

Leatherneck News

Upcoming Events

- 13 May 2009—5K envelope stuffing and volunteer meeting. All hands welcome
- 14 May 2009 – Marine Family Support Group meets at the Jasper American Legion 7 PM
- 16 May 2009—Fifth Annual Armed Forces Day 5k Run/Walk.
- 16 May 2009—Patriot Guard Riders Memorial Ride
- 21 May 2009—Regular Meeting of the Detachment. Jasper American Legion, 7 PM.
- 22 May 2009—6 PM—Flag Placement at Fairview Cemetery, Jasper
- 23 May 2009— 11 AM—Dubois County Memorial Day Observance, Courthouse Square.
- 25 May 2009—6 PM—Flag Retrieval at Fairview Cemetery, Jasper
- 30 May 2009—1st Annual Eric Hall Memorial Bass Tourney, Lake Monroe
- 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
- 12 June 2009—6 PM, Flag Disposal Ceremony, Ducois County Fairgrounds

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Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

NITE for Marines *By Junior Vice Commandant Ed Herzog*

They CAME, They SANG, (two verses) of the Marine Corps Hymn, loudly and proudly, in accompaniment with taped music from the Marine Corps Band, and the regular visitors of the VFW Post 673, were keenly aware that they had been invaded by the United States Marines and their Marine Corps League members, spouses, and supporters.

Such was the case Thursday night April 30th, 2009, as all but two or three of the sixty-four who had placed their reservations, kicked off with the very first 'NITE for MARINES' event.

A meal of golden fried chicken, sweet sour slaw, mashed potatoes, green beans and

freshly baked yeast rolls, along with a king's ransom of scrumptious looking desserts brought by the ladies, was enjoyed by all.

Following the dinner new members, that had joined the Detachment since the first of this year, were introduced along with their spouses, and a brief mention of their prior military service was given.

Thanks were given to the VFW employees and kitchen staff for their most able assistance in providing for the evenings festivities.

Special thanks to the volunteers whom I SO ADAMANTELY VOLUNTEERED to

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

So much to do, so little time! The Detachment needs all hands present to meet our many commitments.

Preparations for the 5K are continuing at a fast and furious pace. On the 13th, we'll meet at the Jasper VFW Post to put together entrant packages and go over last minute details. Race day begins at 6 AM for volunteers, with registration at 7 AM and race time at 8 AM. We expect a good turnout again this year.

As part of their annual ritual, the Patriot Guard Riders will conduct a Memorial Ride over Armed Forces Day Weekend. Starting at the National Guard Armory in Jasper at 10:00 AM Saturday, 16 May, they'll ride to honor: CPL Eric R. Leuken, USMC, 23 Dubois, (11:30 AM), Seaman Apprentice Shayna Ann Schnell, USN, 19, Tell City, SPC Jared Arnn, USA, 21 Boonville, PFC Zachary Reinsch, INANG Jasper.

On Sunday, 17 May, they'll ride from Evansville to honor: SGT Joseph Ford, INANG, 23 Knox, SPC Williams A. Jeffries, IANG, 39 Evansville, PFC Darren A. DeBlanc, USA, 20 Evansville, CPL Willard M. Powell, USA, 21 Evansville, PFC Jonathan R. Pfender, USA, 22 Evansville, SGT Brock A. Babb, USMC, 40 Evansville, LCPL James E. Brown, USMC,

20 Owensville, Sr. Airman Jason Stevens, USAF, Mt. Vernon.

Please note the times of Memorial Day Weekend events. As usual, we'll meet at the Fairview Cemetery on that Friday evening. Meeting at the flagpole, we will have a short memorial service and then proceed to place flags upon the graves of our departed veterans.

We will participate in the DCVC ceremony on Saturday 23 May, with one shooter, the flag detail, and our Detachment Flag.

We will meet again at Fairview Cemetery and retrieve flags on Monday, 25 May at 6 PM.

For anyone who can make it, we are sponsoring a team in the Eric Hall Memorial Bass Tournament at Lake Monroe on the 30th.

Finally, the Dubois County Veterans Council is planning the first county-wide flag disposal ceremony. We will provide a color guard and attendance. More details will be provided in the June Newsletter and as they become available.

The parade schedule will be established over the next month so that all can plan ahead.

