



The Gipper

Marine Corps League
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597
Semper Fidelis

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OCTOBER 2018



COMMANDANT Richard Jennings

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Marines, Corpsmen and Associate Members:

Since the first day I was sworn in as your Commandant, I kept thinking - how can I comment on the Color Guard if I haven't done it. So, I called Ruy Peña, our Color Guard Commander, and said I would love to join, but because I had 5 back surgeries, I wasn't sure if I could keep up with our "younger" participants. Ruy as supportive as always said, "You should try it and let's see what happens, but don't push it."

After his words of encouragement, I went for it. My first actual detail was Saturday, September 15, at 0900 in front of Best Buy at the Simi Center. I expected to just present the colors, but five of us led the parade for Simi Valley Days. It wasn't a long march, but not doing this for say "40" years, made going across the street a long way for me. Needless to say, I had a fantastic time and had no pain. Next, we went to Moorpark to do colors for the opening of the "Grocery Outlet," which is owned by a Veteran. Again, no pain and I had a ball. From that day forward, I've been performing Color Guard Details along with Ruy Peña, Fausto Galvan, Larry Fischer, John Miller, John Coley, Ben Pfister, Dave Opfer, Harry Hodges, Brent Kast, John Calderon, and probably one or two I have forgotten to mention.

I forgot the pride I had being in uniform and marching in front of an audience. Well, it's come back to me a thousand-fold over, and with men I really admire. If anyone in the Detachment is thinking of participating in the Color Guard, don't hesitate—JOIN! It's a blast. I feel younger now than I did months ago and being with our "brothers" means everything.



A little background, I have lived in a lot of states and cities/town throughout my 75 years of existence. First with the Marine Corps and then when I went to work with American Airlines. As with the Marine Corps, when you work for American Airlines, you move around quite a bit. Starting in Hartford, then Dallas, New York, Maryland, Minneapolis and finally in Los Angeles. Back in the 70's, I never told anyone that I was in the military, let alone the Marine Corps. The only time I ever mentioned it was when my nephew was going into the Army to become a Ranger.

I would take my sons to parades to see all the services represented, but when the Marines went bye, I had that feeling in the gut to jump up and yell at the top of my lungs, "Semper Fi." As the years went by and the moving from city to city, my children became young men, they went to college and recognized more and more veterans who were returning from God knows where.

We lived in Moorpark until I retired, and then bought a condo in the Wood Ranch area of Simi Valley. Everyone should know that Ken "Doc" Honaker worked in the same hospital, Los Robles as my wife Edna. Doc wore a "Marine" shirt one day into her office, where my wife told him that I had the same shirt. After a little talking, I came to join our detachment as they say, "the rest is history." Now why I gave you my background.

As some of you know, September 28, was 'Veteran Appreciation Night' at Royal High School. The event invited all Veterans in the area, and I had the pleasure of attending. There was a good turnout with roughly 50 men/women Veterans in attendance. The finest of Hot Dogs with all the fixings was the "bill affair" and it was great. All Veterans attending had the opportunity to walk to the 50-yard line of the football field to watch the "flipping of the coin." But what happened next was moving, the captains of both teams, Royal and Atascadero, went to each Veteran on the field, shook our hands, and said, "Thank you for your service."

After all this, I want to tell everyone who reads this is that Simi Valley is "One in a million." As I've said before, I've lived all over this great country and never, ever has this happened to me before. These young men and women students came up to us and thank us for just coming to this event. If all students in the other schools are like the students at Royal High School and the visiting team, some of whom probably never heard of the Marine Corps League, can act like this, then, we have nothing to worry about in the future.

God Bless them, their families, and their teachers for teaching them the RIGHT way to act.

Our Detachment 597 is up and running! www.mcl597.org

If any member has something that he/she thinks should be on the website, please send it to the webmaster at webmasterdet597@gmail.com

Also, if you have a question for me or want to know anything about what's going on, please send your questions to the Gipper richfarra@gmail.com. Put at the top in the subject line: Ask the Commandant.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting on Thursday November 1st at the Elks Lodge. Don't forget our Marine Corps Birthday Celebration at the Junkyard Restaurant on Cochran Street, Simi Valley. It will start at 1700 and go to 2200. Everyone is invited.



If you're going to be attending the Marine Corps Birthday Ball on November 17, at the Grand Vista. You can purchase both Ball Tickets and raffle tickets through the website.

October 21st is the date of the Thousand Oaks Street Fair. "Big Red" will be there and "Doc" Honaker can use all the volunteers we can muster. Please contact him in advance to ask what you can do to help.

