

# TEXAS

**Charles Ynman**  
**Commandant**



# MARINE

**Department of TEXAS**  
**Marine Corps League**

# SPRING

**Edition**



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## Commandant's Corner

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**WE ARE NOW APPROACHING** the 2016 Department of Texas Marine Corps League's Annual Convention. It makes you wonder where the year has gone since we were enjoying each other's company at the San Antonio Convention. It is

time to look back and see if we have reached our goals, and, we all know that we could not have accomplished our goals without a plan. Our plan was to promote communications and transparency within the Department of Texas. We also took aim at increasing our Department membership, creating new Detachments and assisting ailing ones.

During the last year, I have had the honor of presenting two Charters – one in McKinney, Texas, and the other in Crockett, Texas.



Through a combined effort of our League members, we have achieved other initiatives. We have placed the District Vices into the chain of command and established a communication program with their Detachments. Detachment Commandants are now included in communications that are provided by the National organization and your Department. We have a website that the membership can access for necessary information. This was especially important during the period that National did not provide a website. Our newsletter also provides additional details which help our Detachments. The *Texas Marine* continues to receive accolades as the top newsletter in the Nation. We also have Detachments in the double digits that are receiving awards for keeping their membership non-pays less than 15% and for keeping their membership at 100%. I congratulate each of you for making this possible. When I proudly represent you at conventions and conferences, it is with pleasure that I report that "The Department of Texas Marine Corps League is sound and on budget."

The Board of Trustees and I would like to encourage all members to attend our 2016 Department Convention in Dallas on June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. At the Convention, we will be honored to welcome the Marine Corps League National

*Welcome*

Commandant Richard Gore, who will install our elected

officers. We will have the opportunity to interface with the National Commandant and visit with other League members. I hope we can have many of our members there to welcome Commandant Gore to Texas.

We will dedicate the 2016 Department of Texas Convention to the Vietnam Veteran. It is also the 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Vietnam War and we will present each Vietnam Veteran a lapel pin issued by the Department of Defense. The Department wishes all our Vietnam Veterans a big "Welcome Home."

We are also very proud to have reached the goal of acquiring a new Department flag, and there will be a short ceremony



to replace the previous flag, which has served us well for many years. The new flag was made possible by the leadership of our Sergeant-At-Arms Chris Borel and the generous contributions from our Detachments and Pounds.



We have planned an interesting Convention, which will include many new features to make your experience a memorable event. During the convention in Dallas, there will be an announcement and details of the future locations of the 2016 Fall Conference and 2017 Convention.

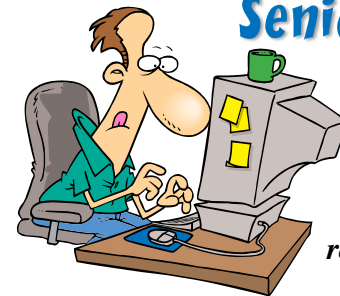
I was deeply saddened by the loss of our Chaplain Dennis Bradford. He was not only a fellow member, but also a very dear friend. I ask for your prayers for him and his family. It was difficult for all of us and I thank Melody Bronson for coming forward and assuming the duties of Chaplain.

About one year ago, I was elected Commandant. I have had the pleasure of serving you along with a fine Board of Trustees and Committee Chairmen, without whose support and cooperation the successes we have attained would not have been possible.

We will conduct elections at the Convention. I wish to announce that I will be a candidate for Department Commandant and request your vote to allow me to continue serving our members.



## Senior's Segment



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**I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO**  
 seeing everyone at the Department Convention in

June. Some of the things that I will be covering at the Convention will be Detachment Activity Reports to include Youth activities.

I've provided the information below for members who are not aware that the VA will soon be able to issue ID cards to veterans. This article outlines what you will need to do to get a Veterans ID Card.

### **What is a Veteran Identification Card (VIC) and how do I get one?**

*Published 04/27/2006 / Updated 04/7/2016*

What is a Veterans Identification Card or Proof of Service Card and how do you get one? The Veterans Identification Card Act 2015 (Public Law 114-31) was enacted on July 20, 2015. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is drafting regulations that will allow VA to implement and enforce the legislation. However, this is a lengthy process that requires time for a public comment period as well as approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The rule making process is expected to take



**12 Months**

or more. VA is also in the process of developing procedures and policies to implement the VA ID card program. VA currently estimates the program will be implemented in 2017.

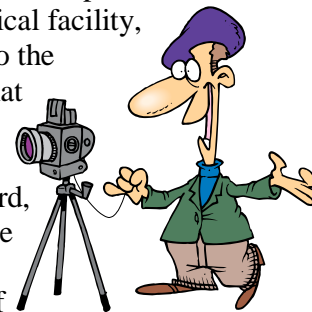
In the meanwhile, the Department of Veterans Affairs continues to provide a Veterans Identification Card (VIC) for veterans to use at VA medical facilities. The VIC will be issued only to Veterans who are eligible for VA medical benefits and only for the purpose of identification and check-in for VA medical appointments. The new card protects personal privacy by not showing Social Security Numbers or dates of birth on the front of the cards.

VA has Service Connected, POW and Purple Heart (PH) indicators on the new VIC. Veterans who have been awarded service-connected status after their VIC has been issued or service connected

status is not properly documented on their card will need to present their letter showing their SC rating to the eligibility clerk at the local VA Medical Center where they obtain treatment. After verification, the eligibility clerk will submit a request to National Card Management Directory (NCMD) System for a new card to be issued to the Veteran.



Once a Veteran has his/her picture taken for the new card at the VA medical facility, the card will be mailed to the Veteran at the address that has been provided. To ensure that a Veteran receives the new VIC card, the Veteran should please verify that VA has the correct address on file. If the U.S. Postal Service cannot deliver the card, it will be returned to the facility at which the card was requested. The card will then be held in a secure location at the facility for 90 days. If the card is not picked up within the 90-day period, the card will be destroyed.



With regard to the use of veteran ID cards for store discounts,



please note: The VA identification card, once available, will allow Veterans to demonstrate proof of service for discounts

at private restaurants and businesses. It should be noted that the identification card is different from a Veteran Health Identification card or a DOD Uniformed Services or retiree ID card. As such, the VA identification cards cannot be used as proof of eligibility to any federal benefits and does not grant access to military installations.

