



The Gipper

Marine Corps League
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597
Semper Fidelis

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Marines, Corpsmen and Associate Members:

THE 597 IS AWARDED 3rd PLACE IN THE MCL NATIONAL NEWSLETTER CONTEST!

By the time you all read this, I will be in beautiful, downtown Buffalo, NY attending the MCL National Convention. This year there are over 700 delegates from Detachments coast-to-coast. There is so much going on here, at one point I was called away from the meeting during which John Coley went up to receive a newsletter participation certificate. And within 10 seconds after returning to my seat, the speaker announced that Detachment 597 won 3rd place in the national newsletter contest. I went up smiling ear-to-ear to receive the plaque. What a thrill! Afterwards, other delegates came over to me and congratulated us on our win, and one of the judges said our newsletter was one of the best he's seen. I called Rich, our editor, to congratulate him on the award. Rich said we won because we all participated, and the award goes to the whole Detachment. Good job Rich!

We also had a chance to see what other Detachments are doing in other parts of the country. I am sharing what is happening on the West coast and listening to what is going on East of the Mississippi. When I return for the September Detachment meeting I will have some interesting things to discuss, e.g. growing membership.



It was a busy last couple of months. The Golf Tournament went very well and everyone who participated had a great time. Again, I want to thank everyone from our Detachment who volunteered and worked their "buns off."

The Color Guard and I went up to Bakersfield on the 26th of July, so they could do colors for the Gary Sinise Foundations' dedication of a new home they built for Joshua Brubaker, a disabled Marine who lost both of his legs while serving in Iraq. You would have been very proud of our men, they were terrific as usual.

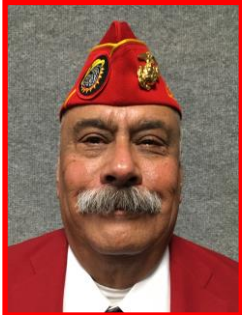
For the past two months, our Detachment has been given a lot of recognition around our city. We were on the radio, 99.1 The Ranch had us on the radio to discuss our golf tournament, the 4th of July, and to discuss the proposed "Veterans Center."

Speaking of the "Veteran Center," it seems to be moving along nicely, but a little slower than I would like. John Coley, your adjutant and I have a meeting with the "powers to be" and our builders toward the latter part of August. Hopefully, I will have great news to tell you all at our September meeting.

The Birthday Ball is right around the corner, which means that we want our members to submit award nominations for both members and associates. I am going to pass out a few sheets of paper describing the awards and specific criteria for each. I would like everyone in the detachment to be involved, so if you know of a member or associate who you think deserves one of these awards, please fill out the form and pass it in during the September or October meeting. These forms are to be filled out by both members and associates. These are your awards, so you should have a say in them.

I wish everyone a happy, rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you all at a future meeting.

Semper Fi
Dick Jennings
Commandant
MCL Detachment 597



SR. VICE COMMANDANT

Harry Hodges

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Marines and Associate members,

I would personally like to thank Valeria Galvan for doing a great job in organizing this year's picnic and to everyone who attended. This must have been the best turnout we've ever had, and it looked to me like everyone had a great time. There was plenty of food and drinks for everyone. Let's make next year's picnic as good or better.

Next, I want to bring up is membership growth. We are still trying to build up our membership for the benefit of the League. To be a regular member, a Marine only needs to provide a copy of his/her DD214. To join as an Associate member, breathing is a good start and most importantly, wanting to help Veterans. There are Vets all around us, to find a Marine, just look for the Marine apparel and EGA bumper stickers, for all others - hats. It's not that tough. The larger our membership, the greater the impact we have to help other Veterans.

Don't forget to support your ships store.

Semper Fi,

Harry Hodges

Senior Vice & Ships Store Rep



JR. VICE COMMANDANT

Ken 'Doc' Honaker

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Greetings Marines and Associates,

As in many Julys past, it was decided to not hold a general membership meeting. Initially it was proposed to hold a short meeting at the picnic but opted to not overshadow the feasting and fun of our annual 597 picnic. The pictorial documentation I've seen of the picnic shows that it was well attended and there were many food choices. I say "shows" because I was unable to attend because I had previously scheduled to be



part of a gathering with my Nam Mike Co 3/9 Marines in Indianapolis. A great trip to renew friendships hardened by combat, though overshadowed by those absent either by being sick in quarters, or those having reported to their final duty station. Semper Fidelis to my departed brothers.

The end of each July is the Veterans Stand Down of Ventura County, held at the National Guard Armory. Now 26 years in the making, the Veterans Stand Down provides goods and services to our nation's veterans who need some extra support to get through their post military life. While many of the attendees are homeless, Vets do not have to be homeless to benefit from these services. In addition to showers, clothes and chow for the three-day event, there are reps from a variety of services from AA to VA, which includes legal, medical, dental, and vision checks.

