



# The Gipper

Marine Corps League  
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597  
Semper Fidelis



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## MAY 2019



**COMMANDANT**  
**R. A. "Dick" Jennings**

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### From the Desk of the Commandant

**Marines, Corpsmen and Associate members:**

Our last General Meeting on 02 May 2019 was one for the records. Not only did we salute and honor all our Past Commandants, we passed a Detachment By-Law a two-year consecutive term limit for a Commandant, inducted a new member, and had guest speakers.

This was a very special meeting where we gave recognition, respect and honor to the past Commandants of the 597.

<u>Year(s) Served</u>	<u>Commandant</u>	<u>Year(s) Served</u>	<u>Commandant</u>
1990	Paul Mole	2007, 08 , 09	Ruy Peña, Jr.
1990	Meade Phillips	2010, 11	Jerry Anderson
1991, 92, 93, 94	Meade Phillips	2012	Mark Shuster
1995, 96	Mike Sweeney	2013	Glenn Fiery & Matt Valenzuela
1997, 98, 99, 00, 01	Paul Mole	2014, 15, 16	Matt Valenzuela
2002	Jim Britton	2017	Jerry German
2003, 04, 05, 06, 12	Mark Shuster	2018, 19	Dick Jennings

Along with giving each Past Commandant a Meritorious Commendation Certificate, a Past Commandant ribbon and a Past Commandant lapel pin, we had a plaque made up showing all the Past Commandants and the years they served our Detachment. Five of the past Commandants were in attendance, but the others couldn't make it for various reasons.



Standing left to right: Ruy Peña, Jerry Anderson, Glenn Fiery, Matt Valenzuela, Richard Jennings, and Jerry German



The next call to business was a call for an amendment to our By-Laws. Our Jr. Vice Commandant, Jim Wagner, read the proposed by-law to the General body before asking for a vote and discussion. In simple terms it said that no one Commandant can serve two 2-year terms, but not consecutively. I reminded the membership that at both National and State, the Commandant only serves for a 2-year period. A discussion followed whereby Ruy Peña, Past Commandant and Color Guard Commander, recommended adding that



the existing Commandant can serve an additional year, if no member wants to run for Commandant for the new term. The amendment was sent for a vote as modified with Ruy's recommendation and passed unanimously. Jim Wagner will present the new by-law amendment at the June general meeting.

Following the vote, I reassured members that in 2020 Harry Hodges, Sr. Vice Commandant, plans to run for the Commandant's position and he will surely be one of the best Commandants this Detachment has had.

### **VETERAN'S CENTER**

Mayor Keith Mashburn visited Homes4Families in Santa Clarita with me and Homes4Families executives and promised that "Simi Valley will do this or something even better." The property at the Town Mall is still in discussions, but to tear down everything before building will cost appropriately \$3.5 million. This property is not a priority property, but the Mayor is suggesting considering some properties around the Knolls off Kruehner Drive. In addition, Bob Huber, Ventura County Supervisor for our District, has suggested some County properties that are south of the 118 Freeway.

We are moving full speed ahead knowing how the Ventura County Area Supervisor, Simi Valley City Council, and Homes4Families executives feels about our local Veterans - everything is continuing on a positive note. To help us further, I have a realtor reviewing properties owned by the City and County, as well as in Moorpark to see what they have. As usual, I will keep you posted on what is happening.



Pictured left to right: Braily Franco - General Superintendent, Hunt Braly - Chairman, Board of Directors Home4Families, Simi Valley Mayor Keith Mashburn (checking out possible housing for Simi Valley), Donna Deutchman - President/CEO Homes4Families, and Commandant Dick Jennings



## TRAVELING VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL

On Memorial Weekend, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District is hosting the AV-Wall, The Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall, a half-scale mobile replica of The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington D.C.

The Wall will be open for public viewing 24 hours a day, starting at 3:00 pm on Friday, 24 May through 8:00 am on Tuesday, 28 May. A strong volunteer workforce is critical. Volunteers are needed around the clock for a four-day display.

The Park District is reaching out to specific groups within our community for volunteer support. We are looking for volunteers to assist us with:

- **Setting-Up** – This position includes unloading Wall panels, installing Wall panels, securing Wall panels, Information/Tent set-up and ambiance set-up
- **Greeters** – Greeters must be able to welcome guests, explain and enforce rules, describe the Wall and its purpose, and make visitors feel welcome.
- **Wall Walkers** – Wall Walkers will assist visitors in finding names on the Wall, assist guests with emotional issues, know when to back off, help explain the Wall design, and make guests feel welcome and comfortable.
- **Computer Assistance** – Volunteers helping on the computer must have listening skills, typing skills, and sometimes detective skills. This job requires typing information into our database to assist guests in getting information about a person on the Wall.
- **Night Owl Attendant** – These volunteers keep the peace of the Wall during the late-night shift. They should be able to find a name in the database, find a name on the Wall, and keep the solemnity of the area in the quiet overnight time.
- **Tear-Down** – Tear Down is a physical job. It involves complete removal of the Wall, the base, the information areas, volunteer area, and display areas.

### Please join us! VOLUNTEERS MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER

The Park District is using SignUp.com to organize our upcoming volunteer positions for The Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall weekend.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com: <http://signup.com/go/TWzSOrt>
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
3. Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Also, if someone who is volunteering with setting up the wall, knows someone listed on the wall, please let me know and I can make arrangements to ensure that they participate in assisting with the panel that the specific name is listed on

**Note:** SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

An additional training session has been added for those who want to volunteer for the Vietnam Wall. It will be on 23 May 2019 from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Gaudian Bldg. at the Park and Rec headquarters.



## MARINES4LIFE

The weekend of April 26 & 27, I went to my first Southwest Division conference of the MCL in Las Vegas. The Division has come under some changes with one announcement that the Annual Marine West event will no longer hold a Division Conference or MODD Growl at that time.

This conference had something that I as Commandant was very interested in and that is the "Marine4Life" program that was announced at the National Convention in Buffalo.

This is the synopsis of what was discussed: When a Marine is about to leave the active duty, they will be given a 30-minute information seminar of the Marine4Life program. This is mandatory to attend but not mandatory to participate. The Marine will have the option to participate or not but if he/she does, their name will go to the city/town they are going too. This program does not only pertain to recently discharged but all Veteran Marines and all other veterans. This is not a recruiting tool for the MCL.

In the area that they will be making home is a Marine Reserve Unit has a Staff NCO who is the liaison between the Marine Corps, MCL and the Veteran. Once he has the name of the former active duty Marine, the Staff NCO will contact the designated representative from the local MCL Detachment by email. This representative will wait approximately 10 days for the Marine to become situated in his hometown. He is then to call the Marine and set up an appointment. California will be divided into 2 areas, Northern and Southern.

THIS IS NOT A COLD CALL! He/she knows your name and why you are calling. They signed up for this program so they should be anxious to get started. The Marine Corps, MCL National and a company called 'beconnected' are the main players in this program. The Marine Corps has established contacts at every Reserve unit in the United States. National has put this program together in Arizona as a test and it has been quite successful.

"Beconnected" has partnered up with some very large companies who are offering assistance to Veterans - Home Depot, Waste Management and hundreds of other companies are involved with this program. If a Veteran needs a job, needs to write a resume, how to dress for success, etc. If he/she needs a vehicle to get to the interview, needs a car to be repaired, etc. they will be there to help.

In Arizona there 600 thousand service members, veterans and families that are being supported and given resources.

How it works with beconnected:

Veteran CALLS a support line, open 24 hours a day and speaks with a navigator. They then MATCH the veteran with the problem they may be having. There is always TRAINING that goes along with this program. To have this program to be successful, we all must be on board. Remember our Mission Statement is to help "ALL VETERANS, not only Marines, when they need help."

We need to get behind this. We need to offer our own suggestions to be able to help our Veterans. In the coming weeks and months, I will be getting more information on this whole program. In Billings this August, the National Convention will be holding a seminar for Commandants to basically kick this off.

I will be there and then I will report back to you in September in what we need to do.



## MCL STATE CONVENTION

Our MCL State Convention will be from June 7-8 in San Diego. I have mentioned this before, but if you plan on attending, I need to have your name to add to the Delegate Registration Form - so you will have a vote.

If you're attending and a Devil Dog in good standing, the Growl will be on Friday night, June 7 at the Handerly Hotel starting at 1800. Regular MCL meeting and elections will be on Saturday morning at the same hotel starting at 0900 on the 8th. The closing banquet is Saturday night, same hotel, starting at 1900. Dress is Red Blazer or Suit.

