

The Gipper

Marine Corps League
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597
Semper Fidelis



Harry Hodges, Commandant
mcl597commandant@gmail.com
Richard Farra, Managing Editor
richfarra@gmail.com

JANUARY 2020



COMMANDANT

Harry Hodges

Hodges1951@gmail.com

805-515-1401, Mobile



Message From Your Commandant

Marines, Corpsmen and Associate members,

The 597 board and I want to wish each and every one of you the best for the New Year! 2019 was a year of changes and achievement: We had a casual Marine Corps birthday party at the Junk Yard restaurant vs. having a more formal Ball; I moved into the position of Commandant for the 597 when Dick Jennings became the Dept of California Commandant; Our Color Guard detail presented colors at 130 events and received \$2,775 in donations; Our 597, once again, honored our fallen Viet Nam brothers when the Antelope Valley traveling Viet Nam Wall was in Simi Valley – Marty Spann was its Master of Ceremony and our Color Guard provided honors; and Robert “The Bugler” Martinez and John Mitchell had another banner year collecting toys for the Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots. We are all proud of what we do for our fellow Veterans and our community, please help us continue our work.

Our Detachment’s community participation has given our Veterans notoriety and support. We have been active with our local high schools with Veteran talks, our Color Guard has been at the forefront of ceremonies both public and private; we have been involved in the planning stages for Veteran housing in Simi Valley; we have reached out into our community to find Marines and there family members to join the League; our members have been very active in raising money and needed clothing and goods for homeless Veterans – all in to raise awareness that we are Marines. Marines do what is right and to help other Vets.

Now is the time we need you - our members - to step up to help us continue our legacy of supporting our brethren Marines and Vets. We need you to help take our Detachment to the next level of achievement. Your involvement is critical to our league. Please get involved.



JR. VICE COMMANDANT

John Miller

kathiemill@aol.com
(805) 581-5462



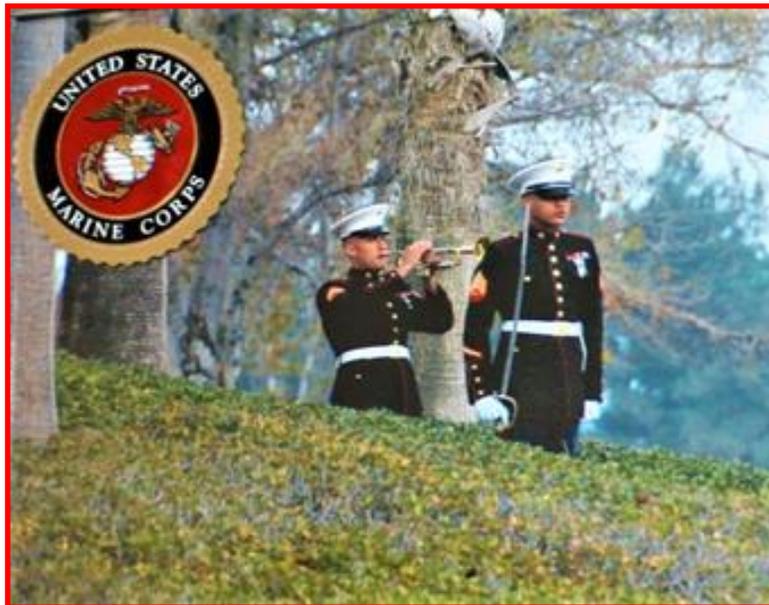
Marines, FMF Corpsmen and Associates,

Happy New Year everyone! The Holidays are over and now we must face the cold days of winter here in Southern California. The Detachment held nominations for the four elected positions within our Detachment on 02 January. We will continue to take nominations for board positions during our February general meeting and have elections in March. For those who step up, we extend our admiration and will promise to maintain the great reputation our Detachment.

As tension mounts with Iran and other terrorists in the Middle East, we pray that our forces there will be spared any harm. We know that our nation depends on our military to protect us from aggression and to deter plots to kill or injure American citizens. May the one God who watches over us all, protect those who are in harm's way.

We look at 26 January and remember on that date in 2005, US military paid the high price for freedom - 30 Marines and 1 Navy Corpsman were killed when their Sea Stallion helicopter crashed during a sandstorm in Western Iraq. It was the deadliest day in the Iraq war.