We have been invited to speak to the Sequoia Middle School on November 9, this will be a great opportunity to connect with the future of our country to share our stories. Please contact me for more info.

And a BIG Thanks to Val and the Detachment for a great birthday at our October 4th meeting.



Semper Fi,
Dick Jennings
Commandant



SR. VICE COMMANDANT

Harry Hodges

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Marines and Associate members,

Membership growth benefits the League in many ways and is probably our biggest goal, because without it we won't be around over time. I know how hard it is to find new members, especially to get them to show up to one of our monthly meetings. I personally invited four Marines to our last meeting and not one of them showed up. But you never know unless you ask, the more we ask the greater the chances of growing membership. The benefit is that the larger our membership, the greater the impact to help other Veterans.

And as a reminder your annual Marine Corps League dues were due on August 31, 2018, so if you haven't already taken care of it, please do so ASAP.

Regarding the Ships Store, our new website will be featuring MCL merchandise for sale. One of the new items we have just received is the MCL #597 red polo shirt with a new logo, as shown below. (The new logo - left photo / older logo - right.) This new shirt is made of better material and is not supposed to fade. Depending on the sales of these shirts, we will be ordering other colors as well.

Semper Fi,
Harry Hodges
Senior Vice & Ships Store Rep





JR. VICE COMMANDANT

Ken 'Doc' Honaker

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Greetings Marines and Associates,

The Thousand Oaks Annual Street Fair is coming up on 21 October 2018. The T.O. event is always big, we need as many volunteers as possible throughout the day to man BIG RED. If you haven't volunteered for one of these street fairs in the past, it's a blast. We meet people who are Marines or have friends or family members in the Corps. This is a great opportunity for the 597 to recruit new members, tell people about the Marine Corps League, and it's also a great opportunity to sell raffle tickets for the upcoming birthday ball.

Regarding the 243rd Marine Corps birthday celebration, our annual ball remains slated for the Grand Vista Hotel in Simi Valley on 17 November 2018. Tickets and meal selections are now available on our MCL597.org website. The three prizes for this year's raffle are a World War Two Era M-1 with carrying case, a Glock 17 with 3 – 10 round magazines, cleaning rod, carrying case, and gun safe, and a Happy Wanderer Gift Basket. Raffle tickets for these fantastic prizes are still available at \$10 per ticket or 11 tickets for \$100 - such a deal.

We are also actively selling ads for the birthday ball program. Remember any member can seek ad sponsors. The best places to approach are those businesses that you already do business with. These businesses will most likely help us with a \$50 business card ad or a full-page ad for \$200. This is also something we can all do throughout the year to support our detachment and the work we do.

We need your help even though there are some league members that usually sell ads that you can call for assistance. Follow your money. Don't know if you don't ask. We have previous year's programs to use as a sample if need be.

The date of our ball gives us all the chance to celebrate the actual Marine Corps birthday on 10 November at the site of your choosing. There are usually several venues to celebrate the birth of the Corps. Get out there and find a local bar or restaurant to share the birthday of the glorious United States Marine Corps. Then join us at the Grand Vista Hotel in Simi Valley on 17 November for our celebration. Semper Fidelis.

By this Gipper release we will have celebrated the birthday of the United States Navy. Happy birthday swabbies, whether blue, green or a combination.

Semper Fi
"Doc" Honaker
Jr. Vice Commandant



JR. PASTCOMMANDANT

Jerry R. German

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Veterans Day

What You Know and Some You Didn't Know About Veterans Day

Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the [Armistice with Germany](#) went into effect. The United States originally observed this event as Armistice Day, a day set aside as a U.S. legal holiday to honor World War I veterans and the end of World War I. A Congressional Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U.S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday: "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'."

On November 11, 1919, U.S. President [Woodrow Wilson](#) issued a message to his countrymen on the first Armistice Day, in which he expressed what he felt the day meant to Americans:

ADDRESS TO FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN

The White House, November 11, 1919.

A year ago, today our enemies laid down their arms in accordance with an armistice which rendered them impotent to renew hostilities and gave to the world an assured opportunity to reconstruct its shattered order and to work out in peace anew and luster set of international relations. The soldiers and people of the European Allies had fought and endured for more than four years to uphold the barrier of civilization against the aggressions of armed force. We ourselves had been in the conflict something more than a year and a half.

With splendid forgetfulness of mere personal concerns, we remodeled our industries, concentrated our financial resources, increased our agricultural output, and assembled a great army, so that at the last our power was a decisive factor in the victory. We were able to bring the vast resources, material and moral, of a great and free people to the assistance of our associates in Europe who had suffered and sacrificed without limit in the cause for which we fought.