Semper Fi,  
Dick Jennings  
Commandant



## SR. VICE COMMANDANT

**Harry Hodges**

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### Marines and Associate members,

As this year moves along, our Board of Directors continues to do a great job with community outreach, growing our membership, and encouraging volunteerism, all of which help to strengthen our community recognition and Veterans awareness that we are here to help them.

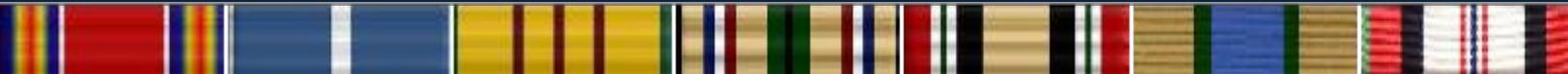
Many of us participated in the annual Simi Valley Street Fair on Saturday, 04 May. We had a great time meeting people and other Veterans, those who helped to man our Big Red canopy were Richard Jennings, Doc Honaker, John Fuentes, Don Joy, Doug Morrison, David Ofper, John Mitchell, Robert Martinez, Tom King, Chuck Shoemaker, Rudy Cordero, and Rich Farra.

Big Red will also be at the upcoming Cajun Festival and Thousand Oaks Street Fair, please help us greet and recruit Marines and Veterans during these events.

The next Detachment events coming up include our annual Family Picnic on 13 July, Valeria Galvan is the event coordinator and will have more information for you in this newsletter; 01 June, we are going to a Dodger game, the Dodgers vs. the Phillies, with over 40 members going; and 27 June, Mr. Gary "Lt. Dan" Sinise will be speaking to our Detachment and having a book signing event afterwards.

Again, I would will say that we have a great Detachment and I am proud to be a member, and even prouder to be on the Board of Directors - our members are outstanding and very dedicated.

Semper Fi,  
Harry Hodges  
Senior Vice & Ships Store Rep



## EVENTS DIRECTOR

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### **Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,**

This year's Simi Valley Street Fair was another bustling affair at its new Simi Valley Town Center location. The Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce said this year's turnout with 400 vendor booths beat last year's participation at this same location. There was a broad spectrum of vendors ranging from arts and crafts, ethnic foods, government services, political representatives, and more, as well as live music in the Beer/Wine Garden and a free Kids Zone.

The street fair was heavily attended by the community measured by the flow of people stopping by to speak with us and other booths. However, I don't remember meeting any active duty Marines stopping by our booth vs. last year, but I did have a few family members of active duty Marines stop by. One mother was proud to announce that her son had just completed training at MCRD San Diego and was now at SOI Camp Pendleton. She left us with her contact information and said she may come to our monthly league meetings. Perhaps we'll see some of these family members become MCL associate members.

In addition to our MCL and Marine displays, banners and information sheets, for the first time we posted signage and literature regarding the Young Marines. We call this testing the waters to see what kind of interest we will get for starting a local Young Marines unit in the area.

I want to thank those Marines and associates who helped set up the booth, greeted visitors, and teardown. We had enough coverage that Commandant Jennings and I were able to slip away for a sit-down lunch and a break off our feet. From beginning to end for at least a short period I was honored to stand with John Fuentes, Charles Shoemaker, Dave Opfer, Dick Jennings, Doug Morrison (wearing his DI cover), Don Joy, Tom King, Bob Martinez, Rich Farra, and John Mitchell. They are members who contributed to proudly represent the 597.

The next community event coming up for our Big Red Canopy will be the Cajun Festival May 25th and 26th at the Rancho Santa Susana Community Park, opposite the Simi Valley train stop. The Cajun Festival hours for both days will be 1000-2000 hours. Setup for the Cajun Festival will be 0800 on Saturday. Enter from Stearns street for parking and booth attendance. Tear down will be Sunday at 2000 hours.

As noted in last month's Gipper, the Simi Valley Veterans Memorial Park will be host to the Antelope Valley half size exact replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall from 24-27 May. There will be an opening ceremony on 24 May, at 1600, and will remain open 24 hours daily through to the closing ceremony scheduled at 1600 on 27 May. The Wall will close at 0800 on 28 May. Spread the word of the arrival of this memorial. We must not forget what was given by our Veterans, or we will forget the value of freedom and democracy.

Moreover, this event will require many volunteers to setup and take down the Wall, greet visitors, help locate names in the directory and guide visitors to locations on the Wall, listen to stories and lend a hand



when needed. These volunteer assistance opportunities will be needed throughout the time the wall opens to closing. It is tradition to read the names of the fallen throughout all hours of the stay of the Wall. Readers can sign up for times. More info as the Wall arrival draws near. There has been Wall information on the MCL 597 Facebook page and information in Simi Parks and Rec literature. Training sessions were held this past week and I'm sad to say I missed them due to family health reason.

We are again considering having a booth at the 4 July celebration in Simi Valley. Please sign up to man the booth, our hours of operation are scheduled for 1100-2200 hrs. Come to this event, have a picnic and watch fireworks to commemorate our Independence Day. Stay tuned.

Semper Fi  
 Doc Honaker  
 Events Director



Pictured left to right: Chuck Morrison, Dick Jennings, Bob Martinez, John Mitchell and John Fuentes



Pictured above: Veteran and Doc Honaker



Pictured left to right: John Fuentes, Dave Opfer, Doc Honaker and Charles Shoemaker



## JR. VICE COMMANDANT

**Jim Wagner**

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### Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,

I have two things I want to share with you this month, official business and what being a Marine is to me.

#### Official Business

During the April 2019 Board of the Directors meeting it was suggested we should limit the Commandant's term of office to no more than two consecutive terms. In reviewing our Detachment's by-laws, I found they were silent on the terms of Board Members. In order to amend our by-laws lawfully the entire Detachment needed vote on any proposed amendment.

During our monthly meeting on 02 May, I made a Motion to Amend our by-laws which was then seconded by our Judge Advocate, John Miller. During our discussions on the issue Ruy Peña, Color Guard Commander and past 597 Commandant, proposed that we should limit our Commandant's term to two consecutive years. Albeit, if no one steps up to act as a Commandant, that Commandant can remain in his position for one additional year while the Detachment seeks a new Commandant. With that new adjustment to my original Motion, the Detachment voted the amend the by-laws.

I will be drafting the exact language of the amendment and, in coordination by John Miller, will present the amendment in its final form to the Detachment for consideration and a vote during our next monthly meeting on June 6, 2019.

#### My Story

In 1971 as an 18-year-old, I was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Combined Action Group (2<sup>nd</sup> CAG) near Hoi An, Vietnam (roughly 12 miles south Da Nang). This was part of the Combined Action Platoon program, a counterinsurgency unit designed to thwart Viet Cong terrorism visited against civilian villagers as part of their insurgency strategy to undermine the government of the Republic of South Vietnam. Each Combined Action Platoon (CAP) consisted of a squad of Marines, with an attached FMF Navy Corpsman, and a like number of Popular Forces (PFs), Vietnamese militia. Basically untrained, the PFs were subordinate to the Marines, tactically. I was assigned to what was known as a "mobile" CAP team. A mobile CAP team meant we never operated of any compound. Rather, we were completely mobile moving our location around our assigned village at least every eight hours and sleeping on the ground in our poncho liners. During the day the team would send out two separate patrols. Each patrol would be made up of 4 or 5 Marines and a similar number of PFs. While not on patrol the remainder of the team would remain in what we called our "day haven" where at least two Marines were posted as security. Each Marine would be required to stand a security watch for an hour a day. By late afternoon the team would reassemble at our day haven.



At, or near, dusk each CAP Marine's anxiety would significantly increase knowing we would soon be heading out for yet another nightly ambush. We would then "saddle up," leave our day haven and start moving out to pre-designated ambush position. To make sure we wouldn't be followed by any Viet Cong or Viet Cong Sympathizers (VCS), we meandered in and out of our village for between 30 to 45 minutes only setting up our ambush after full dark. Once we reached our ambush position, we usually split our team in two. The two halves, however, would be linked at some point. Typically, we set up "L" shaped ambush positions. Throughout the night a Marine would each stand an hour to an hour and half watch by himself. Beside each Marine on watch would be an M-60 machine gun and a PRC-25 (radio) as well as his own personal weapon. Prior to starting the "watches," we placed trip flares and Claymore mines in front of the ambush position. If any Viet Cong tried to sneak into our village, we would initiate a firefight by blowing our Claymores, if possible. Also, out of our ambush position we would send out "killer teams" for four hours consisting of only three Marines. Killer Teams would leave the ambush position and actively hunt for Viet Cong who might be in our TAOR (Tactical Area of Operations). If a Marine operated on a Killer Team, which each Marine served on every third night, he was not required to stand a watch position in the ambush. Typically, I was lucky to manage to get four hours of sleep per night. While we constantly exposed to the possibility of combat, we usually only made contact with the Viet Cong once a week.

