

# Leatherneck News

## Upcoming Events

- 12 May 2010—Tshirt Packaging for 5k Run, Jasper VFW Shelter house, 7 PM
- 13 May 2010—Marine Family Support Group Meeting, 7 PM Jasper American Legion
- 15 May 2010—6th Annual Armed Forces Day Run/Walk 8 AM Registration, 9 AM Shotgun Start. Volunteers report at 7:30 AM.
- 16 May 2010— Patriot Guard Ride to Remember—St. Raphael's Cemetery, Dubois at 3:30 PM
- 20 May 2010-Regular Meeting of the Detachment , 7 PM. Jasper American Legion
- 28 May 2010—Memorial Services at the Cemetery
- 29 May 2010—Memorial Services on the Square in Jasper
- 11 June 2010—County-wide flag Disposal Ceremony, 4 H Fairgrounds
- 18-20 June 2010—Department of Indiana State Convention, Hosted by HI Bearss Detachment, Indianapolis
- 8-14 August 2010—MCL National Convention, Greensboro, NC. Go to [WWW.MCL2010.ORG](http://WWW.MCL2010.ORG) for more info.
- 21 August 2010—3rd Annual Fallen Heroes Bass Tournament

## Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

### Nite for Marines

Almost two dozen Detachment members and their families attended the second Nite for Marines on the evening of 17 April 2010. An evening of dining and dancing at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 673 in Jasper allow for comradeship and conversation.

After an enjoying an ala carte meal, members were entertained by an absolutely fantastic performance of Terry Lee and the Rock-a-boogie Band. With an entertaining mix of 50's through 80's music, Terry had most members up and dancing throughout the evening.

Plans for the next Nite for Marines are just beginning. A volunteer is needed to coordinate a

location and venue. The goal is to make the event more impromptu in the future.



17 April 2010—Conversation and Camaraderie.

### Armed Forces Day 5K Run by Dennis Englert, 5K Chairman

We're conducting our sixth annual 5k run at the Jasper Youth Sport's Complex on Saturday, 15 May. This run is one of our major events and can be quite profitable, but we need about 30 volunteers to conduct it efficiently. So we're asking for your help on race day. We will be meeting at the west end parking lot at 7:30 am.

Assistance is especially needed for registration, road guards, and time keeping.

Additionally, in preparation for the race we will be putting together the packages for the runner's on Wednesday, 12 May. We will meet at the Jasper VFW Shelter house at 7 pm.

If you can help and need more information please contact Dennis Englert at 812-482-2987 (H) or 812-309-2757 (Cell) or email [d.englert@insightbb.com](mailto:d.englert@insightbb.com).

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### Cross Can Stay (Adapted from Story by CNN)

The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that a white cross, erected as a war memorial and sitting on national parkland in the Mojave Desert, does not violate the constitutional separation of church and state. The 5-4 conservative majority said Congress acted properly when it tried to transfer land around the Mojave Memorial Cross to veterans groups, an effort to eliminate any Establishment Clause violation. The land then would have been declared a

national memorial. A federal appeals panel had blocked that land swap.

"It is reasonable to interpret the congressional designation as giving recognition to the historical meaning that the cross had attained," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote. "The Constitution does not oblige government to avoid any public acknowledgment of religion's role in society."

But even among the conservatives who

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Commandant's Corner

A new year has started with the installation of this year's officers. Thanks to Department of Indiana Commandant Russ Eaglin and Department Judge Advocate Ann Hunsinger for making the trip down to conduct the installation. Also many thanks to this year's officers for dedicating their time and effort.

One of the remaining items on last year's list was making life membership attainable to all members. The installation plan may not be for everybody, but it does give some flexibility to all members that need it.

Each year, I ask all members to help me describe the vision of our future. Where do we want to be in the next year, five, ten? Each year I receive some invaluable input and have made every effort to make use of it all. This is your chance to help shape the future of our organization. Send me your ideas for the vision.

May is typically one of our busiest times with the 5K, Memorial Services, and services at the cemeteries. One of the easi-

est ways for you to stay abreast of what's happening and when it's happening is to make sure that your email address is up to date. If you have email and have not received an email from me in the last two weeks, there's a problem. First thing to check is your spam filter and spam settings. Make sure you include marines@psci.net and englertd@psci.net in your accepted senders list. If you're still not receiving anything, send me an email and make sure I have your current address! There's only a few members who do not have email available and rely on a fellow member to relay information.