Contributing to the event's clothing choices, Fausto Galvan had arranged to get many bags of presorted clothing from the Sepulveda VA's clothing room. With the assistance of Joy in the clothing room, I transported the bags to the armory. The presorted bags were very much appreciated by the clothing volunteers. The 597 Board of Trustees also voted to purchase items not normally donated but needed for the stand down. Peter Ruiz and I reported as volunteers on Friday. I typically work in the medical unit and Peter helped wherever needed. We also met with Matthew Gonzalez who had been helping since the Wednesday before (he helped unload the bags of VA clothing from my vehicle) and intended to assist through Sunday. Ooohrah Matthew!

With the onset of the hot weather, I will use this forum to remind everyone to stay hydrated and take every opportunity to take advantage of cool spaces. Dehydration is nothing to ignore as the consequences can be life threatening in the form of heat exhaustion and even heat stroke. The medical differences need not be explained here but avoided by adequate hydration.

The Thousand Oaks street fair is on the calendar for 21 October in T.O. More information as the date draws near. We'll be needing a "few good men and women" for our Detachment's booth.

The MCL 597 celebration of the 243rd USMC birthday is still scheduled for 17 November at the Grand Vista Hotel. The 'Save The Date' cards went out this past couple of weeks. In a cost saving mode, any further reminders will be sent by email unless a league member does not have email. Commandant Jennings and I are working with our wonderful new webmaster to update the league website to allow for ball registration and meal selection.

As is usual from your Jr. Vice Commandant, continue to take every opportunity to get out the information regarding the Marine Corps League to anyone that can be identified as a Marine or someone supports what MCL represents. Marine Corps League National Convention is on the calendar August 12-17 in Buffalo, New York with a Supreme Growl slated for the Military Order of the Devil Dogs. I'm aware we have several members attending to represent President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597. They will have their reports upon their return.

Semper Fi
"Doc" Honaker
Jr. Vice Commandant



JR. PASTCOMMANDANT

Jerry R. German

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The Marine Corps League & the President Ronald Reagan Detachment # 597

Mission Statement

Members and Associates join the Marine Corps League in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from the Corps that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines and former Marines and to their widows and orphans; and by fitting acts, to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

Background

The Marine Corps League perpetuates the traditions and spirit of ALL Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen, who proudly wear or who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor of the Corps. It takes great pride in crediting its founding in 1923 to World War I hero, then Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune. It takes equal pride in its Federal Charter, approved by an Act of the Seventy-Fifth Congress of the United States of America and signed and approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 4, 1937. The League is the only Federally Chartered Marine Corps related veterans' organization in the country. Since its earliest days, the Marine Corps League has enjoyed the support and encouragement of the active duty and Reserve establishments of the U. S. Marine Corps. Today, the League boasts a membership of more than 60,000 men and women, officer and enlisted, active duty, Reserve Marines, honorably discharged Marine Veterans, qualified Navy FMF Corpsmen and qualified Navy FMF Chaplains and is one of the few Veterans Organizations that experiences increases in its membership each year.

Marine Corps Veterans Conference of 1922 (November 10, 1922)

In 1922 Major Sidney W. Brewster, retired, had a vision in which thousands of Marines who had seen service with the Corps marched before him in a monster parade. He thought of ways to make his vision a reality. "Once a Marine, always!" was embodied in the thought of "Why not?" and from then until February 1923, the vision became an obsession until others with whom Brewster talked and conferred also became impressed and they, too, echoed "Why not?" From 1919 to 1923 veteran organizations sprang up in all parts of the country and, in almost every section, enthusiasm for such gatherings became a very vital factor in the community's life. The Marines were leaders in these matters and clubs, associations, and groups were formed in keeping with the prevalent feeling of comradeship, camaraderie and good fellowship. They had served and fought together and now they gathered to recount the days of 1917, '18, and '19 spent in Parris Island, Quantico, France, and Germany.



At length a gathering convened on November 10, 1922, by Brewster met in New York City to talk over the problem of making contacts and cementing relationships with other Marine Corps veteran organizations which had been formed in various parts of the country. After lengthy discussion, Major Brewster's vision materialized and at this meeting he was elected temporary chairman and a committee was formed to develop plans for a national organization with the name of *Marine Corps Veterans Association*. The first national commandant, Major Brewster, was elected by acclamation, and held that position until the election of Major General John A. Lejeune at the second annual convention.

The *Marine Corps Veterans Association* organized posts across the country. The first New York Post was organized on December 11, 1922 with detachments following in Buffalo, Newark, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Niagara Falls, Cleveland, Chicago, Indianapolis, Houston and Pittsburgh. New York Post is the only remaining detachment of the *Marine Corps Veterans Association* in continuous operation since the beginning.

