



# The Gipper

Marine Corps League  
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597  
Semper Fidelis

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## APRIL 2018

### “UNCOMMON VALOR WAS A COMMON VIRTUE”

These were the words spoken by Admin. Nimitz during the Marines landing on the beaches of Iwo Jima and immortalized on the Marine Corps War Memorial. The character trait of Marines everywhere and that was demonstrated anytime in the history of the Marines.





## **COMMANDANT** **Richard Jennings**

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### **Marines, Corpsmen and Associate Members,**

I thought for this article I would give you a brief recap of my events to gain greater exposure for our Detachment and civic outreach to benefit our community.

On Saturday, March 24th, the California State MCL held there Spring conference in Van Nuys, with MCL Detachment 1277 as host. There was a Commandants' meeting which covered a lot of new issues, as well as sharing thoughts regarding new ideas and challenges. One idea was to film local Detachment meetings and show them on dedicated Detachment webpages so members of each detachment, who didn't make a meeting could watch them. Another topic was that the State Convention, to be held in Clovis in June, would have many seminars about the internet and how we can use this medium to get new and younger members.

On March 29th, I was invited to the "Pass in Review" at Royal High School in Simi Valley which was put on by the Royal AFJROTC. It was held on the school's football field with many local dignitaries, and Commanders from both the local VFW and American Legion Posts were in attendance. Our own John Calderon, Commander of DAV Simi Valley Chapter 55, was also in the VIP section of the stadium. There were five JROTC units that marched onto the field and where each unit gave their own interpretation of "close order drill." It was great to see our youth showing such dedication to our military and country.

The JROTC Company Commander, Colonel Leah Nohrenberg, who invited yours truly, received the most amazing scholarship. She was awarded \$180,000 to attend Oregon State University from the United States Marine Corps. Each year, HDQMC selects a student throughout the country to receive this scholarship. I asked her if she had to go into the Marines after college and she said "I don't have too, but I'm going too." Her father is a retired Master Sergeant in the Corps.

Afterwards, I attended a ceremony at the Museum of Military History celebrating Vietnam Veterans Day. Our own, Past Commandant Matt Valenzuela was the Master of Ceremonies for this event. Because of this, Matt was called by our local weekly paper "The Acorn" and asked if he could recommend someone to sit and be interviewed about this celebration. Matt suggested that I be interviewed and give my thoughts about Vietnam, what it was like coming home, and the celebration of Vietnam Veterans Day. If you get a chance, take a look at it, not bad if I do say so myself.

April 12, I went to the Conejo Valley Daughters of the American Revolution Annual Spring fling and accepted a Certificate of Appreciation for our Color Guard, who presented colors prior to their lunch. Another outstanding job as usual from such a bunch of dedicated members.

Friday, the 13th was not bad at all. The Detachment sponsored the Breakfast at the month morning meeting of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce. Again, prior to the meeting, our Color Guard once again presented colors but this time they wore MCL red blazers instead of the Color Guard uniform. Sharp doesn't



describe how good they looked, and of course they were perfect as usual. As sponsors of the breakfast, we were given 5 minutes to speak in front of approximately 120 business owners in Simi Valley. I addressed our mission to help Veterans in need and our Golf Tournament fundraiser. I talked about the different ways we are making the tournament enjoyable and entertaining with our raffles, and Hole-In-One holes, especially our major hole being the "Toys for Tots, Christmas in June." Announced our two major raffles, the 1911 .45 caliber pistol and the "Ball Drop" at the tournament itself. I added how we could use additional silent auction items, and spoke of our gift raffle which will be held at the Awards banquet right after play has stopped. I think everything was accepted positively and I did get a couple of commitments for the silent auction. At the same breakfast, our own Associate member Anthony Hernandez from the Reardon Funeral Home received an award for continuous membership of 52 years. Congratulations, Anthony.

Well that's it. As you can see I have been busy trying to represent you to the best of my ability.

Remember our Board Meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the US Bank building, Los Angeles Avenue, Simi Valley starting at 4pm and getting through before 6pm. Hope to see some of our members come and see how the Board keeps me out of trouble.

Thank you so much Marine and Semper Fi,

Richard Jennings  
Commandant MCL 597



## **SR. VICE COMMANDANT**

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### **Marines and Associate members,**

As your incoming Sr. Vice, I would like to share the following changes I want to see for our Detachment.

