



The Gipper

Marine Corps League
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597
Semper Fidelis

Jerry R. German, Commandant
jrgerman@sbcglobal.net
Richard Farra, Managing Editor
richfarra@gmail.com
Matt Valenzuela, Publisher
mattevalenzuela@gmail.com



JANUARY 2018



COMMANDANT Jerry R. German

jrgerman@sbcglobal.net
818-324-2338, Mobile



A New Beginning

We will once again elect officers to lead our Detachment during the 2018-2019 Marine Corps League year. Nominations of candidates to fill our 4 elected Board of Trustee positions were opened during our 04 January 2018 membership meeting and will reopen again during our 01February 2018 meeting. At the conclusion of the nomination process on 01February 2018, we will hold Detachment elections. Members must have their dues paid in full and be in attendance at the 01February 2018 membership meeting to participate in the nomination & election processes.

Installation of the new Administration will take place during the 01March2018 membership meeting and the new team will lead the Detachment through a myriad of veteran support, community service and fund-raising activities during the coming year - always remembering the needs of those fellow veterans, those very vulnerable brothers and sisters and their families who have been scarred by war, and who we are pledged to support. That is our mission.

As we elect new leadership for our Detachment for another year, let us rededicate ourselves as **"Veterans helping Veterans"** in the year ahead.

To all Members and Associates of Detachment 597 and your families, I wish for you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Semper Fidelis,
Jerry R. German
Commandant



SR. VICE COMMANDANT

Dick Jennings

seniorvicemcl597@gmail.com

805-328-9817, Mobile



Marines, Corpsmen and Associates:

We have been organizing our annual fundraising golf tournament, to be held on June 18, 2018, and we need your help. There are thousands of Veterans nationwide and hundreds within our local community who have fallen through the VA's safety nets and need help. They are the silent warriors, too proud to ask for help and who have tried to make it on their own – they need assistance, now.

You have all served honorably as they have and you know the pressures facing these forgotten warriors. Society believes the government supports Veterans, we know better. They need our help to inform our community of their dire straits.

We are here to make a difference. We have a speaker's bureau where we speak to high schools about our military and veterans. This is a good start, but our objective is to reach deeper into the community and businesses for support. Please help us to help our brethren warriors. Life is hard enough without having someone who cares. Contact me using the information below for more information.

2018golftourney@gmail.com or (805) 328-9817

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Yours truly,
Richard A. "Dick" Jennings
2018 Tournament Director



JR. VICE COMMANDANT

Ken 'Doc' Honaker

JviceMCL597@gmail.com

805-416-4063, Mobile



Marines, Corpsmen and Associates:

Another year is upon us. If you missed January's general meeting, we wish each of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

If you are new to the detachment, our Marines are more than just friends, they are your brethren. During our monthly meetings you can feel the camaraderie, support, and care shared by each Marine and associate in the room. You may walk in as one, but you will leave as many.

You joined the Marine Corps with particular goals and perceptions in mind and now you have joined the Marine Corps League, also with goals and ideals. You are encouraged to take those ideals to others.

Membership growth generates organizational growth which in turn generates greater community awareness and recognition. If you see a Marine sticker on a car/truck, leave a recruitment card or flier on their windshield, or ask them to come to our monthly meeting for a free dinner to see what we're all about. Don't forget about those people who would be covered by the ideals of the Corps as associate members. Marine family and friends can espouse and support the foundation of the principles upon which we function.

Semper Fidelis

Ken 'Doc' Honaker
Jr. Vice Commandant



JR. PAST COMMANDANT

Matt E. Valenzuela

mattval@aol.com

310-768-2847 Office

310-308-7015 Mobile



Fellow Marines, Corpsmen, Associates and Friends:

I would like to thank two people who contributed much to the President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 of the Marine Corps League - Robin Hutton (Sgt. Reckless) and her brother Michael Holzbieierlein, who took time out of their very busy lives to help us continue with our newsletter, **the Gipper**. Speaking for the 597, I would like to express our sincere gratitude and wish them a successful year ahead.