Progression of the Marine Corps League

By 1928 the chain of Detachments was completed to the West Coast. The second National Convention was held in Washington, D.C., the third in Philadelphia, the fourth in Cleveland and the fifth in Erie, Pennsylvania. General LeJeune remaining as National Commandant until that time, 1929, when Maj. Gen. Wendell C. Neville succeeded Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune as Commandant of the Marine Corps on March 5, 1929. General LeJeune then appointed General Neville to be the new National Commandant of the Marine Corps League for the duration of his term until the next National Convention at St. Louis, MO, in 1930.

Semper Fi Magazine

Initially, the official bulletin of the League was the *Leatherneck Magazine*, which carried League news in every issue. The circulation of the *Leatherneck Magazine* at the time was over 5,200. Through the *Leatherneck Magazine* and the recruiting service of the U.S. Marine Corps, the information of the League's activities was disseminated and through these mediums the Major General Commandant's hope of building the Marine Corps Reserve to an appreciable size.

Eventually, the League would produce its own official publication, known as the *Semper Fi Magazine*, but every now and then, the League is allowed to contribute articles to the *Leatherneck Magazine*. The *Semper Fi Magazine* is published on a quarterly basis.

Organization

The Marine Corps League is headed by an elected National Commandant, with 14 elected National Staff Officers who serve as trustees. The National Board of Trustees coordinates the efforts of department, or state, entities and the activities of over 1,000 community-based detachments located throughout the United States and overseas. The day-to-day operations of the League are under the control of the National Executive Director with the responsibility for the management and direction of all programs, activities, and affairs of the Marine Corps League as well as supervising the National Headquarters staff.

National Convention

The prime authority of the League is derived from its Congressional charter and from its annual National Convention held each August in different major U.S. cities throughout the nation. It is a not-for-profit organization within the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c) (4), with a special group exemption letter which allows for contributions to the Marine Corps League, its Auxiliary and subsidiary units, to be tax deductible by the donor.

Divisions



To obtain more effective administrative functioning, the United States is divided into ten geographical units called Divisions. The function of Divisions is administrative only. The duties and authority of the National Vice Commandants of Divisions are covered in the National Bylaws. The Divisions of the Marine Corps League are:

- Central Division - Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Kentucky
- Mideast Division - Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom
- Midwest Division - Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
- New England Division - Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island
- Northeast Division - New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
- Northwest Division - Alaska, Washington, Montana, Oregon, Idaho
- Rocky Mountain Division - Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming
- Southeast Division - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee
- Southern Division - Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas
- Southwest Division - Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, Okinawa

Departments

A State in which there are three or more Detachments with a combined membership of sixty (60) or more members may be chartered as a Department by the National Board of Trustees upon receiving a written request from such Detachments via the jurisdictional National Division Vice Commandant.

The Department of California has 53 MCL Detachments with a total of 2362 members and associates. The Detachments range in size from as few as 7 members to as many as 171 members and are located in Mt. Shasta and Susanville to the north, San Diego and Chula Vista to the south and 49 other communities in between.

Detachments

The Detachment is the basic unit of the League and usually represents a small geographic area such as a single town or part of a county. There are over 1000 community-based Detachments located throughout the United States and overseas, supporting veterans and their families while being active and involved in the local community. The Detachment is used for formal business such as meetings and a coordination point for community service projects. A Detachment member is distinguished by a Red garrison cap with gold piping.

President Ronald Reagan Detachment #597

The earliest Department of California Detachment to be Chartered was Glendale-Burbank Detachment #15, chartered in 1943. MCAS El Toro Detachment # 17 was second in 1967. Third to be chartered was Detachment # 22 San Clemente in 1974. Fourth was Detachment # 19 Bill King Modesto in 1976 and fifth, the President Ronald Reagan Detachment # 597 on the 30th of June 1985.

Today, the President Ronald Reagan Detachment # 597 is the largest of the 53 Department of California Detachments with 171 members and associates, 61 of them being Life Members of the Marine Corps League.

We are proud to be Veterans helping Veterans in Simi Valley for over 33 years.

Semper Fi,
Jerry R. German
Junior Past Commandant



JUDGE ADVOCATE

John Miller

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Judge Advocate message for August 2018

Remembrance and respect are the corner stone of the Marine Corps League ethos. Out of friendship we gain self-worth and the knowledge that we are better as a group than as a single person. Respect requires that we honor those that have left us and to remember them. This year marks the centenary of the end of World War I. The red poppy represents the American Soldiers that served and especially those that lost their lives in Europe. **The last American combat veteran was Frank Buckles, US Army, died 2 February, 2011 at age 110. The last US Marine was Albert "Jud" Wagner who died on January 20, 2007 at age 107.** The poppy represents the red poppies of Flanders Field in Belgium where many soldiers fought and died. When worn the Poppy should be on the right side of the body, garment, banner or cover. The **red** represents the blood shed for democracy and for the many troops that did not come home. **Black**, stands for mourning and the losses suffered by countless families and comrades. The **green leaf** is for grass and crops growing and a new prosperity after the war. The leaf should be at 11 o'clock to remember the end of the war on the 11th hour of the 11th month of 1918.