- 1) More participation from League members, such as the Color Guard Detail, Rifle Detail, Simi Valley Street Fair and the Thousand Oaks Street Fair, as well as other League events.
- 2) We need to work on growing our membership. We need younger members, our Detachment is made up mainly of Viet Nam Veterans, I know how hard it is because I've been turned down several times myself, but we still need to try or their might not be a MCL Detachment 597 in the years to come.
- 3) Now for a positive note, I think this is going to be a good year for our League especially with a complete Board changeover, hopefully it comes with some new ideas for more members.

Semper Fi,  
Harry Hodges  
Sr. Vice Commandant



## JR. VICE COMMANDANT

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### Greetings Marines and Associates,

Spring has sprung, although the weather may not show it. My air conditioner came on the other day and my heater the next. Keep a jacket or sweater handy when going about your days activities.

Upcoming events for your participation and information include: the Simi Valley Street Fair on 12 May at the Simi Town Center; a Port Hueneme Historical Society Museum Distinguished Speakers Series presentation by Vietnam War Veterans on 28 April at 1100 in Hueneme; and The Moving Wall presentation (the portable Vietnam Memorial Wall) 21 June through 25 June at the Ventura County Government Center. Your visitation and participation at our 597 booth at the SV Street Fair would be greatly appreciated. Come support our Detachment, meet local citizens, and/or meet Marine veterans and recruit them for membership. The other two events may be informative to you, your family or friends.

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're encouraged to share those ideals to others. Membership growth generates organizational growth which in turn generates greater community awareness and recognition. Continue to inform your fellow Marine veterans and active duty Marines what we are all about.

Semper Fi,

"Doc" Honaker

Jr. Vice Commandant





## JR. PASTCOMMANDANT

**Jerry R. German**

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### It's Hard By The Yard, But A Cinch By The Inch

What does that old cliché have to do with MCL Detachment 597? Well, we have a lot of activities going on in the Detachment right now and that means a lot to be done and you can help. Is it more understandable if I remind you the, "Many hands make the workload lighter" and "The more hands the merrier?"

We are closing in on the Annual Golf Tournament (60 days away as you read this) and right on its heels is the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Both committees would appreciate and need your help in making these events successful without demanding extraordinary effort by a few members and associates in the processes.

If you have a few hours to spare - it doesn't take much to make a big difference - please call Golf Tournament Chair, Dick Jennings, or Ball Chair, Ken Honaker, and add your support and hands to the team. No one person can do it alone but, if we all pitch in, the individual load gets lighter and the task becomes a cinch for the team.

Semper Fi,  
Jerry R. German  
Junior Past Commandant



## JUDGE ADVOCATE

**John Miller**

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### Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,

As a reminder, the National Marine Corps League bylaws state that ALL persons entering a Marine Corps League function must show their current Marine Corps League membership identification to attend. Remember to show your MCL identification upon signing in at our monthly meetings or events. Your ID can be the original or a copy on your cell phone. Please help us comply with our National leadership's orders. As many of you know the National Marine Corps League Convention will be held this August in Buffalo, New York. The current bylaws will be reviewed and according to reliable sources, the bylaws will be shorter and easier to understand to follow from now on.



Many things happened to make the Marine Corps what it is today. Its landmarks, past battles, and heroes are just a few that make us "The FEW The PROUD The MARINES," this slogan was voted the most recognized in the history of American marketing. We should be proud of this and know that the world knows about the US Marine Corps. The following are just a few events that are of interest and importance to us as Marines.

On April 5, 1776, our first Commandant, Captain Samuel Nichols, with 200 Marines and Sailors made the first amphibious assault against an armed enemy encampment. This unit attacked the British garrison in the Bahamas during the Revolutionary War and inflicted heavy damage on the garrison and their belief that American resolve was weak and ineffective.

The North Vietnamese Army with 120,000 men and 1,200 tanks began an offensive during April 1972 to wipe out the Republic of Viet Nam and its armed forces. This was later to be known as the Easter Offensive.

If General Neller attends one of our meetings, he must have ID. OK?

If anyone has a rule change or a suggestion for bylaw correction or establishment, please contact one of the Detachment Officers.