Out of this victory there arose new possibilities of political freedom and economic concert. The war showed us the strength of great nations acting together for high purposes, and the victory of arms foretells the enduring conquests which can be made in peace when nations act justly and in furtherance of the common interests of men.

To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service, and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it



has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations.

WOODROW WILSON

The United States Congress adopted a resolution on June 4, 1926, requesting that President [Calvin Coolidge](#) issue annual proclamations calling for the observance of November 11 with appropriate ceremonies.

In 1945, [World War II](#) veteran Raymond Weeks from [Birmingham, Alabama](#), wanted to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in [World War I](#). Weeks led a delegation to General Dwight Eisenhower, who supported the idea of National Veterans Day. Weeks led the first national celebration in 1947 in Alabama and annually until his death in 1985.

In early 1954, U.S. Representative [Ed Rees](#) from [Emporia, Kansas](#), presented a bill establishing the holiday through Congress. President [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#), also from Kansas, signed the bill into law on May 26, 1954. It had been eight and a half years since Raymond Weeks held his first Armistice Day celebration for all veterans.

On June 1, 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of the Veterans Service Organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans" and by combining the observance with Victory in Europe Day (VE Day: 08May1945) and Victory in Japan Day (VJ Day: 14August 1945). Thus, with the approval of this legislation, Nov. 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

The National Veterans Award was also created in 1954. Congressman Rees of Kansas received the first National Veterans Award in Birmingham, Alabama, for his support offering legislation to make Veterans Day a federal holiday.

In 1968, the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill ensured three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Under this bill, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on the fourth Monday of October (Oct 25, 1971; Oct 23, 1972; Oct 22, 1973; Oct 28, 1974; Oct 27, 1975; Oct 25, 1976, and Oct 24, 1977).

On September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of Nov. 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on Nov. 11.

While the legal holiday remains on November 11, if that date happens to be on a Saturday or Sunday, then organizations that formally observe the holiday will normally be closed on the adjacent Friday or Monday, respectively.

Because it is a federal holiday, some American workers and many students have Veterans Day off from work or school. When Veterans Day falls on a Saturday then either Saturday or the preceding Friday may be designated as the holiday, whereas if it falls on a Sunday it is typically observed on the following Monday. When it falls on weekend many private companies offer it as a floating holiday where employee can choose some other day. A Society for Human Resource Management poll in 2010 found that 21 percent of employers planned to observe the holiday in 2011.



Non-essential federal government offices are closed. No mail is delivered. All federal workers are paid for the holiday; those who are required to work on the holiday sometimes receive holiday pay for that day in addition to their wages.

Since Veterans Day and the birthday of the United States Marine Corps (November 10, 1775) are only one day apart, the Marines sometimes observe both occasions as a 96-hour liberty period.

Election Day is a regular working day, while Veterans Day, which typically falls the following week, is a federal holiday. The National Commission on Federal Election Reform called for the holidays to be merged, so citizens can have a day off to vote. They state this as a way to honor voting by exercising democratic rights.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan honored Raymond Weeks, as the driving force for the national holiday, at the White House with the Presidential Citizenship Medal. Elizabeth Dole, who prepared the briefing for President Reagan, named Raymond Weeks the "Father of Veterans Day."

Thus, Veterans Day has evolved into an official [United States public holiday](#), observed annually on November 11, that honors all [military veterans](#); that is, all persons who served in the [United States Armed Forces, not just veterans of World War I](#). It coincides with other holidays, including [Armistice Day](#), [VE Day](#), [VJ Day](#) and [Remembrance Day](#), celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversaries of the end of [World Wars I & II](#).

Veterans Day is not to be confused with [Memorial Day](#), a U.S. public holiday in May; Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who *died* while in military service. It is also not to be confused with [Armed Forces Day](#), a U.S. remembrance that also occurs in May, which specifically honors those *currently serving* in the U.S. military.

While the holiday is commonly printed as *Veteran's Day* or *Veterans' Day* in calendars and advertisements (spellings that are grammatically acceptable), the United States Department of Veterans Affairs website states that the [attributive](#) (no apostrophe) rather than the [possessive case](#) is the official spelling "because it is not a day that 'belongs' to veterans, it is a day for honoring all veterans."

Semper Fi,
Jerry R. German
Junior Past Commandant



JUDGE ADVOCATE

John Miller

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Judge Advocate message

We should always remember that words and actions count. A slight or a misquote can and will hurt feelings, and worse, it can directly affect the safety and wellbeing of other Veterans.