You may not have noticed, but in October 2019, the US Postal Service began selling the Forever Purple Heart 2019 stamp. It was issued to honor the sacrifices of men and women who serve in the US military. This stamp is not to be confused with the 2012 design which was issued then as a 49 cent stamp only.





History

- January 3, 1777 Washington's Army routed the British in the battle of Princeton, N.J.
- January 3, 1959 Alaska becomes the 49th State
- January 3, 1961 Diplomatic relations with Cuba terminated
- January 4, 1896 Utah admitted as the 45th State.
- January 4, 2002 Army SFC Nathan Chapman becomes the first combat death in the war in Afghanistan
- January 5, 1781 British troops under Benedict Arnold burn Richmond, Va.
- January 5, 1933 President Coolidge died in Massachusetts
- January 5, 1779 Commodore Steven Decatur born. He authored the quote, " May my country always be right. But my country right or wrong."

- January 10, 1995 2,600 Marines deployed to Somalia in Operation United Shield.
- January 12, 1967 Marine General Holland "Howling Mad" Smith dies in San Diego, Ca.
- January 13, 1983 Commandant and Medal of Honor recipient, General David Shoup dies in Arlington, Va.
- January 16, 1991 Operation Desert Storm begins with massive air campaign against Iraq.
- January 20, 1968 2nd Battle of Khe Sanh begins in Viet Nam
- January 22, 1969 Operation Dewey Canyon begins in Viet Nam when 9th Marines attack enemy positions in A Shau Valley.

- January 25, 1856 Marines go ashore in Seattle, Wa. to protect settlers from Indian attacks.

It's our History

Remember it

Honor it



Marines from Lima Company 3rd Battalion 1st Marines 1964
PFC Bob Mathis L/Cpl Bill Inman L/Cpl John Miller

John E Miller
Jr. Vice Commandant
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597, Marine Corps League



ADJUTANT

John Coley

w4simi@yahoo.com



From the Desk of the Adjutant

Marines, Corpsman and Associate Members,

Let me start off by wishing all of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Last year was a good year for the Detachment with 130 Color and Honor Guard events which raised \$2,775, our Bingo fundraiser Raising \$1,400, and our annual picnic allowing everyone a chance to get to know our Brothers a little better.

The January Meeting was the first opportunity to nominate your fellow members to be officers in the Detachment. The first round of nominations had Harry Hodges nominated for Commandant, Martin Spann for Sr Vice Commandant, John Miller for Jr. Vice Commandant, and no one stepped up for the nomination as Judge Advocate. Unfortunately, Marty Spann declined the position as Sr. Vice Commandant via email the following day, and Brad Cantley resigned his post as Chaplain.

The February General Meeting will be the second and final opportunity for further nomination of officers with election of officers to immediately following the nominations. **It is important that we have members step up and accept nominations for the offices, especially for the positions of Sr. Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate.** We must have enough officers to have a Board of Directors for the Detachment.

The following states the criteria for Nominations and Elections:

*****Nominations and Elections*****

The Detachment Officers to be elected are the Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate per Article Five of the National Bylaws.

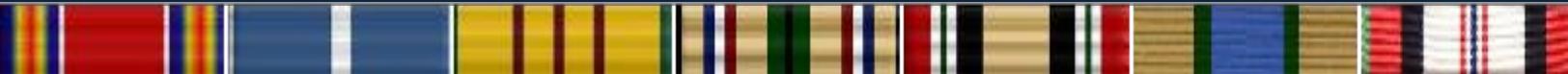
Nomination of proposed officers shall be made between January 1 and the February general membership meeting of each calendar year. Election of officers shall be held at the February general membership meeting.

Each nominee shall be a Regular Member in good standing in the detachment at the time of nomination. Verification of such standing shall be made by the Detachment Paymaster.

Nominations for elective office shall be made from the floor by Regular Members in good standing. Each nominee, when called upon, will state to the Adjutant that if elected, he/she will accept the office and serve loyally, faithfully and to the best of his ability.

If a member, in good standing is unable to be in attendance during the two nomination meetings, he/she can nominate themselves by calling either the Commandant or the Adjutant and stating he/she is willing to serve if elected.

If the nominee is not in attendance during the February elections, he/she is not permitted to vote. Election of officers shall be by a secret ballot of regular members in good standing, present at the February general membership meeting.