Commandant's Corner

As I look at the calendar, I note that it's been almost two weeks since I nearly finished this newsletter. A lot has happened since then. Some of the upcoming events are actually past events now and typing the words on this page takes a bit longer than it used too. I know that for some of you this is news, others already know. On May 11th, I had a Transient Ischemic Attach (TIA) or more commonly known as a "mini-stroke". A real wake-up call to say the least, but also an opportunity to pass on some useful information to all of you who wonder if that pain you had is something to worry about.

Like you, this is my first attempt at old age! What's normal, what's not? If you have a pain, should you be worried? The best advice I can give is don't ignore what's not normal for you. In my case, I had a very sudden and severe headache, which is not normal for me. Perhaps you have migraines and this wouldn't be uncommon for you, but it was certainly out of the ordinary for me.

As with a full-stroke, the TIA caused some weakness on one side. This, however, was not apparent to me, but was noticeable to others. Quite honestly, at no time did I even consider the thought of a stroke. Fortunately, I still consider aspirin to be a good friend and I took a couple to ease my headache. Also, fortunately, I had someone around to notice what was happening and took action. Very fortunate indeed.

We are entering our typically busy time of year with many events scheduled. I won't rehash what's already been stated. As in the

past, we are relying heavily upon you, the membership to step forward and fill positions.

Senior Vice Commandant Moriarty and I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the 2009 Central Division Conference in Neenah, Wisconsin. I say wonderful because we were able to attend some great training sessions with representatives from Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin. We also found ourselves in the position of being the representatives for the Department of Indiana. As they say, when senior, take charge! One major item that we came away with was a very helpful package of materials and classes for the Marine Corps League. This collection includes bylaws, the Officer's Guide, and several presentations for use in training. Another possibly useful item was a conceptualized "SRB" for League members. We'll be sharing information from this packet as practical.

Lastly, let me conclude with a note about our meetings. For the most part, we've done well in keeping our meetings to a reasonable timeline. In furthering this interest, I ask that if there is something that you'd like to bring up at a meeting, that you please take the time to send me a note or call me so that I can put it on the agenda. By providing the executive committee with an agenda, research can be conducted prior to the meeting and we can come to informed decisions sooner and less painfully. It also helps to keep the meeting flowing smoothly and efficiently!

Thanks to all of you for the cards, calls, and visits. I assure you that they were helpful in my recovery. Semper Fidelis!

NITE for Marines—An Update

(Continued from page 1)

take charge of the table decorations, and the half pot drawing. They are our very own family support group members John & Leanna Blemker, and Rex & Eva Anderson. All four did a wonderful job with the decorations and I'm very grateful for their assistance.

A presentation video entitled "Return to Makin Island" was shown about how the bodies of 19 Marines were left behind during one of the very first offensives of World War II, against a Japanese held atoll with almost no strategic value. The island then known as Makin Island, now called Butaritari, still held the remains of these 19 Marines killed in that raid nearly 67 years ago. It was learned through CILHI (the Army's Central Intelligence Agency in Hawaii) that a little Butaritari man, who as a teenaged member of this island's tribe, and who had taken part in the burial of these casualties, was still alive today, AND HE KNEW WHERE THE BODIES WERE. And the Marines now, WANTED THEM BACK!!!

Things had gone so awry during the short but hard fought battle that the Marines at one point tried to surrender to a Japanese garrison they had already wiped out. With the chaos of battle and the necessity of a hasty retreat, the Marines had requested that the islanders bury their dead so the Japanese would not find them.

Some 57 years after the fact in 1999, Marines returned to that island, (this time in peace) and recovered the bodies in a solemn respectful manner.

Veterans of that raid on Makin Island, as it was then named included the second in command, Major James Roosevelt, son of President Franklin Roosevelt and of course the 2nd Marine Battalion leader Lt. Col Evans F. Carlson.

This film depicts the honor of what we as Marines refer to as "Esprit de Corps" and "Semper Fidelis" which means ALWAYS FAITHFUL.

At the videos end a quiet somber hush seemed to envelop those present as they realized what they had just witnessed.

Later, a short segment of music was provided for those who wished to dance off a few of the calories, however with it being a week night and the need for many to rise early to return to work we did not stay nearly as late as originally planned.

The feedback received regarding the night's event was definitely positive, and I was most proud to have been able to initiate the program. Any future events will be discussed among the members at the regular meetings, so anyone wishing to add comments or suggestions are most welcome to attend the meetings which are held at the Jasper American Legion on the 3rd Thursday of

Membership Chairman's Roll Call

With the inclusion of three new members accepted and one re-instatement our roster as of last month's meeting stands at 66 members which includes 26 life members and 37 paid members (both regular and associate.) We also have listed 8 unpaid members which have all been contacted but have not responded.

