, it is the veterans, first, that are denied their due. We must remain, strong in our membership, and adamant in our demands.

Additionally it would be nice to see more current members become active, getting involved by attending some of the monthly meetings. Volunteer to help on one of the committees. It's FUN! It's REWARDING, and by helping out and working together, takes some of the pressure off the members who constantly are involved week after week.

So let's get out and search for new members, so our detachment continues to grow, and become even stronger in the future.

And MEMBERS, please read on, in a separate column (Page 4), about the very first "NITE for MARINES" to be held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Hope to see new faces at the next meeting and certainly on the last Thursday of April.

Ed Herzog  
Jr. Vice Commandant

(Membership Chrm)

## Nite for Marines—Something New for the Membership

On Thursday evening April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the very first 'NITE for MARINES' will be held at the VFW Post 673 in Jasper, Indiana.

All regular Marine Corps League members, associate members, family support group members and their spouses or loved ones are invited to attend an evening of fun and dining together. Also eligible to attend will be the surviving spouses of former MCL members and newly sponsored 'paid' members.

Attendance is by RESERVATIONS ONLY and must be received by April 18<sup>th</sup>. (no exceptions) Letters to the membership will be mailed with the necessary information included.

The evening will be an informal gathering of Marines, and their support group volunteers, for the purpose of enjoying a meal, general conversation and laughter. Most always whenever elements of our organization join together it is for some sort of community service function, whether it be for a parade, military funeral, Toys for Tots collection or distribution etc., so this evening will afford our brotherhood a chance to unwind and get to know each other better, as well as to introduce and become acquainted with any new members who may be joining us for the very first time.

There will be no formal meeting, and dress is casual and comfortable.

Officers should wear their red covers and all members having the red polo shirts are asked to wear them, as we will be in the public eye and a 'sea of red' will be impressive. Those who do not have the embroidered red polo could wear plain red shirts of some sort if available. The club will be quite busy that evening as it is a regular drawing night so we will most definitely be noticed. The remainder of the dress is up to the individual, with jeans and comfortable clothing permitted.

The meal menu will consist of the VFW'S famous "Golden Fried Chicken," and several sides. The ladies are asked to bring a dessert of some sort. There will be a cash bar for alcoholic beverages of your choice. As always we encourage respon-

sible drinking for all. Soft drinks, tea, and coffee will be provided.

Cost of the meal will be a mere \$5.00 per person, and PREPAID RESERVATIONS should be sent with the number of persons attending to:

Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931  
Marine Corps League

PO Box 184

Jasper, IN 47547-0184

The doors will open at 6:00 P.M. with dinner served between 6:30 and 7:00 P.M. This being a week night event we anticipate a 10:00 P.M. – 10:30 P.M. time limit respecting those who must work the following day.

Following the meal there will be a "half pot" drawing and perhaps a simple drawing for a few of the table decorations. Several volunteers are in the process of obtaining or creating these items.

Music will be provided by "Swingtime Serenade" for your listening and dancing pleasure, and knowing that some members of the group love line dancing, maybe they can be convinced to give some impromptu line dance tips and lessons in the background, same goes for those members who enjoy ballroom waltzing and country western style dancing. All in all it should be an evening to relax and unwind among friends and it is hoped that we have a respectable turnout from the membership.

This will be the first of which is hoped to be a continuing function for the benefit of our league members, volunteers and friends. Depending upon the participation and success of the festivities, future events may be considered.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.... Ed Herzog "NITE for MARINES" Chairman

Semper Fi

## Vietnam Memorial to Open

**Jacksonville/Camp Lejeune: June 13, 2009:**

The formal dedication/ribbon-cutting ceremony for Phase One of the Onslow Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be held at 11am on Saturday June 13th. The event is free & open to the public. This massive project is at the corner of Hwy 24 Business & Montford Point Road (next to the Beirut Memorial) in Jacksonville, NC and is one of the few in the country to display all 58,229 names. It is dedicated to ALL the men & women from ALL branches of the service who served (whether in country or not) during the Vietnam era. PLEASE help us get the word out (across the nation) to all Vietnam Vets or anyone who might be interested in attending. You can get more information from the website:

[www.onslowvietnammemorial.org](http://www.onslowvietnammemorial.org) or email Kat Horn at [vietvetmemorial@yahoo.com](mailto:vietvetmemorial@yahoo.com).

## Family and Medical Leave Act—Military Entitlements

Eligible employees with a spouse, son, daughter, or parent on active duty or called to active duty status in the National Guard or Reserves in support of a contingency operation may use their 12-week leave entitlement to address certain qualifying exigencies. Qualifying exigencies may include attending certain military events, arranging for alternative childcare, addressing certain financial and legal arrangements, attending certain counseling sessions, and attending post-deployment reintegration briefings.