Proxy voting is not permitted. A simple majority of the regular members in good standing, present at the meeting and voting shall be sufficient to elect.

Elected and appointed officers shall be installed at the March general membership meeting, but in no event, more than thirty days from their election.

Please make a concerted effort to attend the February Meeting and to nominate and elect the deserving friends and members as one of the four officers of your President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 of the Marine Corps League.

Semper Fidelis,

John Coley
Adjutant



HISTORIAN
John Miller

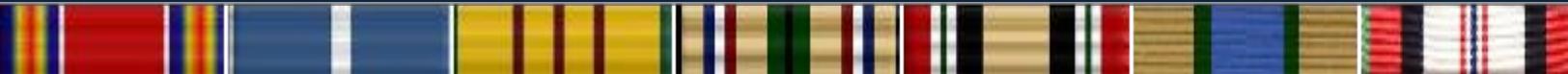
kathiemill@aol.com
(805) 581-5462



General Louis Walt

Assistant Commandant of the United States Marine Corps





Lewis William Walt was born February 16, 1913 in Wabaunsee County, Kansas. He graduated from high school in Fort Collins, Colorado. He decided to attend Colorado State and graduated with a BS in chemistry. He was an honor student and captain of the varsity football and wrestling team. He was a scholar with a high IQ. He was also the Student Body President and a Cadet Officer from the college ROTC program. Upon graduation he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Colorado Army National Guard. He resigned his National Guard position and joined the Marine Corps in 1939.

In August 1939, he embarked for a tour with the 6th Marines in Shanghai, China and was a member of the detachment tasked with defending the International Settlement there. Later in 1939, Lt. Walt promoted to first lieutenant and was shipped to Marine Barracks in Guam. Lt. Walt returned to the United States just 6 months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and was assigned to The Basic School at Quantico, Va.

After being promoted to captain, he volunteered to join the 1st Raider Battalion. His unit later landed in the assault of Tulagi Island. For personal gallantry during the landing, Captain Walt received the Silver Star Medal. Following his Raider assignment, he joined the 5th Marines on Guadalcanal and was promoted to the rank of Major. During his time on Guadalcanal he assumed the duties of Battalion Commander of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. Major Walt was wounded in a small skirmish on Guadalcanal but refused to leave his unit. For his distinguished leadership and attention to duty he was spot promoted to Lt. Colonel.

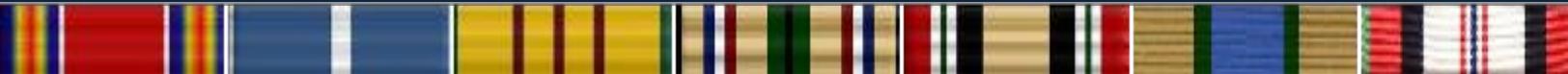
Finally, his wounds caused him to be hospitalized and sent to the rear to Australia. Upon his return to Guadalcanal he assumed command of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines and led his men during the intense battle for Aogiri Ridge. He received his first Navy Cross during this action and the ridge was renamed by his Marines to **“Walt Ridge.”**

In February 1944, Lt. Colonel Walt was ordered to the Naval Hospital in Oakland, California for treatment of wounds and malaria. He returned to the Pacific in time to land on Peleliu as the executive officer of the 5th Marines. It was here that he met up with the fabled “Chesty” Puller and the two warriors became lifelong personal friends.

During the Peleliu landing and intense fighting, both the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer of 3/5 were both killed in action. He was ordered to take command of the battalion. For his bravery, commitment to his men and outstanding leadership, Lt. Colonel received his second Navy Cross during the campaign to gain control of the battlefield and removal of the enemy from the surrounding area and from the all-important airfield.

In November 1944, Lt. Colonel Walt returned to the United States and assumed duties as Chief of the Officer Candidates’ School at the Basic School in Quantico, Va. After the war, he was assigned to the west coast, Camp Pendleton, California. In November 1951, he was promoted to Colonel and ordered to Korea. Again he was given command of the 5th Marines and had the dual responsibilities as CO of 5th Marines and Assistant Chief of Staff for the 1st MarDiv. During his combat assignment in Korea he received the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star with Combat V for exceptionally meritorious service.