Semper Fidelis  
John E Miller  
Judge Advocate



**ADJUTANT**  
**John Coley**  
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### **Fellow Marines, Corpsmen and Associate members,**

In memorial of Daisy Taylor, Marine Stan Taylor's wife, members of the 597 attended the Celebration of Life for Daisy Taylor, those present were Dick Jennings – Commandant, Bob "Bugler" Martinez, Brad Cantley-Chaplain, Jack Parfitt, Larry Fisher, Toni Reed, and Matt and Taj Valenzuela. It was an absolute beautiful recap of her life as a loving and caring person. Olan Taylor, her two daughters, her sister (spokesperson for the siblings) and Stan told us all why she is sitting at the foot of the Lord. We will all miss her glowing smile. Our Detachment's membership is growing. During our April general meeting, we inducted a new Marine member Jerry Cagnacci, and 5 new Associate members. Our new associate members are John Calderon, Paul Lopez, Doug Bamforth, Jo LeFevre Bamforth, and Shoubin Yu. Please take time to welcome them at the next meeting.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Marines Stan Taylor, William "Bill" Trammel and Ramon Arvelo in appreciation and gratitude for meritorious service.



Our Detachment was the host sponsor of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on the 13th of April. Dick Jennings gave a promotional talk for our June 18th Golf Tournament, and emphasized "Veterans Helping Veterans" to the Chamber. He also talked our raffles and "Ball Drop" tickets for the event. For those of you who have not submitted your entry forms to play at this event, it's not too late. Please send in your entry and invite three friends to join you, or volunteer to help work the event. We had 20 Members and Associates in attendance and overwhelmed the breakfast meeting with a sea of red.

Let us all make a pledge to go out and recruit one new member, younger than ourselves, to join our President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 of the Marine Corps League every month.

Semper Fi,  
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**

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## Woof Woof and Hello To all Devil Dogs and Detachment 597 members,

I would like to welcome 4 new pups into the MODD, and congratulate Joe Trotta for advancing to Devil Dog (Red Collar).

Next, I'll tell you if you ever get a chance to visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps, as Sue and I did this April, you will not be disappointed. We spent over 6 hours there and didn't see it all. Here are a few photos that were taken, but you should really see it for yourself.







**CHAPLAIN**  
**Bradley Cantley**  
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### **Fellow Marines, veterans and friends,**

Let us take a few minutes out of our busy lives and pray for those that need our Supreme Commandant's healing hands. Whether it they are in pain, emotional, financial, or spiritual. These brave men and women have stepped forward to ask for our prayers, and so let us give them the attention they need to get back on their feet. If you are not quite sure on what to pray for or say exactly maybe this will help: "Supreme Commandant (Father), I pray for healing for all on this list. Thank you Jesus, Amen" Short and sweet, and God knows what you are asking for. Total pray time 8 seconds at most, and if you did this every day. Then God indeed will hear our prayers, and touch each and every one on the list, and you as well. Miracles happen, all you have to do is open your eyes through our Lords, and you will see. Newly added will be highlighted in sky blue, but only the first time I update. If you have recovered nicely please let me know if you wish to be removed, or needed it updated on your condition. I thank you in advance for the help, and please if you need something please let me know.

God bless you all, and may you have a most awesome day.

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

Buggs Ansell - On oxygen 24/7

Ken Barger – Is home now, and recovering nicely. It is a slow process, and his wife is doing a great job in helping with that recovering. Hope to see you at the May meeting.

Andy Dobrzynski - Being treated for a problem with one eye

Eileen Falconer - Undergoing surgery on the knee to relieve pain and pressure





Red Falconer - On the road to recovery from surgery

Sue Honaker - Undergoing treatments

Ken Mask – Is fully recovered from his maladies, and is leading a healthier life. Amen

Julie Stranges - Has had a nasty fall recently, where she endured a concussion, and nicely bruised on the back, shoulder, and hip.

Ed Farra - Is now at home and recovering nicely.

Don Joy – Is undergoing surgery for appendicitis, so let us keep him in our prayers for a successful surgery and quick recovery.

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

The Detachment's Color Guard continues its brisk start of Color Guard events. Our event engagements are January 9, February 9, March 8, and April 9. We are very grateful to our volunteers and encourage members to participate in these events; for the reasoning that we will be getting very busy in the coming months. Practice with your brothers is encouraged if you haven't done it before.



## **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



## **MCL GOLF TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN**

**Dick Jennings**

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### **From the desk of the Chairman for the MCL Golf Tournament**

June 18th is approaching quickly and will be here before we know it. We need more volunteers to help make this a successful event. This is a one day-all day event on Monday the 18th of June. This has the possibility of being our biggest money maker ever! If this event is successful, then we'll make it an annual fundraising event.