After publishing her successful book, **Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse**, Robin began working on her next book and is taking some "me time" to work on her personal publications. It is not an easy task to write a book, Robin travels frequently where she thoroughly researches her subjects before putting her thoughts on paper. Her book Sgt. Reckless took about eight years to research and write. Robin, we wish you well and an expeditious success on your new book. *Casser une jambe!*

Michael, we know you spend a lot of hours performing your day job and had to burn the midnight oil to do **the Gipper**, as such we welcome the respite from your Gipper duties. Michael from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for all you have contributed. We welcome you back anytime to assist us in any way you can. May your year ahead bring you peace, good health and happiness.

Thank you both,
Matt E. Valenzuela
Jr. Past Commandant



JUDGE ADVOCATE

Dr. Tony Saunders

JudgeadvMCL597@gmail.com

805-587-4900, Mobile



Fellow Leaguers and Associates,

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Judge Advocate for the past two years. I have witnessed the growth of our 597 family and the many accomplishments we have enjoyed. While I received great interpersonal satisfaction serving our members and community, I believe greater accomplishments are achieved with new people and their ideas for positive change. It is now the time for me to give another worthy member the opportunity to serve.

Thank you for the confidence shown and the support given to me while I held this office. With your assistance, we accomplished major undertakings such as revising our by-laws and providing financial support to numerous worthy organizations that support both our veterans and local community. Every successfully achieved milestone comes new heights and challenges. With every new Board position filled brings new vision and objectives. We all have their 6s covered. This is why I believe my worthy successor will do an outstanding job in this position. I will be standing by to provide transitional assistance and advice as needed.

I ask all Detachment members to consider learning about the different elected offices, appointed offices and committee positions. Let your Commandant and fellow Leaguers know that you **want to serve - we can use you!** Our success comes from the effort and work from our Board's leadership and the much appreciated volunteers who put their hearts into making things happen. We can never have enough volunteers. Every person, doing a little something adds up to a lot of things getting done well. Have fun and make new friends by "jumping into the mix." Your participation will help make our Detachment stronger and successful.

Semper Fi and Ooh Rah!

Dr. Tony Saunders

P.S. Thanks for the warm welcome back from my recent knee surgery. I hope to be ready for our next golf tournament...



THE DOG ROBBER HOWLS

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

DD Ben Pfister
Pound Keeper

colorguard597@gmail.com

818-912-9863



Woof Woof my fellow fire hydrant sniffers,

2018 Wow!

Happy New Year to all the members of the MCL and their families, and I hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe Holiday Season. May 2018 be joyous and fruitful.

Our prayers go out to the family and friends of Mel Neiditch, he'll be missed by all of Detachment 597 and Pound 325.

Hope to see all Devil Dogs at the March Growl on Saturday 10 March 2018 at 0900 at the Museum of Military History at the Simi Valley Town Center Mall. The SV Town Center Mall is at:
[1555 Simi Town Center Way](#) Suite 220 (Park near Larsen's Grill)
Simi Valley, CA 93065

This Growl will be short and sweet because right after the Growl, the members of Pound 325 will be visiting Foothills at Simi Valley Senior Housing to visit with Veterans living there. Due to minimal parking, there will be parking off campus; more info will be disseminated at the Growl.

Woof Woof!

Ben Pfister
Pound Keeper
Semper WOOF!!



CHAPLAIN Matt E. Valenzuela

mattval@aol.com

310-768-2847 Office

310-308-7015 Mobile



Fellow Veterans and Friends:

Please keep on with Daily Prayers for those on the Prayer List.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Bless this day for all of us that need healing of the mind and body. Lord, give companionship to the lonely and forgotten. Walk with them and show them the way. Guide our steps as we walk through this unique "Day the Lord hath made". Protect our Warriors that are in harm's way and take care of families left behind to wait for their safe return. Father God, forgive us if we falter, and we will, and light our way so that we don't stumble as we travel along Life's way. Heavenly Father, for those who have recently lost a loved one, strengthen their heart so that their grief lessens with the good memories of a loved one lost but not forgotten. Alleviate their pain, Lord, with the knowing that our end is only the beginning and we shall all be together again in your Heavenly Presence. Amen.

