

Leatherneck News

Upcoming Events

- 6-7 March 2010—Department of Indiana Spring Conference, Marion, IN.
- 11 March 2010—Marine Family Support Group Meeting, 7 PM Jasper American Legion
- 13 March 2010—Ireland 5K Run/Walk, 8 AM
- 14 March 2010—Ireland Parade, 1 PM
- 18 March 2010-Regular Meeting of the Detachment , 7 PM. Jasper American Legion
- 20 March 2010—Care Package Pack out, 1:00 PM, Jasper American Legion
- 8-11 April 2010—Central Division Conference, Westlake Oh. Contact Commandant for details.
- 15 May 2010—6th Annual Armed Forces Day Run/Walk
- 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

Membership Blitz Ends on High Note by Commandant Dave Englert

Efforts to grow the Detachment membership have met with success during the 2009 Membership Blitz. Spreading the word of the what the Marine Corps League and our mission is, without breaking the bank to advertise, has always been a challenge. Meeting the challenge this year meant getting out and making ourselves available to the veteran community and to the public in general.

Strategic timing of press releases and announcements, coupled with a series of “meet and greets” at three of the area veterans organizations allowed us to increase our visibility and did generate a great deal of interest in our organization.

Direct results of the blitz are difficult to ascertain, but inarguably, the blitz has lead to a greater understanding of our organizations mission and purpose.

Members are asked to continue the spirit of the blitz by being ready to discuss the value of membership, the purpose of our detachment, and what we have to offer a new member.

All members should carry an application with them at all times. Application forms are included in each edition of Semper Fi, the magazine of the Marine Corps League.

Advisory Position Created for Afghanistan/Iraq Marines

Reaching out to the country’s newest veterans is an ongoing effort by all of the service organizations. Generational differences, misunderstandings of purpose, and social differences all contribute to barriers between young and old.

Recognizing that more must be done to assist our fellow Marines from the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars the members of the Detachment have had several brainstorming sessions designed to close the gap that exists.

Effective 18 February, the membership voted to authorize the Commandant to create an advisory

position to represent the Marines from the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars . This voluntary position is to be filled by a veteran of either conflict, either active duty or has been deployed to either region of conflict.

This position will be a direct advisor to the Detachment Commandant, providing input on needed efforts, new programs, communications, and perceived shortfalls.

Anyone interested in filling this position should contact Commandant Englert by phone or email as soon as possible.

Getting Ready for the Armed Forces Day 5K

Sponsor lists and letters and entry forms for the 15 May 5K were disseminated during the February meeting. The 5K Committee, led by Adjutant Dennis Englert has been busy coordinating efforts, learning how to operate the new timing system, and poring over lessons learned from the first five years. The first test of the new system will be during the 13 March Ireland 5K, which will give the team a chance to work out any concerns prior to our race. Organizers of the Ireland run have been gracious enough to allow us to provide a no pres-

sure timing of their race.

Participation from the membership is needed in the form of seeking sponsors, disseminating entry forms, and, if able, seeking individual participant sponsors for the race.

Letters, entry forms, rules and regulations are on our website or can be picked up from any Detachment Officers. Anyone interested in learning about the timing system can feel free to help out during the Ireland 5K.

Commandant's Corner

Congratulations to the Marines of Michigan City on the successful chartering of their new Detachment, the Michiana Marines Detachment.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families of the three Hoosier Marines that were killed in action in February. Lance Cpl. Joshua H. Birchfield, 24, of Westville, Ind., Cpl. Gregory S. Stultz, 22, of Brazil, Ind., Sgt. Jeremy R. McQueary, 27, of Columbus, Ind. Funerals were held during the last week of February.

My personal thanks to our dedicated Officers who continue to do their jobs in a professional manner, without pay, and sometimes without thanks. Without these Officers, the Detachment would not exist.

I'm throwing out a personal challenge to our younger members. Programs, events, and communications come about through a mutual process. If you think this detachment should be doing something it's not, be constructive, offer

suggestions, offer help. Your older members need your support just as much as you need theirs! I look forward to having someone step up and take on the mission of advising the Commandant on what the needs are and perhaps offering a few suggestions for improvement.

