

Leatherneck News

Upcoming Events

- 5-7 September 2009—Care Package Drive at Big Lots, Jasper
- 6 September 2009—Annual Labor Day Picnic at the Blemker Farm
- 10 September 2009 – Marine Family Support Group meets at the Jasper American Legion 7 PM
- 12-13 September 2009—Segment One Training for Detachment Officers, Indianapolis.
- September 2009— TBD—Burger and Bake Sale at Walmart
- 17 September 2009—Ball Committee meeting, 6 PM Jasper American Legion
- 17 September 2009—Regular Meeting of the Detachment. Jasper American Legion, 7 PM.
- 19 September 2009—Silent Drill Platoon, Scottsburg (See Page 4 for times)
- 20 September 2009—Holland Parade; 2 PM
- 27 September 2009—Herbstfest, Huntingburg; 1 PM
- 2-3 October 2009—Annual Rose Fund Drive
- 11 October 2009—18th District Volunteer Firefighters Parade, Haysville.

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Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

2nd Annual Fallen Heroes Bass Tournament

A cool, crisp morning in August? The weather certainly wasn't a typical start to the month of August, but it was certainly welcome for a long day on the lake. This year's fishing tournament kicked off in the wee hours once again as Detachment members greeted 168 bass fisherman who came for a day of fishing and supporting the Marine Corps League. This year, they were each given a ball cap with the Detachment's logo featured prominently.

The fish proved to be a bit more elusive this year than last, with small and less numerous catches. Everyone had a great time throughout the weigh-in which was followed by a raffle and auction of donated items. All pro-

ceeds went to help the Detachment fulfill its many missions and goals.



1 August 2009—Dawn breaks over Patoka Lake as the boats ready for the start of the 2nd Annual Fallen Heroes Bass Tournament. (Photo by Dennis Englert)

Strassenfest Brings Detachment and Support Group Together Again

Close to forty-five members of the Detachment and the Marine Family Support Group joined HM1 John Platt and Cpl Benjamin Mitchell from Kilo Company, Terre Haute for the annual Strassenfest Parade.

Part of what's become an annual ritual involved getting everyone to hold still for a moment to capture the event for posterity. This picture represents the intangible bond which exists between the active duty Marines of the present and sailors and the "not so active" Marines and sailors of the past. This also shows the support that both receive from their respective Marine families.

Recognizing the support that our Marines, past and present receive from their families, Commandant Englert presented six certificates of appreciation and Blue Star Pennants to Marine Moms. Also presented were three single star pennants, in lieu of the rated triple star pennant, to Bev Atkins, whose three sons are Marines.

Stepping off smartly, the Kilo Company Color Guard, along with the Detachment Color

Guard and a small formation of Detachment members led the parade which consisted of over 120 entries. The parade vehicle, property of John Wagner, towed a trailer with those unable to complete the 20 some block route, followed by our faithful candy passers. All along the route, we were greeted by loud applause and yells of "Thank You!" A motivating day indeed!



2 August 2009— Flanked by the SILD Color Guard and the Kilo Co. Color Guard, members of the Marine Family Support Group and the SILD gather for the "family portrait". (Photo by Mary Englert)

Commandant's Corner

I can honestly report that this has been one of the busiest times for me personally with regards to League business. Representing the Detachment and the Department at the National Convention was an interesting trek. The best thing I took away from the Convention is the new acquaintances made.

I've been having a great time as your Commandant over the last month, mainly because I've had the opportunity to hand out over 40 Certificates of Appreciation to the sponsors of our Bass Tournament, three Employer Recognition Awards, a half-dozen Blue Star Pennants to our Marine Moms, and a whole bevy of Letters of Appreciation and certificates. What a great life!

Once again, I'd feel remiss if I didn't mention the wonderful support we get from our Marine Family Support Group. They truly have our

backs at every event, many times outnumbering us! Their participation makes everything so very much easier.

This year's Strassenfest parade was highly motivating. I'm not sure if it was the uncharacteristically cool weather or the wonderful expressions of support and patriotism from the crowd that did it, but I personally felt a few inches taller when I finished. Thanks to all of you who participated.