If anyone knows any of those unpaid members personally, I urge you to contact them and do what you can to get them to re-instate their membership. We need each and every member and retention of all members is a definite key to our success.

Last month's new members included Daniel J. Beck (associate), Betty L. Fendel (associate), and Poncho E. Martinez (regular). I was proud to have sponsored all three of these individuals, with one additional point awarded to Pat Moriarty for the referral of Mr. Martinez. With less than half the recruiting year over there is still plenty of time left to win points toward the 'recruiters of the year' award at year's end.

With the added work with the 'NITE for MARINES' event I had been concentrating on that program for the past three or four weeks and as a result have not signed any new members since the last regular meeting, however I have done quite a bit of behind the scenes work in making visits and contacts, and have actually acquired at least 9 solid prospects for future membership.

Before the next meeting I do hope to have made either personal contact with, or will have sent recruitment letters to these prospects.

As I mentioned in the 'NITE for MARINES' column, it would be most helpful to the Detachment if everyone would contact one of the officers and provide any updates to your home addresses that may have changed since the last roster mailing, as well as providing any email addresses so as to allow us to create and update a database for future use.

With the increasing postal costs for mailings it would benefit the Detachment immensely by having the ability to contact many of the members regarding events and programs occurring throughout the calendar year. Of course those not having email addresses would still be contacted by the usual means of snail mail.

Once again, I appeal to each and every member, and encourage everyone to speak to new potential members. This includes those who have no prior military service, whom you feel would make good League members as associates. And as always mention the life memberships that are available for the various age groups.

Don't forget, you can call me at any time with a potential lead, and I will gladly do a followup if time does not allow you to make the necessary contact.

Happy Hunting, let's all do our part in bringing home more new members.

Semper Fi,

Ed Herzog Jr. Vice Commandant (Membership Chrm)

Legislative Affairs—Concurrent Receipt

Under the Administration's Omnibus proposal, all Chapter 61 retirees will become eligible for Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) over a five-year period starting in January 2010. The expansion will come in two phases.

The first three years of the five year phase-in opens CRDP eligibility to the more severely disabled Chapter 61 retirees with less than 20 years of service.

- On January 1, 2010, Chapter 61 retirees with less than 20 years of service and a VA rating of either 90% or 100% become eligible
- On January 1, 2011, Chapter 61 retirees with less than 20 years of service and a VA rating of either 70% or 80% become eligible

- On January 1, 2012, Chapter 61 retirees with less than 20 years of service and a VA rating of either 50% or 60% become eligible.

The remaining two years of this phase-in extends CRDP to Chapter 61 retirees, regardless of years of service, with a VA rating of less than 50%.

- On January 1, 2013, all Chapter 61 retirees with a VA rating of either 30% or 40% will become eligible

On January 1, 2014, all Chapter 61 retirees with any VA rating become eligible.

Once this plan is completed, the only disabled retirees ineligible for CRDP will be non-medical retirees with 40% or lower VA disability ratings.

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 *(Cont'd)*

each month at 7:00 P.M. Your input will help us decide on all aspects of future 'NITE for MARINE' events.

After having 'flown by the seat of my pants' for the first night, it appears that a Saturday night event would be much easier for all to consider. I've spoken with Fran at the VFW about the possibility of utilizing the back room on a night when a regular band was scheduled and she even went so far as to say that if we would let her know far enough in advance she would even allow us to choose the band for that night.

Having a group gathering on a weekend would not necessarily entail making definite reservations, as we could order from the full menu available at the Post, although some rough indication of how many might be interested would allow her to insure the proper amounts of certain food items would be on hand.

A notebook had been passed around asking those in attendance to update their home addresses and to include their email addresses so as to create an updated database. To those that were not able to attend and are regular readers of the monthly newsletter, I ask the very same of you. Please email or call one of the officers listed within the web site and send us your email addresses. It can definitely be of benefit to our Detachment both in postal cost savings as well as speed and efficiency in getting the word out for all of our projects throughout the calendar year.

Until the next time, Thanks again to all who attended and made the first 'NITE for MARINES' as successful endeavor.

Ed Herzog JVC
Semper Fi,

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