We have had the benefit of meeting and greeting many of the contenders for our Congressional District. Each has taken the time to listen to our needs and all have come back to me for additional information. Representative government is not an "elect and forget" process. Our representatives want and need our input to make the machines of governance work. Just a thought for you. Senator "A" tells his colleagues that they need to spend XX dollars for something. Senator "B" wants to spend the same amount, but has the letters, petitions and phone calls from his voters to back up the need. Cynicism aside, Senator "B" has the better case and is more likely to get the money needed. If you're not willing to participate, have you really earned the right to complain?

Junior Vice Commandant's Roll Call

Our 'membership blitz' has been completed, however our quest for new members continues and shall always be of utmost importance to our continued efforts to grow.

Although not all directly attributed to the 'blitz' efforts itself, we have added ten (10) new members to our rolls since the first of the year, and by individual contacts made in recent weeks and months, I have been able to add to our prospective members list quite a number of names and personal contacts, which are being pursued.

A new grouping of invitation letters have been mailed and I

am eagerly awaiting replies, including one in particular if acceptance is acquired would enable our Detachment to declare that we have at least one member from ALL branches of the United States Military. I have set a personal goal in obtaining a member that has honorably served in the U.S. Coast Guard, the lone branch of which we have no member representation. My fingers are crossed hoping that the goal is achieved with this particular individual in mind coming aboard with us.

The regular meeting held Thursday February 18th 2010 saw four (4) new members being voted upon and accepted into the

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Military Wisdom *Submitted by Ed Herzog*

'What is the similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots? If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies; but If ATC screws up, the pilot dies.'-Sign over Control Tower Door-

'Never trade luck for skill.' -Author Unknown-

The three most common expressions (or famous last words) in military aviation are: 'Did you feel that?' 'What's that noise?' and 'Oh S...!' or (appended from the Arkansas Air National Guard): "Hold my beer and watch this!"

-Authors Unknown-

'Airspeed, altitude and brains. Two are always needed to successfully complete the flight.'

-Basic Flight Training Manual-

'Mankind has a perfect record in aviation - we have never left one up there!' - Unknown Author

'Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground incapable of understanding or doing anything about it.' - Emergency Checklist-

'The Piper Cub is the safest airplane in the world; it can just barely kill you.' - Attributed to Max Stanley (Northrop test pilot) -

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Nite for Marines by Edward Herzog

This year's 'NITE for MARINES' event will differ from last year's in that we will not have a buffet meal planned, nor any sort of program. We will simply ask interested members and guests to attend on the evening selected, order from the menu any items that they individually wish to have and then join in an evening of fellowship and general conversation among their fellow Marine brothers', sisters', MCL supporters and friends.

Should there be someone to volunteer to co-ordinate a half/pot type drawing we may do so, however time and prior commitments do not allow for further additions or involvements to be added.

After sharing the mealtime and conversation together those wishing to remain for the scheduled dance that evening are encouraged to remain and continue to have a fun evening together dancing and conversing so long as they desire.

The evening chosen for this year's 'NITE for MARINES' is Saturday April 17th, and will be held at the VFW Post 673 in Jasper, the same site as last year's inaugural NFM.

Notification will be made in the form of a letter to the general membership, as well as thru posting upon the Detachment website www.sildmarines.com, and via the news media and local papers as well as mention being made during one or more of the scheduled

radio interviews in which our Detachment officers talk about upcoming events and functions in which we participate.

Although reservations will not be required it would be greatly appreciated if all considering attending would

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Marine Family Support Group by Cindy Hembree

The Marine Family Support Group will be doing care packages on 20 March, 2010 @ the American Legion from 1:00-2:00. Please bring any addresses you have for our care packages! We are low on some items, so we may have to do some shopping for some items we normally send. In the next few months we will have some Marines heading over for deployment! Please keep all our Marines and Military personal and their families in your prayers! There will be a 5K run and parade in Ireland, IN on 13, & 14, March, 2010. Please check the MFSG and SILDMARINES web site for more info on both the run and parade!! As the weather will eventually be getting warmer I would like to have some fundraisers along with the Marine Corps League. Last year we had a car wash and grilled burgers/brauts. Everyone had a great doing these fundraisers!!! All proceeds from our fundraiser will go to help with cost of the Marine Corps Birthday Ball!! Info on all these will be posted at a later date. Hope to see everyone soon!