At daybreak, CAP teams left the ambush position and set up a "day haven" site in and around our village where we would spend the day. There we would repeat process of patrols, interacting with the civilians in our village including having our Corpsmen conduct weekly Medcaps where they would treat the civilians for injuries and illnesses. We subsisted on a constant diet of C-rations for all of our meals. Between the stress of constant exposure to combat, lack of sleep and a poor diet most of us lost 20% of our body weight while serving. As for me, I arrived in Vietnam at 5'10" and 135 lbs. When all the combat Marines were recalled from Vietnam, in May 1971, I returned to the United States weighing only 108 lbs.

CAP Marines were only a small, but very effective, part of the Marine Corps participation in the Vietnam War. Very few Marines, apart from those assigned to the program, even knew of our existence or what we did. Between 1965 and 1971, there were only approximately 6,000 Marines assigned to the CAP Marine program. As a result, if I mentioned to another Vietnam that I was a CAP Marine in-country they usually said they never heard of us.

On a lark in 2001, after 30 years of not having contact with any other CAP Marines, I thought I would search online to find any other CAP Marines. I was fortunate to reconnect with 12 Marines who had served with me in my CAP team at one point or another. This included my two dear friends from my team, Doc Bolden and Pat Kerwin. Unfortunately, both have passed away. Doc passed in 2015 of multiple myeloma related to Agent Orange and Pat died last month from a rare type of liver cancer also related to Agent Orange.

When I searched in 2001, I learned there was a CAP Marines Veterans Association that had been annual reunions that started in 1985. I joined the Association and I went to my first reunion in Baton Rouge, LA in November 2001. We always hold our annual reunions over Marine Corps birthday. We hold one reunion on the east coast followed by the next on the west coast and the next somewhere in the middle of the country to give everyone the best chance at attending.

I am currently a member of the Board of Directors of the CAP Marines Veterans Association.



Each reunion is a special event for all of us who served in our very unique counterinsurgency unit. I think it's true that all of us who served in Vietnam had, at least, slightly different war experiences. But most of us in the CAP program had similar experiences such that our retelling of tales of war when we get together is healing for all. Spouses are always welcome and most attend with their significant others. My girlfriend has attended these reunions since 2015 and has been very supportive.

The CAP Marine Veterans Association returns to a reunion in Washington, D.C. every five years pursuant to our Association's by-laws. Accordingly, this year the 2019 CAP Marine reunion will be held in Washington, D.C. While there our Guest Speaker will be Lt. Gen. George R. (Ron) Christmas. General Christmas commanded Hotel Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division during the Battle for Hue City, Vietnam in 1968. For his actions there he was awarded with a Purple Heart and a Navy Cross for his valor. After his retirement he served as the President and CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. In his capacity there he was instrumental in the building of the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia.

During this year's CAP reunion, we will be given a private tour of the Marine Corps Museum arranged by General Christmas. We are fortunate that a fellow member of the Board of Directors of the Association served under General Christmas during the Battle for Hue City and continues a personal relationship with the General. When last I visited to Marine Corps Museum, in 2014, I saw an exhibit dedicated to the CAP Marines of Vietnam.

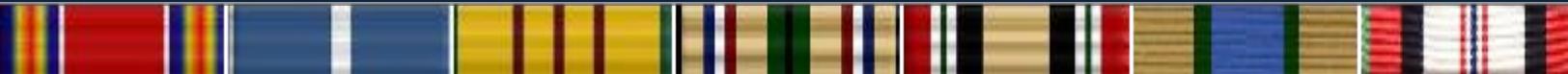
In addition to visiting the USMC Museum, we will be visiting the Vietnam Wall and holding a small ceremony there to commemorate the 600+ CAP Marines, roughly 10% of all CAP Marines, killed in Vietnam. Typically, during CAP reunions we try to have 2 or 3 outings to places of interest in the cities where the reunions are being held. These involve the coordination of transportation to the outings, usually by hiring tour buses. Also, during our reunions, we always have one banquet dinner and a Marine Corps Birthday celebration. If possible, we also attend Marine Corps Birthday Balls provided we can procure an invitation the selected city.

All Marines have that very special bond of a shared experience of surviving boot camp. Beyond that bond, having shared war experiences with CAP Marines has brought peace of mind to me and to all CAP Marines I know.

In closing, I would only ask that all Marines share their Marine Corps experiences with each other. I truly believe this sharing creates an even stronger bond between Marines.

As always, I remain ... Semper Fidelis,

Semper Fidelis  
Jim 'Wags' Wagner  
Junior Vice Commandant



## JR. PAST COMMANDANT

**Jerry R. German**

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## ORIGINS OF THE GAME OF BASEBALL

### America's National Pastime

The modern game of baseball, as played in North America today, is believed to have evolved from the older game of "Rounders" popular among children in [Great Britain and Ireland](#) in the early 1800s.

By the early 1830s, a variety of bat-and-ball games, recognizable as early forms of baseball, were being played around North America. In 1845, [Alexander Cartwright](#), a member of New York City's [Knickerbocker Club](#), led the codification of the so-called [Knickerbocker Rules](#) of Baseball. While there are reports that the [New York Knickerbockers](#) played games in 1845, the contest long recognized as the first officially recorded baseball game in U.S. history took place on June 19, 1846, in [Hoboken, New Jersey](#): the "New York Nine" defeated the Knickerbockers, 23–1, in four innings.

In the mid-1850s, a baseball craze hit the [New York metropolitan area](#) and by 1856, local journals were referring to baseball as the "national pastime" or "national game."

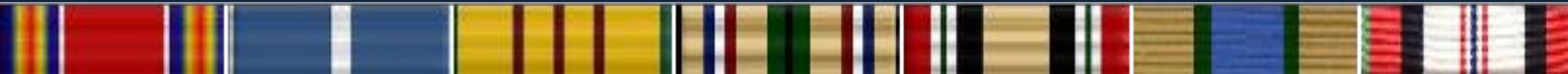
The game is played on a baseball field made up of the "infield" and the "outfield." The infield of every professional baseball field is a "diamond," with first base, second base, third base, and home plate positioned on the corners in a counterclockwise direction. The dimensions of the outfield of the ball parks vary greatly depending on the size of the property on which the field is located. The minimum dimension from home plate to the outfield fences is 300 feet, unless a fence is erected of enough height to make hitting the ball out of the park of equal difficulty with a "regulation distance" fence. The dimensions of the infield: bases are 90 feet apart; pitcher's mound is 60 feet 6 inches from home plate, pitcher's mound is 15 inches high, etc. these specifications have NOT changed from the original dimensions codified in 1845. The game consists of nine innings with the visiting team batting first. Games tied after 9 innings go into "extra innings" and play continues until one team has a lead at the end of an inning.

### ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

Today, the highest level of professional baseball is called the "Major Leagues," made up of the American and National League. These Leagues are each made up of fifteen teams located in the cities shown below. The Major Leagues are supported by "Minor Leagues" consisting of Classes of teams rated in ascending levels of talent as D, C, B, A, AA, and AAA. The minor league teams are each associated with a major league organization but are independently owned and operated. As players in the minor leagues improve in their skills, their minor league contracts are bought out by the major league team and the players are promoted to the "Big Leagues."

### MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TODAY

Major League Baseball's American and National Leagues each consist of an Eastern, Central and Western Division. The teams each play 162 games from March through September to determine the Division Champions. During "Post Season" play, the Division champions and a "wild card" from each Division play a



“best of 5” series to determine the League Champions. Finally, the League Champions play a “best of 7” series to determine the “World Series Champion.”