Frank Buckles US Army

Semper Fidelis
John E Miller
Judge Advocate



ADJUTANT

John Coley

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From the Desk of the Adjutant

Marines, Corpsman and Associate Members

A lot has happened since the June issue of the Gipper was published. The Color and Honor guard has been at the forefront on more than 20 occasions presenting Colors and performing Military Honors for deceased veterans. We lost one of our own during this time, Olan Taylor, father of Pastor Stan Taylor our former Chaplain. His services were held on the 4th of August. The Flag folding by Doc Honaker and Larry Fisher, taps by Bob Martinez, and the rifle salute by Ruy Peña, Jack Parfitt, John Coley, Fausto Galvan, Ben Pfister and Dave Opfer was followed by the slow version of the Marine's hymn. All who attended were very touched. We once again were invited to attend the Red, White and Blue Ball serving as emergency back-up for Colors but got the stand down upon arrival. We got a picture with the guest speaker, Brigadier General Rick Uribe.

Our Color Guard also travelled to Bakersfield to do Colors for the Gary Sinise Foundation R.I.S.E. Program that dedicated and presented a home to Corporal Joshua Brubaker, a double amputee wounded in combat in Afghanistan. Led by Fausto Galvan, the team of Larry Fisher, Ben Pfister, John Coley and Commandant Dick Jennings got in the public eye by being televised on two Bakersfield stations. We also met the folks from the Gary Sinise Foundation. Please get your recommendations in for the Detachment awards. Forms were passed out at the August meeting and will again be available at the September meeting. The time frame for recognition is from July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018.

Semper Fidelis,
John Coley
Adjutant



Brubaker event photographs provided by Julia Robinson- photojournalist-Austin, Texas.









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

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Woof Woof Devil Dogs and Detachment Members,

At the Grand Growl this past June in Clovis, three of our Detachment and Pound 325 members were elected and appointed to the MODD California Pack Board of Trustees. PDD Matt Valenzuela to Sr. Vice Pack Leader, PDD Fausto Galvan to Watch Dog, and DD Ben Pfister to Barking Dog. Congratulations to all.

As far as I know, there are 5 Devil Dogs going to the National Convention and Supreme Growl in Buffalo, NY; DD John Coley, Dick Jennings and myself will be advancing to PDD (hopefully).

Woof Woof





CHAPLAIN Bradley Cantley

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The Chaplain's Corner

Let us take a few minutes out of our busy lives and pray for those who need our Supreme Commandant's healing hands. Whether it they are in pain physically, emotionally, financially, or spiritually. These brave men and women have stepped forward to ask for our prayers, so let us give them the attention they need to get them back on their feet. If you are not quite sure on what to pray for or say, maybe this will help: "Supreme Commandant (Father God), I pray for healing for all on this list. Thank you, Jesus, Amen" Short and sweet, and God knows what you are asking for. Total pray time 8 seconds at most and if you did this every day then God indeed will hear our prayers, touch those on the list, and you as well. Miracles happen, all you have to do is open your eyes through our Lords, and you will see. 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.

I thank you in advance for the help, and please if you need something please let me know.
God bless you all, and may you have a most awesome day.

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

- Ed Farra— His Alzheimer's is not fairing him well. Mitsy, his wife, thanks all of you for your prayers. She wants you to remember him as he was and therefore, him may not be attending any future meetings. Please keep him and his family in our prayers.
- Thomas Hernandez—Was at the hospital of the Holy Cross (correct me please if I am wrong) with an obstruction in his intestines. He got transferred to the VA-West LA for surgery. So, let us keep him in our prayers, and that he recovers quickly. Once I know more I will share it with everyone.
- Jerry Anderson- Hurt his knee (torn meniscus), his toes (fractured a few of them), and on top of it sprained his ankle all on Father's Day. Evidently, he decided to play tag with a truck or a bear or something.
- Jim Lieberknecht – Has had a stroke a few months back, but according to his wife he is getting better. Please keep him and his wife in your prayers to continue his healing.
- John Fuentes (COG) – Is back home and is doing good. I am sure the physical therapy is indeed doing good.
- Blanca Hernandez – Has had 3 strokes and needs care 24/7. Tom Hernandez is taking care of her. So, let us pray for her to get healed, and for Tom to have the strength to help.
- Julie Stranges – Need our prayers, for she is having a bought of strokes. The doctors are trying to figure out, so lets us prayer to guide them to fix one of our own. She is seeing a neurologist (who she say is very nice) at the University of Utah.
- John Calderon – just had eye surgery, so let us pray that he recovers nicely.