Military Wisdom (Cont'd)

'There is no reason to fly through a thunderstorm in peacetime.' - Sign over Squadron Ops Desk at Davis-Montham AFB, AZ-

'If something hasn't broken on your helicopter, it's about to.' - Sign over Carrier Group Operations Desk-

'You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal.' - Lead-in Fighter Training Manual -

As the test pilot climbs out of the experimental aircraft, having torn off the wings and tail in the crash landing, the crash truck arrives. The rescuer sees a bloodied pilot and asks, 'What happened?' The pilot's reply: 'I don't know, I just got here myself!'

Camp Lejeune Water Lawsuit to Proceed

By Barbara Barrett, McClatchy Newspapers

Stars and Stripes online edition, Thursday, February 25, 2010
WASHINGTON —

For what appears to be the first time, a former resident of Camp Lejeune, N.C., has been permitted to move ahead with a claim against the Marine Corps for years of water contamination that she says led to the development of her non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The U.S. Department of the Navy, which includes the Marines, this week lost its bid to dismiss the case of Laura J. Jones of Iowa, who lived at Camp Lejeune from 1980 to 1983 as the spouse of a Marine officer.

In 2005, more than two decades after she left North Carolina, Jones was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

“We would like to extend a sincere 'welcome aboard' to these newly accepted members .”



“Nominations for office will be closed during the old business portion of the March meeting. “

Junior Vice Commandant's Roll Call (cont'd)

Marine Corps League as members of our Detachment. They are:

Adam Dickey Associate Member sponsored by Cmdt. Dave Englert

John Bottorff Associate Member sponsored by Cmdt. Dave Englert

Rex Anderson Associate Member sponsored by Sr. Vice Pat Moriarty II

Garrett Atkins Regular Member sponsored by Jr. Vice Ed Herzog

We would like to extend a sincere 'welcome aboard' to these newly accepted members and take this opportunity to introduce them to our general membership. Those members that might be personally familiar with any of these gentlemen are urged to make them feel welcome as part of the MCL brotherhood as well.

FEBRUARY MEETING GUESTS

We were pleased to have had several guests attend our regular February business meeting.

Chad Lawson spoke briefly, regarding his involvement with the local Cubs Scouting organization, and requested that our Detachment consider becoming involved perhaps as a mentoring group with some of the younger scouts. One suggestion was to have a color guard available at a flag ceremony, another was the possibility of having several Marines in uniform and others perhaps in suitable clothing assisting the Cubs as they participate in a confidence course set up. All quite good and interesting ideas to assist in furthering scouting within the community, as well as allowing our presence to be known as well.

Also attending was Whitney Pierle, caseworker, and liaison for Congressman Baron Hill. Whitney from the Bloomington, Indiana office of Congressman Hill, offered several suggestions regarding mentoring programs, and various other tid-bits of information, including her distinct desire to help all Veterans with any possible needs they may encounter.

She stated that this was her first encounter with a military type business session, and was quite impressed with the proceedings, and most honored to be allowed to attend.

Anyone knowing of a veteran requiring assistance of any type is asked to contact one of the Detachment officers and we will be happy to put you in direct contact with Ms. Pierle.

Another of her colleagues

Officer Nominations and Elections

As required by the bylaws of the Marine Corps League and the Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment, nominations for elections of Officers was held during the regular February meeting of the Detachment. Thanks to the selfless devotion of our Officers all positions will be able to be filled during the election.

Candidates for office are:

Staff Judge Advocate: Tim Rue

Adjutant: Dennis Englert

Paymaster: Tina Moriarty

Chaplain: John Wagner

Junior Vice Commandant: Edward Herzog

Senior Vice Commandant: Patrick Moriarty II

Commandant: Dave Englert

Nominations for office will be closed during the old business portion of the March meeting. Election of Officers will be the last order of new business during the same meeting. Any Regular member desiring to be nominated for office MUST either be at the meeting in person

or provide a statement of willingness to serve to the Commandant prior to the meeting. Nominees must be members in good standing and must agree to fulfill the duties of their posts as spelled out in the Staff Officers Guide and bylaws. Individuals wishing to learn more about the duties of these offices may inquire from any elected officer.

These elected officers form the Executive Committee of the Detachment and are responsible for the day to day operation of the Detachment between regular meetings of the membership.