Transferred to Washington, D.C. in 1959, Colonel Walt was assigned to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Assistant Director of Personnel. Later he was sent to the National War College and graduated from the course in June 1960. Colonel Walt was promoted a brigadier general and reported for duty at Camp Lejeune as Assistant Division Commander, 2nd MarDiv.



During World War II, General Walt married an Army nurse and they had 3 children, a son and two daughters. This union ended in divorce and General Walt remarried after the war and remained married until his death in 1989. The general was a very private man in regard to his family. He attempted to shelter them from the harshness of military life and the responsibilities that came with that type of life and commitment.

In June 1965, the general entered his 3rd war as a US Marine when he took over the command of the 3rd MarDiv. The Division was stationed in Okinawa and set to deploy to South Viet Nam on June 16, 1965. I was a member of Weapons Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd MarDiv. I recall the night before we sailed to Viet Nam, the General addressed the entire Battalion, one Company at a time. He told us to do our duty to our families, our country and ourselves. He told us that our duty was to defend our nation against the spread of Communism in Asia and to kill as many of the enemy as we could. He said that Marines from ages past were with us. We had a duty to defend their legacy and to do our duty and honor their memory.

General Walt again had a dual role in Viet Nam, first as Commanding General of 3rd MarDiv., and a larger position as Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force, FMF Pacific. His approach to the war in Viet Nam was slightly different from that of the overall MACV Commanding General, General William Westmoreland. General Walt sought to assist the Vietnamese people with medical care, security and freedom from the indoctrination and terror of the communists. General Walt introduced a program of pacification and mutual respect between US Forces and the civilian populace and established a Civil Action Program (CAP) within the Marine units in Viet Nam. He wanted his Marines to protect the people of South Viet Nam. He also realized that he had the duty to attack and destroy the Viet Cong (NLF) and the North Vietnamese Army (NVA).

For his services in Viet Nam, General Walt was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Just to understand how impressive General Walt was and how much respect he had within the Marine Corps and the US government, it should be noted that General Walt was promoted to Major General in June 1965, 10 months later he was promoted to Lieutenant General. This after President Johnson nominated him for the advanced rank and the US Senate approved the nomination. All within 10 months.





After his assignment in Viet Nam, General Walt returned to Washington DC and assumed command as Chief of Staff Director of Personnel at Headquarters Marine Corps. During this period, he was considered as Commandant. There was a very public and bitter dispute for this job between General Walt and General Victor Krulak. General Krulak was a very highly respected and admired Marine. However, he was very outspoken in his assessment of the war in Viet Nam and was not supported by President Johnson and others in the Defense Department. To pacify hurt feelings and continue to have good order and discipline in the Marine Corps, a compromise was made and General Leonard Chapman, Jr. was nominated and approved by a majority vote of the US Senate. General Krulak retired from the Marine Corps and General Walt was made the assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. To repay the General for his many years of faithful and honorable service, the Senate approved a motion to have the Assistant Commandant billeted as a full 4-star rank. General Walt became the first Assistant Commandant to hold the rank of General. He retired from the Marine Corps on February 1, 1971. For his service as Assistant Commandant, the General was presented with his second Distinguished Service Medal.

General Walt retired to a very quiet life and died on March 26, 1989 in Gulfport, Mississippi. He is buried at Quantico National alongside his second wife Nancy.

The muffled drums sad roll has beat **The Soldiers Last Tattoo**
No more on Life's parade shall meet **The Brave and Fallen Few**
On flames eternal camping ground **The silent tents are spread**
And Glory guards with solemn round **The bivouac of the dead**
MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL

Semper FI
John E Miller
Jr. Vice Commandant
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 Marine Corps League



CHAPLAIN Bradley Cantley

bradleycantley@gmail.com

Cell: 805-813-3571



The Chaplain's Corner

Fellow Marines, Veterans and Friends:

I have resigned my position as Chaplain. It wasn't easy an easy decision because I enjoyed doing it. Being your Chaplain gave me a purpose to get up every day, but the serious lack of participation and only seeing the same individuals step up help the Detachment has indeed given me a sour disposition - so I resigned my position. If things change (meaning greater member participation and involvement) and we hadn't found a replacement I would certainly consider coming back as your Chaplain.