Semper Fidelis,
Matt E. Valenzuela
Chaplain



COLOR GUARD COMMANDER Ruy Peña

colorguard597@gmail.com

818-912-9863, Mobile



Color Guard recap of 2017.

Our Color Guard Detail performed at 106 events and received \$3,360 in donations. I want to personally thank the members of the Color Guard Detail for all of their hard work and dedication. We were, at times performing multiple events on various holidays, yet our members sacrificed their vacation time to perform. I am humbled by their dedication and very grateful.

Our calendar is starting briskly with three events in the first week of January, and more being booked. Performing in the Color Guard is enjoyable and fun, after all we are all brothers. You may get to see Fausto smile.

Let me know of your interest,
Semper Fi



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 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

,



TOYS FOR TOTS CHAIRMAN

John Mitchell



A Story of Commitment



I've been involved with Toys for Tots for close to 25 years as a volunteer and coordinator for the MCL 597. We begin each year in November by distributing boxes to local businesses. Then beginning the day after Thanksgiving each year we set up a collection site at the Thousand Oaks Janss Marketplace, right outside Toys R Us. Every weekend and then daily beginning 15 December up to Christmas eve, we set up "Big Red," President Ronald Reagan MCL detachment 597's canopy, with large collection boxes and myself along with volunteers "man the boxes" collecting toys and cash donations.

This year's volunteers who helped man the boxes and collect were: Bob Martinez, Dave Opfer, Fausto Galvan, Hank Noorda, Harry Hodges, John Coley, John Fuentes, Matt Valenzuela, Robin Hutton, Ramon Arevalo, Doc Honaker, Ben Pfister, Brad Cantley, Cindy Merager, Godfrey Harris, Bob Nelson, Dick Jennings, Toni Trotman, and me. We were also joined by several young Marines. We had boxes throughout Ventura County Park Vista Senior Living, Callegas Water District, M'Lords & M'Ladies Beauty Salon, Harley's bowl in Simi and Camarillo, Simi RV Center, Moose Lodge Simi Valley, Elks Lodge Simi Valley, Jims Tire Man Simi, Andrea's Beauty Salon T.O., Corrigan's Steak House T.O., Reardon Mortuary.

Matt Valenzuela placed boxes at the Rabo Banks from T.O. to Ventura and Ojai, Troop Real Estate, UPS Store, and the Medical Supply store, all in Moorpark. In Simi Valley, the Museum of Military History with collection assistance from Tony and Jill Boucher. Matt also placed boxes at the VFW Post 10049 and Nuvu Vapor in Simi Valley, and VFW Post 2323 in Granada Hills. Matt contacted me to go to pick up toys collected from Mrs. Sears home here in Simi. When Matt, Rafael Dagnessess and I arrived, we collected over 600 toys - the largest single donation of the season!

After collecting I count the toys and then they are transported to the warehouse for distribution by the Marine Corps. This year we worked with Sgt. Hernandez and Sgt. Martinez from the 2/23 Marine Detachment from the Ventura Naval Base. Once we deliver the toys they would be sorted by age and gender, and then fulfill the requests from local churches, non-profit groups, and local police or fire departments. With the fires it was an especially difficult season as 100's of the stuffed animals were lost due to smoke damage, and on 2 separate occasions they ran out of toys and we had a very difficult time fulfilling orders. Even though we collect up to Christmas Eve, they are only distributed through 20 December. The toys collected after the 20th are either stored in a container on base and/or at my home, so we have a jump start for the following year.