When available, Veterans will be able to request an ID card from VA for a fee. VA is currently making plans to implement the new law in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible



while protecting Veterans' personal information. We estimate that VA will be able to implement the program in 2017. The cost of each card has not yet been determined.

In the meantime, Veterans who would like an identification card that displays their military service do not have to wait until VA implements the new law. You have several options:

- You can access and print a free Veterans Identification Card through the joint VA/DOD web portal, eBenefits. This paper identification card serves as proof of honorable service in the Uniformed Services, as defined in laws about the Department of Defense (DOD). Veterans can get a free eBenefits account by going to <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>.
- Your driver's license or state identification card can carry a Veteran designation. This option is currently available in 49 states, along with Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. We expect the 50th state, Washington, to offer this service in August 2017. Veterans wanting more information should contact their State Department of Motor Vehicles or State Department of Veterans Affairs at <https://www.va.gov/sttedva.htm>.
- Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care can obtain a free **Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC)**. For more information, please go to <http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vhic/index.asp>.



- Veterans who have retired from military service can receive an identification card from DOD. For information on obtaining or renewing such a card, please contact your nearest DOD identification card facility. You can find the location of these facilities through this link: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/site>.



## Judge Advocate's Alerts

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### DURING THE LAST QUARTER

I continued to interact with the Department Commandant, District Vice Commandants, and Detachment Commandants on issues which I will not enumerate here. The issues all involved the proper interpretation and application of both Department and Detachment By-Laws.



I am happy to report that all issues were resolved at the lowest possible level through the assistance of all parties concerned.



This is my goal, and I appreciate the cooperation of everyone in

following the proper procedures for requesting assistance.

## Adjutant/Paymaster Postings

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## MARINES...

We are approaching a time of the year where there will be many admin requirements.

### DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND COMPLETION OF THE DELEGATE FORM...

The form can be found on the Department website, [www.texasmcl.org](http://www.texasmcl.org), and downloaded.



The number of delegates allowed each Detachment can be found in the National Bylaws, Article One. To be qualified as a delegate, the member must be either a Life member or their dues must be current.

Once the form is completed,

**DO NOT SEND IT TO ME.** It should be sent to Bernie O'Dell, 515 Hall Street, Graham, TX 76450.

### SUBMISSION OF THE 990...

The IRS has totally changed the procedure. Your paymasters should go to

<https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Annual-Electronic-Notice-Form-990-N-for-Small-Organizations-FAQs-How-to-File>

for complete filing instructions. The new system **DOES NOT** automatically send an acceptance email. You have to log back in to receive confirmation of your submission. Please be sure to **EMAIL a copy of the form to me** for inclusion in the spreadsheet that goes to National.



This year's filing deadline will be **TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER**. Remember, *there is no longer a grace period.*

If your Detachment's nonprofit status is revoked, **DO NOT** complete the IRS paperwork to receive nonprofit status. This will generate a new EIN, as well as reinstate your nonprofit status. When you do this, your Detachment is not carried under the National master number and your Detachment is not carried under the League's insurance.

There is special paperwork used to have your nonprofit status reinstated. Always call me and I will assist you in this process.

### TRANSMITTALS...



If you are using the online transmittal from the National website, please send me a total of four (4) copies of the transmittal. Make sure you **CHECK** your math and sign all the copies.

### ROSTERS FROM NATIONAL...

National is going to discontinue the process of mailing the Detachment rosters to each Detachment. Instead, they are going to be emailing them. That being said, it is going to be very important that National and I always have a current email address for your Paymaster. I will be passing on information on this subject as I receive it.

National is working very hard to get more of our administrative processes online. As this happens, it will be very important that **ALL** Detachment Paymasters attend the trainings as they are offered.

I hope to see you all at the Department Convention.

## Chaplain's Comments

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### MARINES...

Hope everyone is doing well. My transition as the Department Chaplain is going good. I have been receiving the notices of death by regular mail and email. Thank you for getting those to me in a timely manner. As soon as I receive them, I am sending the appropriate copies on to National. (I am also the Department MODD Dog Trainer; please continue to send those notices to me as well.)

It's sad to lose one of our brother or sister Marines. We will be

honoring those who have gone to guard the gates of Heaven since our last state convention at the 2016 State Convention in June.

On a happier note... I have some exciting news! This year at the 2016 State

Convention we have a new award to be given out. It is to recognize a Detachment Chaplain who has gone "over and beyond" his/her call of duty. The name of the award is the Joe Vickery Jr. Chaplain's Award. I need ALL Detachment Commandants to take notice of your Chaplain. If he/she is going that extra mile, putting in extra time and commitment to his/her duties as a Detachment Chaplain and should be recognized – please send me their nomination. Email me or snail mail to: 704 Rancho Dr., Mesquite, TX 75149. **I NEED NOMINATIONS BY**

## 1 JUNE

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention in Dallas! Thank you to our host: Capt. John Yancey Detachment.

Until next time... many blessings to you and your families.

## Sergeant-At-Arms Summary

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### JUST A NOTE

to let all you Marines of the Marine Corps League know that the Department of Texas now has a new flag. It will be displayed at all our functions that we participate in as it was displayed at the Marine Corps League Southern Division Conference. Hopefully you all will be able to make our Department Convention in Dallas June 2016 to see it in person. It looks better than any picture can show. Even if this flag is not perfect I think it is nice enough to represent us for at least the next forty years or more.





# Veteran's Voice

Submitted by Juanita O'Dell,  
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## Veterans Administration: We've Failed, Pay Us More *Washington Examiner* 4/28/2016...



Robert McDonald, Secretary of  
Department of Veterans Affairs

### THE DEPARTMENT OF Veterans

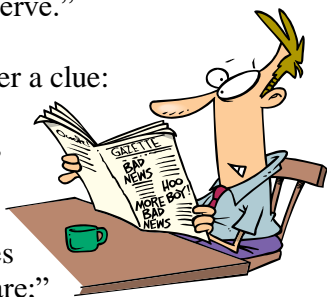
Affairs became embroiled in April 2014 in a series of scandals over its mistreatment of military Veterans. Dozens of Veterans had died waiting for care at VA hospitals. The agency systematically falsified waiting lists. It retaliated against whistleblowers. It spent money wastefully.

Three months later, when Robert McDonald was confirmed as the agency's new secretary, he made several promises to "deliver the needed reforms our veterans deserve."

How is he doing?