National League Divisions:

Eastern Division	Central Division	Western Division
Atlanta Braves	Chicago Cubs	Arizona Diamondbacks
Miami Marlins	Cincinnati Reds	Colorado Rockies
New York Mets	Milwaukee Brewers	Los Angeles Dodgers
Philadelphia Phillies	Pittsburgh Pirates	San Diego Padres
Washington, DC Nationals	St Louis Cardinals	San Francisco Giants

American League Divisions:

Eastern Division	Central Division	Western Division
Baltimore Orioles	Chicago White Sox	Los Angeles Angels,
Boston Red Sox	Cleveland Indians	Houston Astros
New York Yankees	Detroit Tigers	Oakland Athletics
Tampa Bay Rays	Kansas City Royals	Seattle Mariners
Toronto Blue Jays	Minnesota Twins	Texas Rangers

**Los Angeles Dodgers**

Background - The present-day Los Angeles Dodger team had its beginnings in Brooklyn, New York. The team played its first years, 1885-1912, on the streets of Brooklyn and were known as the “Brooklyn Trolley Dodgers.” The team moved into the newly completed Ebbets Field in 1913 and became the Brooklyn Dodgers, winning twelve National League Championships between 1890 and 1956, and one World Series in 1955 against the hated New York Yankees. The Dodgers played their last game in Ebbets Field on 24 September 1957 and moved to Los Angeles, CA. The Los Angeles Dodgers played their games in the Memorial Coliseum from 1958 to 1961 before moving to its permanent home at Dodger Stadium in Chavez Ravine in 1962. The team has been a consistent winner since moving to Los Angeles regularly winning National League Championships and World Series. The Dodgers are one of the few major league teams who do not have a mascot.

**Philadelphia Phillies**

The present-day Philadelphia Phillies originated as the Philadelphia Quakers, replacing the Worcester, MA team in the National League in 1883. The team changed its name to the “Philadelphias” in 1884 and shortened it to “Phillies” in 1890. The team has played its entire history in south Philadelphia in several parks including Connie Mack Stadium through the 1970 season, Veterans Stadium from 1971 to 2004, and Citizens Bank Park since 2004. The Phillies have won seven National League Championships (1915, 1950, 1976, 1980, 1993, 2008, 2009) and two World Championships (1980 and 2008). Since 1978 they are the proud owner of “baseball’s best mascot”, the “Phillie Phanatic.”

**Take Me Out To The Ballgame**

A Tin Pan Alley song created in 1908, joined words by Jack Norworth with music by Albert von Tilzer, and starting around 1934 began to be sung during the middle of the seventh inning known as “the seventh inning stretch.” Hometown fans in all cities “modify” the words just a bit to sing...  
 “It’s root, root, root, for the Dodgers,”



If they don't win it's a shame,  
 For it's one, two, three strikes you're out,  
 At the old ball game."

See you at Dodger Stadium on Saturday, 01Jun19.  
 Go Phillies!

Jerry R. German  
 Junior Vice Commandant



**JUDGE ADVOCATE**

**John Miller**

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 (805) 581-5462



**CHANGE OF COMMAND**



General Neller

General Berger



I hope we all are getting ready for summer and all the good California weather. There is going to be a big change in the Marine Corps this summer when General Robert Neller steps down as Commandant and retires after 44 years of service to the US Marine Corps. President Trump has nominated Lt. General David H. Berger for duty as the 38<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps. General Berger was a platoon commander with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines, Captain with 2<sup>nd</sup> Recon during Desert Storm and later as Commanding Officer of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marines. He is a graduate of Tulane University and later earned a Master's Degree in International Public Policy at John Hopkins University. He is currently assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, DC. He is a graduate of the Army Ranger School, the Navy Drive School and the Marine Corps Amphibious Recon School. Major General Barger became the Commanding General of 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, CA. His service medals include: **Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Combat V, Navy-Marine Commendation Medal, and The Combat Action ribbon.**

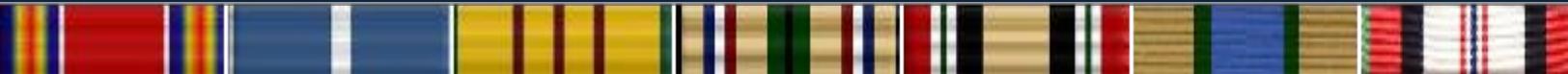
### USMC History for May

- May 29, 1945 1Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> Marines capture Shuri Castle in Okinawa
- May 22, 1921 First US Marine Aviator, Lt. Alfred Cunningham enters Flight School
- May 15, 1975 Marines from 2/9 and 1/4 rescue crew of SS Mayaguez Last action of the Viet Nam War
- May 15, 1862 Corporal John F. Mackie becomes first Marine to Earn the Medal of Honor.
- May 2, 1993 Marines from Camp Pendleton help quell Rodney King riot in Los Angeles
- May 26, 1969 Operation Pipestone in Viet Nam begins with 680 enemy KIA and 34 Marines KIA.
- May 26, 1907 John Wayne born in Iowa.
- May 27, 2019 Memorial Day Observed

**It's our history, Remember and honor it**

On a sad note, our Honor Guard Detail rendered a salute as the helicopter flew over during a memorial for slain LAPD/USMC Veteran Oscar Joel Bryant. The ceremony was 13 May.





John E Miller  
Judge Advocate



**ADJUTANT**  
**John Coley**  
w4simi@yahoo.com



### From the Desk of the Adjutant

**Marines, Corpsman and Associate Members,**

I have been asked questions by many people about the rank of Warrant Officer, its origin and criteria and how it applies in the Marine Corps.

#### History of the Warrant Officer

The history of the Warrant Officer began in the 13th century in the nascent British Royal Navy. At that time, nobles assumed command of the new navy, adopting the army ranks of lieutenant and captain. These officers often had no knowledge of life on board a ship – let alone how to navigate such a vessel or operate the guns – and relied on the expertise and cooperation of a senior sailor who tended to the technical aspects of running the ship and operating the cannons. These sailors became indispensable to less experienced



officers and were rewarded with a royal warrant. This warrant was a special designation to set them apart from other sailors, yet not violate the strict class system that was prevalent during that time.

Warrant Officers were members of our navy right from the beginning. There were warrant Officers on the ships of the Continental Navy during the Revolutionary War. When Congress created our Navy in 1794 it listed the Warrant Officers as the Sailing Masters, Purser, Boatswain, Gunner, Carpenter, Sail maker and midshipmen.

Our Revolutionary Army had Warrant Officers, but the otherwise Army and Marines did not have them until the Twentieth Century. In 1916 the Marines made some of their Gunners and Quartermaster Clerks Warrant Officers. In 1918 Pay Clerks could also become Warrants. Also, in 1918, the Army created Warrant Officers in its Mine Planter Service to serve as Masters, Mates and Engineers of its seagoing vessels. Congress authorized more Army Warrant Officers in 1920 in clerical, administrative and band leading activities but the intent seems to have been to reward enlisted men for long service or provide positions for World W I officers who could not hold their commissions after the war. Between 1932 and 1936 the army promoted only a few bandleaders and Mine Planter service members to Warrant status. In 1936 the Army held competitive examinations to replenish the Warrant Officer eligibility lists and once again began making appointments.

The US Marine Corps has had warrant officers since 1916 as technical specialists who perform duties that require extensive knowledge training and experience with systems or equipment. Their duties and responsibilities are of a nature beyond those required of senior noncommissioned officers. Marine Corps Warrant Officers provide experience and stability in the officer ranks in critical specialty areas. The primary purpose of warrant officers is to create and maintain a selected body of personnel with knowledge of a particular military specialty.

The Marine Corps has two distinct warrant officer programs, the Marine Gunner and Technical Warrant Officer programs. The Technical warrant officer program provides officers for service in technical, non-combat arms specialties such as Electronic Maintenance Officers, Tactical Intelligence officers and Disbursing officers. The Marine Gunner program provides Warrant Officers who are specialists in all aspects of infantry weapons and who are the source of expertise in the employment of weapons organic to infantry units. In addition, they are responsible for the development, coordination and monitoring of unit training programs for tactical weapons employment.

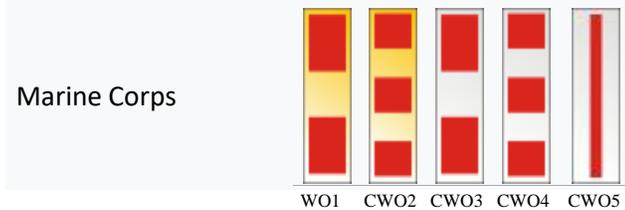
Warrant Officer careers are to be carefully manage with a clear progression of billets, from those designated WO/CWO2, to those designated CWO3/CWO4/CWO5. All newly selected warrant officers are required to attend the Warrant Officer Basic Course(WOBC). This course provides all WO1with a common officer training experience regardless of the technical occupational field for which they were selected.