Not that many years ago a Veteran was denied his veteran benefits because of his religious belief and ethnic background. It all started during World War II when a Veteran was harassed when other soldiers found out that he was Jewish. Over many months, he was assaulted and insulted to the point where he developed an ulcer that resulted in his discharge from military service. His condition continued to deteriorate, and this Veteran attempted to get help from the Veterans Administration, to no avail. The VA did not recognize verbal abuse as a condition that would merit compensation.

After years of this invisible injury, the Veteran received the benefits due to him. His injuries were both physical and physiological and remain with him to this day. Even those Veterans who displayed extreme acts of courage were denied the honors that they so richly deserved - all due to prejudice or bias. It took over 50 years for a Korean War Veteran, who was also a POW, to receive the Medal of Honor that he earned in the battlefield and in the prisoner of war camps. Why you might ask, because he was Jewish. The same sergeant who ordered this veteran to numerous dangerous missions, refused to endorse his citation. This veteran died before his Medal was presented to his family in 2005. The VA Medical Center in Long Beach is now named The Tibor Rubin Medical Center after this veteran of Jewish heritage.

Words do mean something, and actions speak louder than words. A simple word of encouragement or recognition can mean a lot to anyone, especially a Veteran who may be on his "last leg." Suicide has become the number one killer of active duty military personnel. As of July 10th, the first quarter of 2018, eighty active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen and/or Marines have died as the result of suicide. Another twenty-three reserve and National Guardsmen have died as the result of suicide. More deaths than in combat activity in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past five years.

From January 1, 2014 through September 1, 2018, we have lost 37,488 of our comrades (both active and veteran) to this terrible condition. More than all the combat deaths in The Korean War and The War on Terrorism combined. How do we as Veterans halt this onslaught – being kind to each other will go a long way.

Looking out for tell-tale signs of depression in a friend or their lack of wanting to live can be giveaways. It is hard to recognize these signs, but by just treating each other with concern and friendship, we can help most people to look at things in a better way.



The Veterans Suicide Crisis Line at 1 800-273-5255 or the Tragedy Assistance Program at 1-800-959-8277 can mean the difference between life and death for a veteran who is in need.

Semper Fidelis
John E Miller
Judge Advocate



ADJUTANT
John Coley
w4simi@yahoo.com



Marines, Corpsman and Associate Members

We have been busy again since the last Gipper was published in the middle of September.

Oct. 1st a Color Guard did the Opening Ceremonies for the California Association of County Service Officers fall conference at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in downtown LA, followed by a Color Guard in Red Blazers at their formal banquet on the 3rd in the City of Commerce. A little bit of travel, but well worth it!

Oct. 6th we also did a Color Guard for the Second Annual Pacoima History Day at the Vaughn Family and Community Center on Herrick Avenue in Pacoima. Valeria Galvan was instrumental in staging this presentation to put MCL 597 in the public eye. God Bless our Associate Members.

The Birthday Ball is rapidly approaching, and our major fundraiser for the year comes from selling sponsorship ads for the Ball program. All members are encouraged to gain as many sponsors as possible. Go to your barber shop, dry cleaners, nail salons, laundromats or anywhere else you do business and sell an ad. Prices range from \$50.00 to \$200.00 excluding the outside and inside covers and the center pages which have been sold. All advertisement submissions and monies collected must be in the hands of the Ball Chairman no later than October 22, this will give us adequate time to proof and print the programs.

Please get your recommendations in for the Detachment awards. Many of the awards will be presented during the Ball on November 17th, so the committee needs your award nominations no later than October 31. You can also email your nominations to me at w4simi@yahoo.com for consideration, if you have not yet submitted them. The time frame for award recognition is from July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018.

Semper Fidelis,
John Coley
Adjutant





THE DOG ROBBER HOWLS

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

DD Ben Pfister
Pound Keeper

benpdet597@gmail.com

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Woof Woof Devil Dogs and Detachment Members,

On Sept 22nd some of the MODD members visited with 15 of the 21 veterans who live at Brookdale Senior Living in Chatsworth. Everyone seemed to enjoy our time together, this was the second time the MODD has done this, this year. The 1st time we visited a home in Simi Valley. We'll be doing another visit in 2019. I would like to thank PDD Larry Fischer, DD John Fuentes, PDD Dick Jennings, PDD Hank Noorda for their participation, and from Det. 597 Dave Opfer for stopping by, and Rich Farra for being there and taking pictures. Our next Growl will be on Nov 13th.