Recent headlines offer a clue:

"Veterans Affairs Pays \$142 Million in Bonuses Amid Scandals;" "GAO Report: VA is Still Manipulating Wait Times for Veterans Needing Care;" "Veteran Burned Himself Alive Outside VA



Clinic;" "Despite What the VA Says, Veterans Still Wait Weeks to See a Doctor."

McDonald's emphasis has shifted from reform to making excuses and blaming others. Speaking on C-SPAN last weekend, he blamed Congress for the problems, accusing it of not giving VA enough money.

"If you go back and see what happened in 2014 that created the crisis, it was obviously a mismatch of supply and demand," he explained. "Remember, Congress passes the laws that provide benefits for Veterans. Congress passes the budget that provides the means of meeting those laws to provide those benefits. When those two don't match, you've got a serious problem, a very serious problem."

Perhaps it's progress that McDonald acknowledges that his agency has a very serious problem. It might even at a stretch be regarded as helpful that he understands the laws of supply and demand, although in this case the demand is for a supply of competent and accountable administrators.

But he misdiagnoses both the cause and the remedy.

Waste, abuse and fraud continue to define the agency. It has the federal government's second-largest budget, which has risen by two-thirds during the Obama presidency. It wastes its money on malpractice payments, gratuitous performance



bonuses, and office makeovers.

Worse, Veterans are still dying waiting for care, wait-time data is still being fudged and whistleblowers are still being ignored and ostracized. Which is why, when the Pew Research Center asked the public to rate government agencies, the VA came in dead last.

The agency's problems extend beyond its own incompetence and malfeasance.

The Justice Department is slow-walking criminal investigations of the agency, and few staff have been sacked or punished. In his C-SPAN debacle, McDonald dismissed as political a



proposed law that would expedite firings.

The VA's problem isn't a lack of funding or undue politicization by its critics; rather, it's a lack of transparency and accountability. It has a defensive, deceptive and obstructive mindset that is characteristic of government agencies staffed by people confident that they won't be fired and bored with the idea of doing their jobs properly. It's a frame of mind that inclines employees to blame others when things go wrong, instead of taking responsibility themselves.



The VA has failed its customers. What's needed is not leaders who point fingers and demand more money — “We've failed, pay us more” — but those who will take responsibility for reforming a broken system.

The VA has failed its customers. What's needed is not leaders who point fingers and demand more money — “We've failed, pay us more” — but those who

## Division/District/Detachment Digest

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

Randy Rigg

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### MARINES...

As you read this article I will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, to help celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Department of Arkansas which also marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Southern Division as we know it today. The past twenty years has brought about a number of changes to the Division including the fact that we now have a significant number of members attend national conventions and conferences today meaning that we are making a contribution to the organization.

# 20th

I would like to congratulate all those Detachments that received awards at the Southern Division Conference for meeting the goal of the Division in 2015. I would especially like to congratulate the four 2015 Detachments of the Year, all of which were from the Department of Texas:

- ◆ **North Texas Detachment #862** (Graham) for Detachments under 50 members.
- ◆ **Captain John Yancey Detachment #631** (Dallas) and **Lost Pines Leathernecks Detachment #1384** (Bastrop) for Detachments with 51- 90 members.
- ◆ **Big D Detachment #316** (Dallas) for Detachments over 91 members.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dwight Witcher from the Sidney S. McMath Detachment #532, Department of Arkansas, for being selected as the 2015 Southern Division **Marine of the Year**. We had a number of good candidates this year and I hope that you continue to forward nominations for those individuals that have made contributions to the betterment of the Southern Division.



It was also my first opportunity to make a presentation of the Board of Trustees Commendation, better known as the Victor T. Fisher Award, to Bernie O'Dell for his work all these years as the Division Adjutant/Paymaster. This is a much overlooked award and I would like to see more consideration given to it by Commandants. You can read more about Victor T. Fisher elsewhere in this edition of the *Texas Marine*.



As most of you should be aware, the 2016 National Convention will be held this August in





Tulsa, Oklahoma, and there is still time for those of you who have not made any plans. There are rooms available at the overflow hotel.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Department of Texas

Convention in Dallas this June. I will have a report for the membership at that time.

### DISTRICT 8

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### ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

stirring up the natives, beating the bushes, looking for a “*Few Good Men*”...

and so far, we have one new Detachment in District 8. The

“*Houston County Detachment #1433*” received its Charter

on April 16, 2016, in Crockett, Texas.

I’m proud to report that District 8 had at least seven (7) members in attendance at the Southern Division Conference in Oklahoma City - two (2) representing the Pineywoods Detachment #1189 and five (5) representing the Jacksonville Texas Detachment #1381.



During the conference training the Department of Texas presented a class on the Ten Points of Leadership and was well received.

The search is still on and work is in progress to recruit a ‘few more good men’ in the Henderson (Rusk County), Texas, area for another ‘new’ Detachment. I’m hoping the organization of this

Detachment will move efficiently, smoothly and as fast as the Houston County Detachment.

It’s been a good year thus far and I’m looking forward to the State Convention in June 2016.

### BIG D DETACHMENT DALLAS

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HELLO AND HAPPY SPRING from the Big D Detachment!



First off, I want to give a “shout out” to my Officers and Staff... Jack Danford, Jeff Delaney, Jesse Carr, Nick Weidenkopf, Richard Simmons, Steve Wilson, Polly Weidenkopf, Taylor Rice, Linda Shook, Dan Moses, and Ann Danford – thank you for your support and all that you do for Big D!

With the crazy weather, illnesses and “just stuff” we have started out a bit slow this year on our Detachment activities. We have had several Eagle Scout presentations so far and we have several more coming up. It is always “an honor” to attend an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony.

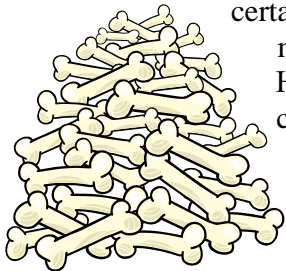


Big D will be presenting Honor Swords to the top cadets of two area high school MCJROTCs. Several of us will be attending the annual memorial services at the DFW National Cemetery on May 30<sup>th</sup>.



**Eagle Scout Jack Hittson-Smith**

I attended my first Mid-Winter Conference in March and I was very impressed! It was great! I learned quite a bit, met some fantastic Marines and I can see that our National Officers are dedicated to getting our Marine Corps League back on track. The Mid-Winter Growl was so much fun! It



certainly lived up to the MODD motto of being the “Fun and Honor Society!” There were challenges, contests and lots and lots of bones paid out!