- Darrell Lee –Update is that Darrell is doing good and should be moving around within a few months. Just in time for him to get his other knee done. J
- Mike Maxwell – He has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He hasn't been doing well with the treatments. So, let us make sure we pray for him to recover fully, and show the doctors there is a cure for all when we put it into Gods hands.
- Bill Trammell – Has also been diagnosed with prostate cancer. So, once again we will indeed have God intervene and heal Bill of this cancer. Praying is indeed a powerful thing, and when we all do it miraculous things do happen.
- Buggs Ansell - On oxygen 24/7
- Ken Barger – Is home now and recovering nicely. It is a slow process, and his wife is doing a great job in helping with that recovering. Looking good Ken, keep up the good work brother. It may be a slow healing process sometimes, but our prayers are with you.
- Sue Honaker - Undergoing treatments
- Don Joy – It was great seeing you at the meeting Don, and I continue to pray for your fast recovery.
- Brad Cantley –Saw pain management today it seems very promising to a good direction. They did a procedure which numbed my nether region, and it helped with the pain on the left side. The right-side hurts still, but if the shot works we will do the right side. So, we shall see in the next few days, so please keep me in her prayers.

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"

New Veteran Center - This is a project that is in preliminary stages, but it will happen as long as we keep it in our prayers. It will be in Simi Valley area somewhere and we diffidently could use one closer to us.

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

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Color Guard Report

I am very proud of our 597 Color Guard members! Their professionalism and decorum draw attention to them and the services we provide. We were honored when the Gary Sinise Foundation contacted us to provide a Color Guard presentation where they gave a house to Marine Joshua Brubaker, a double amputee combat wounded in Afghanistan. The Color Guard was composed of Fausto Galvan, Larry Fisher, Ben Pfister, John Coley, and Dick Jennings. Oorah! Marines!

As we move through the year, our schedule continues to be very busy. We are making a difference; our Color Guard presentations are making a very positive impact within our community and surrounding areas. We can't do what we do without our members who volunteer their time and service to our Color Guard details. I am very grateful for all the dedication our members put forth. I encourage our members to participate in these events, we will help you march again and have fun doing it.

Semper FI,
Ruy Peña
Color Guard Commander



YOU KNOW THE DRILL!

Darrell Lee
Training Officer

Opportunities to serve

Every meeting Ruy Peña asks for volunteers for the Color Guard (to carry rifles or colors for ceremonies and parades) and Honor Guards (Firing Details, Flag Folding, etc.). Every meeting we hear from the various committees (Golf Tournament, Birthday Ball, Family Day Picnic, etc.) and they're pretty much always open to getting new folks involved in the behind the scenes planning, preparation, and execution of these events.

Every month there is a Board of Trustees meeting where anyone can attend and put in their two cents, and possibly find another avenue of service in supporting the League.

Most significantly, we are having our Annual Election of Officers, where we are always hearing a call for new blood, but where few new faces seem to be found. Honestly, we do want new people in these vital positions! If you are not sure you can do the job, take the current holder of that office aside for a few minutes or so to get a better idea if you can handle it. I bet you can...

And if running for elected office isn't your thing, the appointed offices are still an option worth considering. While only a few are mentioned in our bylaws, we have created many informal, but important, offices like Training Officer (yours truly), Newsletter Editor, etc. If you want to be considered for one of these posts, let someone know; the current office holder and the incoming Commandant-Elect would be the most logical people, as well as others who have been around for a while. Many of us have previously held these positions.

Semper Fidelis,

Darrell Lee



HISTORIAN

John Miller

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BOB HOPE



He was born in southeast London in 1903 and he entertained US troops in Southeast Asia in 1965. His real name is Leslie Knowles Hope, but the world knew him only as Bob Hope. His family left England in 1907 and passed through Ellis Island on March 3, 1908. His father was a stonemason and his mother sang in a church choir. That is all the inspiration Bob Hope had to become one of the most famous men in American show business history. He was an American original who started out as a super featherweight boxer weighing in at 128 pounds, he was tough and stood his ground, he finished up his boxing career with a record of 3 wins and 1 loss.

Somewhere along the way he got the show business bug and started his entertainment career in vaudeville in 1923 when he was 20 years old. He is the one who made stand- up comedy an everyday term and he is credited with being the most successful comedian in history. He was celebrated for his USO (United Service Organization) shows that he performed for American troops, especially at Christmas time. During his lifetime he made over 57 USO shows beginning in 1941 and ending with his last show in 1991. A total of 50 years serving and honoring the American Soldier. He was an institution and a man that every veteran owes a debt of gratitude.

In 1997 he was declared an honorary Veteran of The United States Armed Forces by an act of Congress. He received almost every award the United States government could bestow. He was honored by every President from Franklin Roosevelt to George W. Bush. Just to name a few of his awards would include in 1963 when President John Kennedy presented him with the Congressional Gold Medal for his service to our nation and its Armed Forces. Later, in 1969, Lyndon Johnson would honor him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his service to the US Military through his USO Tours. Again in 1997 President Ronald Reagan presented him with The Ronald Reagan Freedom Award, for his contributions to Freedom worldwide. He



also became the only civilian to receive the United States Air Force, Order of The Sword, for his service to the enlisted personnel in all branches of the US Armed Forces.