CHAPLAIN Bradley Cantley

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Cell: 805-813-3571



The Chaplain's Corner

Fellow Marines, veterans and friends:

It is with a heavy heart that we lost retired Marine Ralph Wilson on Thursday at 0948. Not sure when the memorial is and where, so when I get more information I will pass it on. Let's keep his wife Norma, his daughters, and his friends in our prayers as they mourn their loved one.

"May the good Lord watch over you as you grieve your fallen husband, father, brother, friend, and Marine. May He touch you with a comforting hug and peace."

Psalm 73:26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

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:

Joe Krigbaum- Well, we're keeping Joe and Allison McKowen in our prayers. If Allison would like us to visit I can get a few of the guys to accommodate.

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, he will not be attending any future meetings. Please keep him and his family in our prayers.

Thomas Hernandez—Tom still needs prayer and we all hope to see him at the meetings.

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.

Jim Lieberknecht – Recovering from a stroke isn't easy and I believe things are slow but progressing nicely. Keep him and his wife in your prayers.

Julie Stranges – Keep her in your prayers.

Darrell Lee – So Darrell is doing PT and far as I know doing good. So, prayer is a good thing, so let's keep it up!!!

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 – We got you in our prayers Ken, and we look forward to seeing you soon.



Sue Honaker - Undergoing treatments and praying things are going well for her.

John Miller – Has pneumonia and will be also having a procedure to help him breath better. So, let us put him into our prayers that things go good for him.

Brad Cantley – Well, it is October 5, 2018, and alas the procedure I had on Wednesday was to determine where the pain was. I can now tell the doctors that nerve was it, for what I thought would be longer pain relief it was only for about 4-6 hours. Yep, prayers would be good. Thanks

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 if we keep it in our prayers. It will be in Simi Valley area somewhere and we diffidently could use one closer to us.

My 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 and Semper Fi,
Chaplain Brad



COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

Ruy Peña

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Color Guard Report

We are publishing our Color Guard Detail schedule to keep you up to date on what we're doing. Our Color Guard Details are works of art in motion. Our Marines move with precision and, if I don't say so myself, we look fantastic. Our requests for Color Guard details go beyond Ventura County, the word is getting out and we need more volunteers to step forward. We enjoy what we do, ask any one of our detail members. We know some of you may be a little rusty, we will train you. We have the uniforms and equipment to help you do your best.

As we move through the year, our requests continue to grow. We are making a difference within our community, and we can't do what we do without our members who volunteer their time and service to our Color Guard details. I extremely grateful for all the dedication that our members put forth. I encourage our Detachment members to try it, we know you'll enjoy it as much as we do.

Semper FI,
Ruy Peña
Color Guard Commander



COLOR GUARD EVENT SCHEDULE

DATE and TIME	EVENT
OCTOBER	
Oct 17, 2018 – Wednesday 1700 R/T	Color Guard - Moorpark Country Day Parade
Oct 26, 2018 – Friday 1000 R/T 0900	VCVC Event Notice: Honoring the Honor Guards Poinsettia Pavilion, 2451 Foothill Blvd, Ventura, CA - Ben, Ruy, Brent, Dave, Harry
NOVEMBER	
Nov 9, 2018 – Friday 1000 R/T 0900	Veterans Day Color Guard for Santa Clarita Senior Center
Nov 10, 2018 – Saturday 0900 R/T 0800	Color Guard Request for Rose Bowl Aquatic Center, Pasadena
Nov 11, 2018 – Sunday 1000	Color Guard Request-Veterans Day - Rancho Community Park – Lemon Cemetery
Nov 11, 2018 – Sunday 1100	Flag Presentation, Color Guard and Bugler for St. Mary's Cemetery in Oxnard (TBD)
Nov 12, 2018 – Monday 1130 R/T 1030	Color Guard – for Penny Mac (two locations) Westlake Village and Moorpark
Nov 12, 2018 – Monday 1000 R/T 0830	Veterans Day Color Guard at Pres. Ronald Reagan Library Per Deanna
Nov 14, 2018 – Wednesday 0800 R/T 0730	Veterans Day Color Guard request for St. Martin's of the Fields Elementary School
Nov 14, 2018 1300 R/T 1200	Veterans Day Color Guard (w/no weapons) for St. Jude Church's "Veterans Program," Westlake Village, CA



City of Commerce Formal Banquet

L/R: Fausto Galvan, Dick Jennings, John Coley, Ben Pfister, Harry Hodges, and David Opfer



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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Echo 2 East-75