Our fundraising activities are the Ball Drop, Pistol raffle, and silent auction; and a "Hole-In-One" prize.

The Ball Drop will be held prior to the tournament. We will be dropping up to 1000 golf balls, each raising \$10. Closest to the hole or in the hole will receive \$500 and second prize \$250.

The Pistol Raffle is for a Springfield Marine Corps Operator 1911 .45 caliber pistol + magazine, Cleaning Kit valued at \$250, and a 3 month membership at the "Smokin' Barrel" shooting range.

We have some great silent auction items: golf clubs, gift baskets, week-end with a car, and a 2 night stay with golf and breakfast at La Quinta; Taylor Made Driver valued at \$499; Use of a 2019 Mustang Convertible for a 3 day weekend valued at \$1,000; 3 giant gift baskets; and 3, 5 & 7 metal clubs valued at \$500. We would like to have more prizes. Please call me for ideas.





We also have 5 great Hole-in-One prizes: BMW, Chevrolet Silverado Truck; trip for two to Scotland (Toys for Tots hole); 12 day cruise for two on the Mediterranean; and one week trip for two w/hotel to the 2019 Masters Tournament. Putting contest - 12 day African Safari.

Please, help the detachment out and get involved. Sell some Ball Drop Tickets and also Should we sell 1,000 tickets of each, it would generate \$20,000 for our Detachment. Clock is ticking and we are way beyond schedule for this year's tournament.

WE WILL NEED A NUMBER OF VOLUTEERS FOR THE DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT. THERE ARE LOT OF HOLES THAT NEED TO BE MANNED AND FOR VOLUNTEERING YOU WILL RECEIVE A GOLF SHIRT AND A FREE DINNER.

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL ME AT (805) 328-9817 OR EMAIL [2018GOLFTOURNEY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:2018GOLFTOURNEY@GMAIL.COM)



## HISTORIAN

### John Miller

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### Corporal Ira Hayes

There they battled up Iwo Jima's Hill, 205 men, but only 27 lived to walk down again. When the fighting was over and when OLD GLORY raised. Among the men who held it high was the Indian IRA HAYES. Johnny Cash Ballad of Ira Hayes.

Ira Hamilton Hayes was born on January 12, 1923 to a World War I veteran and his wife on the Pima Indian reservation near Phoenix, Az. Ira was one of 6 children that was raised in poor circumstances during the great depression. His brother said that he was quiet and would never speak unless spoken to. He loved to read and learned to speak and spell in English long before other members of his tribe.

When the war broke out, Ira told all his family and friends that he was going to join the Marines and be a paratrooper. Every morning at school he would sing the Marines Hymn and then go into class. On August 26, 1942, he joined the US Marine Corps Reserve while still in high school. He quit school, went to Marine Corps Base, San Diego, for recruit training. Later these location would be changed to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. After graduation, he went to Camp Elliott for parachute training. He left the United States on a navy transport bound for Guadalcanal. He was only there a short time on guard duty when his unit was deployed to Bougainville where he fought in his first action against the Japanese

In February 1944 he was ordered back to the United States where his Para Marine unit was disbanded and he was assigned to Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 28<sup>th</sup> Marines, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division. His unit was sent to Hawaii where it held intense training for the invasion of the Japanese island of Iwo Jima.



On February 19, 1945, he landed on Red Beach that was directly under Mount Suribachi. His unit was involved in numerous skirmishes with the enemy until the morning of February 23<sup>rd</sup>. His squad leader was contacted and his unit was ordered to accompany the Battalion runner to the summit of Suribachi. The Battalion Commander had given the runner, Pvt. Rene Gagnon, a US flag that he wanted placed atop the mountain to replace the smaller one that had been placed there earlier. His unit made it to the top and PFC Ira Hayes and 5 other Marines raised the flag just as Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal snapped the most famous combat photograph of World War II.