Woof! Woof!

I am looking forward to the upcoming State

Convention in June. I’m sure it will be outstanding! Hoping to see many of you there; see you soon.

**CAPT. JOHN YANCEY DETACHMENT  
DALLAS**

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**VIETNAM VETERANS  
COMMEMORATION...**

In accordance with Public Law 110-181 SEC.598, the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct

a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and “in conducting the commemorative program, the Secretary shall coordinate,



**Vietnam War Memorial Statue**

support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War.”

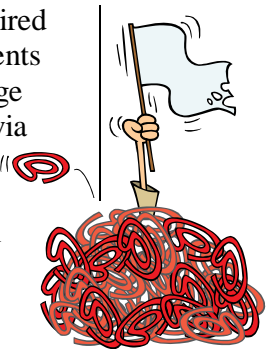


The Department of Texas, Marine Corps League, and the Captain John Yancey Detachment of the Marine Corps League will conduct the 36th annual Convention and the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, recognizing

Vietnam War Veterans who reside in the state of Texas and recalling all those who did not return.

**STATE CONVENTION  
INFORMATION...**

In preparation for the State Convention, a packet of all the forms required were sent out to all Detachments by mail. An electronic package was sent to all Detachments via the internet. If you have not received the email package, you might look in your Spam folder as it might be there.



There are two other locations for all the forms - The Department website and the Capt. John Yancey website at [cjd.org](http://cjd.org) (or call Felix at 469-583-0191).

See you at the Convention.

**LOST PINES LEATHERNECKS  
DETACHMENT  
BASTROP**

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**OVER THE LAST QUARTER**

the Lost Pines Leathernecks Detachment #1384 has been incredibly active in our community. With Bastrop County Veteran's Honor Guard and Detachment activities it's been a whirlwind few months.

From January to March, the Bastrop County Veteran's Honor Guard rendered Military Funeral Honors a total of 15 times (January - 6, February - 2, March - 7). These services were for Veterans of all branches of the United States Military. These fine individuals were beloved Veterans who participated in World War II, the Korean War and the War in Vietnam. It is our honor to be able to participate in these services and to commemorate their service to our beloved country.

During the month of January our Detachment held its monthly meeting and annual Officer Installation Ceremony for 2016.



*LPL 1384 Officer Installation for 2016*

In February the Detachment was able to assist a disabled Veteran by building a wheelchair accessible ramp for his home. Without this item he was forced to attempt entering his home without the aid of his wheelchair. The Detachment came together and was able to get this project completed in less than one day.

Also the Detachment Golf Committee has begun planning our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament. It is slated to be on October 15, 2016. More information to come as the planning continues. Dust off your clubs and come



support our Veterans while having a great time on a great course at the ColoVista Golf Club in beautiful Bastrop. You also have a chance to win some great prizes.

The month of March has been our busiest of the year so far. We presented the Elgin NJROTC with a donation to their program; these funds help with maintaining the program and ensure that the young men and women will continue to:

- Promote patriotism
- Develop informed and responsible citizens
- Develop respect for constructed authority
- Develop leadership potential
- Promote high school completion
- Promote higher education
- Promote community service
- Develop a high degree of personal honor, self-reliance, individual discipline and leadership
- Promote an understanding of the basic elements and need for national security
- Provide information on the military services as a possible career
- Provide an alternative to gangs
- Provide incentive to live healthy and drug free

*Cmdt. Ken Steffek (R) presenting a donation to Elgin NJROTC Commander Armstrong*



On National Vietnam Veterans Day several members of the Detachment participated in a Wreath Laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the State Capital.



*LPL #1384 members presenting a wreath on National Vietnam Veterans Day at the State Capital*

As this article was being written we are currently involved in many, many more activities but we will cover that at another time.

**HOUSTON COUNTY DETACHMENT  
CROCKETT**

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*(L-R) Department of Texas Commandant Charles Ynman presents gavel to Commandant Roger Erwin of the newly chartered Houston County Detachment on April 16<sup>th</sup>.*



**Devil Dog Doings**

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**WOOF WOOF TEXAS  
PACK!!!**

It is that time of year for dogs wanting to advance to DD and PDD. To advance to DD get with your Pound Keeper and Dog Robber for an advancement form. Ensure all signatures are complete and bring it to the State Convention.

To advance to PDD you need to get your form to the Pack Dog Robber (Ray Beard) so he can sign it and send it to Kennel Dog Robber. Ensure Ray gives you a completed signed copy to take to National.

I hope to make it to a few Pound Growls before the Convention. Bring lots of bones.



**Auxiliary  
Announcements**

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viola.trevino@auxiliary.texasmcl.org



**GREETINGS LADIES!!!**

I've been quite busy these past few months. In February I attended the Iwo Jima Ceremonies in Corpus Christi, Texas. Every year the number of our Iwo Jima survivors gets smaller. I am proud to be there to honor them for all they did for us.



*Coastal Bend Unit MCLA members at Iwo Jima Ceremonies: (L-R) Sandra Ritchie, Elizabeth Garcia, Irene Benavides, Dr. Laura Hall, Viola Trevino, Gloria Perez, Gloria De La Cruz, & Esmeralda Vera.*

In March I attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Falls Church, VA, and in April the Southern Division Conference in Oklahoma City, OK. Both conferences were very productive.



*Mid-Winter Conference – Tea with National President (L-R) Brenda Tomonelli, Linda Rigg, Coleen English, & Viola Trevino*

Ladies, just a reminder to you all that it's that time again to work on your Activity Reports. Reporting dates are May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, to April 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. I am including a list of the Committee Chair addresses below. The Committee Chairmen should receive the reports **no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of May**. *Any reports received on the 16<sup>th</sup> and after will not be counted.*

**Americanism Committee:**

Chairman Brenda Tomonelli  
110 Mac Lane, Pottsboro, TX 75076  
Email: *besteptom@yahoo.com*

**Child Welfare Committee:**

Chairman Karren Ogg  
840 FM 1503, Deport, TX 75435  
Email: *robertogg@msn.com*

**Civics Committee:**

Chairman Dorcas Simpson  
11474 Chapel Rd., Lorena, TX 76655  
Email: *dorsimp1@gmail.com*

**Rehabilitation Committee:**

Chairman Johnnie Lopez  
1001 Hamilton St., Waco, TX 76705  
Email: *luizjohnnie@yahoo.com*

**VAVS Committee:**

Chairman Connie Chambers  
1136 Omar St., Dallas, TX 75232  
Email: None

I would like to remind the Auxiliary Member of the Year Committee to submit your nominations by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**, 2016. The Committee Chairman for Auxiliary MOY is Johnnie Lopez, 1001 Hamilton St., Waco, TX 76705.