Good evening my friends, my fellow Americans and my comrades and buddies. First, I want to thank you for who you are, the very best of America. The mere fact that you are here at the League meeting, shows your love for our country and for me and countless others. Let me tell you a little about me. I died on September 6, 1965 outside Da Nang, South Viet Nam. I was in the company of the finest men ever, United States



Marines and our Navy Corpsmen. They tried to save me, and I looked out and saw my friends, and others standing back with tears in their eyes. I had never seen them that way before. They were so sad that I had been killed and they had survived. **I gave my life for my country and as Nathan Hale once said, "I regret that I have but one life to give to my country."**

I was born in the heartland of America, Chicago, Illinois. My parents were Edward and Emily and they loved our country too. They sent me to Catholic schools and I grew up with many friends. In my elementary school, 5 of us went to serve our country and all five laid their lives down for our nation. 5 out of such a small school is hard to believe, but that's how I grew up. In a community that put country before self. I know each of you have a similar story, but I know that my life was given to you. **You are my legacy and you will validate whether my life was in vain or for a more noble cause Peace.**

I joined the Marines after High School and went directly to Marine Corps Recruit Detail, (MCRD) at San Diego. I stepped off the bus and two Drill Instructors yelled at me to get on the yellow lines. I was amazed at how quickly I learned to obey these men who controlled my life for 3 months. In Boot Camp I met Stan and he and I went to Infantry Training Regiment (ITR) together at San Onofre, Camp Pendleton. We learned to be Marines and stood by one another, another trait of being a United States Marine. We stand proud together and shoulder to shoulder. I climbed Old Smokey many times, I ran up and down the road to San Mateo and back so many times, I forgot the number. I grew strong in character and body and after ITR, I went home to visit my family; my mom, my dad and my brother and sisters. They were proud of me and I had to admit that I was very sure of myself and probably a little bit cocky, like every Marine.

I was assigned to Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines at Camp San Mateo in the north end of Camp Pendleton. I was billeted in a cement building with double bunks on each side of the squad bay. A common shower with 10 or more stalls, and a common wash area. **I was in heaven.** I had an MOS of 0351, machine gunner, the M-60. I made more friends in that time than I had ever had in my entire life in Chi Town. Stan was still with me in Machine Guns and I had another close friend, Ed. I trained hard and grew into a confident man and an excellent Marine. The old guys who had trained us left the Company in mid- 1964 and I became the trainer to more Marines who came after me.

In March 1965, I went to San Diego and boarded the USNS Brickenridge, and sailed for Okinawa via Hawaii and Japan. I arrived in Okinawa and went to Camp Hansen, which is on the east side of the island and about mid-way up the coast. I trained for a few weeks at the Northern Training Area (NTA) and sharpened my combat skills. Finally, in June 1965. I was told that our unit, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines (1/9), was headed for a place I had never heard of, **Viet Nam.** Our unit sailed on a three-ship convoy to Red Beach just south of where the Da Nang air base was located. We were tense in the landing craft that delivered us to the beach. We were amazed that we were welcomed my children selling us coca cola and pineapples on a stick. **I recall, I felt disappointed as I wanted it to be like John Wayne on the Sands of Iwo Jima.** My first lessons learned in Viet Nam, nothing is really what it looks like on the surface. We relived Marines from our brother unit 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines.

I really didn't know what to expect, but I did my duty each night guarding the air base. One night the Viet Cong penetrated our defense perimeter and killed two US Airmen and destroyed several aircraft on the air base run way. My first real taste of war. I mourned the loss of the Airmen and said a silent prayer for them.



They are both on Echo 2 East, just above me. There was a lot of action between Da Nang and another place called Marble Mountain. We were near there on March 6, 1965 and the patrol was hit hard. I ran up with my machine gun crew and began to fire. I felt a sharp pain, followed by a numb feeling. Things got blurry and I saw myself outside my body. I saw my friends trying to help me, then the Corpsman. I was placed on a Medevac helicopter and then I went silent and my soul left my body. I am only 20 years old.

Do not feel sorry for me, I am with God and I guard the streets of heaven. I prepare a place for those, who like me, give more to their country than they take. I am and was a United States Marine. Remember me and honor me with your respect and you must take up the torch and defend all that I gave my life for. You are my legacy, I am Echo 2 East-75.

My name is Lance Corporal Michael Terrance Badsing, 1st Battalion 9th Marines, The Walking Dead.

When you are In Washington DC, Visit me and all those like me at the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial. I am also present at the moving wall and you can visit me there also. But most important Remember Me and my friends who gave so much for the freedoms we love and honor today.

Echo 2 East-75 Out.