I really enjoy collecting for Toys for Tots each year. We get to meet and greet so many caring people. It's so nice to see the best in people as they donate a toy or make a monetary donation. These toys are distributed within Ventura County to brighten children's Christmas, many who would otherwise go without a new toy if not for Toys for Tots and the hard work of all who volunteer.



For the 2017 Christmas season, we collected 8,500 toys and \$2600. Monetary donations are used to purchase gifts for the 13 and older bracket who are often forgotten. We had a very successful season! Big Thank You to ALL who volunteer! It could not be done without everyone's help!





Life-long Friendship by "Doc" Honaker

It was 13 January 1968 in Vietnam, a Marine Corps resupply convoy, travelling on Highway 9 to Khe Sahn between Camp Rockpile and outpost Ca Lu, was ambushed by a well-organized element of North Vietnam Army Regulars. The fighting was fierce as the enemy utilized heavy rockets, RPGs and automatic weapons fire. Mike Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division (REIN) was dispatched from Camp Rockpile as a reactionary force to support the convoy. Two of the corpsmen from Mike Company's Navy Hospital, "Doc" Richard Balty and "Doc" Ken Honaker were both part of that force. In addition to Mike Company's participation, Corpsmen from India Company 3/9 were included in the medical support. India Company had been on the convoy to relieve Kilo Company 3/9 in rotation at Ca Lu.

During the clearing of the dead and wounded, "Doc" Honaker found Corpsman Balty down with multiple gunshot wounds including a sucking chest wound. After his wounds were dressed, Balty was sent by 6x6 to Rockpile for further transport to Delta Med at Dong Ha.

On Saturday 13 January 2018, "Docs" Balty and Honaker reunited to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the injury date. "Doc" Honaker located "Doc" Balty, now living in Long Beach, California, about 6 years earlier using the Internet. They've been meeting occasionally for lunch and once travelled to Indiana in 2016, to reunite with Marines they served with in Nam, as well as with the former 3/9 battalion surgeon Jerry Behrens, then a Navy lieutenant. Dr. Behrens was said to have been on the convoy on the way to Ca Lu and had returned to Rockpile just prior to Balty being sent there. Dr. Behrens recalls treating Balty before transporting by helicopter to Dong Ha for life saving surgery.

(Photo of Docs Honaker and Balty, respectively, on 13 January 2017)





HISTORIAN

John Miller

kathiemill@aol.com
(805) 581-5462



It's Not Just You, It's Family

John shared the life of Josephine, the wife of Tom King, Marine and MCL597 member, with the detachment during January's general meeting. It was moving, well written and presented. The room was quiet, as we all listened to a story that transcended into each member and their families. Some excerpts from his dedication follow.

"For every Combat Marine, Corpsman, Sailor, Soldier and Airmen, there were those that remained at home and kept the light of Freedom bright and the love of country brighter still. For most of us we left behind a Mother, A Father, Grandparents and brothers and sisters too young to know that their brothers were going to a war that some would not come home from."

"Family is not about the blood line. Family is chosen by the actions of those within the circle, Love is for whom you would shed your blood and they in turn would stand and deliver in your defense."

"It's knowing where your roots are that sometimes gives you wings... It's knowing that there is a place to go to escape the awful things. It's knowing that there will always be at least one person on your side. Who will listen to your problems and go along with you just for the ride - its comfort, heartaches, pride and disappointments too. It's holding on and letting go. Cherishing the old and accepting the new. It's waiting for the next little one to come and steal your heart. It's wondering how being called Grandpa or Grandma is such a fuzzy state. It's watching time go racing by days, weeks, years. It's missing those that go too soon."

For the complete Josephine King dedication transcript, contact John Miller – information is given above.



MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD FARRA

richfarra@gmail.com

818-470-3258 Mobile

I'm BACK!!!

Hello and Happy New Year!

Let's get this ball rolling. The personal reasons which led to me stepping down as your publisher and editor have been resolved. I look forward to working with our MCL 597 Board and its members in repeating our 2015 MCL National Newsletter Award.