Dorcas Simpson, our Operation Little Angel Chairman, would like to remind the ladies that she will be sending a list and the name of the organization we will be donating to. Friday after Operation Little Angel we will be holding a Past Presidents Meeting.



I look forward to seeing everyone at Convention.

All Ladies attending the  
State Convention (Auxiliary,  
spouses of Marines, Associates)



Are Invited  
to the  
Ladies Auxiliary  
"Get Together."

**DATE:** Thursday, 6/23/16  
**TIME:** 7 pm - 8 pm  
**PLACE:** Bentley Room

Hope to See You There!



Heart of Texas Unit receiving certificate.  
(L-R) Marcia Ynman, Viola Trevino, Dorcas  
Simpson, Johnnie Lopez, Karren Ogg



MCLA Group (L-R) DOT members Dorcas  
Simpson, Karren Ogg, Johnnie Lopez, Viola  
Trevino, Brenda Tomonelli, & Marcia Ynman.  
Linda Blair & Jackie Deen from River  
Valley/Claude Rogers Unit, Ft. Smith, AR

## SOUTHERN DIVISION...



Southern Division Vice President Viola  
Trevino & Assistant Vice Brenda Tomonelli  
in Oklahoma City

## Flea Fiddlings

Karren Ogg  
DOT MODDF Hide Big Flea  
(903) 652-5601 (H)  
karren.ogg@texasmcl.org  
Brenda Tomonelli  
DOT MODDF Hide  
Scratchy Flea  
(903) 786-8243 (H)  
brenda.tomonelli@auxiliary.texasmcl.org



## THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

Flea Hide, including our Arkansas sister Crawlers,  
Ventured across the Red River up to Oklahoma  
City for the Southern  
Division Conference  
in April. The Flea  
Scratch theme was  
Roaring 20s. The  
Fleas were greeted  
with a room all decked out "speakeasy" style with



gold and black glitz, and 20s era music. Hide Big Flea, Karren Ogg, installed new Crawler Polly Fogle, Johnnie Lopez’s mom, who wore her “Wanna be a Flea” signs.

*Decorations for our Roaring 20s Contest*



The Fleas were fined and dined with refreshments of cupcakes, “Fox-Trot Fizz,” “Speakeasy Soda,” and “Giggle Juice.” The Fleas, all bedazzled in their Flea Flapper outfits, danced into the DD Growl and provided the Dogs with candy for their Bone donations. The Fleas donated all fines and bones to the Texas Operation Little Angel Fund. Scratchy Flea, Brenda Tomonelli, reminded all to submit their nominations for the *Marie Williams Flea of the Year* to be awarded at the Department Convention in June.

The costumed Fleas then had to do the “Charleston” - knee-knocking and shaking their Flapper fringe for the judges.



*Flea Flappers Group: (L-R) Linda Blair, Jackie Deen, Brenda Tomonelli, Karren Ogg, Barbara Hixson, Marcia Ynman, & Toni Hurtado*

Big Flea Karren awarded the “Best Flapper Outfit” prizes to:



*Flea Flapper Costume Contest Winners: Jackie Deen, Toni Hurtado, & Linda Blair, with Big Flea Karren Ogg.*

Big Flea Karren invited all MODD Fleas to attend the Department of Texas Grand Scratch in Dallas in June where we will install new Flea Officers. She also announced that the Scratch theme will be “Flea-Circus-Carnival.” All Fleas should venture to Dallas with Circus/Carnival characters in mind (lion (dog) trainers, clowns, jugglers, trapeze artists, elephants, bearded lady). Be inventive. More Flea Fun to be had!!!

The Fleas also issue invites to Marine Corps League spouses/ladies to visit and share in our Flea Fun and see what the Auxiliary and the Fleas are all about. We would all welcome new members to join us in our very strong commitment to our Marines,

Veterans, children, and communities. See you in Big D.

**Reminder** - visit websites: [texasmcl.org](http://texasmcl.org), and [nationalmcla.org](http://nationalmcla.org), and [nationalmoddfleas.org](http://nationalmoddfleas.org) for more info.

## From the Front



### The Only Marine to Earn a Medal of Honor for Actions as a POW, Donald Cook was Truly Unbreakable in the Face of the Enemy

*War History Online*



**TO BE CLEAR**, there have been multiple Marines who displayed inexplicable gallantry in combat warranting a Medal of Honor before they were subsequently captured. However, if you are searching the halls of history for the one Marine Medal of Honor recipient whose actions as a POW are what earned him the medal you will only find Donald Cook.

In fact, Captain Cook was only in Vietnam for 18 days before he was captured. However, he would spend the next three years enduring harsh captivity at the hands of the North Vietnamese. Despite deteriorating health, he would often give his food and medicine to his fellow

prisoners in greater need. When questioned by the North Vietnamese, he never gave them more than his name, rank, service number, and date of birth. His captors didn't even know he was a Marine and just presumed him to be an Army Officer.

Refusing to cooperate, on multiple occasions, they would put a pistol to his head and on one such occasion Cook simply replied, "You can't kill me, only God can decide when I die." For his actions during his captivity and nothing else, Captain Cook was awarded the Medal of Honor.

### A Gifted Linguist

Donald Cook was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1934. After high school, he chose to attend St. Michael's College as he was a man deeply guided by his faith. While in college, he would prove quite the gifted linguist and was fluent in Latin, German, and French by the time he graduated. In 1957, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps and was assigned as a communications officer due to his natural gift with language.

He would serve as the officer-in-charge of an interrogation and translation team before being assigned as an intelligence officer with the Fleet Marine Force Pacific.

As the war in Vietnam began to ramp up, Captain Cook took a personal interest and began to study the Vietnamese language. By 1964, he was eager to volunteer for service in Vietnam to put his skills to use. Unfortunately for Donald Cook, his time as a free Marine in Vietnam would be remarkably short.