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

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)



Fausto Galvan
Executive Officer
Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines
Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com

Schedule submitted by Mrs. Jennifer Hernandez, Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines

14 October - Young Marine Recruits from the Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines and Antelope Valley Young Marines hiked to the Devil's Punch Bowl to earn the title of Young Marine. During this, the recruits were tested on their leadership and teamwork abilities.

15 October - SCV Recruits graduate to become Young Marines.

20 October - SCV Young Marines will attend the LA Sheriffs Annual Chili Cook Off in Castaic, CA.

27 October - SCV Young Marines will run a 5K with the local community to commemorate "Red Ribbon week"; Red Ribbon week is a nationally-recognized annual event and is a focal point in DDR "Drug Demand Reduction." Young Marines learn DDR to help educate and promote a drug-free world and lifestyle.







MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD FARRA

richfarra@gmail.com

818-470-3258 Mobile

This Detachment has great leadership at its helm. As a unit we move forward with the actions we take. We learn and make positive changes by listening to criticism. We are growing.

Over the years that I have been with this Detachment, I have seen the evolution of our leadership team. Each changing of the guard is different with their own personalities, objectives and ways to achieve them. Each team gets better and better, because each time they see what can be done better, and they do it.

Our leaders are the ones who take the first steps to move forward, trying new ways to reach out to the community. This year for example, Dick Jennings took a chance that his efforts to have a Veterans Speakers Bureau may fail – it didn't, it was a huge success. Ruy Peña never said no to a request to honor the fallen or to honor our country with a Color Guard Detail – now it's in demand in areas outside of our Detachment's reach. Ben Pfister never forgot those who served and rallied the MODD to reach out to those Veterans in senior living facilities, reminding them that they are heroes. Fausto Galvan believes that the future of our country starts with our youth. He along with other Marines, are giving young boys and girls self-worth and positive self-esteem by letting them see that there is no such thing as giving up. John Miller steps into the history of our past and current members, all of you, that helped to make this country great to share the heroism you all experienced. Bradley Cantley who doesn't leave anyone behind, with his continuous updates and contacts with our elderly and ill members. I can go on and on with what our members are doing, because we all see the positive results of our actions to each other and to others who need our help.

Our membership is growing because of what they see and what they want to be a part of. We all have busy lives, but it's part of who we are to help others, volunteer some of your time to help at our events and at the same time have fun.

Thank you,
Rich Farra
Managing Editor



Things can't be that good, your Commandant wants to hear from you so please write him a "DEAR COMMANDANT" letter

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,

Just a reminder, MCL dues are delinquent after November 1. If you haven't already done so, please send your dues as soon as possible.

The Elks Lodge is hosting a BINGO fundraiser for our Detachment on December 12th, 2018. **All profits from the Bingo Night (100%) are going to the detachment.** We need minimum of 10 people, bring your friends and family, the more we have the more money our Detachment will make. Come out to a fun and profitable night. Must be 18 to play. Please RSVP to Dick Jennings or Andy Dobrzynski, as soon as you know that you can attend. Lot's of fun is guaranteed.

Your Paymaster,

Andy Dobrzynski



VERY HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



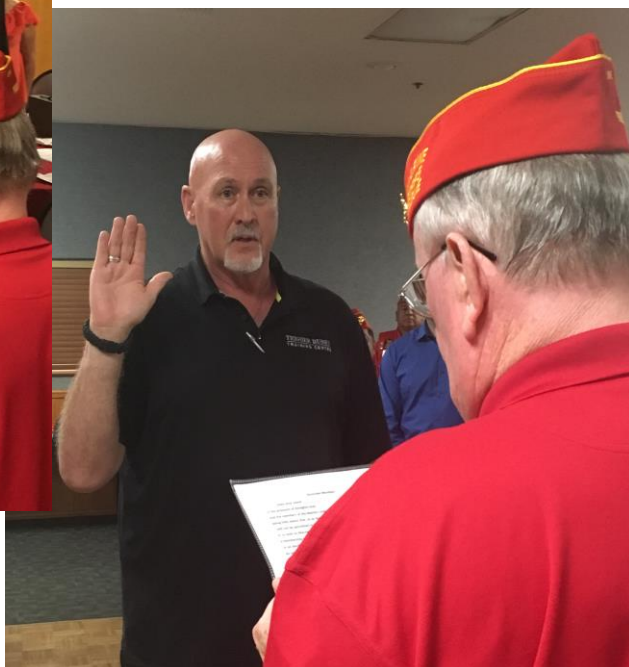
07- Guy Nohrenberg
11- Rafael Dagnesses
13- Bradley Cantley – Life Member
13- John Coley – Life Member
14- Mardu Lydick
14- Michael Maxwell

18- John Von Osinski
22- Valeria Galvan
28- Joon Park

NEW MEMBERS

Marines 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.

