

# Leatherneck News

## Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

### Upcoming Events

- 7 November 2009—234th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Celestine Community Club. Cocktails start at 6 PM.
- 7 November 2009—8 AM Veteran's Day Mass, St. Joseph's Catholic Church Jasper
- 7 November 2009—2 PM Dubois County Veteran's Day Program, St. Anthony Legion Post #493
- 8 November 2009—8 AM Veteran's Mass and dedication of memorial, Celestine.
- 12 November 2009—Marine Family Support Group Meeting, 7 PM Jasper American Legion
- 13 November 2009—Pickup new boxes for TFT at warehouse, if needed.
- 14 November 2009—Care Package Assembly, Jasper American Legion, 1 PM
- 15 November 2009— Eagle Scout Ceremony, Central Christian Church, Huntingburg, 2PM
- 15 November 2009—Toys for Tots boxes go out.
- 19 November 2009—Regular Meeting of the Detachment. Jasper American Legion, 7 PM.
- 13 December 2009—Last working party for TFT.

### Scouting Program Launched

In a ceremony held on October 11th, Troop 182 recognized Scout Phillip Whitson for his attainment of Eagle Scout. This ceremony also held the distinction of being the first in which the Southern Indiana Leathernecks participated with a presentation of their own.

Under the direction of Scouting Coordinator Ryan Sherer, the Eagle Scout recognition portion of the Detachment's Scouting Program is taking shape. The purpose of this program is to recognize the accomplishments and leadership required to fulfill the requirements for Eagle Scout which must be completed before the Scout's 18th birthday. Among these requirements, the Scout must achieve 21 merit badges, which must include First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Personal Fitness, Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving, Environmental Science, Personal Management, Swimming or Hiking or Cycling, Camping, and Family Life.

The next recognition ceremony will be held on November 15th at 2PM at the Central Christian Church in Huntingburg. Members are urged to wear their uniforms to show support.



11 October 2009— Eagle Scout Certificate presented to Phillip Whitson by Scouting Coordinator Ryan Sherer and PAO Steven Lindauer

### Detachment Begins 14th Toys for Tots Drive

From the inception of the Detachment, an annual Toys for Tots drive has been held every year. Adding to the successes of the past is no easy feat, but TFT Coordinator Patrick Moriarty and Assistant Coordinator Allen Fritz have worked hard to make this year's campaign even better.

This year marks the launch of the new TFT web presence which gives our campaign and others like it an opportunity to leverage current technology. One of the key advances is the ability to accept online donations through the site provided by the national TFT headquarters. Easily accessed through the SILD website, donors will be able to click and choose level and frequency of donations as well as view TFT sponsors, events, and news.

Volunteers are always needed to assist with the many aspects of the drive.

During the week of 9 November, volunteers will be needed to help move and to setup the warehouse located at Hedinger Roofing in Jasper. Exact date and time will be announced shortly or you may contact Pat Moriarty for information.

On the 13th of November collection boxes will be available for pickup at the TFT warehouse. Collection boxes are for previously approved locations. Requests for additional collection box locations should be directed to Pat or Allen.

15 November is the official launch of the campaign with the posting of the collection boxes. After that date, working parties will be needed every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6-9 PM to sort and distribute toys. This will continue until the 13th of December when boxes will be collected and a final working party will sort toys and pack everything up for the year.

### Inside this issue:

Scouting	1
Toys for Tots	1
Commandant's Corner	2
JVC Roll Call	2
Unseen Injury Forum	3
Tricare South Legal Problems	3
Birthday Ball	4

## Commandant's Corner

I am continuously inspired by the achievements of our members to fulfill our Detachment goals and missions. Whether it's Toys for Tots, the Birthday Ball, Scouting, membership, or seeing to the needs of our members, I see tremendously positive actions being taken.

The month of November is typically a time for us to reflect upon our Marine Corps history, customs, traditions and lore. It's also when we look to the needs of others through our Toys for Tots drive and other seasonal events. It's also a time for us to celebrate being Marines, families of Marines, veterans, or families of veterans. We look back on what we've done and forward to what we can be.

Twenty-six years ago 220 of our brethren Marines lost their lives in the bombing of the Marine Barracks, Beirut. Many of us found ourselves thrust into unknown territory to perform the task of escorting

the bodies of our fellow Marines home to their final resting places. Those of us who have performed this duty recognize the profound impact on our lives that resulted.

