

TEXAS

Charles Ynman
Commandant



MARINE

Department of TEXAS
Marine Corps League

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Commandant's Corner

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THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS begins the calendar year with the unexpected passing of our Department Chaplain, Dennis Bradford. We not only lost an important member of our Board of Trustees, but also a dear fellow member and friend, who in his caring and thoughtful way, contributed tirelessly to our League. We worked on many projects together and I will miss him very much.

To serve as Department Chaplain, I have selected Melody Bronson to fill the remainder of Chaplain Bradford's term. Melody is the Commandant of the Big D Detachment and has continuously demonstrated sound leadership. I ask each member to give her all the support possible.

Welcome aboard Chaplain Melody Bronson.



Your Board of Trustees has been enthusiastically working to improve and grow the Department of Texas. Each Board member has their own responsibilities, but they have all worked cooperatively as a group. Sometimes, the work they perform goes unnoticed. While we owe them our gratitude, we also recognize that they cannot do their jobs without the support and active participation of all our members.

The Department of Texas remains in good order and on budget. Along with solving many day-to-day issues for the membership, we are working on the formation of two additional Detachments and attempting to reinstate the non-profit status of another. We continue to increase our membership and assist existing Detachments with membership and retention. The Board of Trustees is here to serve you and I encourage you to contact your Board when assistance is necessary.

As all of you are aware, we embarked on the project of replacing our Department flags, poles, stands, etc. With the help of our Sergeant-At-Arms Chris Borel, we received a donation of our American Flag, poles and stand. We were still lacking the Department Flag. We entrusted Chris with the duty of procuring this flag, and he has done a terrific job of finding a provider. Over the last three months, he reviewed and investigated twelve proposals. The final decision and purchase order was given to Kronberg's Flags and Flagpoles in Houston, Texas. The final price was \$1,400 for the flag and \$95 for art and layout. We expect to take delivery in six to eight weeks. Our plan is to have a Flag presentation at the State Convention with the new flags. We thank everyone who worked on this project, and especially our Sergeant-At-Arms Chris Borel. I must also extend a "Thank You" to his wife Robin who sewed two new flag carrying cases. Please inform your Detachments of our progress with our flags and inform them of the opportunity to assist the Department with the cost.

GROWTH

Thank You

I will personally take delivery of the flag on behalf of the Department.

Our focus is now the Department of Texas State Convention, hosted by the Capt. John Yancey Detachment. The dates for the Convention are June 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2016. It will be held at the Elegante Hotel in Dallas.



I encourage all members to make plans to attend and join us for a terrific time. Please consult the Department of Texas website for registration and hotel information.

I find it so interesting that the United States Marine Corps was formed in a bar named Tun Tavern. Marines still gather in pubs, bars and taverns to share sea stories. Let us not break this tradition.



Tun Tavern

As always, I am humbled to walk among the ranks of other Marines and I hope that the Department of Texas Officers and Board of Trustees can continue to exceed your expectations.



Senior's Segment

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HAPPY NEW YEAR MARINES!

2015 was one busy and educational year for me and I do not expect that 2016 will be any different. The good thing is that most everything I was involved in was productive and usually enjoyable.



At the Department's Fall Conference we conducted classes on many of the administrative requirements and reports that Detachments need to submit. As usual some units are very good about submitting the required paper work. Then we have the others that fail to submit or submit incomplete or inaccurate forms, which then places an additional burden on the person who is receiving.



As the Department of Texas Sr. Vice one of my responsibilities is the management of the Activities Reports submitted by the Department Detachments and Youth Activities within the Department.



The Activity Report has been redone and is on the Department of Texas website. All that is required is going to the menu on the website and clicking on "Documents and Forms." Then go to the form needed and click on "Download." It is not a hard form to fill out. If you have problems, assistance is a phone call away.



At present, less than 40% of the Detachments are submitting activity reports. That is unsatisfactory and unfortunate for these Detachments. There is a lot of good work going on within these Detachments and it is unfair to their membership that they do not get recognized for their efforts because someone does not fulfill the responsibilities of their billet. We can do better.