After only 18 days in country, Captain Cook and fellow Marines became engaged in a firefight with the North Vietnamese and after being shot in the leg, Cook passed out from the loss of blood.

When he awoke, he would find himself the first Marine Officer taken prisoner in the Vietnam War. By all accounts, the action in which he was captured displayed none of the characteristics one might associate with a Medal of Honor recipient. Rather, Cook's place among the gallant men in the history of war would come as a POW.





*U.S. Marines in Vietnam  
via commons.wikimedia.org*

### **Others Before Himself**

Shortly after capture, Cook had established himself as the senior officer among 10 other POWs and thus the legal spokesman for the group. Responsibility for leading the men through this ordeal would fall to him as well as official interactions with their captors.

The setting would be various jungle POW camps throughout Vietnam where each one seemed to be worse than the last. They were given meager rations of rice and fish quickly leading to malnourishment, sickness, and disease. As the senior officer, Cook would demand additional food and medicine with some success, but often at a high price to himself.

When food was scarce and medicine hard to come by, Cook would often ignore his own deteriorating physical health to feed and treat his fellow prisoners.



*American POWs in Vietnam 3/29/1973 via  
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/may/23/nixon-library-hosts-40th-reunion-vietnam-pows/?page=all>*

On more than one occasion when en route to a new POW camp, Cook would bear the burden of his fellow weaker prisoners packs to ensure they made it alive. Through his encouragement, leadership, and support his fellow prisoners would always make it. For Cook, it almost seemed unthinkable to give his captors the pleasure of his death or cooperation.

One fellow POW would describe his relentless resistance by saying, “If Captain Cook thought the Viet Cong were using his feces for fertilizer, he would have stopped crapping.”

But more than just care for his prisoners, he would lead them in their defiance towards their enemy. Under extreme duress, it is common for POWs to submit to behavior outside of the code of conduct. However, Cook never relented.

Despite harsher treatment for doing so, it was his policy to give them “the big four and nothing more.” Name, rank, service number, and date of birth is all the Vietnamese would ever learn about Donald Cook. However, the gifted linguist would work hard to stay one step ahead of his foe. He continued to learn and master the Vietnamese language while in captivity although he never once spoke it to his captors.

Fellow prisoners report that he often seemed to be in the minds of the guards due to his ability to listen in on conversations unbeknownst to them.

### **Fighting Until the End**

He helped lead a failed escape attempt on at least one occasion, but due to the weak physical condition of the prisoners they were unable to make it. He was severely beaten as the senior officer for doing so and it was on this occasion that a pistol was placed to his head and he gave his famous line “You can’t kill me, only God can decide when I die”. And as fate would have it, Captain Cook would prove that statement true.



*USS Donald Cook Guided Missile Destroyer at sea  
via commons.wikimedia.org*

It wasn't the beatings, the starvation, or a bullet that took Captain Cook's life. Rather, it was the mere bite of an individual mosquito. Captain Cook died of malaria in December 1967 just shy of three years in captivity.

It would be the accounts of his fellow POWs that took his story to the world and in 1980, Captain Cook was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Jimmy Carter.

It was presented to his widow with his children looking on and reminded a nation to be thankful that such men like him existed. It is a story of one's faith, commitment to his fellow prisoners, and his determination to fight until the very end.



## Marine Corps History

### THE MARINE CORPS WAR MEMORIAL

(Excerpt from *Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines*, copyright 2001 Marion F. Sturkey)

**RIISING FROM** hallowed ground, the Marine Corps War Memorial overlooks the Potomac River at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. It is the largest bronze monument in the world. Arguably, it is also the most famous monument in the world. And for all who have *earned the title*, a pilgrimage to the monument is *required*.

First, a brief historical review: In the closing years of World War II, U.S. Marines fought and bled their way across the Pacific Ocean toward Japan. The Japanese knew their tiny volcanic island, Iwo Jima, would be attacked. Its crucial airfields lay only 650 miles from Tokyo, just over two hours flying time. So, under the command of LtGen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi, Japan's best and brightest mining engineers turned remote Iwo Jima into a seemingly impregnable fortress. In the volcanic rock, laborers blasted out 16 miles of tunnels, connecting 1,500 rooms. The engineers built underground hospitals

and supply rooms under hundreds of feet of solid impenetrable rock. These were linked to over a thousand fortified artillery and antiaircraft batteries, and machinegun and mortar bunkers.

*Impregnable*, they believed.

Preliminary bombardment by the 6-inch guns of U.S. Navy battleships had a negligible effect on the volcanic island fortress. Nonetheless, on 19 February 1945, the Marines stormed the beach. Many never even made it to the shore. From hundreds of fortifications, many atop 550-foot high Mount Suribachi, the Japanese rained a hail of rockets, artillery, mortar, and automatic weapons fire down upon the attacking force.



*LtGen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi*



*Marines storming beach at Iwo Jima*

For both the Japanese and the Marines, the island became a death house. Yet, by the fourth day the Marines of 3rd Platoon, Echo Company, had clawed their way to the summit of Mount Suribachi. Here they raised a small American flag. Soon a larger flag was obtained. Five Marines and a Navy corpsman mounted the new flag on a piece of pipe. Together they raised this flag atop the former Japanese bastion. The six flag-raisers represented a cross-section of America:

- PFC Ira Hayes, a full-blooded Pima Indian from Arizona.
- Sgt. Michael Strank, a Pennsylvania coal mine worker.
- Cpl. Harlon Block, a draftee from the Texas oil fields.

- PFC Franklin Sousley, a 19-year-old Kentucky farm boy.
- PFC Rene Gagnon, a New Englander rejected by the Navy.
- PM2 (corpsman) John Bradley, a funeral director's apprentice.



*Felix de Weldon, sculpting the Marine Corps War Memorial*



*Joe Rosenthal, AP photographer*

Joe Rosenthal, of the Associated Press, photographed the men as they raised the flag. That picture, stopping time for 1/400th of a second, would become the most famous photograph of all time.

After 36 terrible days, Iwo Jima finally fell to the Marines.

Of the *forty men* in 3rd Platoon who stormed the beach, *only four* escaped being killed or seriously wounded on Iwo Jima. Of the six men who raised the flag, Cpl. Block, Sgt. Strank, and PFC Sousley were all killed-in-action within days. They are among the 6,821 Americans who never left Iwo Jima alive. Further, an *additional* 19,217 Americans were maimed or grievously wounded.

