

# Leatherneck News

## Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

### Upcoming Events

- 1 November—Marine Corps League Birthday Ball, Jasper Inn & Convention Center
- 4 November—Election Day
- 8 November—Veteran's Day Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Jasper 8 AM
- 8 November—9 AM TFT working party. Meet at Hedinger Roofing. Pickup up boxes
- 8 November—1 PM Veterans Day Observance, Jasper American Legion
- 10 November—Happy 233rd Birthday Marines!
- 13 November—Marine Family Support Group Meeting, Jasper American Legion, 7 PM
- 20 November — Regular Meeting, Jasper American Legion, 7 PM.
- 15 November—Toys for Tots boxes go out
- 14 December— Toys for Tots boxes come in

### 2008 Veterans Day Events

For the first time in 8 years, Veterans Day events will not occur on the same weekend as the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. This will allow more of us the opportunity to take part in some of the local activities.

In Dubois County, joint Veterans Day activities are coordinated by the Dubois County Veterans' Council. During it's 20 October meeting the Council announced the following:

This year's activities will be hosted by American Legion Post 147, Jasper. At 8 AM, a special mass for veterans will be held at St. Joseph's Church in Jasper. All posts and detachments are encouraged to bring their colors and stands. Immediately following the mass, a short ceremony will be held in the church courtyard.

At 1 PM, the annual Veterans Day Celebration will be held at the Jasper American Legion Post 147 Hall. According to Post Commander and SILD associate member, Daniel Lawson, this

year's guest speaker will be SFC Anthony Hurst, who is currently on active duty with the National Guard and is a former Marine as well as an SILD regular member.

As in past years, the Veterans Council will pay honor and recognition to a living veteran from the county. This year's honoree will be Joe Eckerle, former State Commander of the DAV, lifetime member of the DAV, VFW, and American Legion. Joe is well known for his extensive activities with the DAV and for being the prime force behind acquiring vans to transport area veterans. A more complete biography and list of Joe's extensive accomplishments will be published in area papers during the week of November 3-8.

After official ceremonies are concluded, the audience will be able to enjoy a meal of bratwurst, cole slaw, baked beans, and home-made desserts.

### Medal Of Honor Recipient Colonel Donald Ballard to Speak at Ball

This year's Birthday Ball will be a special occasion as we are joined by Colonel Don Ballard. On 16 May 1968, as a Navy Corpsman, Ballard treated two Marines suffering from heat exhaustion, and when returning to his unit from the casualty evacuation helicopter pad he and his company were attacked by the North Vietnamese Army. While under fire, Ballard directed aid to other wounded US Marines and when a grenade landed nearby, he lay on top of it to protect the wounded. The grenade failed to explode and Ballard was able to throw it away to explode harmlessly, and then continue to treat the wounded. For his actions, he received the United States of America's highest award, the Medal of Honor. In 1970, Ballard received his medal from President Richard M. Nixon and General Westmoreland. He then left the United States Navy and enlisted in Army officer candidate school. Westmoreland offered Ballard a direct commission, however Ballard turned it down for per-

sonal reasons and later joined the Kansas National Guard. On 5 April 1998, Ballard was promoted to colonel by Major General James F. Krueger and served as Special Assistant to the Adjutant General. Ballard retired in 2000 and was inducted into the National Guard Hall of Fame in November 2001. Upon his retirement, Ballard was one of only two Medal of Honor recipients on active service in the United States and the only Kansas Guardsman to have received the award. He is also the subject of a memorial statue at the National Medical War Memorial in Kansas City, depicting Ballard during the action for which he received the Medal of Honor. Ballard is one of only one hundred living Medal of Honor Recipients.

During his stay in Indiana, Colonel Ballard will spend time signing books and raising funds for the National Medical War Memorial.

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## Commandant's Corner

I'm sure everyone is as excited as I am about this year's Birthday Ball. Our distinguished guest, Don Ballard is sure to be an inspirational speaker and despite the economy, skyrocketing costs, band competition and what seems like a hundred other conflicting events, we will still have a good turnout.