Commandant Richard Jennings administered the oath to 6 new Regular Detachment members Joseph Lampich, Joshua Stelly, Thomas Aguilar, Shawn Horner, Roger Breithaupt, Parris Du Val, and to Associate member Mike Rowan.





GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker for October was Mike Rowan from Trigger Burst. Mike is a former Corrections Officer and Parole Agent, he is now a firearms instructor, teaching firearms techniques and safety to law enforcement agencies and to the public.

Mike spoke on how to apply for a CCW, and the classes available to new and existing gun owners. Mike joined the Detachment during the new members segment of the general meeting.





SPECIAL ARTICLE
by Associate Member
Shoubin "Jia" Yu
A licensed Acupuncturist

Shoubin demonstrated the healing power of acupuncture during a prior meeting, when he and his associates performed their pain-relieving techniques to members. During this same meeting, He spoke about getting acupuncture accepted as a VA approved technique. Below is an article presented by our MCL associate member Shoubin "Jia" Yu, a licensed acupuncturist.

On September 27, 2018, MCL associate member Acupuncturist Shoubin "Jia" Yu traveled to Washington D.C. with the American Alliance of Acupuncture (AAOA). This trip was sponsored by Dr. Michelle Lau, the Chairman of the AAOA, and included the participation of more than 40 Asian medicine doctors from all over the acupuncture circles in the United States. The group met at the Rayburn House in Capitol Hall to actively participated in the joint action of the American Acupuncture and Moxibustion Alliance and lobbied to members of the Senate for acupuncture legislation.

Concurrently, they celebrated the House passage of bill H.R. 6110, Dr. Todd Graham Pain Management, Treatment and Recovery Act of 2018 which was introduced by Reps. Judy Chu (CA-27) and Jackie Walorski (IN-02), which directs the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to study barriers to accessing non-drug alternatives to opioids, including acupuncture. The bills contain within it the HR6 Act that has been incorporated into include acupuncture treatments. At the same time, they also lobbied the bill H.R. 2838 Acupuncture for Our Heroes Act and H.R. 2839 Acupuncture for Heroes and Seniors Act of 2017 which promotes Congresswoman Judy Chu's proposals that acupuncture treatment become fully integrated into federal health insurance system. This joint action has been extremely resounding and successful. Among the modalities of alternative solutions to non-opioid drugs, acupuncture is a preferred method of treatment.

If the bill is passed again in the Senate and later signed by the President, this will be the official approval of the acupuncture therapy by the US federal government at the level of federal medical insurance (i.e.- Medicare). This will lay a good foundation for Chinese medicine acupuncture to enter mainstream medicine, helping integrative efforts for Hospital care, VA medical facilities and develop further complementary care in the future. The proposal has had support of several members of the National Assembly. The President of the American Chinese Medicine Acupuncture Alliance, Dr. Michelle Lau, proposed to produce a thank-you medal for the multi-discussion. One of the initiators of the bill, Rep. Judy Chu, invited some representatives to her desk to witness the positive health effects of Chinese medicine and acupuncture. She also approached other congress representatives, gave a speech and took a group photo with attendees.

Rep. Jackie Walorski, another sponsor of the bill, had arranged for her office director to receive everyone in the office because the parliamentary agenda is not in the office. After accepting the Acupuncture league's



medal that night, she immediately posted to social media, Facebook, a hand-held medal and personally expressed her gratitude to the American Chinese Medicine Acupuncture Alliance for its support of the federal bill.

Over the two days in D.C., doctors from various states had also visited the offices of the Senate and House of Representatives in their state. The event was also strongly supported by many doctors and non-doctoral volunteers. They sacrificed a lot of time and personal energy. The whole process of participating and donating at their own expense has done a lot of work in contributing to the Congressional lobbying activities. We express our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks!





2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

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Commandant	Richard A. Jennings	805-328-9817	MCL597Commandant@gmail.com
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Jr. Past Commandant	Jerry German	818-324-2338	jrgerman@sbcglobal.net
Judge Advocate	John Miller	805-581-5462	johnemillerusmc@gmail.com
Adjutant	John Coley	805-368-1086	w4simi@yahoo.com
Paymaster	Andy Dobrzynski	805-428-5902	andydobrzynski@gmail.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	Faustogalvan14@gmail.com
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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
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Fundraising Chairman	Harry Hodges	805-328-9817	Hodges1951@gmail.com
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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