The second flag raising was the most famous, however there was a 3<sup>rd</sup> flag raising at the foot of Mt. Suribachi when the island was formally secured on March 3, 1945. The flag raising was an instant sensation and the men involved were turned into heroes and became Marine Corps icons. There was much confusion on who raised the famous flag verses the first raising that had occurred earlier. Originally one of the Marines was misidentified, but due to confusion and command red tape the error continued to be made, even in official dispatches. Marines Hayes and Gagnon along with Navy Corpsman John Bradley (who was misidentified) were ordered to the United States to meet the President and go on a tour to raise bonds that supported the war effort. During the tour, Ira attempted to correct the misunderstanding regarding who actually raised the famous flag. The Commanding officer of his detail told him to remain silent and to never mention anything about the men involved in the flag raising again. This gnawed at Ira as did the loss of his many friends and he began to drink heavily during the tour. The three men did meet President Truman at the White House where they were called heroes and a credit to American honor and valor. Again this speech brought shame and remorse to Ira, but did not seem to affect the other two. Ira's drinking got more and more intense as he had to relive the flag raising over and over at each bond drive stop over. On May 5, 1945, Ira was ordered back to his unit in Hawaii where they trained for the invasion of homeland Japan. On June 19, 1945, Ira was promoted to Corporal and he was discharged on December 1, 1945. The war with Japan had been over for 3 months.

Ira returned home, but was constantly embarrassed and insulted when people would stop and ask if he was the famous Indian that had raised the flag on Iwo Jima. He was also bitter about the fact that his friend had not been honored as a flag raiser. At one point he decided to contact his friend's family and walked 1300 miles from Arizona to Texas to tell the family the truth. The family was very grateful, especially the mother who said she always knew that one of the men was her son.

Ira was arrested over 50 times, usually for public intoxication and disorderly conduct. He said, "I was sick, I guess I was about to crack up thinking about my good buddies, they were better men than me and they're not coming home." He managed to remain sober enough to attend the dedication of The Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va. on November 10, 1954, The Marine Corps Birthday. On that occasion, President Eisenhower, stated that he was a hero and a credit to the efforts in World War II. After the ceremony, a reporter approached him and said "How do you like all the pomp and circumstance?" to which Ira's stated "I DON'T."

Ira was the subject of a book in 1959 entitled "The Outsider" in the book Ira was described as having struggles with guilt and alcoholism. Tony Curtis later portrayed Ira in the movie of the same name. Ira also played himself, (along with Rene Gagnon and John Bradley) in a scene with John Wayne from The Sands of Iwo Jima. Ira returned home and on the evening of January 23, 1955, he was drinking and playing cards with his brothers and some friends. Ira got into a fight with another Pima and everyone left except Ira and the other man. The following morning, Ira was found outside on the ground dead. The tribal police were called



and the coroner determined that Ira died of exposure and alcohol poisoning. There was no further investigation and there was no autopsy. Ira's brothers believe that Ira died from the injuries inflicted on him by their drinking buddy.

Ira Hamilton Hayes died a Hero and an icon of Marine Corps History and Legend. He was buried with full military honors and traditions at Arlington National Cemetery on February 2, 1955 in section 34, grave 479(A). If you are ever in Washington DC, go pay Ira a visit and honor him with remembrance and respect.

Remember that anyone can live without honor, but when a person dies, mysteries appear and no man can die without honor or a reckoning.

Fear without a doubt is everyone's inner struggle, when confronted and an ordinary human being stands up, rises up against the odds and faces the challenges, this ordinary man becomes a Hero.

Side Note - per official US Marine Corps Orders

Here are the names of the Flag Raisers on Iwo Jima, from left to right in the photograph:

Ira Hayes, Harold Schulz, Michael Strank, Franklin Sousley, Rene Gagnon and Harlon Block. Per the Commandant after an official inquiry. Harold Schulz (misidentified as John Bradley) died in 1995 and only mentioned the flag raising once to his family. During dinner one night he said "I was one of the flag raisers". He never mentioned it again. May His Name and Memory be Eternal.







## Dr. Tony Saunders

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### CALL TO ACTION

#### Fellow Members

Another Marine informed me that Disneyland plans to use a prerecorded message during its flag ceremonies. GySgt Ernie Napper-USMC (retired) has been at Disneyland for many years as a Security Officer, but he's better known for his inspirational narrative when taking down the flag at the evening ceremony. He has single handedly given Veterans of all ages something to be really proud of. Now Disneyland, supposedly the "Happiest Place On Earth" is going to discontinue this ceremony in favor of a pre-taped message. Just another example of not having much pride in our flag. Remember, GySgt Napper is one of our own, a Detachment Member and he addressed our meeting early last year.

I have put together 3 points to help you write your letters:

1. We greatly appreciated the flag lowering ceremony where veterans were acknowledged and thanked for their service.
2. We are greatly disappointed that Disneyland has chosen to replace a live person with a recorded message of thanks.
3. We request that Gysgt Napper and/or other Disneyland Security Officers be allowed to continue the flag lowering ceremony and the live acknowledgement of veterans.