Finally, please take a close look at this month's upcoming events. It's a fast and furious run to the finish now with parades, fundraisers, the Rose Program, TFT kickoff, and the Birthday Ball. Speaking of Birthday Ball, invitations went into the mail and should show up in your mailbox within the next few days. Please don't wait until the last minute to RSVP! Semper Fi.

2nd Care Package Drive to be Held

Preparations are in the works for our second care package drive to be held over Labor Day Weekend at Big Lots in Jasper. Store Manager Mike Tempel has once again opened the doors and his help in running this drive. The last drive, held over the 4th of July weekend was very successful, especially considering the short work up to the event. Several boxes of goodies were collected as well as a significant amount of cash donations, which are used to pay for postage.

This drive is especially important as it is one in preparation for the pre-holiday packages. Contact Commandant Englert if you're able to spend an hour or two at the collection site. The next care package pack date is November 14th at 1:00 PM when Santa's helpers from the Marine Family Support Group will put everything into individual boxes for shipment.

Some of the items needed include, but are not limited to: heavy black boot socks, magazines/reading materials, individual drink mixes to flavor water, pens, pencils, stationary, tooth paste and brushes, talcum power, baby wipes, disposable razors, DVD's,



29 July 2009—Commandant Englert presents the Employer Appreciation Award to David Luebbehusen, OFS Brands for his support of Sergeant at Arms Allen Fritz. (Photo by Pat Moriarty)

Employers Receive Recognition for Support

Much of what the Detachment does happens during what most would consider normal working hours. Most of the time, a crisis is unplanned and there is little time to react. Fortunately, most Detachment members have employers who are not only very understanding of their need to support the Detachment's missions, but are also very supportive of the employees who are Detachment members.

Three employers were submitted for recognition for their support. All three bend over backwards to make sure their employees can fulfill their Detachment duties when needed.

David Luebbehusen received the award on behalf of OFS Brands and is Allen Fritz's supervisor. The award was presented on 29 July 2009 during a brief ceremony at the corporate headquarters.

Also receiving accolades on 29 July was Steve Stillwell on behalf of Best Home Furnishings. John Randolph was presented the award on behalf of Advance Auto Parts, Jasper on 21 August. Both employers claim Chaplain John Wagner as their own and were equally proud of being able to support him as well. Any detachment member who feels that their employer deserves recognition should contact the Commandant.



10 July 2009—Marines Englert and Moriarty present the staff of Big Lots, Jasper with a certificate of appreciation for the care package drive conducted over the Fourth of July Weekend.

Detachment Represented at 2009 National Convention

The 86th National Convention of the Marine Corps League was held in Rochester, Minnesota, from 3-8 August 2009. Representing the Detachment and the Department of Indiana, Commandant Englert and Senior Vice Commandant Moriarty participated in debate and discussions regarding future Convention locations, National Bylaw changes, and elections of National officers. They also listened to nearly three days of reports from National and Division officers as well as more than 20 committees in the League.

The most significant Bylaw change involved the wearing of the Color Guard Uniform, or more specifically, the Khaki shirt. Previously this uniform was authorized only for wear while serving as part of the Color Guard while in the performance of its duties. The briefing on this particular item indicated that there were a high number of detachments abusing the authorized wear of this uniform despite efforts by National to correct. Despite fervent arguments against the change, a bylaw change was approved prohibiting wear of the khaki shirt.

The 2009 National Scholarships included 244 new applicants with 188 awards. 186 renewals were submitted of which 145 were approved. A total of \$60,000 at \$175 each was awarded. Toys for Tots – 2.3 million toys and 747,584 children during the 2008 campaign with more than \$2 million raised in donations. The next TFT Conference is September 17-19.

Junior Vice Commandant's membership awards to 8 Indiana Detachments were presented to the Department of Indiana. Streamers and Certificates will be presented at our fall conference to those Detachments.

Blemkers Host Annual Picnic

Once again, John and Leanna Blemker invite all Detachment and MFSG members to their farm to enjoy camaraderie and great food during the Labor Day Weekend. This has become an anticipated annual event, shared with the Tri-State Family Support Group at the Blemker home in Huntingburg.