In July 1947 the U.S. Congress authorized a Marine Corps War Memorial, based on the timeless photograph by Joe Rosenthal. The new memorial was sculpted by Felix de Weldon. In 108 separate pieces, it was cast in a New York foundry and then trucked to Washington. Ground-breaking and assembly began on 19 February 1954, the ninth anniversary of the Iwo Jima landing. The final cost of \$850,000 was borne entirely by donations, 96% of them from U.S. Marines.

Burnished into the base of polished black Swedish granite, in gold letters, is the inscription, "*Uncommon Valor Was a Common Virtue.*" On the opposite side, flanked by Marine Corps emblems, is the additional inscription: "*In Honor and Memory of the Men of the United States Marine Corps Who Have Given Their Lives to Their Country Since 10 November 1775.*"

Inscribed in gold are the names of the campaigns in which Marines have fought since 1775. Dwight D. Eisenhower, U.S. President, delivered the dedication address on 10 November 1954, the 179th birthday of the Corps.

The five Marines and their corpsman are forever immortalized in bronze, raising the American flag on Iwo Jima for their Corps and Country. They represent the *supreme sacrifice* of all Marines who went before them, and all who follow. They live eternally. They live on *hallowed ground*. Never forget.



*Marine Corps War Memorial*

# U.S. Marine Corps News

## Near ISIS Front, U.S. Marine Artillerymen ‘Fire Every Day’

By Andrew Tilghman, *Military Times*  
April 7, 2016...



*U.S. Marines operating at Firebase Bell fire an M777A2 Howitzer at an ISIS infiltration route March 18. (Photo: Cpl. Andre Dakis/Marine Corps)*

### DAY·TO·DAY LIFE

in Iraq is busy for the 100-plus U.S. Marine artillerymen who are forward deployed at a firebase near the Islamic State group’s front lines southeast of Mosul.

“They fire every day in support of Iraqi maneuvers,” Army Col. Steve Warren said of the firebase near the Kurdish-controlled city of Makhmour.

“They fire anything from high explosives to suppress the enemy, to smoke to screen friendly movement, to illumination rounds to help patrol in the evenings. So they are fully engaged,” Warren, a Baghdad-based Defense Department spokesman, told reporters Thursday.

For now, the base, informally known as “Firebase Bell,” is a one-of-a-kind operation for U.S. troops in Iraq. But top military officials say there may soon be more troops setting up similar outposts to provide advancing Iraqi combat units with offensive fire support for operations around the Islamic State stronghold of Mosul.

Last month fewer than 200 Marines set up the outpost, which has at least four M777A2 howitzer artillery guns. It marked the first time since U.S. forces returned to Iraq in 2014 that Americans

have set up a quasi-permanent presence on the ground outside the perimeter of a major Iraqi military installation. The firebase is about 15 miles from territory controlled by the Islamic State group, also known as ISIS or ISIL.



*The Iraqi army has begun its campaign to clear the Islamic State stronghold of Mosul. Phase One calls for retaking areas between Makhmour and Qayara, which would cut the supply lines to Bayji and Hawija. (Photo: John Bretschneider/Staff Source: Staff research, The Associated Press)*

The Marines are supporting the Iraqi army’s new operation to push the ISIS front west and seize key terrain along the Tigris River south of Mosul, the militant group’s primary stronghold in Iraq.

Pentagon officials say there may be more situations where the U.S. would either open a base or reopen one that was used in the earlier Iraq war.

“As Iraqi security forces progress toward isolating Mosul, there may be a situation in which there is another base,” said Rear. Adm. Andrew Lewis, Joint Staff’s Vice Director for Operations.

Additional outposts would provide artillery fire from behind the front lines, Lewis said Wednesday.

“Their mission is to provide fires and support of Iraqi forces, just like we do with airplanes, just it’s surface-to-surface fires versus air-to-surface fires,” he said. “Same concept, very accurate.”

The Marines’ firebase is located very close to other Iraqi military facilities near Makhmour, where the Iraqi army has been amassing large

combat units in preparation for operations around Mosul.

The Marines there have faced repeated attacks from ISIS fighters using long-range weaponry or who infiltrate into areas near the firebase.

A rocket attack killed Marine Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin on March 19<sup>th</sup>, just days after the Marines arrived at the small base. Cardin and the other Marines there were part of the 26<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is currently deployed aboard the USS Kearsarge, an amphibious assault ship in the U.S. Central Command region.

But direct attacks on Firebase Bell have dropped off during the past couple of weeks as the Iraqis have pushed west and attacked several ISIS-controlled villages, Warren said.

“The enemy is being pressured in a much more close fight, which has resulted in a significant reduction in the longer-range rockets that they fired at the firebase,” Warren said.

Officially the firebase is known as the Karasoar Counterfire Complex.



*U.S. Marines with Task Force Spartan, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), on Firebase Bell, Iraq, fire an M777A2 Howitzer at an ISIS infiltration route March 18, 2016. (Photo: Cpl. Andre Dakis/Marine Corps)*

The Marines are supporting an Iraqi-led offensive that began on March 24<sup>th</sup> and has made slow and limited progress. The Iraqi units have struggled to seize the small ISIS-controlled village of al Nasr.

“They’re in this kind of back-and-forth over

Nasr. They’ve advanced. They’ve withdrawn. And now they’re in the process of advancing again,” Warren said.

The Iraqis main goal for the current operation is to seize a patch of territory along the Tigris River south of Mosul, which would cut one of ISIS’s key supply lines between Mosul and its territory to the south and east.

A spate of local reports from the front near Makhmour and Nasr suggest the Iraqis units have suffered from some desertions and some forward-deployed infantry troops are not fighting aggressively.

Warren downplayed those reports and noted that these Iraqi units are seeing combat for the first time.

“There’s always going to be some ‘getting your legs under you’ and that is what we’re seeing now,” he said.

## Americanism Scrapbooks



Juanita O’Dell, *Americanism* Chairman  
(940) 549-3944 (H)  
[juanita.odell@texasmcl.org](mailto:juanita.odell@texasmcl.org)

**DETACHMENT**  
**AMERICANISM** scrapbooks  
should be turned in at the  
MCL Registration Desk

**NO LATER THAN**  
**NOON ON FRIDAY,**  
**JUNE 24TH!** at the Convention.

Books should include all activities (*from June 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> ONLY*) that the Detachment participated in or supported to further patriotism in their local, state, or national communities. The “Americanism Questionnaire Criteria” form (**that must be in the front of the scrapbook and signed by the Detachment Commandant AND Detachment Americanism Chairman**), the “Coversheets” (**that must appear in front of each**

section), as well as the instruction sheet can be downloaded from the Department web site.