Please use your own words and thoughts, if you can, about what it means to you to be a Veteran.

Mail to: Disneyland Resort Guest Experience Services  
PO Box 3232  
Anaheim, CA 92803-3232

Semper Fi  
Dr. Tony Saunders



## MANAGING EDITOR

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## For the better of the League!

As our Detachment grows, we should all be thinking of how we can better serve and support our Marines, Veterans and community. You've already seen the leadership from past and current board members who have spearheaded fundraising drives and events, supporting members in poor health, and community outreach. We encourage you to join these efforts to help give your Detachment a voice in our community. Without that voice, no one will hear us when we need their help, they need to see our organization's girth. Show the visceral brotherhood which each of you earned the right to be called and United States Marine.

Talk to your board members regarding what you can do to make a difference.

Thank you

## DEAR COMMANDANT

We all have had ideas and/or gripes about our general meetings, events or whatever. To hear what's on your mind and clearing the air, we will be able to understand the thoughts of you – our members. Our leadership wants to hear from you. Thus we are starting a "DEAR COMMANDANT" section to the Gipper.

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 ones 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](mailto:richfarra@gmail.com) and I will forward them to the Commandant anonymously for his feedback and include them in the Gipper.

Thank you



## CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

**Matt E. Valenzuela**

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### Fellow Marines, Corpsmen, and Associates,

At the MCL Spring Conference, I spoke a bit about what it takes to recruit and retain new members to the Marine Corps League. I talked about a proven method that has been working for eons. It is as simple as talking to people you see around town, wearing either a T-shirt or a baseball cap with Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard emblazoned on it. I also mentioned placing a business card or a recruiting flyer on the windshield or driver's window of any vehicle displaying any service icon or bumper sticker. Attending street fairs and going to places where Veterans congregate was another option.

Other things I mentioned, we all know what has to be done, but the main problem is going out and doing it. Several Marines came to me and said they tried everything I had suggested and it didn't work for them. Their Detachment needs new members or it will cease to exist, so they need a foolproof way of growing it. New ways have to be implemented like using the social media, the internet, yada, yada, yada.

For a while, I wondered how behind the times I must be, but decided to set out and use the old proven method of "talking to people." I invited 14 people to attend the next 597 meeting in April. Know from the very onset, not everyone you invite is going to show up. Not at the next meeting, the next one or the one after that! It took me one year to get Ben Pfister to finally attend his first meeting and look at him now. Ben is a very productive member of the 597. He has served as Adjutant, Ship Store Captain, and now the Poundkeeper of the Ventura County Devil Dogs; and Ben has further aspirations to gain a position with the MODD at the State level.

To prove to myself that using the old proven method of talking to people still works, in spite of the internet, of the 14 people I invited to our April meeting here is the result.

Members of the 597 sponsored by Matt E. Valenzuela, Past Commandant April 2018 –

2 Regular members recruited: Ivone Quintero-Cagnacci Marine, and Jeffrey Cagnacci, Marine – 5 Associate members recruited: John Calderon, Past Commander of DAV Chapter 55; Doug Bamforth, fellow Chaplain of VFW Post 10049, Jo LeFevre Bamforth, Auxiliary member, VFW Post 10049, Paul Lopez, Veterans Chair at the VA, and Wendy Calderon will wait until she is through school to join as an Associate. This means 7 people said "YES" to my invitation and 7 people said "No thanks" at this time. Some people may fear "rejection," or being told "No thanks!" and quit inviting people after their first "No." So it may be a personal thing and not the "old method" that may not work.

I didn't write this article to brag and/or to complain, but to prove to myself and naysayers that the things we already know how to do and have in our head, work, but they have to be implemented.

Semper Fi,  
Matt E. Valenzuela  
Contributing Editor





## PAYMASTER'S CORNER

**ANDY DOBRZYNSKI**

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

805-428-5902

### Detachment Members,

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

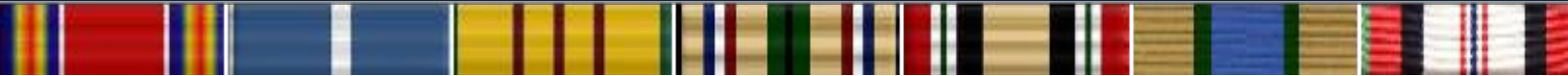
As a reminder you must show your membership card at the time of signing in before the general meeting.