The mission of our newsletter is to inform and celebrate the lives of our members, the Marine Corps, and America. Earning the right to call oneself a Marine doesn't stop there, it goes deep into the soul of a Marine. In times of despair or age, the ethos and camaraderie of Marines brings solace, brotherhood, and guidance to them, in some cases more so than with family. Our 597 is about family.

As such, the purpose of our Detachment's group events is to embrace the Marine brethren and to have fun. So when the calendar of events shows dates for picnics, parties, balls, or meetings – please join the group in celebrating each other and share your stories - understood by those who have stood in your shoes.

Thank you,
Rich Farra
Editor



CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Matt E. Valenzuela

mattval@aol.com

310-768-2847 Office

310-308-7015 Mobile



Fellow Marines, Corpsmen, Associates, and Friends,

The article below is a perfect example of how Congress can work in a bipartisan way when items on their agenda really matter. Following is U.S. Representative Julia Brownley's intercession to get Marine Sgt. Major (Ret) John Cantley's Navy Cross upgraded to the prestigious Medal of Honor.

OFFICE OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JULIA BROWNLEY

For Immediate Release

Thursday, January 11, 2018

Contact: Samantha Greene ([202-225-5811](tel:202-225-5811))



Brownley Bill to Bring Local Veteran One Step Closer to Receiving Medal of Honor Heads to President's Desk

Washington, D.C. – Today, a bill authored by Congresswoman Julia Brownley (D-Westlake Village) heads to the President's desk for signature, bringing Sergeant Major (Ret.) John Canley of Oxnard one step closer to receiving the prestigious Medal of Honor.

Sergeant Major Canley served as a Marine for 28 years, including service during the Vietnam War. His actions as Company Commander of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, during the early days of the Tet Offensive in Hue City, Vietnam, saved the lives of many Marines and sailors. In 1968, during the Battle of Hue, his commanding officer was gravely wounded, so then-Gunnery Sergeant Canley took immediate command of his company, directing several counter-attacks over many days, advancing the war strategically, and saving many American lives. More than a dozen eyewitness statements corroborate this account. Additionally, he spent part of every year from 1965 to 1970 on the front lines in battle in Vietnam, a choice he made despite having the opportunity to take an administrative position.

For his extraordinary heroism, Canley received the Navy Cross, as well as two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. In 2014, John Ligato, who served as a Private First Class with Sergeant Major Canley, contacted Congresswoman Brownley's office to request that she recommend that his medal be upgraded to the Medal of Honor – the highest military award given by the U.S. government.

Last month, after several years of review by the U.S. Marine Corps and the Department of Defense, Secretary of Defense Mattis sent Congresswoman Brownley a [letter](#) stating that "after giving the nomination careful consideration, I agree that then-Gunnery Sergeant Canley's actions merit award of the Medal of Honor." Secretary Mattis noted, however, that under federal law, the Medal of Honor must be awarded "within five years after the date of the act or service justifying the award."

To waive this requirement, Congress must pass legislation, so Brownley got to work on getting a bill through the House and Senate. After working closely with House Leadership and House Committee Chairmen, the House passed a bill on December 21, 2017, waiving the time limit for Sergeant Major Canley. Since then, Brownley has been working with Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris to get the bill through the Senate. It passed the Senate today and now heads to the President's desk for signature. Once the legislation waiving the time limit is enacted, it will still be up to President Trump to decide whether Canley will actually receive the award.

"Sergeant Major Canley truly exemplifies the kind of courage and bravery for which this honor is awarded," **said Congresswoman Brownley.** "His valorous actions and unwavering dedication to his fellow servicemembers is the reason so many of the men who support his nomination are alive today to testify on his behalf. His incredible gallantry and selflessness is an inspiration to us all. I am so grateful to all of my colleagues in the House and Senate, on both sides of the aisle, for helping expedite this bill, especially Senators Feinstein and Harris and House and Senate leadership. This is a great demonstration of Congress's ability to work in a bipartisan manner when it comes to a truly just cause. I hope that starting the year on this note will set the tone for 2018, and the work that we can accomplish together to move our nation forward this year."