Within the US Marine Corps, the term "gunner" is used in place of "warrant officer" or "chief warrant officer" when addressing or referring to the warrant officer. This term of address is considered informal or "friendly" and its use is highly dependent on the protocol required by the particular situation and the warrant officer's expectations regarding military conduct and courtesy. Normally it is considered disrespectful for a non-NCO (E-1to E-3) to address a warrant officer as "gunner." By custom NCOs and commissioned officers use the term only if the situation is informal and is accepted by the warrant officer and his superiors. (Source: Excerpts taken from an essay by an author unknown to me.)



**A FEW SIDE NOTES OF MY OWN:**

Rank collar insignia as shown for technical warrant officers.



Today the Marine Gunner is an infantry only position for MOS 0306 Infantry Weapons Officer. Prior to 1992 any warrant officer in combat arms could become a Marine Gunner. The Gunner insignia has the bar on the right collar point and a bursting bomb on the left point.



Formal worn on epaulet

worn on collar point

In the next few months we can go into more about Warrant Officers and how each service has their own criteria.

Semper Fidelis,  
John Coley  
CWO4 (Ret.)  
Adjutant



**THE DOG ROBBER HOWLS**

Pound 325, Ventura County Devil Dogs  
California Pack 2012 Pound of the Year

**DD Ben Pfister**  
**Pound Keeper**

[benpdet597@gmail.com](mailto:benpdet597@gmail.com)

818-208-1095



**Woof Woof Devil Dogs, Marines and Associate members,**

I thought I would enlighten you with some history and statistics of MODD Pound 325. We received our charter on the 11 September 2006 with 31 members. Currently, we have 6 charter members who are still active, they are: Glen Fiery, Al Lansdale, John Mitchell, Hank Noorda, Tony Saunders, and Conrad Wright - Thanks to each one of you! Additionally, we have 49 members (and growing) which include 9 life members. Of those 49 members, there are 16 PDDs (gold collar), 21 DDs (red collar) and 12 Pups (black collar).



To be a member of the MODD you must be in the MCL in good standing for at least one year and recommended by the Detachment Commandant. Upon joining the Pound, you are a Pup, and to advance to the next level you must have one year at your present level. To advance to Devil Dog you must attend a Grand Growl which is a Pack/State event, and to advance to Pedigree Devil Dog you must attend a Supreme Growl which is a Kennel/ National event.

There are currently five Detachments within Pound 325 and seven Pounds in our California Pack. Hopefully new Pounds will be started in 2019.

If any regular member has any questions about the MODD please contact me.

Woof Woof  
PDD Ben Pfister  
Pound Keeper



**CHAPLAIN**  
**Bradley Cantley**  
[bradleycantley@gmail.com](mailto:bradleycantley@gmail.com)  
Cell: 805-813-3571



### The Chaplain's Corner

#### Fellow Marines, veterans and friends:

A short and simple prayer to those in need: "Supreme Commandant (Father God), I pray for healing for all on this list. Thank you Jesus, Amen". Newly added will be highlighted in sky blue, but only the first time when I send an update. *If you have recovered nicely please let me know if you wish to be removed, or need an update on your condition. Also, if I missed anyone please let me know.*

#### Below are those brave men and women who need our prayers:

- Ken Mask**—Well be going for some more surgeries, pray for quick recovery.
- Bill Trammell**—Went to the ER for an irregular heartbeat. Pray all is well.
- Conrad Wright**—needs prayer for healing and recovery
- Conrad Wright's wife**—also needs prayer for an injury
- Julie Stranges**—needs prayer and healing-she is in the hospital in Utah
- Maria Avila**—Has cancer needs strength and healing
- Robert Nelson**—Is scheduled for back surgery
- Ericka Silva**—Still under treatment
- Thomas Hernandez**—Strength
- Blanca Hernandez**—Healing



**Jim Lieberknecht** – Stay strong.

**Mike Maxwell** – Still under treatments, and healing

**RED (Remember Everyone Deployed)** – Let us keep those Marines and other service members in our prayers as they might be in harm’s way, or just away for training. “We ask our Supreme Commandant to watch over them and keep them safe. Bring them back home as soon as You are able too. Amen”

May our Lord and Savior keep watch over us, and to continue to watch over us. May He protect us, keep us healthy, and to keep us safe.

God bless  
Semper Fi  
Chaplain Brad



## COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

**Ruy Peña**

[colorguard597@gmail.com](mailto:colorguard597@gmail.com)

818-912-9863, Mobile



## COLOR GUARD DETAIL UPDATE

**Greetings my fellow Marine Corps League Members,**

We were very busy in the month of March with thirteen color guard events, and five in April. As history repeats itself, May is again one of the busiest times of the year for us. We have a total of seven color guard events for Memorial Day on 27 May, with an additional six additional Memorial Day events within the Memorial Day weekend, and four non-Memorial Day color guard events throughout the month of May. Thus far, we have three color guard requests for the month of June.

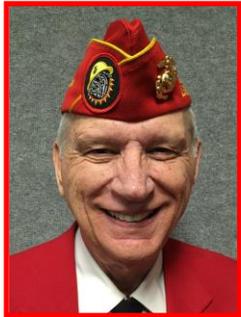
Most of the color guard events are reoccurring as the coordinators call us in advance to make the requests. We are also receiving requests through word-of-mouth. Our volunteers continue to be very professional and sharp, leaving good impressions out there.

We also have been coordinating with our active duty Marines from Weapons Company, 2nd Bn/23rd Marines in Pt. Hueneme, and with local funeral homes as well. One is from our MCL Detachment 597 Member, Anthony Hernandez from Reardon Mortuary in Simi Valley.

We are the ambassadors of the Marine Corps League to the public and Veterans in the areas we serve. We are proud to be Marines.

Thank you and Semper Fidelis,

Ruy G. Peña Jr.  
Color Guard Commander



**HISTORIAN**

**John Miller**

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(805) 581-5462



**Medal Of Honor Recipient  
Sergeant Major John Canley  
Alpha Company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 1<sup>st</sup> Marines  
Semper Fi I Love You**



John L. Canley was born February 1, 1938 in Caledonia, Arkansas. His father was a lumber man and his mother was the manager of a local restaurant. She made sure each of her 9 children attended Baptist Church every Sunday. That's where John learned to talk softly and that your values stay with you all your life. When John was 13 years old, he decided to be a Marine after watching John Wayne in the movie Sands of Iwo Jima.

How many of us were the same, influenced by watching John Wayne. When I was 13, I wanted to be Sgt. John Stryker too. John Canley really wanted to be a Marine, he did push-ups every day, endurance running



to build his body so that he could join the Marines as soon as he could. His older brother was 18 and so one day John took his brother's birth certificate to the Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Little Rock and showed it to the recruiter. The recruiter looked the birth certificate over and asked why was the name L.J. Canley and not J.L. Canley like his - John's simple reply "typo." Like all good recruiters, the Sergeant said OK and signed him up. He joined the United States Marine Corps 3 weeks short of his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

After boot camp he was sent to Korea in 1954, but he didn't see any combat. The combat was still a few years off and would be in a country called The Republic of Viet Nam. From 1965 until 1970, John Canley was either in Viet Nam or on his way to Viet Nam. Along the way he made Gunnery Sergeant and on January 31, 1968, he was the Company Gunnery Sergeant for Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marines, **THE FIRST OF THE FIRST, my old outfit in Viet Nam in 1966**

His unit was ordered to Hue City to retake the old Imperial Capitol from the Communists North Vietnamese. The Tet Offensive had just begun, and Hue was the major city that the North Vietnamese (NVA) wanted to gain control of in the northern area of Viet Nam referred to as I Corps. As soon as they arrived the company commander was wounded and "Gunny Canley took charge of Alpha Company for 3 whole days." According to several of his men, including PFC John Ligato, Mike "Doc" Kerr, PFC Larry Lewis and many others, the Gunny was everywhere. At one point he had a wounded Marine over his shoulder and another on his arm. Numerous times he disregarded enemy fire and jumped from cover to run out and rescue dead and wounded Marines and Navy Corpsmen. He was a giant of a man at 6'3" and 180 pounds. He was 10 years older than most of his men who were 18 to 19 years old. Yet, he outran and dodged enemy fire for over 72 hours. Originally, he was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions at Hue City. It took almost 50 years to get his Navy Cross upgraded. It wasn't until his men went to Congresswoman Julia Brownley of West Lake Village and gained her support for Headquarters Marine Corps to re-evaluate his actions and consider his nomination for The Medal of Honor.