Andy Dobrzynski  
Paymaster

## VERY HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS

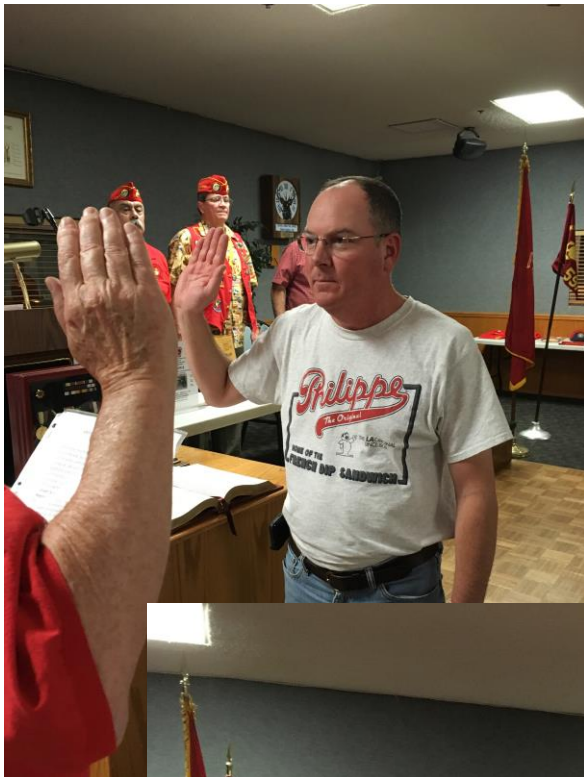


01 Elwood Farra, **Life Member**  
07 Nigel 'Tony' Boucher  
10 Mary Anne Kreutz  
14 Larry Fischer, **Life Member**  
22 Juvencio Gallegos  
22 Julie Stranges  
26 Ted Mikolyski  
28 Pastor Stan Taylor, **Life Member**  
30 Toni Trotman



## NEW MEMBERS

Our Detachment welcomed one new Marine member and five new associate members. Our new regular member is Marine Jeffrey Cagnacci, 1985-2003 - MOS 0861/artillery (Left picture). Associate members are pictured left to right: Frank Lopez, Shoubin Yu, John Calderon, Doug and Jo Bamforth. Marine and regular member Matthew Gonzalez makes his cameo appearance in the group induction photo.





## GUEST SPEAKER

Scott Zimmer, Chief of Security at the President Ronald Reagan Library, was our guest speaker during our April general meeting. Mr. Zimmer praised Marines and all servicemen and women for their service, sacrifice and bravery in defending our great nation. The topic of his presentation was on God's Word. He highlighted God's Message of Hope, Truth of Heaven, Seeing God through Jesus, and a New Heaven and New Earth. Without knowing it gave us comfort in knowing that Marine and Pastor Stan Taylor's wife Daisy was in a good place, with God. Thank you Mr. Zimmer for your thoughts.







## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MCL 597 is pleased to announce that Shoubin “Jia” Yu, a licensed Acupuncturist #AC 17258, has joined our Detachment as an Associate Member.**

Shoubin was our guest speaker during our February general meeting and spoke about the healing aspects of acupuncture, and the work he and his associates were doing to get acupuncture approved as a medical treatment for Veterans.



To demonstrate the healing aspects of acupuncture, Jia administered free treatments to members during the general meeting. Those who received this treatment were happy with the results.

Shoubin joined our Detachment to help its members and Veterans.\* He is extending his offer of free acupuncture treatments to any Veteran who wants pain relief - Digestive Disorders, Opioid Dependency, PTSD, etc. If you are experiencing pain, call him now, why wait – it’s FREE.

To receive **FREE ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENT**  
Call for an appointment **805-523-9155**, or  
Book Online: **[www.yudayimedicine.com](http://www.yudayimedicine.com)**

\*Please bring proof of Veteran Status, e.g. VA card.