"I want to profusely thank Congresswoman Brownley for her continued work helping me with this honor," **said Sergeant Major Canley**. "The credit for this award really should go to all the young Marines in Vietnam who inspired me every day. Most of them didn't receive any recognition, but they were the foundation of every battle in the Vietnam War."

What Sergeant Major Canley's Fellow Servicemembers Say About His Bravery:

"The sheer cumulative effect of Gunny Canley's actions and deeds over this continued period rank with the acts of America's greatest heroes from the Revolutionary War to this present day," said Ligato. "This man is the epitome of A Marine Warrior."

"I spent nine months in the St. Alban hospital, required numerous surgeries and am disabled, but, I would have died if [Canley] had not risked his life for mine," said Pat Fraleigh. "This was not the first time I saw Gunny Canley act heroically. At Cen Thien, he not only carried Marines to safety, but also exposed himself to enemy fire. ... He was always leading and attacking the enemy and always standing up and encouraging us."

"One man in front of our position was hit and we were being kept down from incoming fire. As the Lieutenant was calling in fire support, Gunny [Canley] directed fire on the enemy then at risk to himself he got up and ran to the injured man, picked him up, and carried him to safety, all the time while taking fire," said Paul D. Patterson. "[Canley] was a man who inspired men, he was a Marine's Marine. There was no place that [Canley] would ask us to go that we would not follow."

"The leadership [and] cool under fire bravery that Gunny Canley showed throughout this horrendous battle has inspired me to this day," said Gary E. Eichler.

Samantha Greene

Communications Director | Congresswoman Julia Brownley, CA-[26](#)

1019 Longworth HOB | Washington, DC 20515

Phone: [\(202\) 225-5811](tel:(202)225-5811) | Fax: [\(202\) 225-1100](tel:(202)225-1100)



PAYMASTER'S CORNER

TAJ O'TOOLE

Paymastermcl597@gmail.com

310-613-0175, Mobile

Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,

It's been quiet after the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. I think a lot of members took some time off in January to recover from their festivities, which included attending the first MCL meeting of the year held on Jan. 4, 2018. This was an important meeting as the first round of nominations for the four elected offices were made. The elected offices are Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant, and Judge Advocate. Final nominations are made at the February meetings with the election following. Installation of the new Board of Trustees will be in March. Don't miss your chance to name a candidate or throw your own hat into the ring!

As far as the normal business of the Detachment, we still don't have 100% response to the dues invoices sent out in August 2017. In order to cast your vote for the elected offices, you must be a member in good standing – dues paid. I'll continue to try contacting those with an outstanding balance and see what, if anything, I can do to help. Remember, your membership is important, whether or not you are able to attend meetings, as it strengthens National's position when fighting for legislation for Veterans' benefits and rights.

Please call if you have questions.

Taj O'Toole



VERY HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

01- Richard Gallegos
02- Darrell Lee III - Life Member
03 - Robert Stewart
04- Al Lansdale
08- Don Montgomery - Life Member ***

13- Timothy J. Stratton - Life Member
15- Yolanda Pena
16- Kathy Martinez
24- Matt Valenzuela - Life Member
28-Jay Adelman
28- Ron Reyes

*** (Charter Member of the 597)



January Speaker Recap



Leigh Polzin, VSO at the Sepulveda VA, discussed the disability benefits available to Veterans. The scope of his talk was broad in scope and invites Veterans to contact him at Sepulveda. His hours are 0830-1300 M-TH in Bldg 22.

February Speaker

Jia Sha Yu is a holistic health professional specializing in acupuncture techniques. He will be speaking on the benefits of acupuncture.