Thank you and Semper Fi,
Brad Cantley

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:

Sue Honaker—was admitted to Simi Hospital last night so please keep her in your prayers for healing and guidance for the doctors.

William Phillips—needs prayer of comfort and strength due to loss of his wife.

Larry Seguin—He needs healing and strength for hip replacement surgery.

Mike Davies—Needs some prayer for strength and healing.

Russ Hicks—Is recovering from heart surgery, pray for continued healing and strength.

Drew Haydon's daughter—Kayleigh needs healing and strength.

Jennings's family—Needs strength and healing.

John Miller's daughter—continue to pray for strength and healing.

Ken Mask—He needs strong prayer for his cancer has returned.

Don Joy— was awesome seeing him at the meeting. Keep strong brother we are praying for you.

Bill Trammell—Pray for continued healing.

Conrad Wright—needs prayer for healing and recovery

Conrad Wright's wife—also needs prayer for an injury

Julie Stranges—needs prayer and healing

Maria Avila—Has cancer needs strength and healing

Ericka Silva—Still under treatment

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



THE DOG ROBBER HOWLS

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

DD Rudy Cordero

Pound Keeper

benpdet597@gmail.com

818-208-1095



Woof Woof Devil Dogs,

Devil Dogs I am Rudy Cordero your new Pound Keeper reminding you that our first growl will be at the Junk Yard 1900 on 21 January. I hope to see all of you there, and I have something for all of you.

PS. I hope I don't mess up.

Anyone wishing to become a member of the MODD must be an active member of the MCL with at least one year as a member and let the Commandant know that you're interested in joining the MODD. Unfortunately associate members aren't allowed to join.

Woof Woof,
PDD Rudy Cordero
Pound Keeper



EVENTS DIRECTOR

Ken 'Doc' Honaker

kdhonaker@gmail.com

805-416-4063, Mobile



Happy New Year to All!

No upcoming events to report.

Doc Honaker, Events Chair



PAYMASTER'S CORNER

ANDY DOBRZYNSKI

andydobrzynski@gmail.com

805-428-5902

My fellow Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,

New Year greetings to all of you. I cannot believe another year has gone by. I hope that 2020 will be a lot better than 2019. We still have several members that have not renewed their membership. Please remember that unless you renew, you will not be able to participate in any of our functions. Please mail your renewal check as soon as possible.

For those members and associates who have not received for renewal invoices, you are most likely past due. Statements have been sent out to members, so please call me if you have not received your renewal invoices. To bring your membership current, please send your check made out to the President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 of the Marine Corps League or MCL597; and mail it to:

**MCL Detachment 597
P.O. Box 65
Simi Valley, CA 93062.**

Happy New Year and Semper Fi!
Your paymaster,
Andy Dobrzynski

Birthdays for the month of January



Anthony L. Saunders	4	Albert Rodriguez	17
John Mitchell*	4	James Lieberknecht*	21
Jean McCreary	8	Douglas C. Morrison III*	23
James Britton*	9	Robert Earley	24
John E. Miller*	9	Jose Luis DeLa Cruz, Jr.*	26
William Waite	10	Toni Reed	29
John R. Fuentes*	13	Donald R. Joy*	30
Ivone Quintera-Cagnacci	15	David Opfer*	30
James M Dobrzynski	16	Mike Nolan	31

*Life Member



William Trammell
Vice President Los Angeles Chapter #8
Montford Point Marines Association
 wmtrammell@twc.com

Marines:

Members of The Montford Point Marine Association Chapter 8 hold its monthly meeting on fourth Saturday of each month at the American Legion Post 46 at 5309 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230. The next monthly meeting of the National Montford Point Marine Association, Los Angeles Chapter 8 will be February 29, 2020 and starts promptly at 11:00.

The entire National Montford Point Marine Association, especially Los Angeles chapter 8, regret to announce the passing and mourn the loss of an Original Montford Point Marine, Mr. Vaughn Whitworth. Those of us that met with him frequently will truly miss this dear man, father, friend and Marine.



Mr. Vaughan H. Whitworth was drafted in the United States Marine Corps from Raleigh North Carolina on November 11, 1943 (On Marine Corps Birthday) and was trained at Camp Montford Point, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Mr. Vaughan Whitworth served in the Marine Corps for 2½ years and attained the rank of Sergeant. Mr. Whitworth served in the Asian Pacific Theater in Operations against Enemy Forces. He hit Saipan on D-Day and Tinian a few weeks later both are part of the Mariana Islands Groups. Sixty days later he was on Okinawa, Shima and I. E. Sima (Ryuku Islands).