To us Veterans... Bob Hope's career started in 1939 during the beginning days of World War II. Before the United States was even involved. He was aboard the British cruise liner, His Majesty Ship (HMS), Queen Mary. The same ship that is currently anchored in Long Beach, California. One evening he volunteered to entertain the British Troops and passengers and sang for the first time his famous theme song, "THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES."

He became patriotically involved and his first official USO show was on May 6, 1941 at March Field, which today is known as March Reserve Air Force Base, in Riverside, California. He entertained Troops from 1941, throughout World War II, to The First Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, in 1991, a total of over 50 years.

He had a great respect for the American Soldier and for all of those that wore this nation's uniform. During the Viet Nam War, the anti-war sentiment was so great, that most celebrities refused to go and entertain the troops. Bob Hope contacted his closest friends and held the shows without the support of main stream Hollywood. His tours were funded by the Department of Defense, his television sponsors, NBC Network and his own production company.

John Steinbeck said of Bob Hope's war efforts; "When the time for recognition of service to the nation in wartime comes to be considered, Bob Hope should be high on the list. This man drives himself and is driven. It is impossible to see how he can do much more, can cover so much ground, can work so hard and can be so effective. He works month after month, at a pace that would kill most people." All for the good of the troops, the veteran that was in the arena and was doing all the heavy work to honor his duty and commitment to the United States. For his service in honoring the American Warrior, Bob Hope was awarded in 1968, THE SYLVANUS THAYER AWARD by the United States Military Academy at West Point. This was during the height of the Viet Nam War, during The Tet Offensive and during mass anti-American protests and riots across the country.

In 1995, he made golfing history when Presidents, Gerald Ford, George HW Bush and Bill Clinton were in his foursome. For those of us who served in Viet Nam, Bob Hope, John Wayne and Jimmy Stewart were our heroes. They stood up for us when most other Hollywood types turned their backs on us. A few others, were there also, but the three mentioned were the most supportive. You could always count on them.

In December 1965, this 19-year-old Marine, marched 3 miles in the pouring rain, to a hillside outside Da Nang, Republic of Viet Nam. I waited for 6 hours to watch his Christmas Special. His flight from Chu Lai was delayed and my platoon was ordered back to our night time positions near Marble Mountain. I never got to see or meet Bob Hope that day. Years later, I went to his home and met him and thanked him for all he did for me and for countless other Veterans. I met him again on his 95th birthday when he was honored with a birthday parade down Riverside Drive in the Toluca Lake section of North Hollywood. It was an honor to be there.

This next part is going to be difficult, because I will want to sing it. Maybe you will want to sing along in your memory, while I speak: Thanks for the memories, of faults that you forgave.... Rainbows on a wave,



and traffic jams and anagrams and bills we never paid. Oh. Thank You so much. THANK YOU FOR SENTIMENTAL VERSE, OF BARBED WIRE FROM END TO END THE HUMID JUNGLE NIGHT TIME CURSE... OF WALKING IN THE MUD AND FRIENDSHIPS OVER STUD FOR COLD C RATION CHOW AND CHASING FRIENDS OF MAO. YES! THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, THANK YOU MISTER HOPE. THANKS FOR ALL THE MEMORIES, THANK YOU OH SO MUCH.

I didn't know this, but many singers have recorded this tune and set it to their own recollections and wording. I wanted this to be a Thank You to a veteran who meant a lot to those of us who were not treated very well when we came home. To most of us we have carried on with our lives, but there is always a bit of Bob Hope in our hearts and memory.

The Spartan Choice

I choose to be useful, not used. To make changes, not excuses. To excel, not compete. I choose self-esteem, not self-pity. To choose to listen to my inner voice, not the random opinion of others.

Captain Steven Decatur may have summed it up for many of us when he said; "May my country always be right... but my country right or wrong."

May his Memory be Eternal.



William Trammell

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

wmtrammell@twc.com

Marines,

Below is a schedule of events for the Montford Point Marines Association, Los Angeles. Please note the events highlighted in **RED**, e.g. the Las Vegas Birthday Ball.

Semper Fi,

William M. Trammell

Vice President Los Angeles Chapter #8

Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.