It seems that there has been a general increase in the number of "member in distress" notifications. I'm hoping that its due to an improvement in our communications and not a spate of misfortune. If you know of a member in distress, please relay the information as accurately and quickly as possible.

Lastly, thank all of you for your votes of confidence for myself and my fellow elected officers. Semper Fidelis!

## Cross Can Stay (Contd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

voted to allow the cross to stand, there was strong disagreement about how similar disputes should be settled, an indication of the contentious nature of church-and-state cases.

At issue before the justices was whether the display violates the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which says that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

More specifically, can one individual who protests the cross have legal standing to take his case to court and prevail? And do congressional efforts to minimize the appearance of a constitutional violation carry any weight? The 6-foot Latin cross was first erected in 1934 by a local Veterans of Foreign Wars unit in a remote part of the California desert to honor war dead. It has been rebuilt several times over the years, and Easter services take place on the site annually.

The land now is part of the Mojave National Preserve, a unit of the National Park Service, encompassing 1.6 million acres, or 2,500 square miles.

A former Park Service employee brought suit, saying such symbols represent government endorsement of the Christian faith. A federal appeals court ultimately agreed, and rejected a move by Congress in 2003 to transfer the tiny portion of land where the cross sits back to the VFW, as a privately held national memorial. The area in question is a prominent outcropping known as Sunrise Rock.

Kennedy said the cross represents more than just a religion, echoing the views of the VFW.

"Here one Latin cross in the desert evokes far more than

religion," he wrote. "It evokes thousands of small crosses in foreign fields marking the graves of Americans who fell in battles, battles whose tragedies are compounded if the fallen are forgotten."

The court sent the case back to the lower federal courts to resolve, and said the man who brought the suit, Frank Buono, could continue his legal fight over how the future land transfer is handled. Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas said they would go further and end all litigation of the land transfer.

The appeals court noted that the land transfer effort singled out the VFW for special treatment and that officials had rejected a proposal to erect a nearby Buddhist stupa, or shrine. Jewish and Muslim veterans groups in the U.S. say the Mojave Cross symbolizes the sacrifice of Christian veterans, excluding other faiths.

In dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens -- who is retiring at the end of the term in June -- said the land transfer does not remedy the constitutional concerns.

"Such measures would not completely end the government endorsement of this cross," he wrote, "as the land would have been transferred in a manner favoring the cross and the cross would remain designated as a national memorial."

As the only war veteran on the court, Stevens, who served in World War II as an intelligence officer, added, "I certainly agree that the nation should memorialize the service of those who fought and died in World War I, but it cannot lawfully do so by continued endorsement of a starkly sectarian message."

## The Importance of an Accurate Email Address

This one is priceless. A lesson to be learned from typing the wrong email address!!

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So, the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day.

The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an email to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her email address, and without realizing his error, sent the e-mail.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who was called home to glory following a heart attack.

The widow decided to check her e-mail expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted.

The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife

Subject: I've Arrived

Date: October 16, 2005

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I've seen that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow.

Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P. S. Sure is freaking hot down here!!!!



16 April 2010—Senior Vice Commandant Pat Moriarty and Commandant Englert enjoy a lively radio interview with WITZ's Karen Dorrell.

## Ten Ways to Kill Any Organization by NJVC Jim Tuohy

National Junior Vice Commandant Jim Tuohy offered the following nuggets at the 2010 Central Division Conference. Here's how to kill an organization:

1. Don't participate beyond paying your dues, let them handle things—then complain that members have no voice in management.
2. Decline all committee appointments and offices—you're too busy. Then offer vociferous advice on how things should be done.
3. If appointed to a committee, don't work; it's a courtesy appointment—then complain that the organization has stagnated.
4. If you attend meetings, don't initiate new ideas—then, play "devil's advocate" to those submitted by others.
5. Don't rush to pay your dues—they're too high anyway—then, complain about poor management.
6. Don't encourage others to become members—that's selling—then, complain that membership is not growing.
7. Don't read the newsletter or other communications—they're not important—then, complain you're not being kept informed.
8. Don't volunteer your talents—that's ego fulfillment—then complain that you're never asked and never appreciated.
9. Have faith in no one and nothing. Don't take any chances on untried procedure—you're not a gambler; let someone else put their reputation on the line—then, be sure to enjoy the benefits from another's leap of faith.
10. If by chance, the organization grows, despite your lack of contributions, grasp every opportunity to tell the young members how tough it was and how hard you worked in the old days to bring the group to its present level of success!