Today and throughout the years since the bombing, Marines still perform this solemn duty. How this final trip home is conducted is unique to the Corps. The Marine is never alone. The escort typically finds himself providing a testimonial to the last days and hours of the Marine to his family and friends. As we go about our daily lives, perhaps we can find just a moment to pause and think about the Marines who have given their lives and those that have taken them home.

Good health to you and to our Corps. Semper Fidelis

## Junior Vice Commandant's Roll Call

The roll has been called and the many of our member's have answered.

During the past several months the "B Word" as in BUSY has been in vogue, as detachment member's have been scurrying to and fro keeping up with numerous activities, functions and commitments. This year's Rose Fund Drive was again successful, although one day of the Rose sales was held on the very same day as the first of two separate fund raisers.

On Saturday October 3rd, a 'Burgers & Brats' fundraiser was held at the Rural King Store in south Jasper. It was a bit on the chilly and windy side that particular day but sales went well at both sites. The Burger's & Brats receipts were slated to help offset the individual ticket costs of our membership for the upcoming Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Only receipts from this type of fundraisers such as car washes, road blocks etc. may be utilized for the benefit of the members. Other supported functions must meet the guidelines set within the National, Department, and Detachment by-laws, and cannot be used for any type of personal or unit gain.

Our Family Support Group members met on Thursday October 8th and finalized plans for the last official parade commitment for the season which was the 18th District Volunteer Fireman's parade held on Sunday October 11th, in Haysville, IN. This parade was held on the same weekend that our Commandant, Sr. Vice, and Jr. Vice were attending the Department's Fall Conference in Richmond, IN.

Returning late Sunday evening we again met the very next evening at Celestine for a special ball committee meeting at which we, by using the trial and error method, arranged and re-arranged tables chairs until a viable setup was achieved for the evening's ceremony and din-

ner. Later that week the regular monthly detachment meeting was held immediately following a final ball committee meeting prior to the actual day of setup and decoration.

Early Saturday morning (October 17th) the second 'Burgers & Brats' fundraiser was held at the Rural King store. Twelve detachment and family support group members and friends were present to help out grilling, wrapping, and selling hamburgers, cheeseburgers, brats, and breakfast sausages, along with a scrumptious looking selection of pies, cakes, cookies, and brownies. All items available were once again sold to complete another successful project.

Monday evening October 19th found Commandant Dave and myself at the Dubois Veterans Council meeting, at the VFW Post 2366 in Huntingburg, where numerous activities were planned for the period prior to, and immediately following the annual Veteran's Day celebrations. Once again, a portion of these activities fall upon the very same day as the Marine Corps Birthday celebration, so it's going to be a long long weekend.

Several TV and radio interviews were held during the month of October, talking about both the upcoming birthday ball celebration and the annual TOYS for TOTS program rapidly approaching. TFT boxes go out to the various drop off locations on Friday November 13th for what is hoped to be another huge year for distribution to the underprivileged children of the southern Indiana area which we serve. The sorting and distribution days are set for each Tuesday and Thursday evening until the week of Christmas, at the chosen distribution center site yet to be announced.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## DoD/VA Summit on Unseen Injuries

SecDef Robert Gates and VA Secretary Eric Shinseki jointly opened this week's joint DoD/VA Mental Health Summit to reinforce their commitment to eliminating the stigma associated with seeking mental health care and their commitment to building a true seamless transition between the two departments in caring for wounded and other disabled warriors and their families. Secretary Gates said that troops injured in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to face "frustrating, adversarial, and unnecessarily complex" bureaucratic hurdles. He said the two departments must do a better job of dealing with brain injuries and mental health ailments that are "widespread, entrenched and insidious." Secretary Shinseki noted that veterans are returning home with invisible wounds that are just as debilitating as physical traumas sustained on the battlefield. "Who's vulnerable? Everyone," he said. "Warriors suffer emotional injuries as much as they do physical ones." During the three-day summit, more than 100 experts representing a wide range of perspectives met for intense discussion. Several military and veterans associations participated, and shared perspectives gained from a recent wounded warrior symposium on challenges associated with PTSD, TBI, and depression.