Additionally, youth activities are now reported on the activity report. The old Youth Activity Report has been deleted. I have not found too many Detachments reporting any youth activities and I know that units work with the Young Marines, Boy and Girl Scouts as well as JROTC units.

I've been working on guidelines and instructions for the Activity Report and hope to have something completed in three or four weeks; however, time is my main enemy.



Hope to see you all at the Department of Texas Convention.



Junior's Journal

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HELLO MY FRIENDS...

I pray that you and your families had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for your service and your time that you give to the League. I know that sometimes we have conflicts with our schedules between work, family and League functions but don't be discouraged...

we are a Brother and Sisterhood of Marines. This cannot be undone; we are connected from that day we first earned the title *Marine*. Many have tried but we earned it with Honor, Courage and Commitment. We are **MARINES**.



Be on the lookout for other Jarheads, ask them why they haven't joined the Marine Corps League yet. You see them every day; they have a patch, tattoo, jacket, cover, bumper sticker that proudly says *Marine*. Chase them down, strike up a conversation or leave a MCL business card on their vehicle.



Let this be the year we end the MCL being the best kept secret in the Corps. With the new order that National will pay for Active Duty Marines' memberships and the USMC spreading the word to Marines about the League, we should see an increase in membership with new blood and hopefully new generations that will keep our League going for many years to come.



The League is about Marines, family members of Marines, and our community. No

matter what you do, remember that you have at the very least helped by joining the League.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to call or email me.

Until we meet again, be safe, and keep your powder dry.



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.



Chaplain's Comments

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MARINES..

It is with saddened but honored heart that I have accepted the position as the Department Chaplain. Dennis Bradford was very near and dear to me and I miss him greatly. I know we all were so saddened and shocked as we learned the news that Dennis had been called to his final duty station on December 10, 2015. As Dennis stated in the last newsletter: "Semper Fi not only means 'Always Faithful,' it also means 'Always Remember' and Dennis will always be remembered. He was an outstanding Marine! Semper Fi Dennis!

I will do my best to take up where he left off. I can never fill his shoes but I will do my best to honor him and make him proud as I carry on the duties of the Department Chaplain. I appreciate all of your help and support through this process and the remainder of this term.

Getting down to business... just a reminder to all Detachment Chaplains to fill out the Notice of Death form as soon as possible after one of your Marines have passed on and get it sent to the Department Chaplain.

My information as the Department Chaplain should be getting updated on the Department website so I can be contacted and sent the proper forms.

This information is also for the MODD... the Pound Dog Trainers need to submit the Notice of Death forms to the Pack Dog Trainer for it to be processed onto the Kennel.

Until next time, take care of yourselves, your family and your fellow Marines.



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Until next time, take care of yourselves, your family and your fellow Marines.



Dennis Michael Bradford



Dennis Michael Bradford died at his home on Thursday, December 10th, 2015. He was 67 and a resident of Nacogdoches. Dennis was a Marine and a scholar, and although born in New Hampshire he loved to say “that I got to Texas as fast as I could.”

He taught and loved to study, read and talk about Texas history. He will be missed by more friends and family that he would have ever realized. Services were held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 13th, at First Methodist Church.

Dennis was born in Portsmouth, NH, on September 17th, 1948, to Thomas L. and Stacia (Metrick). He lived in New Hampshire until 1966, when he moved to Texas. Dennis joined the Marine Corps after high school, and served in Vietnam from 1969-1970. He was an air-traffic controller as a Marine and served for seven years. He left active duty as a SSgt.

Dennis received a BA in Philosophy from the University of Houston (1985), a JD also from the University of Houston (1988), and an MA in history from Stephen F. Austin State University (2000). He also partially completed doctoral work in history at the University of Mississippi.

Dennis met Mary Frances Beall in New Orleans in 1982, and they married on September 3rd, 1983, in Houston, Texas... a union that had recently celebrated 32 years together. Anyone who had ever observed Mary Frances and Dennis together knew immediately that they were not only husband and wife, but also best friends. You often did not see one without the other, and you also never saw them not thoroughly thrilled to be in each other's company.