On October 17, 2018, President Trump placed the Medal of Honor around Sgt. Major Canley's neck. The President stated to those assembled at the White House, "A Marine Warrior who is bigger than life and beyond the reach of death. There are few brave--- brave--- people like you John." Congresswoman Brownley remarked, "Sergeant Major Canley is a shining example of why our armed forces are the best military in the world, and his heroism and bravery showcases what being an American Hero truly means." The Gunny (as he prefers to be called) was humble and stated that "My Marines believed in me; they would follow me to death. I have no doubt about that." They kept me going during the battle and the house to house fighting. I wear this Medal for them and for those who did not come back with us. Of the 150 Marines and Corpsmen from A/1/1 who entered Hue City at the end of January 1968, only Gunny Canley and six others came through the battle without becoming a casualty.

After receiving the Medal of Honor, The Gunny gave an interview to a local journalist and heaped praise on his men and the Esprit de Corps that showed in each of them during those dark days in 1968. He stated, "They (The Marines) were only 18 or 19 when they came to Viet Nam and if they survived, they were yelled at and spat upon when they came home. THEY DESERVED MUCH MORE." He went on to say, "YOU HAVE TO BE A MARINE AND BE IN COMBAT TO TRULY UNDERSTAND." Gunny Canley had a very good friend, Sgt. Alfredo Gonzales, also from Alpha 1/1, who was killed in action on 4 February 1968, and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle for Hue City.



The Gunny has lived in Oxnard for the past 6 years and still runs 3 times a week for 70 minutes each day. He is the proud father of 4 children and 4 granddaughters. 50 years ago, no Marine would tell another Marine I love you. Now to honor Sergeant Major Canley and all those brave men from Alpha 1/1....

**These 5 words will suffice: SEMPER FI I LOVE YOU.**

#### **Citation**

**Gunnery Sergeant**

**John Canley**

**United States Marine Corps**

“The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Gunnery Sergeant John L. Canley (MCSN1455946), United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism while serving as Company Gunnery Sergeant of Company A, First Battalion, First Marines, FIRST Marine Division (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, during operations against the enemy in the Republic of Viet Nam from 31 January to 6 February 1968. On 31 January, when his company came under a heavy volume of enemy fire near the city of Hue, Gunnery Sergeant Canley rushed across the fire-swept terrain and carried several wounded Marines to safety. Later, with the company commander seriously wounded, Gunnery Sergeant Canley assumed command and immediately reorganized his scattered Marines, moving from one group to another to advise and encourage his men. Although sustaining shrapnel wounds during this period, he nonetheless established a base of fire which subsequently allowed the company to break through the enemy strongpoint. Retaining command of the company for the following three days, Gunnery Sergeant Canley on 4 February led his men into an enemy-occupied building in Hue. Despite the heavy resistance, he succeeded in gaining a position immediately above the enemy strongpoint and dropped a large satchel charge into the position, personally accounting for numerous enemies killed, and forcing the others to vacate the building. On 6 February, when his unit sustained numerous casualties while attempting to capture a government building, Gunnery Sergeant Canley lent words of encouragement to his men and exhorted them to greater efforts as they drove the enemy from its fortified emplacement. Although wounded once again during this action, on two occasions he leaped a wall in full view of the enemy, picked up casualties, and carried them to covered positions. By his dynamic leadership, courage, and selfless dedication, Gunnery Sergeant Canley contributed greatly to the accomplishment of his company’s mission and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.”

**For Those Who Fight For It**

**Life Has A Flavor**

**The Sheltered Never Know**

Benefits of receiving the Medal of Honor

- \$1,329 per month
- Free travel on military flights
- Membership in all Officer and NCO clubs worldwide
- Undying respect and admiration



Sgt Alfredo Gonzales



Gunny Canley

Semper Fi,  
John Miller  
Historian



**DEPT. of CA SR. VICE COMMANDANT  
MODD CA PACK-SR. VICE PACK LEADER**

**Matt E. Valenzuela**

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310-768-2847 Office

310-308-7015 Mobile



**Marines, Corpsmen and Associate members.**

The Center Plaza section of the Simi Town Center Mall will be renamed Veterans Plaza and will be dedicated to Veterans of all our Armed Forces. The dedication will be on Saturday, 18 May 2019 at 1300. Everyone is urged to attend and bring friends and relatives.

The AV Vietnam Wall will be displayed at Veterans Plaza at Rancho Tapo Community Park (Lemon Park) 24 hours a day beginning with the Opening Ceremony on Friday, 24 May at 1600. The Closing Ceremony is on Monday, Memorial Day, 27 May 2019 at 1600.

I hope to see many of you at our Memorial Day Commemoration at the Pioneer Cemetery on Monday, 27 May 2019. The Commemoration begins at 1000 sharp. There will be only 200 chairs available so if you want a seat guaranteed, BYOFC (bring your own folding chair.)

Semper Fi  
Matt Valenzuela



**Fausto Galvan**  
**Executive Officer**  
**Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines**

[Fausto\\_galvan0471@yahoo.com](mailto:Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com)

818-259-2119

**THE YOUNG MARINES:**

Structure and discipline are our foundation, but our focus is preparing today's youth for the challenges of being tomorrow's leaders.

**MISSION:**

The mission of the Young marines is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurtures and develops its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy drug-free lifestyle.

The Young Marines strengthens the lives of America's youth by teaching the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral and physical development of its members.

The Young Marines is open to all youth ages 8 through completion of high school. The only membership requirement is that the youth must be in good standing at school.

Upon joining a local Young Marines unit, recruits undergo a 26-hour orientation program, generally spread out over several weekly meetings. They learn general subjects such as history, customs and courtesies, close order drill, physical fitness and military rank structure.

Honoring veterans is not just something Young Marines talk about, it's what they do! Each, year, Young marines from across the country travel to Iwo Jima, Pearl Harbor and the home of the Navajo Code Talkers, Window Rock, Arizona to honor those surviving veterans and their families for their historic and dedicated service to the United States.

Every year in November, all Young Marines units participate in Young Marines Veterans Appreciation Week, a campaign that challenges our Young Marines to dedicate time to show our country's appreciation and help our nations veterans in their local communities.

Now you have read and seen how the Young Marines operate. This is just the tip of the iceberg. They are heavily involved in the community, schools, neighborhoods, and with everyday happenings in and around where they live.



After much discussion with our Board of Directors and with Fausto Galvan, who is deeply entrenched with our sponsored Young Marine Unit in Santa Clarita. It has been decided that we go ahead and “test the waters” in and around Simi Valley to see what kind of interest there may be in starting another Young Marine Unit in Simi Valley.

We have been giving out information at all functions that “Big Red” had been at and as of now, we have 25 families interested. Sometime this fall, we will hold an orientation for prospective members and their families. We will invite some of our senior members of the Santa Clarita Young Marines to participate.

We will keep you informed of our progress but if you know of any young man or woman, 8 to Senior in high school, submit their names at our next general meeting.

Semper Fi,

Dick Jennings  
Commandant



## **PAYMASTER’S CORNER**

**ANDY DOBRZYNSKI**

[andydobrzynski@gmail.com](mailto:andydobrzynski@gmail.com)

805-428-5902

**Greetings to all,**

As proud members of the 597 I want to thank all those who are current with their membership dues, and for those who are not, please send them in. There are two options members can take, paying annual membership dues and second becoming life members by paying one lump sum. I personally chose the life membership.

Being a member of the 597 is a very good thing for its members and to the community. Our outreach and community exposure are growing every day. We are a voice in our community, therefore please renew your membership so that we can continue to have a voice and support in our community. Renew your membership!

To show our support in the community, we are having our annual picnic on July 13th, 2019.

This year we are inviting VFW, American Legion and the Elks Lodge of Simi Valley to help us in celebrating the community brotherhood. We will also have few dignitaries. Come out and let's celebrate at no cost to you. There will be several games and a great barbecue. We need you, only YOU can make a difference. Let's be visible and show our charity and support for our brothers.

Semper Fi!

Andy Dobrzynski  
Paymaster



**William Trammell**  
**Vice President Los Angeles Chapter #8**  
**Montford Point Marines Association**

wmtrammell@twc.com

**Marines:**

Bill Trammell was admitted to the emergency room for an irregular heartbeat and passing out at his home. He is in good hands with his wife Gloria at his side, doctors and hospital support team. Our prayers are with him and hope he recovers soon. I had a phone call with Bill and granted him a medical excuse for missing his article this month – we both laughed.