(805) 512-2215



National Montford Point Marine Association Inc. (NMPMA)

Western Region

Los Angeles, San Diego, Okinawa, Oceanside Chapters

www.montfordpointmarines.org

Events & Special Projects For 2018

August 18, 2018	NMPMA SD Chapter Business Meeting @10 AM
August 18, 2018	NMPMA NEC Teleconference Call @11:00 AM
August 25, 2018	NMPMA LA Chapter Board/Business Meeting at 11:00 A.M.
August 30, 2018	30 th Women Marine Association Convention Washington DC
September 01, 2018	NMPMA OC Chapter Business Meeting @11 AM
September 15, 2018	NMPMA SD Chapter Business Meeting @10 AM
September 15, 2018	NMPMA NEC Teleconference Call @11:00 AM
September 22, 2018	N MPMA LA Chapter Board/Business meeting at 11:00 A. M.
October 15, 2018	NMPMA NEC Teleconference Call @11:00 AM
October 27, 2018	NMPMA LA Chapter Board/Business Meeting at 11:00 A. M.
November 03, 2018	NMPMA OC Chapter Business Meeting @11 AM
November 03, 2018	San Jose MC Birthday Ball @5 PM
November 2018	Fontana H. S. Marine Corps MCJROTC Birthday Ball @ 6 PM
November 10, 2018	Marine Corps Birthday Ball Las Vegas NV. @5:00 PM MCL
November 11, 2018	Veteran Day Celebration @ 11 A.M. Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills
November 11, 2018	City of Palms Springs Day Veteran Day Parade @ 3:30 P. M
November 17, 2018	MPMA LA Chapter Birthday Ball Luncheon in Carson Ca @ 11-4 PM
November 2018	MCB Barstow Marine Corps Birthday Ball @6 PM.
November 17, 2018	NMPMA SD Chapter Business Meeting @10 AM
November 17, 2018	NMPMA NEC Teleconference Call @11:00 AM
November 24, 2018	NMPMA LA Chapter Board/Business Meeting at 11:00 AM
December 2018	"Toys for Tots" Meeting/Drive
December 2018	Presentation Congressional Gold Medal OMP Mr. Murphy J. Jackson Jr.
December 15, 2018	Greenwood Mortuary @ 8 AM SD Ca
December 15, 2018	NMPMA NEC Teleconference Call @11:00 AM
December 25, 2018	Christmas (Thursday)



Kenneth L. Mask
Sgt. U.S. Marine
Disabled Vietnam Veteran



I've been watching videos of soldiers returning to applause and praise from family, friends and the public, which is as it should be. I think our members of the armed services deserve all the accolades they get and more.

I feel sad that millions of veterans returning from Vietnam didn't get such a reception. We would've preferred no reception rather than the one we got. I was medevacked from Vietnam into Travis Air Force Base in 1972 and taken by bus to Oakland Naval Hospital. As we left the base people spat at us and threw garbage. We were called rapists, child murderers, warmongers, just to name a few. I never raped anyone, nor did I kill children, and I certainly didn't want to wage war, nor did any I served with. We served our country and followed orders.

I don't hold a grudge against the protesters. I believe in Free Speech and it was their right to protest. I find fault with some of their methods and tactics. The Vets didn't start the war nor prolong it. We suffered the slings and arrows for doing our duty, not those who started it and continued it.

Today people are treating Vietnam veterans better because of what veterans of today have and are still doing and we welcome the belated well wishes.

I would like to hear someone who treated us so badly apologize not for actions against the war, but actions against the veterans. Few actors and actresses and other well-knowns people who protested those who did the fighting have apologized. A certain actress has apologized for what she did, but no Vietnam veteran will ever forget the picture of her wearing a North Vietnam helmet and sitting on top of an anti-aircraft gun in Hanoi.

If you see any veteran, particularly a Vietnam veteran, thank them for service, especially if you protested the returning veterans. Show them you value their sacrifices.

Here is the article that appeared in the July 20th issue of the Simi Valley Acorn. It's the first time I have ever written a letter to any editor and I'm kind of proud of it. This is exactly as it appeared in the paper. Several people asked for copies, but I can't remember who now, but being in the newsletter will get copies to everyone.

Semper Fi,
Kenneth L. Mask
Sgt. U.S. Marines
Disabled Vietnam Veteran



Simi Valley Acorn

Simi Valley

Vietnam vets deserve thanks, apologies

I've been watching videos of soldiers returning to applause and praise from family, friends and the public, which is as it should be. I think our members of the armed services deserve all the accolades they get and more.

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wage war, nor did any I served with. We served our country and followed orders.

I don't hold a grudge against the protesters. I believe in free speech and it was their right to protest. I find fault with some of their methods and tactics. The vets neither started the war, nor prolonged it. We suffered the slings and arrows for doing our duty, while those who started it and continued it did not.

Today people are treating Vietnam veterans better because of what veterans of today have and are still doing, and we welcome the belated well wishes.

I would like to hear someone who treated us so badly apologize not for actions against the war, but actions against the veterans. Few actors and actresses and other well-knowns who protested against those who did the fighting have apologized. A certain actress has apologized for what she did, but no Vietnam veteran will ever forget the picture of her wearing a North Vietnam helmet and sitting on top of an anti-aircraft gun in Hanoi.

If you see any veteran, particularly a Vietnam veteran, thank them for their service, especially if you protested against the returning veterans. Show them you value their sacrifices.