FMLA also includes a special leave entitlement that permits eligible employees to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a covered servicemember during a single 12-month period. A covered servicemember is a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who has a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty on active duty that may render the servicemember medically unfit to perform his or her duties for which the servicemember is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy; or is in outpatient status; or is on the temporary disability retired list.

## HI Bearss Detachment Takes on the VA Over Political Correctness

**Indianapolis, IN** – Citing guidance from the Veterans Affairs Ethics Center, the Director of Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis continues his position to not return a WW II Era news headline citing “Japs Surrender” to the “Memorial Wall” in his Veterans Hospital. In a follow up meeting, Director Mattice met with leaders of the Marine Corps League, Hiram I. Bearss Detachment to announce his decision. He will instead replace the headline with a more politically correct headline with the same inference. Also, he is looking for other historic documents or items to display in the hospital. Director Mattice noted in an analogy with other WW II headlines hanging on that same wall, that it was permissible to continue to display the term “Nazi” to describe Hitler’s German Army, but not “Japs” to describe the Japanese Army, because it is

offensive to the Japanese and not to the Germans. The guidance from the Ethics Center indicated that this was an “opportunity” for Director Mattice to “practice ethical decision making”.

Veterans from across the United States are outraged by Director Mattice’s action to be “politically correct” with the historic WW II headlines. News accounts have been observed from Alaska to New York citing outrage from the Vets. Veterans ask, “At what point does history and the sacrifices of our Veterans matter more than political correctness?” The Marine Corps League had proposed a win-win solution of returning the WW II headlines to its proper place with a disclaimer plaque next to it addressing the use of the slur in 1945. But Mattice dis-

missed it as not achieving a work environment free of hostile or offensive material.

[Marine Corps League POCs:](#)

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## News from the Wounded Warrior Regiment

Planning Guidance created during 2006 by the 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James T. Conway, highlighted a vision of taking care of wounded warriors and their families. In April 2007, that vision was realized by the official establishment of the Wounded Warrior Regiment (WWR). Headquartered in Quantico, Virginia, and with Wounded Warrior Battalions on both the East and West Coasts, the WWR is a unique organization spawned from a combination of the 2005 Marine for Life III/ Injured Support Section and the 2004 wounded warrior barracks located in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

The Mission of the Wounded Warrior Regiment is to provide and facilitate assistance to wounded/injured/ill Marines, Sailors attached to or in support of Marine units, and their family members throughout the phases of recovery.

The WWR provided information on

the following two organizations.

**The National Resource Directory** provides wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans, their families, families of the fallen and those who support them with a web-based directory of valuable resources. It delivers information on, and access to, the full range of medical and non-medical services and resources needed to achieve their personal and professional goals during the transitions from recovery to rehabilitation to community reintegration. This online partnership links to the services and resources of federal, state and local governmental agencies; veterans service and benefit organizations; non-profit community-based and faith-based organizations; and academic institutions, professional associations and philanthropic organizations.

[www.nationalresourcedirectory.org](http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.org)

**ThanksUSA**, a charitable effort to mobilize Americans of all ages to “thank” our active-duty troops by providing college scholarships to their spouses and dependents, will open it’s fourth year accepting applications for scholarships in March 2009. Interested applicants can find more information, eligibility requirements and the official application form at [www.ThanksUSA.org](http://www.ThanksUSA.org). Applications will be accepted from April 1 through May 15, 2009.

These need-based scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis to the spouses and children of active-duty military personnel who plan to pursue a post-secondary education, including vocational and technical training. Recipients will be selected on the basis of financial need, demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities. Interested parties can apply online and learn more about the effort at [www.ThanksUSA.org](http://www.ThanksUSA.org).

Apply

Postage

*Southern Indiana Leatherneck  
Detachment #931*

Southern Indiana Leathernecks  
Marine Corps League  
P.O. Box 184

**Once a Marine, Always a Marine**

**WWW.SILDMARINES.COM**

Please deliver to:

## **Congressional Budget Office Proposes Huge Hikes in Veterans' Health Fees**

**In a December 2008 Report to Congress, the CBO makes recommendations for sweeping changes in health care cost savings and sharing. Among the proposals are the following four which amount to increases in fees, copayments, and cost shares of over one hundred billion dollars between 2010 and 2019.**

### **“Option 95**

**Increase Health Care Cost Sharing for Family Members of Active-Duty Military Personnel**

### **Option 96**

**Introduce Minimum Out-of-Pocket Requirements Under TRICARE For Life**

### **Option 97**

**Increase Medical Cost Sharing for Military Retirees Who Are Not Yet Eligible for Medicare**

### **Option 98**

**Require Copayments for Medical Care Provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to Enrollees Without a Service-Connected Disability”**

**If enacted, these changes would represent a severe degradation of earned benefits upon the military community. To read the CBO's proposals**

go to <http://www.cbo.gov/doc.cfm?index=9925> . Click on PDF. Click on the binoculars. Do a search for TFL. Let your Congressman know your feelings.

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