Due to installation of the new Board of Trustees, there will be no speaker in March.



2017-2018 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Rank or Title	Name	Phone	E-mail
Commandant	Jerry German	818-324-2338	jrgerman@sbcglobal.net
Sr. Vice Commandant	Dick Jennings	805-328-9817	seniorvicemcl597@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commandant	Ken "Doc" Honaker	805-416-4063	JrviceMCL597@gmail.com
Jr. Past Commandant	Matt Valenzuela	310-308-7015	JrpastMCL597@gmail.com
Judge Advocate	Dr. Anthony Saunders	805-587-4900	JudgeadvMCL597@gmail.com
Adjutant	John Moreira	805-903-9257	AdjutantMCL597@gmail.com
Paymaster	Taj O'Toole	310-613-0175	Paymastermcl597@gmail.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	sgtaaMCL597@gmail.com
MODD Pound Keeper	Ben Pfister	805-208-1095	benpdet597@gmail.com
Corporal of the Guard	John Coley	805-368-1086	w4simi@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Matt E. Valenzuela	310-308-7015	ChaplainMCL597@gmail.com
Color Guard Commander	Ruy Peña	818-912-9863	colorguard597@gmail.com
Color Guard Vice Commander	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	sgtaaMCL597@gmail.com
Training Officer	Darrell Lee	818-304-3580	dardan226@hushmail.com
MC Birthday Ball Committee Chair	Ken "Doc" Honaker	805-416-4063	MCball597@gmail.com kdhonaker@gmail.com
Ship's Store Captain	Larry Fischer	805-558-3469	larry_fischer@sbcglobal.net
Fundraising Chairman	Dick Jennings	805-328-9817	seniorvicemcl597@gmail.com
2018 MCL Golf Tournament	Dick Jennings	805-328-9817	2018golftourney@gmail.com
Historian	John Miller	805-581-5462	HistorianMCL597@gmail.com
Web Master	Joon Park	213-709-1520	parkjoon2013@gmail.com
Managing Editor, The Gipper Publisher/Contributing Editor	Richard Farra Matt Valenzuela	818-470-3258 310-768-2847	richfarra@gmail.com MattEValenzuela@gmail.com
Young Marines	Fausto Galvan Timothy Stratton Juvencio Gallegos	818-259-2119 661-257-9690 818-299-1777	Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com e-8sierra@sbcglobal.net adigallegos3531@gmail.com
Toys For Tots Chairman	John Mitchell	805-379-9664	Kathleen.Mitchell.is18@statefarm.com
Director of Associates	Toni Trotman	805-583-0861	bigredt8@att.net
Department of California Staff			
Jr Vice Commandant MODD CA Pack - Jr 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	sgtaaMCL597@gmail.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 Tuesday of each month at 1830

Museum of Military History

Simi Valley Town Center Mall

1555 Simi Town Center Way #220

Simi Valley, CA 93065



Patients Valentines Dance

Hosted by Voluntary Service



Thursday, Feb 8, 2018

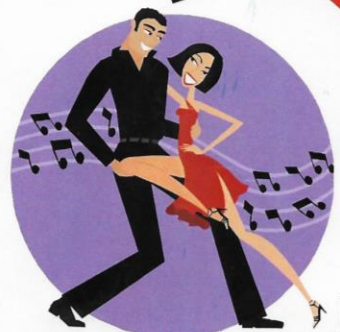
6:00 PM

**West LA Campus
Bldg. 500, Rm. 1281**

Refreshments

Live D.J.

Door Prizes



For more information contact
Voluntary Service (310) 268-4350

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



National Salute to Veterans Concert

Featuring
The Miracles

**TUESDAY, FEB. 13, 2018
6:30 PM**

**Wadsworth Theatre
VA West LA Medical Center
Sponsored by Vol. Service**

For more information contact
Voluntary Service (310)268-4350

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
1600 Griffin Lane, Los Angeles, CA 90018-1500

