

Leatherneck News

Upcoming Events

- 8 May—Family Support Group Meeting, Jasper American Legion, 7 PM
- 8 May—Memorial Day Planning Meeting, Jasper American Legion, 7 PM
- 10 May—Family Support Group Care Package packing, Jasper American Legion, 1 PM
- 15 May—Entry Forms and collection boxes for 5K come in.
- 15 May—Regular Meeting, Jasper American Legion, 7 PM.
- 15 May—Last day to pre-register for 5K
- 17 May—4th Annual 5K Run/Walk (Registration 7:00AM; Start 8:00AM)
- 23 May—Flag placement at cemeteries (6 PM)
- 24 May—Memorial Day Services on the Square in Jasper (11 AM)
- 6-8 June—Department of Indiana State Convention, Richmond
- 14 June—Flag Day. County-wide disposal of unserviceable flags.
- 14 June—1st Annual Fallen Soldiers Bass Tournament, Newton-Stewart Ramp, Patoka Lake
- 4-5 October—Fall Conference Jasper

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Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

Supporting Our National Guard Brethren and Families

A special family event was held on April 5th 2008 for the families of the 151st Infantry, Indiana National Guard at the French Lick Resort-Casino. Organized by the Jasper Optimist Club and the Family Readiness Group, families were presented stuffed bears, each containing an audio message from their deployed loved ones. Children were entertained with numerous activities and a quartet of clowns while the families were able to record video greetings to send to their deployed Guardsmen. A meal and the ballroom were donated by the Resort.

At the request of the Optimist Club of Jasper, Marine Leaguers Steve Lindauer, Marian Altmeyer and Dave Englert pro-



April 5, 2008—Steve Lindauer, Marian Altmeyer, and Dave Englert Present the Colors at the 1/151st Infantry Bear Distribution and Family Appreciation Event



Cathy Fromme, wife of Scott Fromme and Marine Family Support Group member gets her 15 seconds of fame in the cash booth. The booth and cash were donated by Old National Bank. Cathy netted a whopping \$9 during her stay in the booth.

vided the color guard for the event. Each was praised for the professional conduct of the Color Guard and were presented personal coins from Major General R. Martin Umburger, Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard.

The event, months in the planning, was festive and the pride was evident in the families voices and faces. A wall of fame was set up at the entrance and families were invited to attach photos of their loved ones. As most Marines know, separation due to deployment is tough on the family, regardless of the branch of service, length of tour, or location of deployment. In some regards, it could be said that deployments for National Guard soldiers is more difficult for the families because they are not as used to frequent and lengthy deployments as regular service soldiers, sailors and Marines.

Commandant's Corner

The 5K is almost here! The next several days will be a flurry of activity for many, while the day of the run/walk is the focus of attention for others. The planning and readiness phase of the operation are nearly complete and soon the execution phase will be in full swing. Volunteers are always needed!

Double-check the Upcoming Events and you'll notice that we are getting busy once again. Within a 4 week period, we'll have our run, Memorial Day Weekend Services, a fishing tournament and flag day ceremonies. Get your uniforms in top notch shape.

The quarterly meeting of the Dubois County Veterans Council was productive and highlighted the cooperation among the various veterans' organizations, including ours. The nominees for this year's Memorial Day honoree included a soldier, an airman, and a Marine. All three were well deserving, with TSgt Ralph Birk (USAF) being this year's selection.

The council will also support the efforts of the Celebration Singers to recognize veterans during the Strassenfest opening Ceremonies, through the donation of flags for presentation.

Once again, the Detachment has been asked to perform the half-staffing of the flag during Memorial Day Services.

On a sadder note, I'm more than a little distressed at some comments made during the last meeting, comments that were less

than complimentary and directed towards our Associate Members. If I were an Associate Member who had devoted numerous hours to this organization I would have been more than just offended. For the record, I will note that our Associate Members are the most active members we have. While many "regular members" will sit back and let others do the work, they've stepped forward on innumerable occasions with an enthusiastic "What can I do to help!" Per the National, Department and our Bylaws, the only differences between an associate member and a regular member is that they can not serve as or vote for elected officers nor can they vote on NATIONAL Marine Corps League Policy. I suggest that some need to read the bylaws, which are posted on the website prior to the next meeting. I will no longer stop meetings to settle bylaw debates. I will also not allow the meetings to become "b&m" sessions. Members are expected to act in a professional manner, follow the meeting rules, and to show respect to all members. Perhaps a review of the oath we took when joining is in order.

I invite everyone to read and think about this month's guest editorial by Adjutant Dennis Englert. Well-worded and thought out, something for all to ponder.

This Month in Marine Corps History

2 May 1946: Marines from Treasure Island Marine Barracks, under the command of Warrant Officer Charles L. Buckner, aided in suppressing the three-day prison riot at Alcatraz Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay. WO Buckner, a veteran of the Bougainville and Guam campaigns, ably led his force of Marines without suffering a single casualty.

5 May 1983: In Beirut, Lebanon, a UH-1N helicopter carrying the commander of the American peace-keeping force, Colonel James Mead, was hit by machine gun fire. The six Marines aboard escaped injury. Colonel Mead and his crew had taken off in the helicopter to investigate artillery and rocket duels between rival Syrian-backed Druze Moslem militiamen and Christian Phalangists that endangered French members of the multinational force.