Show up anytime after 3 PM on Sunday, September 6th and plan on eating at 5 PM. The Blemkers provide the meat and needed tableware but ask that guests bring a dish and their own drinks. They have a well-stocked lake, available for fishing, so be sure to bring bait and a pole. As many remember from last year, it's not the size of the fishing pole that matters. Last year's largest fish, a roughly 7 pound catfish was caught using a "Barbie fishing pole." The fish was almost a full 4 inches bigger than the pole!

To get to the Blemker Farm go to the corner of Hwy 231 & 64. (Huck's, CVS, Memorial gym, and old gas station) Go EAST on 64 to the first set of RR tracks. Turn left on Van Buren and go 7 blocks to 12th St. Turn right and go to the end of the street. Turn left onto the gravel lane and then swing right up the hill and back to the house.

You'll want to bring a chair and if the mood hits you, bring a swimming suit to enjoy the pool. Stick around long enough and maybe you'll get to witness the "feeding of the fish", which is amazing to watch, even if you've seen it more than once!

Please RSVP at your earliest opportunity to John and Leanna by calling 683-4877. Keep the number handy in case you get lost on the way!

Our fellow Hoosier Detachment, the Howling Mad Detachment received a 4th place membership plaque for the 101-200 member category, with a 24.43% increase in membership.

The National Commandant reported to the full membership highlights of the Commandant's Council. Most notable is the installation of a new database and operating system at National which will allow for the generation of reports on demand vice requiring a programmer for each report. The new operating system will also allow for online dues collection and a much more responsive system.

The 2010 National Convention will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina. Contact the Commandant for dates and arrangements.

Bus Trip Set to View Silent Drill Platoon

There will be a performance of the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon on September 19th, 2009 at Meyer Gymnasium, Scottsburg, Indiana. The United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon is a 24-man rifle platoon, performing a unique precision drill exhibition which exemplifies the professionalism associated with the United States Marines. The Marines execute a series of calculated drill movements and precise handling of their hand-polished 10 and one-half pound M-1 Garand rifles with fixed bayonets. Not a single command is given as rifles are twirled, tossed, and caught with seemingly nonchalant ease. The routine concludes with a unique rifle inspection involving elaborate rifle spins and tosses.

The Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment of the Marine Corps League is sponsoring a bus trip for this performance with additional stops at the Scottsburg War Memorial and Ponderosa Steakhouse aboard a 56-passenger bus from New Image Tour Lines. This is a very comfortable bus with facilities and is a non-smoking bus. The bus will depart Ferdinand at 11:00 AM and return at approximately 7:00 PM. Cost for the bus ride is \$20. Admission to the performance and the War Memorial is free. Dinner at Ponderosa is at the individuals expense.

The Detachment's last bus trip was a huge success and offered many a chance to get to know each other better and to share a great sense of camaraderie. All who went enjoyed!

A limited number of seats for this bus trip are still available. For more information and to book reservations, contact Dave Englert at 630-2099 or 357-2792 or email englertd@psci.net



7 October 2007— A small portion of the Scottsburg War Memorial which is featured as one of the stops on the bus trip to see the Silent Drill Platoon. (Photo by Dave Englert)

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

Ball Committee Holds Fund Raisers to Keep Costs Down

The 2009 Birthday Ball Committee has been hard at work for months getting ready for this year's ball. No surprise to anyone, costs continue to rise. To counter the increase in fixed costs, the committee is working hard to raise funds through a series of events. The first of these events was a car wash and hamburger sale hosted by Advance Auto in Jasper on the 26th of August. 5 hours of washing and shining cars raised enough funds to lower ticket prices by more than \$2.

Anticipating the need to provide more funds to keep the ball in the black, the committee is scheduling a hamburger/bake sale at Walmart during the month of September. Due to an already full schedule at Walmart, all weekends have already been booked by other organizations for fundraisers. As soon as practical and once all other events have been de-conflicted, we can expect one or more hamburger/bake sales to occur on a weekday evening. Emails and phone calls will announce the date and time.



26 August 2009—Jr. Vice Herzog demonstrates sprayer techniques to John Blemker and Eva Anderson during the car wash.

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