In all seriousness, Bill we wish you a healthy recovery,

Richard Farra  
 Editor

**NEW MEMBER**  
**George Carter**

George Carter was sworn in as our newest member of the 597. George served in the Marines from 1982-86 as a heavy vehicle operator. Please welcome him into the Detachment at the general meetings.





**Deborah “Debbie” Sands**  
**DAR Vice Regent, Rancho Simi Chapter**  
**Detachment 597 Associate Member**

**”What is “Daughters of the American Revolution?”**

I’ve been asked this question many times over the past five years as a proud member and currently the Vice Regent of the Rancho Simi Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution “DAR.” And I’m going to guess that many of our Detachment members may not know what DAR does or its history. So, in addition to sharing what we do for our Veterans and local events, I’ll be including some of our history and amazing things DAR has done since its inception in 1890 - It’s very interesting.

Rancho Simi DAR Chapter



**Why DAR was Started and Its Foundation**

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded on October 11, 1890, during a time marked by reenergized patriotism and intense interest in the beginnings of the United States of America. Women, as well as men, wanted to express their patriotism and but were frustrated by their exclusion from men's organizations that formed to perpetuate the memory of ancestors who fought to make this country free and independent. As a result, a group of five strong pioneering women in the nation's



capital formed their own organization - the Daughters of the American Revolution - that has carried the torch of patriotism ever since.

### Founding Objectives

The founding objectives laid forth in DAR's first meeting have remained the same for over 125 years of active service to the nation. Those objectives are:

- **Historical** - to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence;
- **Educational** - to carry out the injunction of Washington in his farewell address to the American people, "to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge, thus developing an enlightened public opinion..."; and
- **Patriotic** - to cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.

Since its founding, DAR has admitted more than 950,000 members, is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and is a non-profit, non-political, non-religious volunteer women's service organization. We volunteer hundreds of service hours (millions nationally) each year in our local communities including supporting active duty military personnel and assisting veterans and veteran patients, awarding thousands of dollars in scholarships and financial aid each year to students, and supporting schools for underserved children with annual donations now exceeding one million dollars.

### Events

This past May 4, Rancho Simi DAR welcomed Kristine Wood from the Irving Ranch Chapter, as its guest speaker. The topic of her engagement was "How A 3,000 Mile Motorcycle Ride is Healing Veterans." With the use of a wonderful PowerPoint presentation, Kris spoke of her experience riding her own Harley Davidson motorcycle across the United States traveling over 3,000 miles, from Southern California to Washington, DC, with the "Run For The Wall" organization and Rolling Thunder. She shared some truly amazing stories as was told by Vietnam Veterans who were most of the riders. I truly wished all of you in the Detachment could have been there to hear her story. Kris has done this ride for years and is gearing up to leave next week on another "Run For The Wall" annual ride. From her experiences, she wrote a poignant book "Run For The Wall," complete with amazing photos and stories told to her by Veteran riders.

"Run For The Wall was started in 1989 by two Vietnam Veterans who traveled across the heartland of America on motorcycles raising public awareness of those lost in war and to give all Veterans the opportunity to get their own welcome home and start their healing process." The next cross-country ride will start on May 15, 2019. (Source: "Run For The Wall" Website) Visit their Website for more information.

Deborah "Debbie" Sands  
 DAR Vice Regent  
 Rancho Simi Chapter





## **Bradley Cantley**

[bradleycantley@gmail.com](mailto:bradleycantley@gmail.com)

Cell: 805-813-3571



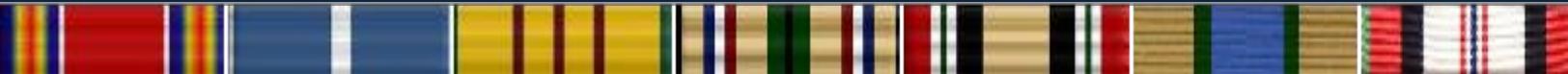
## **Honduras Part 4**

Well the next “training” mission for my squad was to be air dropped by Army Blackhawks (very cool and smooth helicopter). While staging, we got our supplies for the mission we found out there wasn’t enough potable water for us to fill both canteens. So, we were only allowed one canteen and that truly sucked because it was super-hot and humid. But we all climbed into the helicopters and were dropped into an area of the jungle which seemed to intensify the heat.

We began our decent into the jungle moving towards our objective, which was to attack the airbase from the southwest side of the base where the hooches were located. The purpose of this training exercise was to see how fast a joint effort can handle a surprise attack. We left at o’dark early and we were supposed to attack at night. Command thought it would be a good idea to have us travel this way and have time to contain any possible trouble with any rebels still in the area.

We were schlepping through this thick ass jungle and sweating up a storm. Our squad leader had us already limit our drinking, but he realized that it wasn’t going to work. He halted the squad in a shaded area for us to recoup and rethink this one canteen of water “crap” as he put it. Well, he had a corporal and me shed our packs and recon the area for water. He picked his next senior man, and of course the newest man (me) to go out and find water, and once found, fill up the canteens. I know anyone who reads this knows what is coming next. Well, the corporal and I find a water well gushing into this huge tank, and we began to fill all the canteens from our squad, and head back to our area. The squad leader had us put those damn nasty iodine tablets in the canteen, not one, but had us put two of those things in there. Next is the really crummy part, because I was literally the “boot” being the junior Marine, I get to drink first. Thus, begins the squad watching me for an hour to see if I get sick, die, or whatever. That Marines was highly awkward and honestly kind of scary.

Semper Fi,  
Bradley Cantley



## ANNUAL PICNIC DIRECTOR

**VALERIA GALVAN**

### **Hello Marines, Associates Family and Friends,**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our Annual Family Picnic is on 13 July at the Simi Valley Veterans Plaza. The picnic is free, thanks to the 597 picking up the costs. As it is with every Detachment picnic, if your last name starts with A – I please bring a desert; J – R a side dish; S – Z a salad.

Come and share a good time with your friends and family, AND free food!

Sincerely,  
Valeria Galvan



### **Birthdays for the month of June**

Anthony Markarian	8
Ron Lydick	10
Suzanne Barger	19
Robert Nelson	19
Wynn A. Ritch*	19
Anthony Hernandez	26

\*Life Member



## MANAGING EDITOR

**RICHARD FARRA**

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818-470-3258 Mobile

### Tell your Story!

Tell a story, your story of your experiences while serving helps us all understand and learn about things we want to share. Jerry German has notoriously gone off script and serendipitously writes stories to bring us out of the everyday world of commonality and presumed thought. While others like Bradley Cantley shares his detailed adventures of being a Marine in the Honduras, Jim Wagner his stories in Viet Nam as a member of a counterinsurgency unit, John Miller the stories of the heroes who served – your brethren Marines, etc. Your story is one of the many other Marine stories that build the legacy of the Corps. Every Marine has their roots in Marine history, from the Blue Sands beach of Iwo Jima, the frozen Chosin Reservoir, the jungles of Viet Nam to the sands of Iraq and Afghanistan, your stories are the foundation of those who have yet to become Marines.

Share your stories with those who have been in your shoes, then share them with those who want to know because they don't know what you went through – start with your family. Enlightenment is the light of the mind and soul to grow and life by, let's hear your story. Send it to me or pass it along to John Miller our Historian. Don't let anyone forget what you've done for our country. I say this with firsthand experience. My father, a Chosin Few survivor and Viet Nam Veteran, never spoke of his experiences. It was through hearing stories from those who served with him and reading his metal citations that I got to know what he went through. If you have kids or grand kids, share with them what you did to help make this nation great.

Richard Farra  
Managing Editor

**What do you envision for the future of our Detachment? Our Commandant wants to hear your thoughts, he listens so we can get better. Please email him a “DEAR COMMANDANT” letter with your constructive thoughts.**

We need your ideas to make our detachment better. If you have ideas and/or gripes about our general meetings, events or whatsoever. Your Commandant wants to hear about them.

Like a shark, we must keep moving forward or we will die. We need your input to move forward and grow. For example, Dick Jennings suggested and executed on his idea for a Veterans Center to help Veterans transition from active duty to civilian life. His idea is getting the attention of those in local government and businesses to bring this dream to reality. Share your ideas and let's make them happen.