# FYI

## Victor T. Fisher Award

Submitted by Bernie O'Dell  
Southern Division Adjutant/Paymaster  
(940) 549-3944 (H)  
bernieodell@sbcglobal.net

### THE VICTOR T. FISHER AWARD

is a Board of Trustees Commendation. It is one that can be awarded by ANY National, Division Vice, or Department Commandant to a member of *their Board of Trustees* who best exemplifies the principles of the United States Marine Corps, Marine Corps League and Marine Fisher. The candidate can be recommended and approved by the National Commandant, Division Vice Commandant, or Department Commandant.



The question comes to mind... who was Victor T. Fisher and why was this award named after him? The following is information that I have discovered in the past few months. I interviewed several Marines and received many stories, all positive. Time has passed and there are still many blanks to be filled in. Here is what I know to be true...

Marine Fisher, born August 8, 1922, was a long time Sergeant-At-Arms for both the Department of New York and the National Marine Corps League. Victor was a Marines' Marine and totally squared away. He was totally dedicated to being the best Sergeant-At-Arms that he could be.



He was never political, never ran for any other office, and was totally dedicated to the position of Sergeant-At-Arms. Victor was always a true gentleman and could get Marines to comply with regulations and like it. He was never a Devil Dog as that would have taken away from the job he loved.

He did his job so well that he received many awards... National Marine of the Year 1992, Honorary Commandant Department of New York, a commendation from the State of New York for his service to our Country and the League, Department of New York Marine of the Year, and Distinguished Citizen Gold.

Marine Fisher is remembered for his sword salute which he rendered for each fallen Marine at the Memorial Service at the National Memorial Services that he organized and so proudly took part in. Victor was also a mentor to many but was a special mentor to Marine Penny Weston. When the Department of New York Marine Corps League got license plates Victor got plate #10.

Penny, a very close friend of Victor, received that plate from Victor's wife June when he passed. Penny still keeps a picture of Victor inside her red jacket to always remember him.

Victor, a WWII Marine Sergeant and recipient of the Purple Heart, passed away on May 28, 1995, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on July 25, 1995. Penny and Paul Hastings attended that funeral service.

How did the award come about? Before 2010 there was no Division Marine of the Year award so the Department of New York came up with the first Victor T. Fisher Award for the Northeast Division Marine of the Year. The Commandants of the Departments in the Northeast Division selected the first recipients and later a society was formed to select the recipients thereafter.

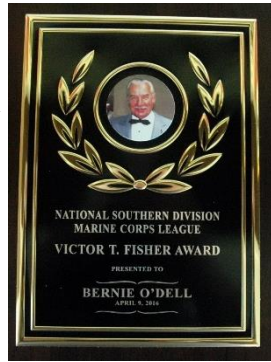
Sometime later National took note of this award and adopted it as we know it today. Although a smaller group of Marines are eligible to receive this, it still holds the prestige of being one of the highest awards you can receive in our League. Many hold it



in the same regard as they do Marine of the Year.

On the official plaque Victor is wearing a blue tuxedo. Back in the day formal dress was the Uniform of the Day; not everyone had dress mess uniforms.

PNC Paul Hastings received one of the first of these awards from Penny Weston. After receiving it he told her that she was not yet authorized to present the award because it had not been approved but he was not going to give it back.



My thanks to Penny Weston, Helen Hicks, Paul Hastings, Bob Becker, and Meg Thoburn for their input and stories they shared about Marine Fisher.

When I began this search for information about Marine Fisher I had no idea I would receive this award at the Southern Division Conference. I am very proud to have received this honor and thank all those who have helped to make the Southern Division a success.



**MCL National Convention**

Hyatt Regency Tulsa (full)

**Overflow Hotel:** Courtyard by Marriott  
415 S. Boston Ave. • Tulsa, OK 74103  
(918) 508-7400 • **August 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**



**Modern Day Marine**

Marine Corps Base • Quantico, VA  
**September 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016**



**Upcoming Events**



**Department of Texas State Convention**

MCM Hotel Elegante  
2330 W. Northwest Hwy • Dallas, TX 75220  
(214) 351-4477 • **June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**DEADLINE**

for  
**Texas Marine Summer Edition**  
will be  
**July 15<sup>th</sup>**

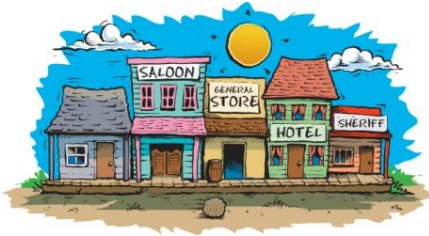


Please submit articles/photos to Juanita O'Dell @ 515 Hall St., Graham, TX 76450  
OR [juanita.odell@texasmcl.org](mailto:juanita.odell@texasmcl.org)



# DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS CONVENTION

June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 -- Dallas, TX



**HOTEL:** MCM Elegante Hotel & Suites • (214) 351-4477  
2330 W. Northwest Hwy., Dallas, TX 75220  
**RATES:** \$90+tax (includes full hot breakfast buffet)

**DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS: 6/8/2016**



**SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET:** \$35 per person

Choices: Roasted Tenderloin  
Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast  
Grilled Atlantic Salmon



**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION & BANQUET: 6/1/2016**

Make checks payable to "Capt. John Yancey Det. #631"  
Mail to: 1406 Nighthawk Dr., Little Elm, TX 75068



**CONVENTION GUEST SPEAKER:** Major General B. Don Lynch

*I am pleased to announce that all indications are that the Convention hosting Detachment, Capt. John Yancey, has secured a very interesting guest speaker for our Convention. Major General B. Don Lynch will be the guest speaker for the Convention Banquet. Having served in Vietnam he is a perfect speaker for our Convention, since we are dedicating the event to the Vietnam Veteran. This guest speaker is another good reason to encourage our members to attend.*



**Department of Texas Commandant Charles Ynman**

**CONTACT:** Felix Salmeron (AKA Sal) – (469) 583-0191 – [mar463@aol.com](mailto:mar463@aol.com)