“The Marine Corps League is a “bottom-up” organization ”

## Board of Trustees Approve Life Member Installment Plan

Working diligently behind the scenes, several members of the Detachment’s Board of Trustees have put the finishing touches on an effort to make life membership more affordable to our members.

Detachment members who can not swing the full payment at one time can elect to sign up on a three or six month payment plan, which upon completion, will allow them to become life members.

Taking advantage of the installment plan is as easy as contacting the membership chairman or Paymaster and initiating the contract.

Payments will be made in

equal monthly installments, due on the monthly anniversary of this contract. There will be no penalty for early payment.

Current membership dues must extend at least one day beyond the ending date of this contract.

Life membership rate will be based upon the age of the applicant on the ending date of this contract and the rate in effect on that date.

Payments will be held in escrow until final payment is made, upon

which the total sum will be forwarded for purchase of Life Membership.

2010 rates for life membership are:

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

Life membership is the financially wise choice and pays for itself in relatively short order. Life members are issued an elegant metal life member card and a special pin identifying them as life members.



**SILD on the Road— (L to R)** Commandant Dave Englert, Associate Member Chris Ferry, Sysco Louisville President Steve D. Hocker, and Associate Member Adam Mitchell take a break from a Sysco Food Show to snap a photo. In the course of casual conversation, Mr. Hocker revealed that his father was a Marine Raider. The Raiders were a precursor to today’s special forces, known especially for conducting light amphibious raids.

## Junior Vice Commandant’s Roll Call

Our detachment membership rolls stand at (86) members as of 05-01-10 which consist of (33) paid 'life members', (28) paid 'regular members' and (25) paid 'associate members.'

Let's all strive to increase our numbers during this calendar year. (100) plus membership is

well within reach.  
 'Spring is Sprung,'

The grass is riz;

I wonder where,

Those new members is?

## Conferences and Conventions Open to All by Commandant Englert

The Marine Corps League is a “bottom-up” organization which means individual members determine the path and direction of the organization. Organizations above the Detachment level are supporting organizations to the detachment, with actions guided by the majority votes of the membership.

One of the methods that Department, Division and National Headquarters use

to discover the needs and desires of the membership is through the conduct of conferences and conventions. These meetings are open to all members in good standing (i.e. paid up).

Announcements of conventions and conferences are disseminated at detachment meetings, in our newsletter and on Department and National websites. Most are announced up to one year ahead of time to allow for

membership planning and attendance.

Conventions and conferences allow you, the member a chance to talk with those members serving in leadership billets to voice your thoughts, learn more about the League, visit old friends and make new friends. There is no requirement for you to coordinate with the Detachment unless you plan on attending as a detachment delegate

## Marine Family Support Group by Cindy Hembree

The Marine Family Support Group loves those Marines!!!

The MFSG will be helping with the 5K run on 15, May, 2010

We have Marines in training, getting ready for deployment. Please them and all our Marines and Military in your prayers!!!

Have a great week!!

Cindy Hembree

From MFSG Member Patty Hasenour:

Just wanted to let you all know that we just came back earlier this evening from picking up Brian at Yorktown Va, base where he has been since his schooling and boot camp when not deployed. He will be leaving for 29 palm Springs, California (which the Marines who have been there call 29 stumps) on the early morning of May 13th, therefore he gets some time here before going. I am sure it will go fast. George and I are

trying to stay as well as possible so we can enjoy him being home, although I am sure his friends will have a lot of time with him also. Just wanted to let you all know, since this news occurred last week, and I did not get to tell many people. Brian looks good and seems ok. Please continue to pray for all of us and all military and their families.