I want to take a moment and thank the members of our Ball Committee who have taken so much time out of their busy lives to put this event together. I doubt many realize how much of a burden the committee has and how much time they devote to it. The committee and several other volunteers also spent the better part of a day freezing their ankles off with a fundraiser for the Ball. Make sure that we give them a standing ovation at the Ball!

Speaking of committees. It's time once again to form the 5K Walk/Run Committee. Next year's run will be special since it is our 5th. Seems like only yesterday we were discussing put on the first one! We'll need to start putting this one together soon so that our other projects don't suffer.

One of our "other" projects is the fishing tourney. During the October regular meeting the tourney was renamed to the "Fallen Hero Memorial Bass Tournament", with potential to be dedicated to a different individual each year. A small com-

mittee will be needed for this event soon. Mr. Bill Embry will be drawing dates during the second week of November and we'll have to chose which one works best for us.

Please note the change in time for the Toys for Tots working party. (from 1PM to 9 AM). This change was necessary due to a conflict with the Veteran's Day observances going on. (see pages 1 and 4). I know many of you look forward, as I do, to the TFT season. It's fun, it's festive, and it's hard to be in a bad mood for long when so many share the holiday spirit with you. If you've never participated in TFT, give it a shot. There's many ways to participate, just talk to Pat Moriarty or Allen Fritz. If you are unable to make it to the working party on the 8th and will need boxes, please make arrangements with them as soon as possible. Check with your drop box locations and ensure that they want to continue their support. The public service announcements will be going on the air soon and the locations will be advertised.

Finally, it's my turn to nag everyone who reads this newsletter. Some of you fought to maintain the right to vote. It is our responsibility as citizens of this great nation to vote. Regardless of your affiliations, beliefs, and goals, if you fail to vote, you have no room to complain about who's in office and what policies they carry out.

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## This Month in Marine Corps History

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**1 November 1983:** 300 Marines of the 22d Marine Amphibious Unit staged an amphibious and helicopter landing on the island of Carriacou, 15 miles northeast of Grenada, in a search for Cuban military installations or personnel. 17 Grenadian soldiers were captured, and arms, ammunition, and training sites were found. The next day the 22d MAU left the Caribbean area and proceeded to Beirut, Lebanon to replace the 24th MAU.

**8 November 1990:** President Bush announced that he planned to add more than 200,000 U.S. troops to those already deployed in Operation Desert Shield in the Persian Gulf area. The number of Marines in the area would be doubled by the addition of II MEF units from the Corps' east coast bases, and the 5th MEB from California. Within the next two months, Marine strength in the objective area would increase to nearly 90,000 Marines.

**10 November 1921:** This date marked the first formal commemoration of the birthday of the Marine Corps as 10 November. On 21 October 1921, Maj Edwin McClellan, OIC of the Historical Section, HQMC, sent a memo to MajGen Commandant John A. Lejeune, suggesting that the original birthday of 10 November 1775 be declared a Ma-

rine Corps holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps. Accordingly, on 1 Nov 1921, Gen Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47 summarizing the history, mission, and tradition of the Corps, and directed that it be read to every command each 10 November.

**13 November 1982:** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of more than 13,000 Marines who lost their lives in Vietnam, was dedicated this date at the Memorial site in Washington, D.C. The dedication and parade that preceded it were part of a week-long National Salute to Vietnam Veterans.

**17 November 1918:** The 4th Marine Brigade, as part of the 2d Division, American Expeditionary Force, began its march to the Rhine River, passing through Belgium and Luxembourg, as part of the American forces occupying a defeated Germany.

**20 November 1943:** The 2d Marine Division, commanded by Major General Julian C. Smith, landed on Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands. After seventy-six hours of bitter fighting during which almost 1,000

(Continued on page 3)

## This Month in Marine Corps History Contd

*(Continued from page 2)*

Marines died, and more than 2,000 were wounded, MajGen Smith declared the island secure.

**24 November 1992:** Marines lowered the flag at Subic Bay, U.S. Naval Facility, Republic of the Philippines, for the last time during ceremonies to turn over the facility to the government of the Philippines. The withdrawal ended almost a century of U.S. presence in that nation.