Dennis was a devoted and very proud father, one who never tired of expressing his love and pride in the accomplishments of son Richard and daughters Dawn and Stephanie. Their photos adorned the walls of his campus office, and he beamed whenever he spoke of them.

His military service was a formative and important part of Dennis' life, and he continued to

honor his commitment until the day of his death. He was a charter member of the Pineywoods Detachment #1189 of the Marine Corps League, which was organized in 2005, and he also served that body as Detachment Commandant. He was the permanent Master of Ceremonies for the Pineywoods Detachment's annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and a yearly participant in the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Drive at Christmas. He had helped to collect toys for the drive just days before his death.

He was also very active in the Marine Corps League at the Department (Texas) level, serving at various times as the Jr. Vice Commandant, the Department Judge Advocate, and at the time of his death as the Chaplain for the Department of Texas. He was also the past Worthy Pack Leader for the Department of Texas of the Marine Corps Military Order of the Devil Dogs, which is a social and honor organization that holds events that collect money each year for a children's charity located in the host city of the Marine Corps League's National Convention.

Dennis was trained in the law, but his love was the study of history and teaching. While he was completing his MA in history from SFA, he began to work as an instructor in American history at Kilgore College, and also taught classes at Angelina College. He became an adjunct professor of history in the SFA Department of History in 2005, where he taught U.S. history and Texas history. Some of his colleagues often teased him about “the New England Yankee who taught Texas history” to hundreds of admiring and satisfied students. He loved the give and take of the classroom, and he was always there for students who needed encouragement, a little “fatherly advice,” or just to talk. It was truly his calling in life.

His service to SFA extended beyond the classroom to Dennis' other passion: his commitment to veterans. Dennis was a frequent mentor to other veterans on campus, and would spend time in the Veterans Service Center on campus, as he said, “Just in case someone needs to talk about something.”

He had just recently retired from SFA following the summer semester of 2015. Dennis published scholarly articles in the East Texas

Historical Journal, and was an active member of the American Historical Association, the Southern Historical Association and the East Texas Historical Association, for which he had served as a board member and chair of a number of committees, the most recent being the Archie McDonald Scholarship Committee.

Dennis loved the outdoors. He fished whenever he could and counted down the days to hunting season. When he was not enjoying the peace and solitude of the outdoors, you would find him in his shop leatherworking or painting. Among the many other things he was, Dennis was also something of an artist, parceling out his creations among friends and family.

Dennis Bradford was a gentleman, a Marine, a scholar and a humanitarian. He was a faithful husband, a proud father, a devoted Christian and patriot. His passing is a loss for those left behind, but Dennis would have told all to not despair, as he knew in death he would take his place for eternity with his heavenly father.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas L. Bradford and Stacia Metrick. He is survived by wife, Mary Frances, of Nacogdoches; son Richard Doyle Williams and his fiancée, Miranda Bryant, of Dallas; daughter Dawn Marie Henderson, and her husband, Tommy, of Houston; daughter Stephanie Renee Williams and her fiancée, Timothy Chambers, of Lufkin; two grandchildren, Zackary Johnston and Luke Henderson; as well as his sister Barbara Ann Harmon and her husband, Rand, and niece Mae Harmon of Boulder, CO.; and his aunt Mary Hanscom and her husband, Linc Hanscom, of Portsmouth, NH.



Dennis in Alabama 2012



Dennis January 2015



Dennis July 2015

(Photos provided by Brenda Tomonelli)

Sergeant-At-Arms Summary

Chris Borel

Department of Texas Sergeant-At-Arms
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UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT FLAG...

The search for a company to manufacture a Department of Texas Flag rose to 12 different companies. After countless hours of phone tag, e-mailing, back and forth corrections on sketches, etc., we finally narrowed it down to the company that will be making our flag - KRONBERG's Flags and Flagpoles of Houston, Texas.