*"Many veterans have fought the VA to have Gulf War Syndrome recognized as a genuine service-related illness, and some veterans believe that the VA has done little to treat, acknowledge, or explain Gulf War-related illnesses...."*

## VA: Gulf War Needs More Study (Report by Emily Walker)

WASHINGTON -- A new report by a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) task force lays out the department's plans to better address veterans' medical needs and reenergize" the VA's research into the causes of nervous system illnesses affecting many veterans of the 1990-1991 Gulf War conflict.

Of the 700,000 veterans who served in the Gulf War, more than 300,000 have filed disability claims, according to the VA. Of those, more than 85% have illnesses or conditions that were determined to be related to service in either Operation Desert Shield in 1990 or Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

Many veterans returned from the Gulf War with symptoms that weren't explained by medical or psychiatric diagnoses. The health issues have been referred to as Gulf War Illness or Gulf War Syndrome.

A number of government panels have studied links between exposures to dozens of chemicals present in the Persian Gulf during the war, and their possible rela-

tionship to a litany of health problems, including a combination of memory and concentration problems, persistent headache, unexplained fatigue, widespread pain, chronic digestive difficulties, respiratory symptoms, and skin rashes.

A 2008 report from a congressionally-mandated advisory panel to the VA determined that Gulf War Illness was caused by pyridostigmine bromide pills taken by U.S. troops to neutralize the effects of nerve gas attacks, and by exposure to neurotoxic insecticides. "Scientific evidence leaves no question that Gulf War Illness is a real condition with real causes and serious consequences for affected veterans," the report by the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses said. At the same time, the report exonerated a number of other suspects in symptoms reported by returning veterans of Operation Desert Storm, including depleted uranium, anthrax vaccine, infectious diseases, and stress.

However, that 2008 report was sharply at odds with an

Institute of Medicine (IOM) report that found pyridostigmine bromide was associated with short-term effects, but there was insufficient evidence to determine if it was associated with long-term effects.

Many veterans have fought the VA to have Gulf War Syndrome recognized as a genuine service-related illness, and some veterans believe that the VA has done little to treat, acknowledge, or explain Gulf War-related illnesses, according to testimony from a 2009 House Veterans Affairs committee hearing. "The perception of far too many Gulf War veterans is that the VA has nothing new to offer except procedural excuses," said Rep. Harry Mitchell (D-Ariz.), chairman of the committee's Oversight and Investigations subcommittee.

The new report, prepared by the VA's Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force, is intended to pinpoint gaps in the VA's service to veterans, according to a press release on the VA's Web site.

Among the report's recommendations of how it can better serve Gulf War veterans:

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The United States suffered 148 killed in action, 458 wounded, 121 killed in non-hostile actions and 11 female combat deaths during Operation Desert Storm

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## **Gulf War—More Study Needed (Contd)**

*(Continued from page 5)*

- Review, and possibly update, regulations affecting Gulf War veterans
- Increase the number of long-term studies of veterans and health effects of war-time service
- Conduct a follow-up study of group of 30,000 deployed and non-deployed Veterans from the 1990 – 1991 Gulf War period to review health trends at the 20th anniversary of the end of the war
- Find new treatments for Gulf War illnesses
- Develop Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses training to educate primary care physicians, compensation specialists, and pension examiners
- Enhance outreach to provide better guidance on benefits and services available to veterans
- Develop new data-sharing partnerships -- with the Department of Defense, for example -- to ensure government agencies are sharing data in order to track reports of service-related illnesses
- Improve training for VA benefit examiners on how to administer disability claims in cases of multiple known toxin exposures

"Reaching out to Gulf War veterans is not only essential to our transformation of VA, for many of us it is also personal," said John R. Gingrich, chairman of the task force, in a prepared statement. "Having commanded troops in the Gulf War, and then knowing that some of these brave men and women have fallen to mysterious illnesses has been both a frustrating and saddening experience," he said. "We now have an opportunity to do something about this situation with this Task Force; I know that we will improve the care and services these veterans have earned."

The report follows a recently-published proposed rule that will allow veterans who served in Southwest Asia after Aug. 2, 1990, or in Afghanistan on or after Sept. 19, 2001 to obtain healthcare coverage and disability compensation for nine infectious diseases associated with those areas.

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