We want our members to share their thoughts, concerns and compliments to the Commandant. If there is something not done to one's expectations, please submit your ideas on how to resolve these issues and concerns. All correspondence will be kept confidential unless specified otherwise. Email me your ideas and thoughts to me, Richard Farra, Managing Editor, at [richfarra@gmail.com](mailto:richfarra@gmail.com) and I will forward them to the Commandant anonymously for his feedback and include them in the Gipper.



## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Jeannie Liss & Carolyn Valdez**

**Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District**

**Simi Valley, CA**

Jeannie Liss is the Recreation Coordinator in charge of the Antelope Valley Mobile Vietnam Wall Memorial event from May 23rd through the 28th. (See the attached flier). She emphasized to us that this is a volunteer intensive event that must be manned 24/7 for those wanting to find names of loved ones to the reading of the names of those who gave all. For information on volunteering call Jeannie at 805-584-4453. Carolyn Valdez is the Strathearn Park Site Director who is co-managing the event. She also reiterated the need for over 300 volunteers to help make the event a successful one. Carolyn can be reached at 805-526-6453.



Pictured left to right: Jeannie Liss, Carolyn Valdez and Commandant Richard Jennings



**Memorial Day Weekend 2019**  
**Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Presents**



**Most Walls Keep People Out.  
 This Wall Brings People Together.**



The Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall is a half-scale mobile replica of The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

**FREE 24 HOUR PUBLIC ACCESS**

**Friday, May 24 through Tuesday, May 28, 8 am at  
 Rancho Tapo Community Park and Veterans Plaza  
 3700 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley, CA 93063**

**Opening Ceremony - Friday, May 24 at 4 pm  
 Memorial Day Ceremony - Monday, May 27 at 4 pm**

**Taps  
 Nightly  
 at 10pm**



Info:  
[www.RSRPD.org](http://www.RSRPD.org)  
[www.AVWall.org](http://www.AVWall.org)





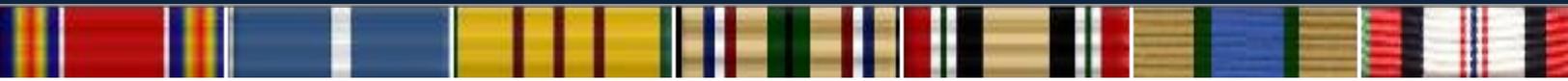
## Center Court at Simi Valley Town Center to be renamed “Veterans Court” in conjunction with Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>



On Saturday, May 18, 2019, members of the nation’s armed forces, veteran service organizations, community leaders and citizens will gather to honor the men and women who have served, and presently serve our nation, with a renaming of the Town Center’s center court to “Veterans Court,” coinciding with Armed Forces Day.

The dedication program will commence sharply at 13:00 hours—1 PM, with Col. Martin Spann, US Army, Retired, serving as the Master of Ceremonies. Simi Valley Town Center has long encouraged the support of our nation’s military men and women, and it is with great honor that the name of the center court be designated to continue that support.

Simi Valley Town Center is located at 1555 Simi Town Center Way, in Simi Valley, CA. Contact Mr. Tony Boucher for further information at [tonytuna50@aol.com](mailto:tonytuna50@aol.com) or 805 377-7926. OR Wayne Wright ([vwso10049@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vwso10049@sbcglobal.net)) 805 285-8844



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Department of California

2019 State Convention

June 6-8, 2019

Handlery Hotel – 950 Hotel Circle North

San Diego, CA 92108 – 855-347-2132

Room Rate: \$109 plus tax per night- parking included

Group Code – Marine Corps League of CA - 2019 Convention

619-298-0511 – Reservations

Reservation Deadline – May 7, 2019

Devil Dog Grand Growl:  
Friday – 1800

For Program Advertising –  
Rates and placement - Call  
John Vorhies at 619-889-3218

Banquet:  
Saturday – 1900

Convention Infor. – Todd Rehfuss  
[todd\\_rehfuss@hotmail.com](mailto:todd_rehfuss@hotmail.com)

**DRAFT**  
MORE DETAILS SOON



**DRAFT**  
MORE DETAILS SOON



## 2019-2020 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Rank or Title	Name	Phone	E-mail
Commandant	R. A. "Dick" Jennings	805-328-9817	<a href="mailto:MCL597Commandant@gmail.com">MCL597Commandant@gmail.com</a>
Sr. Vice Commandant	Harry Hodges	805-515-1401	<a href="mailto:Hodges1951@gmail.com">Hodges1951@gmail.com</a>
Jr. Vice Commandant	Jim Wagner	760-898-4548	analogcowboy61@gmail.com
Jr. Past Commandant	Jerry German	818-324-2338	jrgerman@sbcglobal.net
Judge Advocate	John Miller	805-581-5462	johnemillerusmc@gmail.com
Adjutant	John Coley	805-368-1086	w4simi@yahoo.com
Paymaster	Andy Dobrzynski	805-428-5902	<a href="mailto:andydobrzynski@gmail.com">andydobrzynski@gmail.com</a>
Sergeant-at-Arms	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	Faustogalvan14@gmail.com
MODD Pound Keeper	Ben Pfister	805-208-1095	benpdet597@gmail.com
Corporal of the Guard	John Fuentes	805-485-4230	John.R.Fuentes@Nav.mil
Chaplain	Bradley Cantley	805-813-3571	bradleycantley@gmail.com
Color Guard Commander	Ruy <i>Peña</i>	818-912-9863	colorguard597@gmail.com
Color Guard Vice Commander	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	Faustogalvan14@gmail.com
Ship's Store Captain	Harry Hodges	805-515-1401	Hodges1951@gmail.com
Director of Events	Ken "Doc" Honaker	805-416-4063	<a href="mailto:kdhonaker@gmail.com">kdhonaker@gmail.com</a>
Director of Speakers	Robert Martinez	805-368-7001	Thebugler597@yahoo.com
Fundraising Chairman	Harry Hodges	805-515-1401	<a href="mailto:Hodges1951@gmail.com">Hodges1951@gmail.com</a>
Historian	John Miller	805-581-5462	johnemillerusmc@gmail.com
Managing Editor, The Gipper	Richard Farra	818-470-3258	<a href="mailto:richfarra@gmail.com">richfarra@gmail.com</a>
Young Marines	Fausto Galvan Timothy Stratton	818-259-2119 661-257-9690	Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com e-8sierra@sbcglobal.net
	Juan Avalos	(858) 229-1894	<a href="mailto:avalosimscvym@gmail.com">avalosimscvym@gmail.com</a>
Toys For Tots Chairman	John Mitchell	805-379-9664	<a href="mailto:Kathleen.Mitchell.is18@statefarm.com">Kathleen.Mitchell.is18@statefarm.com</a>
Director of Associates	Valeria Galvan	818-302-9816	ValeriaHGalvan@yahoo.com
<b>Department of California Staff</b>			
Dept of CA Sr Vice Commandant MODD CA Pack – Sr. Vice Pack Leader	Matt E. Valenzuela	310-308-7015	mattval@aol.com
VAVS MODD Dept. of CA Pack - Watch Dog	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	fausto_galvan471@yahoo.com



## ATTENTION ON DECK

**EMAIL ADDRESSES:** If you did NOT receive this newsletter via email, it means your email isn't on the detachment roster. Please email Dick Jennings with your new email address to: [mcl597commandant@gmail.com](mailto:mcl597commandant@gmail.com).

**DD214 REPLACEMENT AND MILITARY MEDALS & AWARDS:** Are you in need of a replacement DD214? Are you missing awards or medals and would like to get your records updated? Would you like to get the military records of a deceased next of kin? Please visit [www.archives.gov/veterans/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/) to fill out the eVetRecs online system or download the SF180 form.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS:** Members more than 6 months past due will no longer receive the newsletter and will be removed from the roster prior to publication. MCL National HQ requires a new application if a member is more than 12 months past due. To bring your dues up to date, contact the Paymaster. Renewal dues are \$40 per year, and due in September. New member dues are \$45. All new applicants for regular membership must be prepared to show proof of Honorable military service with a DD214.

### **MCL Det. #597 GENERAL MEETINGS**

1st Thursday of each month  
**Simi Valley Elks Lodge #2492**  
**1561 Kuehner Drive**  
**Simi Valley, CA 93065**  
Meet and Greet 1800  
Dinner 1800-1859  
Meeting 1900

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

3rd Wednesday of each month – start time 1600  
US Bank Building  
1445 East Los Angeles Avenue, Room 302  
Simi Valley, CA 93065