We've completed the contract on the flag details. We're getting a 4' x 6' double-faced flag with pole sleeve and gold fringe. The Eagle, Globe, and Anchor is to be 28" wide by 31" tall with two large gold scrolls and a small blue scroll. The top large gold scroll will state: "MARINE CORPS LEAGUE" in red letters. The bottom large gold scroll will state: "DEPARTMENT of TEXAS" in red letters. The small blue scroll in the eagle's beak will state: "SEMPER FIDELIS" in black letters.

The cost is to be \$1,495 total. That is with us picking up the flag from the company and using our tax exemption number. We will be looking at six to eight weeks for the manufacturing time frame from the time they receive the check for the down payment.

I am looking forward to displaying our new flag at the next Convention for all of our members to see.





**Current
Department
Flag**



**New
Department
Flag**



Veteran's Voice

Texas Veterans Newsletter is available to any MCL member or any Veteran. It pertains to the Veterans of the State of Texas and is available at www.tvc.state.tx.us.



*Submitted by Juanita O'Dell, Editor
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ONE OF THE highlights since publication of the November 2015 newsletter is:



Authorities Waive Fees for Military Spouses at TX Veteran Cemeteries

*By St. John Barned-Smith, Houston Chronicle
November 4, 2015...*



Burial fees for spouses or eligible dependents of servicemen have been waived at Texas veterans' cemeteries, one of a handful of policy

changes implemented this month.

State officials have also expanded visiting hours and relaxed flower rules, according to a news release from the Texas General Land Office and Veterans Land Board.

Visiting hours will now run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Flower pickup will occur monthly instead of semimonthly.

The policies officially went into effect November 1, according to the news release.



**Texas Land
Commissioner
George P. Bush**

“Sometimes the right thing to do is an easy choice, and this is one of those instances,” Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush said in the release.

“By waiving all spousal fees at our State Veterans Cemeteries we’re doing right by our veterans, and taking another step to ensure we continue to give our best for the men and women who represent the best of us.”

The policy change means that military families across the state will no longer have to pay a \$745 fee to bury a serviceman or woman’s spouse or eligible dependents.

Fees will also be waived for ash spreading or interments of spouses.

Over the last decade, about 320 spouses or dependents have been laid to rest in veterans’ cemeteries every year, according to GLO spokeswoman Brittany Eck.

“This is the common sense, right thing to do,” said Eric Brown, director of the State Veterans Cemeteries program. “It’s about doing the right thing for our military veterans and their families to honor their service and sacrifice, and all three of these policy changes help accomplish our efforts to do that.”

Division/District/Detachment Digest

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Bernie O'Dell, Chairman
Southern Division Marine of the Year Society
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**NOMINATIONS
NEEDED!**

Your nomination(s)
for **Southern Division
Marine of the Year** is
due **March 1st, 2016.**



MARCH 1

I know there are Marines out there in our Division worthy of this award. Please send the nominations to me via email (shown above) or mail to 515 Hall St., Graham, TX 76450.

(Members of the Southern Division MOY Society have voted to extend the deadline due to the fact that the Southern Division Conference is scheduled for April this year vs. March in previous years.)

Randy Rigg
Southern Division Nat'l. Vice Commandant
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MARINES...

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. It is a new year which means that I will be reviewing how we did last year with our membership, and all the other factors I use to measure the health of the Southern Division. I know from my preliminary evaluation that the Detachments in Texas have again done a good job of keeping up on their Return of Investment and their IRS paperwork, so keep up the good work.

Starting in 2015 I started to monitor PLM audits as another indicator on how Detachments

are doing and I was surprised at the number of Detachments that do not submit their PLM audits. Marines, this is monies that your Detachment is

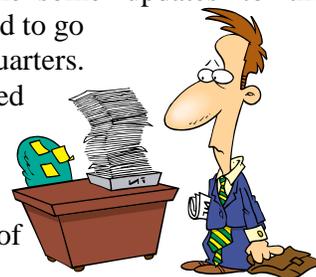


entitled to that helps offset the annual dues you no longer receive from that member when they become a life member of the League.