## TriCare South Coverage Uncertain

TRICARE South Region contractor Humana Military Healthcare Services and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) are reporting that the GAO has upheld Humana's protest of the Defense Department's award of the new South Region contract to United Health Military & Veterans Services. The current contract, covering 3 million beneficiaries, is set to expire as of March 31, 2010. Details of the GAO determination have not yet been made public, but its upholding of the protest indicates the initial contract award to UnitedHealth didn't comply with laws and regulations governing the award. The obvious question for the South Region beneficiaries is, "What happens now?" We won't know that until GAO releases its full report. It's possible that GAO will recommend reopening the contract bid. In rare cases, it could recommend outright award of the contract to a losing bidder. The decision raises the prospect that the current Humana contract might be extended pending any possible contract rebid process. GAO can only recommend action, but DoD failure to comply with a GAO recommendation on such a high-profile contract would certainly invite congressional scrutiny. The GAO also is expected to issue a decision soon on Health Net Federal Services' protest of the Pentagon's award of the TRICARE North Region contract to Aetna, Inc. While the two protests are completely independent, the upholding of one of them at least raises some uncertainty whether the other might be upheld. More to come.

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

Another CARE package pack day is also scheduled for Saturday November 14th which will benefit our troops serving both stateside and those who are deployed throughout the world.

So as you can see, our detachment members and supporters have been very busy, and increasingly visible within the community, as has been evidenced by a number of inquiries regarding the availability of our color guard for additional parades next season, as well as comments from some that were unaware of the Marine Corps Leagues actual presence in the community and general area. As a result we feel an increased need to promote our organization and insure that more of the general public is made aware of who we are, what we do, and why we promote the ideals and values of the United States Marine Corps, as prescribed in the original by-laws chartered by an act of the U.S. Congress in 1937.

As for numbers regarding newly signed members, we have voted upon and accepted as a new regular member Mr. Steven Rayls of Huntingburg, IN., transfer member Thomas G. Marks of Loogootee, IN., (transferred from Knox Co. Detachment in Vincennes), and associate member Michael Witte, of Jasper, IN. I want to thank each of these gentlemen and welcome them to Detachment 931 of the Southern Indiana Leathernecks. We are looking forward to a long association with each of these new members. Additionally we have been receiving regular renewals from our current members and also have received

dues payments from several that had been briefly reported as being in arrears, bringing the total of arrearages down to (five) as of the latest roster. Unfortunately we have had several members that were listed as being unpaid for a lengthily period dropped from the active roster completely. This really hurts, as it's as if we've lost a personal friend.

The new roster of 'inactive members' has been published, and we are going to attempt to bring some of these good men and women back into the fold with a planned membership blitz after the first of the year.

Presently our membership roster shows 26 paid life members, 22 paid members totaling 48 paid regular members. Paid associate members number 17 at present for a total paid membership of 65 members. Total unpaid stands at 5. These numbers include several who are also members of the MFSG, but not those support group members who are not paid MCL members.

Let's all work together to increase our member numbers during the coming year, but remember that we still have (2) two full months remaining during this recruiting year to add to our totals and become eligible for the 'recruiter of the year awards.'

Please contact me at (812) 695-3115 or email me at [smprfi@psci.net](mailto:smprfi@psci.net) with any new prospective members. Until next time, Semper Fi,, Ed Herzog JVC Membership Chairman.

Apply

Postage

*Southern Indiana Leatherneck  
Detachment #931*

Southern Indiana Leathernecks  
Marine Corps League  
P.O. Box 184

**Once a Marine, Always a Marine**

Please deliver to:

WWW.SILDMARINES.COM

## 234th Birthday Ball

Final touches are being applied to all aspects of the ball during this, the final week of preparations. Thanks to the efforts and tenacity of the Ball Committee, the ticket price for our third birthday ball is among the lowest and yet provides a great value. Fine food, dancing, entertainment, pomp and ceremony all for one low price!

Aside from the festivities of the night though, every Marine recognizes the Birthday Ball as something much more. Each year, as the birthday of the Corps approaches, many of us take time to reflect upon our time in the Corps. We reflect not only upon those that we knew and lost, but also those that were known only to us as Marines. They blazed the path for us to follow and many follow in the path that we helped to clear. The continuity of the path, the "Marine Way" is a major theme in the cutting of the cake, the passing from the old to the young; the endless cycle which ensures the future of the Corps. We also pause to remember those fallen comrades we've known personally and as Marines.

As stated by our 13th Commandant, John A Lejuene (pronounced La-jern'), it is imperative that all Marines, past, present, and future, take time to ponder what it means and what it has meant to be a Marine. Our culture, ethos, our very meaning are unique to us. Each of us mentor the spirit of the Corps through our daily actions and through our interactions.

As we gather once again, let us celebrate our lives as Marines as well as those that preceded us. Let us also take time to recognize those that follow us. Daily, they exemplify the spirit of the Corps through their actions and through their loyalty, fidelity, and warrior spirit. Happy Birthday Marines!



### 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