**25 November 1968:** The conclusion of Operation Lancaster II ended 10 months of action against the Viet

Cong and North Vietnamese Army troops in the west-central sector of the demilitarized zone region. Over 1,800 enemy were killed, 42 captured, and 913 weapons seized during the operation.

**27 November 1950:** In a carefully planned assault, eight Chinese Communist divisions in Korea launched a massive attack which had as its expressed purpose, the destruction of the 1st Marine Division. This action led to the successful southward Marine Corps attack out of the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir to the coastal port of Hungnam.

## Veterans Service Officers—Names, Numbers, Hours of Operation

There are literally thousands of websites on the internet that serve or claim to serve our nation's veterans. Wading through the information can be a bit overwhelming, or in some cases, the veteran may not even have internet access.

Nothing beats person to person contact when you have questions, or may not even know enough to know what question to ask! Here's some contact information for the county service officers that fall within our territory:

### Daviess County (Washington)

VSO: Grant Chambers

Phone: (812) 254-8678

Email: davcovet@dmrtc.net

Hours of Operation: M, W, F 8 AM—1 PM  
2—4 PM

### Dubois County (Jasper)

VSO: Joe Wagner

Phone: (812) 481-7090

Email: dubcovets@psci.net

Hours of Operation: 9 AM to 5 PM M, W, F

### Martin County (Shoals)

VSO: Eugene Wilcoxon

Phone: (812) 247-2070

Email: NONE

Hours of Operation: By appointment

### Orange County (Paoli)

VSO: Ron Taylor

Phone: (812) 723-3600, ext 116

Email: veterans@co.orange.in.gov

Hours of Operation: Thursdays 8 AM—Noon,  
1—4 PM

### Perry County (Tell City)

VSO: Wayne Hubert

Phone: (812) 547-2506

Email: pcvet@psci.net

Hours of Operation: 12:30 to 4 PM M-F

### Pike County (Petersburg)

VSO: Jimmie White

Phone: (812) 354-6245

Email: pikevet@yahoo.com

Hours of Operation: Mon and Tues 8-11 AM and 1-3 PM  
Wed: 8-11 AM

### Spencer County (Rockport)

VSO: Jack Morrison

Phone: (812) 649-6031

Email: slumlord@psci.net

Hours of Operation: M-F 8 AM to 4 PM

Apply

Postage

*Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment  
#931*

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

**Once a Marine, Always a Marine**

**WWW.SILDMARINES.COM**

Please deliver to:

## Highlights of October Dubois County Veteran's Council Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the Council opened for business at 7 PM, October 20th at Jasper American Legion Post 147. Highlights of the meeting:

- Veteran's Service Officer Joe Wagner (SILD Regular Member!) reports that the DAV Vans are seeing a large increase in usage. Volunteers are sorely needed to serve as drivers. Volunteers will need to pass a physical exam, administered at no cost by the VA and have a valid drivers license.

- County Veteran's Day activities were discussed, see related story on page 1.

- Joe Eckerle was selected as the 2008 Living Veteran Honoree.

- Plans for a county-wide flag disposal day in 2009 were discussed. A committee will form and meet immediately following the January Meeting. Council Vice President, Leroy Oser will determine site availability prior to that meeting.

- 2009 Officer Selections were discussed. As voted upon in the January 2008 meeting, the current Vice President will assume the position of President. The next Vice President will come from the next unit in rotation which will be the 40 & 8.

-The 2009 Meeting Schedule was set as follows:

January 19th—St. Anthony Legion. April 20th—Ferdinand Legion. July 20th-Holland Legion. October 19th Huntingburg VFW. All meetings begin at 7PM and are open to all veterans.

### 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

Chad Mehringer

#### Paymaster and Web Sergeant

Tina Moriarty 812-695-5061

#### Adjutant

Dennis Englert 812-482-2987

#### Judge Advocate

vacant

#### Public Affairs Officer

Steve Lindauer 812-634-9685

#### Sgt. at Arms

Allen Fritz 812-683-2192

#### Historian

Dave Englert

#### Quartermaster

Tim Rue 757-880-3138