He was Honorably Discharged on March 1, 1946 from military service and moved to California and worked for the U.S. Postal Services. He was employed by Lockheed Aircraft Corp. (now Lockheed-Martin) for 37 years. He worked in Manufacturing, Research and Development and supervised several employees.

Mr. Whitworth married to his wife, Mrs. Carolyn Whitworth for 65 years, they have a daughter, Valerie C. Whitworth, Retired and resides in North Carolina.

Mr. Whitworth has been retired for 28 years and continued to relax and enjoy life working with the National Montford Point marine Association Inc. Los Angeles Chapter #8. He has received award as Man-of Year 2015 and Special President Award 2016, and in 2018 he was inducted into National Montford Point Marines Hall of Fame.

On the same note another valued member of the National Montford Point Marine Association family, Ms. Annie Grime, passed on to be with the Supreme Commandant.



Annie Laurie Grimes was born in Arlington, Tennessee, to Mr. and Mrs. Horace Karr Grimes. She graduated from high school in Somerville, Tennessee in 1946, and attended Ray Vogue Trade School in Chicago, Illinois in 1949. On February 2, 1950, she became the third African American woman to enlist in the Marine Corps. Unlike African American males, who received recruit training at the segregated Montford Point Camp in North Carolina, black women were integrated with other women recruits at Parris Island, South Carolina. Upon completion of recruit training the following May, Annie was promoted to Private First Class.

Private First Class Grimes reported to Headquarters Marine Corps where she served as a procurement clerk with the Supply Branch until May 1953. During this tour of duty, she was promoted to Corporal, Sergeant and Staff Sergeant.

Immediately following transfer to the west coast, Staff Sergeant Grimes was promoted to Technical Sergeant and served as Procurement Chief at the Marine Corps Depot of Supplies (later known as the Marine Corps Supply Forwarding Annex) at San Francisco, California through January 1958. In February, she assumed duties as Procurement Chief, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, and served in that position until August 1962. While there, she was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant.

Gunnery Sergeant Grimes' next tour was in that same capacity with the Marine Corps Supply Activity, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Gunnery Sergeant Grimes completed the Senior Supply Chief Course at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in September 1964. When she returned to Philadelphia, she was assigned an additional MOS of 3049 (Comptroller).

January 1965, Gunnery Sergeant Grimes was transferred to Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and served as Procurement Chief there until June 1967. Her promotion to Master Sergeant and Warrant Officer occurred during this tour.

Warrant Officer Grimes was then ordered to the Marine Corps Supply Center, Barstow, California where she was assigned to Material Division. While at Barstow, she completed the sub-courses required for Temporary Officer Training and was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer. This tour of duty ended December 1969.

January 1970, Chief Warrant Officer Grimes was transferred to Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, Camp Smith, Hawaii and was assigned duty with the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4 where she remained until her retirement on October 1, 1970.

During her career, Chief Warrant Officer Grimes was awarded the Good Conduct Medal with two bronze stars and the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star. In 1965, she was awarded a Meritorious Mast by the Commanding General, Marine Corps Supply Activity, Philadelphia.





Ms. Annie Grimes is pictured here at the 2019 National Montford Marine Association Convention in Charlotte, NC with L.E. "Mike" Johnson, the National Montford Marine Association Western Region Vice President.

We are so proud to have known these two individuals, MARINES.

Semper Fi,

Sincerely,

William M. Trammell

USMC (Ret)

Vice President, NMPMA Los Angeles



Daughters of the American Revolution

Deborah "Debbie" Sands

DAR Vice Regent, Rancho Simi Chapter

Detachment 597 Associate Member

Rancho Simi DAR Chapter was honored to participate in our 2nd year of Wreaths Across America placing wreaths on veteran gravesites at Rancho Simi Pioneer Cemetery. Once we finished there, an overage of 27 wreaths were transported over the Ascension Cemetery, where we placed what we could on veteran gravesites. Chapter members volunteered on December 14 at 9:00 a.m. ... the exact same time as wreaths were being placed at the same ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery at 12N EST and other military cemeteries around the nation as well as France. We partnered with American Legion Post 702 in Moorpark. Our group, gloves in hand were L-R bottom row: Mary McBride (Honorary Past Regent), Wendy Calderone, Kathleen Mattei (Recording Secretary), Donna Naismith, Carolyn Hill (Treasurer), Sandra Wolin. Top row L - R Susan Valle, Carol Perciavalle and Debbie Sands (Vice Regent) as well as Carolyn McGovern who arrived after the picture was taken.