**Shoubin’s office is located at:**  
Yu Dayi Chinese Medicine  
530 E. Los Angeles Ave., Ste #104  
Moorpark, CA 93021  
Open 7 days a week, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Shoubin “Jia” Yu supports Rep. Judy Chu’s CA-27 House Bill to expand acupuncture care to veterans-go to this Website for more info:

<https://chu.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-chu-introduces-bill-expand-acupuncture-access-veterans>



## 2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Rank or Title	Name	Phone	E-mail
Commandant	Richard A. Jennings	805-328-9817	<a href="mailto:MCL597Commandant@gmail.com">MCL597Commandant@gmail.com</a>
Sr. Vice Commandant	Harry Hodges	805-583-8951	<a href="mailto:Hodges1951@gmail.com">Hodges1951@gmail.com</a>
Jr. Vice Commandant	Ken "Doc" Honaker	805-416-4063	<a href="mailto:kdhonaker@gmail.com">kdhonaker@gmail.com</a>
Jr. Past Commandant	Jerry German	818-324-2338	<a href="mailto:jrgerman@sbcglobal.net">jrgerman@sbcglobal.net</a>
Judge Advocate	John Miller	805-581-5462	<a href="mailto:johnemillerusmc@gmail.com">johnemillerusmc@gmail.com</a>
Adjutant	John Coley	805-368-1086	<a href="mailto:w4simi@yahoo.com">w4simi@yahoo.com</a>
Paymaster	Andy Dobrzynski	805-428-5902	<a href="mailto:andydobrzynski@gmail.com">andydobrzynski@gmail.com</a>
Sergeant-at-Arms	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	<a href="mailto:fausto_galvan471@yahoo.com">fausto_galvan471@yahoo.com</a>
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Corporal of the Guard	John Fuentes	805-485-4230	<a href="mailto:John.R.Fuentes@Nav.mil">John.R.Fuentes@Nav.mil</a>
Chaplain	Bradley Cantley	805-813-9667	<a href="mailto:bradleycantley@gmail.com">bradleycantley@gmail.com</a>
Color Guard Commander	Ruy Peña	818-912-9863	<a href="mailto:colorguard597@gmail.com">colorguard597@gmail.com</a>
Color Guard Vice Commander	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	<a href="mailto:fausto_galvan471@yahoo.com">fausto_galvan471@yahoo.com</a>
Training Officer	Darrell Lee	818-304-3580	<a href="mailto:dardan226@hushmail.com">dardan226@hushmail.com</a>
MC Birthday Ball Committee Chair	Ken "Doc" Honaker	805-416-4063	<a href="mailto:kdhonaker@gmail.com">kdhonaker@gmail.com</a>
Ship's Store Captain	Harry Hodges	805-583-8951	<a href="mailto:Hodges1951@gmail.com">Hodges1951@gmail.com</a>
Fundraising Chairman	Harry Hodges	805-328-9817	<a href="mailto:Hodges1951@gmail.com">Hodges1951@gmail.com</a>
2018 MCL Golf Tournament	Dick Jennings	805-328-9817	<a href="mailto:2018golftourney@gmail.com">2018golftourney@gmail.com</a>
Historian	John Miller	805-581-5462	<a href="mailto:johnemillerusmc@gmail.com">johnemillerusmc@gmail.com</a>
Web Master		213-709-1520	<a href="mailto:parkjoon2013@gmail.com">parkjoon2013@gmail.com</a>
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Young Marines	Fausto Galvan Timothy Stratton Juvencio Gallegos	818-259-2119 661-257-9690 818-299-1777	<a href="mailto:Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com">Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:e-8sierra@sbcglobal.net">e-8sierra@sbcglobal.net</a> <a href="mailto:adigallegos3531@gmail.com">adigallegos3531@gmail.com</a>
Toys For Tots Chairman	John Mitchell	805-379-9664	<a href="mailto:Kathleen.Mitchell.is18@statefarm.com">Kathleen.Mitchell.is18@statefarm.com</a>
Director of Associates	Valeria Galvan	818-899-4529	<a href="mailto:ValeriaHGalvan@yahoo.com">ValeriaHGalvan@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Department of California Staff</b>			
Dept of CA Jr Vice Commandant MODD CA Pack – Sr. Vice Pack Leader	Matt E. Valenzuela	310-308-7015	<a href="mailto:mattval@aol.com">mattval@aol.com</a>
VAVS MODD Dept. of CA Pack - Watch Dog	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	<a href="mailto:fausto_galvan471@yahoo.com">fausto_galvan471@yahoo.com</a>



## 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/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/) to fill out the eVetRecs online system or download the SF180 form.

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

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

1st Thursday of each month

**Simi Valley Elks Lodge #2492**

**1561 Kuehner Drive**

**Simi Valley, CA 93065**

Meet and Greet 1800

Dinner 1800-1859

Meeting 1900

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

3rd Wednesday of each month from 1600-1800

US Bank Building

1445 East Los Angeles Avenue, Room 302

Simi Valley, CA 93065