**Kenneth L. Mask, Sgt. U. S. Marine Corps
disabled Vietnam veteran
Simi Valley**



MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD FARRA

richfarra@gmail.com

818-470-3258 Mobile

We Received MCL National Recognition! Again...

On the morning of 16 August, I received both an email and a phone call from Commandant Dick Jennings telling me that our 597's newsletter won 3rd place and national recognition at the MCL National convention. Dick said he had a huge smile as he walked up to the podium to receive the award for our Detachment. We did good! What it means is that our 597 members are receiving a quality newsletter that fulfills the guidelines directed by MCL National.

Participation matters! Don't stop. Be a part of the Detachment's voice by volunteering for our events, submitting ideas to the commandant, writing articles, etc.

Valeria Galvan is one of our Detachment's greatest assets. Year after year she works hard to organize our 597's annual picnic, some more successful than others. This year's picnic knocked it out of the park. The picnic was well attended, by some estimates with approximately 100 in attendance. The picnic was free, thanks to our board's leadership, and was open to our 597, VFW and American Legion. For those looking for someone to recognize as an award recipient, look no further – Valeria Galvan is my vote.

Our Detachment is on the rise. Our Commandant continues to bust his butt to take this Detachment to the next level of public recognition, fundraising and community outreach. Ruy Peña and the members of the Color Guard detail have gained public notoriety through their participation in patriotic events (they look good in the pictures above.) Matt Valenzuela is out there hunting for new members and speakers every month, as well as putting our Detachment in the lime light with the MCL Dept of California. Bradley Cantley is unbelievable in his ability to be involved with so many of our members who need our prayers and wishes, he is doing a fantastic job. Doc Honaker makes magic every year for our Detachment with his organization and leadership skills to put our annual birthday ball together.

Get involved and make a difference, if you haven't already.

Thank you



DEAR COMMANDANT

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 Speakers' Bureau to share a Veteran's view of war to high school students. His idea is a positive community outreach idea and has had great reviews and demand for more presentations.

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, Editor, at richfarra@gmail.com and I will forward them to the Commandant anonymously for his feedback and include them in the Gipper.



PAYMASTER'S CORNER

ANDY DOBRZYNSKI

andydobrzynski@gmail.com

805-428-5902

Detachment Members,

Remember to keep your MCL membership current, if you have any questions regarding your membership status please see me at the next general meeting or contact me via email.

As a reminder you must show your membership card at the time of signing in before the general meeting.

Andy Dobrzynski
Paymaster

VERY HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



04 - Leah McClough Hernandez
06 - Russell R. Hicks
07 - Ruy Peña
08 - Joe Trotta
14 - Scott Zimmer
23 - Andy Dobrzynski - Life Member
23 - John B. Walker - Life Member
25 - Kenneth Mask - Life Member
30 - John Moreira



NEW MEMBERS

Marine everywhere are home with the Corps. The Marine Corps League is the home again for Marine Veterans. So, if you see a Marine Vet, not hard to ID with a lot of bumper stickers and EGA apparel, walk up to them and bring them home to the 597.

GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker for the August General meeting was Ramone Arevalo who spoke on Community Emergency Response Team "CERT" and volunteering. He talked about the training involved to become a volunteer and their responsibilities during a natural disaster.





2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Rank or Title	Name	Phone	E-mail
Commandant	Richard A. Jennings	805-328-9817	MCL597Commandant@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Commandant	Harry Hodges	805-583-8951	Hodges1951@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commandant	Ken "Doc" Honaker	805-416-4063	kdhonaker@gmail.com
Jr. Past Commandant	Jerry German	818-324-2338	jrgerman@sbcglobal.net
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Adjutant	John Coley	805-368-1086	w4simi@yahoo.com
Paymaster	Andy Dobrzynski	805-428-5902	andydobrzynski@gmail.com
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	805-813-9667	bradleycantley@gmail.com
Color Guard Commander	Ruy Peña	818-912-9863	colorguard597@gmail.com
Color Guard Vice Commander	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	Faustogalvan14@gmail.com
Training Officer	Darrell Lee	818-304-3580	dardan226@hushmail.com
MC Birthday Ball Committee Chair	Ken "Doc" Honaker	805-416-4063	kdhonaker@gmail.com
Ship's Store Captain	Harry Hodges	805-583-8951	Hodges1951@gmail.com
Fundraising Chairman	Harry Hodges	805-328-9817	Hodges1951@gmail.com
2018 MCL Golf Tournament	Dick Jennings	805-328-9817	2018golftourney@gmail.com
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Toys For Tots Chairman	John Mitchell	805-379-9664	Kathleen.Mitchell.is18@statefarm.com
Director of Associates	Valeria Galvan	818-899-4529	ValeriaHGalvan@yahoo.com
Department of California Staff			
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 Matt Valenzuela with your email address to: mattval@aol.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/ 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 from 1600-1800

US Bank Building

1445 East Los Angeles Avenue, Room 302

Simi Valley, CA 93065