Rancho Simi DAR Chapter is currently partnering with other DAR chapters in our District VIII to furnish books for pre-K to 7th grade children. It has been requested we concentrate our efforts for our Simi Valley school district. Gently used books are just fine! Please take a look at your bookcases and see if you have any books to donate. Of course, if you want to purchase books for these age levels, please do! If you would like to contribute to this wonderful cause, please contact me at dsandsconsulting@aol.com.



Wishing you all a Happy New!

Deborah Sands

(818) 535-4738

Owner/Founder - DJS Consultant Services

Three Treasure Houndz - eCommerce store

Speaker/Service Animal Education & Accessibility Consultant

(818) 535-4738

www.CelebrationOfDogs.com

www.ServiceAnimalEDU.com

www.ThreeTreasureHoundz.com

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#)



MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD FARRA

richfarra@gmail.com

818-470-3258 Mobile

Without You, We Are Nothing

The few, the proud, the Marines.

Our Detachment has a few of those, Matt Valenzuela, Ruy Peña, John Miller, John Mitchell, Fausto Galvan, Doc Honaker, John Fuentes, Jerry Anderson, Mark Shuster, Harry Hodges, Ben Pfister, John Coley, Marty Spann, Robert Martinez, Dick Jennings, Jerry German, Rudy Cordero, Brad Cantley, and others who have made meaningful contributions to the 597. They stepped up to the plate because they wanted to make the Detachment a better organization for its members and local Veterans.

This Detachment has done some meaningful things in the past, spanning helping high school youth, Veterans in need, community outreach, being there for an ill Marine, and to honor their legacy. These are selfless deeds done to help others.

As Marines you are leaders who can take on any task and succeed. Our Detachment needs this core Marine trait now, and you have an opportunity to show your love for your Marine comrades by seeing that this Detachment lives on. Without your contributions this organization will cease to exist, as with any other organization without active participation.

Our final nominations for Detachment leadership will be during the February general meeting, please show up and show that you are a Marine – the few, the proud, a Marine.

Thank you,
Rich Farra
Managing Editor



2019-2020 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Rank or Title	Name	Phone	E-mail
Commandant	Harry Hodges	805-515-1401	Hodges1951@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Commandant	Martin Spann	805-813-1061	Teamcommando.2004@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commandant	John Miller	805-581-5462	johnemillerusmc@gmail.com
Jr. Past Commandant	Richard A. Jennings	805-328-9817	califcommandant@gmail.com
Judge Advocate	Jim Wagner	760-898-4548	analogcowboy61@gmail.com
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
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 Peña	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	kdhonaker@gmail.com
Director of Speakers	Robert Martinez	805-368-7001	Thebugler597@yahoo.com
Fundraising Chairman	Harry Hodges	805-515-1401	Hodges1951@gmail.com
Historian	John Miller	805-581-5462	johnemillerusmc@gmail.com
Managing Editor, The Gipper	Richard Farra	818-470-3258	richfarra@gmail.com
Young Marines	Fausto Galvan Timothy Stratton Juan Avalos	818-259-2119 661-257-9690 (858) 229-1894	Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com e-8sierra@sbcglobal.net avalosimscvym@gmail.com
Toys For Tots Chairman	John Mitchell	805-379-9664	Kathleen.Mitchell.is18@statefarm.com
Fundraising Coordinator	Debbie Sands	818-535-4738	dsandsconsulting@aol.com
Director of Associates	Valeria Galvan	818-302-9816	ValeriaHGalvan@yahoo.com
MODD			
MODD Pound Keeper	Rudy Cordero	818-208-1095	benpdet597@gmail.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.

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 – start time 1600

US Bank Building

1445 East Los Angeles Avenue, Room 302

Simi Valley, CA 93065