8 May 1995: In the wake of the most devastating storm to hit the New Orleans area in more than 200 years, a group of Marines and sailors from Marine Forces Reserve demonstrated the quick response synonymous with the Navy/Marine Corps team. Within 24 hours of being called, Marines assisted in the evacuation of 2,500 civilians, and Navy corpsmen treated scores of flood victims.

10 May 1945: The 22d Marines, 6th Marine Division, executed a pre-dawn attack south across the Asa River Estuary and seized a bridgehead from which to continue the attack toward Naha, the capital of Okinawa.

15 May 1862: Corporal John Mackie, the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor, was commended for service in the USS GA-

LENA during action against Confederate shore batteries at Drewry's Bluff which blocked the James River approaches to Richmond.

16 May 1945: The 22d and 29th Marines continued the attack against Half Moon Hill, a day characterized by the 6th Marine Division as the "bitterest" of the Okinawa campaign. By the 18th, the famed "Shuri line" had been breached.

22 May 1912: First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham, the first Marine officer to be assigned to "duty in connection with aviation" by Major General Commandant William P. Biddle, reported for aviation training at the Naval Aviation Camp at Annapolis, Maryland, and Marine aviation had its official beginning.

23 May 1988: The V-22 Osprey, the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft, made its debut during rollout ceremonies at Bell Helicopter Textron's Arlington, Texas, facility. More than 1,000 representatives from the military, industry, and media, gathered to hear various speakers, including Gen Alfred Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps, praise the versatile rotor craft designed to meet the needs of 21st Century battlefields.

26 May 1969: Operation Pipestone Canyon began when the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines and 3d Battalion, 5th Marines began sweeps in the Dodge City/Go Noi areas southwest of Da Nang. It terminated at the end of June with 610 enemy

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This Month in Marine Corps History Contd

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killed in action at a cost of 34 Marines killed.

29 May 1991: Elements of a joint task force that included the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade departed the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Bangladesh after nearly two weeks of disaster

relief operations following a devastating cyclone. The joint task force delivered tons of relief supplies using helicopters, C-130s, and landing craft in Operation Sea Angel.

Provided by United States Marine Corps Historical Branch

The Importance of Our Associates

Members of the Southern Indiana Leathernecks,

Our April meeting was unusual in that we had some discord amongst members. At issue, what are the privileges of our associate members? While our Executive Committee has been tasked with determining the parameters of the by-laws at the detachment, state, and national levels, I feel compelled to address an underlying issue. Our Marine Corps Pride! While we can exude the bravado of being a Marine, we must also be able to temper what we express or we will lose the respect and confidence of those that need our support, as well as those that we desire support from.

As a Marine of twenty-two years, my primary MOS was taught by Marines but the program was sponsored by the Navy. At my first duty station at MCAS Yuma, I served with Sailors. A few years later, as a Marine recruiter I obviously competed, but more importantly worked with recruiters from all branches of the service. During my tour at NAS Glenview, I again served, worked and was neighbors with all branches of the service, which included reservists. Also, as a recruiter I had to cope with the public, the potential Marine's parents, their brother's and sister's, and of course, that forever girlfriend. There has always been a rivalry amongst our services. For the Marines, it may have been to secure our existence, since we've often been on the chopping block. In the end, all of us chose a service. Just that alone should cause someone to garner some respect for

the other. Though we may reflect that they have been misguided on their choice, I'd challenge you to walk down the hallways on an Army base. I think you'll find the same "esprit de corps" that we have, though they may call it something else. Remember MacArthur and Patton. They weren't Marines. Of course, they are probably trying to forget Custer. Also, remember that the Army Air Corps (Air Force) probably saved hundreds of thousands of Marines and others by risking their lives enroute to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

With a little reality check you might note the difficulty we have in recruiting our Marine brethren to join us in perpetuating our cause; the cause of our Marine Corps and our unwavering support for "Our Own".

However, filling the gap are our associates. Some are parents and family members of Marines, but we are fortunate to have associate members from other branches of the service. Our associates gain from us a unique experience; a demonstration of our pride and our "Can-Do" attitude. As a detachment, we are before the public eye constantly. We are a reminder to that public of what being a Marine is. Our associates have been there every step of the way. With that, we must repay their efforts by displaying a respect for them. Denigrating the Air Force, when we the detachment have three Air Force associates is not only disrespectful, but imparts that their efforts are thankless. Quarreling about the rights or privileges of our associates imparts a different thought; we want their money, their help and support, but they are unjustified in feeling that they belong. I don't agree.

Whether you served two years or thirty, you believe in yourself and the Corps. I believe

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Here

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Detachment #931*

Southern Indiana Leathernecks
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 184
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Phone: 812-357-2792

Email: marines@psci.net

Once a Marine, Always a Marine

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Legislative News—(Contd)

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that we can do that and do it tactfully, thereby gaining and maintaining the respect of those not familiar with the Corps. Snapping at someone for calling us an 'ex' only alienates us; reminding them that we are "Always Faithfull" and that "Once a Marine; Always a Marine" means that we are "Marines" and that "Marine" is our preference. At work, everyone knows that I am a Marine. I've gained the respect of those here from the CEO on down, not by being in their face about the Corps, but by demonstrating what a Marine can do, what a Marine's work ethic is, and how we handle tough situations. It's our attitude that permeates either a good vibe or not! While we'll be reviewing the by-laws, it is quite clear that the Associate Members do matter; that they do have a place alongside us; and that they do have a say in detachment matters. It is also how we handle ourselves as Marines and what we convey that matters. You may not agree, but think about it!

Dennis L. Englert
Master Sergeant
U.S. Marine Corps Retired

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