Junior Vice Commandant's Roll Call (Cont'd)

from Baron Hill's New Albany office, was voted into our Detachment on this very evening Mr. Adam Dickey, who has attended several previous meetings as well as all three of the past Marine Corps Birthday Ball celebrations became an associate member of the Detachment earlier in the meeting.

We are fortunate to have the expertise of both these individuals available to us, and are grateful for their service, and that of Congressman Hill, regarding matters of importance to Veterans.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

As many of you already know our Detachment has been upgrading our E-Mail Distribution List. Since the cost of mailings is quite an expense to our limited budgets emailing has been an efficient means of necessary communication among the officers and various people of the general membership.

I would urge all those that have email addresses which would allow us to contact you personally regarding upcoming events, or general information

involving the Detachment functions please submit your emailing addresses to me. I will see that your information is added to the upgraded distribution list. **Under no circumstances will your personal information be shared with ANY SOURCE other than Detachment Officers or members having a need to know.**

Please submit your address to me at: Ed

Herzog smprfi@psci.net

Thanks and 'Semper Fi' to all...



We did it to support our friends and

family going off to war. .

A Thank You to all Vietnam Vets from a Marine in Iraq

A guy gets time to think over here and I was thinking about all the support we get from home. Sometimes it's overwhelming. We get care packages at times faster than we can use them. There are boxes and boxes of toiletries and snacks lining the center of every tent; the generosity has been amazing. So, I was pondering the question: "Why do we have so much support?"

In my opinion, it all came down to one thing: Vietnam Veterans. I think we learned a lesson, as a nation, that no matter what, you have to support the troops who are on the line, who are risking everything. We treated them so poorly back then. When they returned it was even worse.

The stories are nightmarish of what our returning warriors were subjected to. It is a national scar, a blemish on our country, an embarrassment to all of us.

After Vietnam, it had time to sink in. The guilt in our collective consciousness grew. It shamed us. However, we learned from our mistake. Somewhere during the late 1970's and on into the 80's, we realized that we can't treat our warriors that way. So ... starting during the Gulf War, when the first real opportunity arose to stand up and support the troops, we did. We did it to support our friends and family going off to war. But we also did it to right the wrongs from the Vietnam era. We treat our troops of today like the heroes they were, and are, acknowledge and celebrate their sacrifice, and rejoice at their homecoming instead of spitting on them.

And that support continues today for those of us in Iraq. Our country knows that it must support us and it does. The lesson was learned in Vietnam and we are all better because of it.

Everyone who has gone before is a hero. They are celebrated in my heart. I think admirably of all those who have gone before me. From those who fought to establish this country in the late 1770's to those I serve with here in Iraq. They have all sacrificed to ensure our freedom. But when I get back home, I'm going to make it a personal mission to specifically thank every Vietnam Veteran I encounter for THEIR sacrifice. Because if nothing else good came from that terrible war, one thing did. It was the lesson learned on how we treat our warriors. We as a country learned from our mistake and now we treat our warriors as heroes, as we should have all along. I am the beneficiary of their sacrifice. Not only for the freedom they, like veterans from other wars, ensured, but for how well our country now treats my fellow Marines and I. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice.

Semper Fidelis,

Major Brian P. Bresnahan



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:

Nite for Marines by Edward Herzog

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please notify us so as to allow us to relay to the VFW management some general idea as to how many to expect, and to allow them to plan accordingly.

In order to eliminate confusion by listing numerous contacts I will list only my personal contact number.

You may notify me, Ed Herzog @ 812-695-3115 (leave msg) as to who and how many in your party are planning to attend. It is hoped that we can again have a nice turnout this year.

Once again we ask the officers to wear their red Detachment covers, and ALL attendees to wear RED SHIRTS if available. Those having the RED POLOS embroidered with the EGA or Bulldog Logo are asked to wear those as the object is also to create awareness among the general public as to our presence, and possibly aid in the recruitment of new prospective members.

Additionally if there is enough interest, we may have additional informal 'NITE for MARINES' gatherings at other locations within the surrounding communities. One example might be at the Calumet Lake Pavilion for a similar get-together enjoying their outstanding pizza offerings and menu items.

Hope to hear from many of you soon, prior to April 10th if at all possible.

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

Steve Wagner 812-482-5724

Scouting Coordinator

Ryan Sherer 812-631-0006