I know with some small Detachments that this does not amount to much money, but with larger Detachments with a number of life members it can be a lot of money. If you need any help with the process just contact your Department Paymaster and let's aim for 100% in 2016.

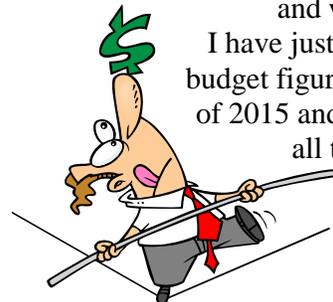
Last fall several of the members of the Board of Trustees were given limited access to the membership database for evaluation and feedback. Based on that feedback, there is a plan to open the database to the Department Paymasters so that they have the ability to make some updates to the database without the need to go through National Headquarters.

This access will be limited to such things as address changes and minor membership data correction, but this type of work is what has caused



the backlogs at National Headquarters with the process of membership transmittals. I am hoping that this access can be granted very soon and plan to support it at the next Board Meeting in March.

The National Sr. Vice Commandant has developed a transmittal best practices policy and procedure to document the membership problems that we have all seen. As of the writing of this article he has been able to identify a number of problems throughout the system and has been working to correct those issues. If you have any membership issue please start with your Paymaster and work the issue up to him.



I have just received the preliminary budget figures for the last six months of 2015 and I want to pass on to you all that while we made some important changes in the organization last year we are still not out of the woods yet. Our most

important source of income is through our membership and I would like to see our continued effort by Detachment Jr. Vice Commandants to develop those programs to not only bring in new members, but recognize those members that are out there recruiting. We also were given an opportunity last fall when I sent out to each Department a list by Detachment of past members going back to 2010. This listing makes a good possible contact list and an opportunity to bring back a member. I would really like to see one of our Detachments walk away with that \$1,000 prize the National Jr. Vice Commandant has offered in his 2015-2016 recruiting program.

DISTRICT 2

John Grafflin • *District Vice Commandant*
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MOST OF US have recovered from the holidays and Toys for Tots and should be ready to take on the New Year. Thanks to all Detachments in District 2 for their hard work this past year.

I had the pleasure of spending time with Vincent Johnson, visiting the area from Detachment #803 in Charleston, SC, and Patrick Murray who just moved to the Grand Prairie area. Patrick is a Marine Veteran who contacted us looking to learn about the League and perhaps join a local Detachment. I invited both of them to join me for lunch at the Capt. John Yancey Detachment's December meeting (an annual potluck event) and they both accepted. I am proud to announce that Patrick is now a member of the League.



I was also directly contacted by a League member looking for a local Detachment to join; Bob Petka from Detachment #1209 in Burlington, NC. Bob was serving as Sr. Vice when he moved to Heath and is a Life Member and PDD. He has

transferred his membership to the Terrell Detachment. Bob jumped right in and helped out with the TFT Media Event at the Harbor in Rockwall.

Remember, the State Convention is in Dallas this year, the Southern Division Conference is in Oklahoma City, and the National in Tulsa. What a great opportunity lies before you to attend all three in one year so close to home. Don't miss out. Hope to see many of you there.

DISTRICT 8

Bill Hamby • *District Vice Commandant*
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Words cannot express my feelings relative to the sudden and unexpected demise of one of the finest Marines I have ever had the pleasure of knowing – **Dennis Bradford**. He is and will be missed by many, so keep the "Home Light" burning Dennis; your comrades will be joining you in due time.

As a result of personal health issues, the activities of the District Vice during the last three months were somewhat limited. However, I would like to comment on another successful Marine Corps Ball in Tyler, Texas, on November 7th, 2015.

The planning and organization of the 240th Anniversary Ball was carried out under the direction of Major Richard Hardin, USMC (Ret), a member of the Rose City Detachment. The entire event was well planned to include the Guest of Honor, LtCol. Allen West, USA (Ret), and former Senator of Florida, who is now a resident of Texas. We were also honored with the attendance of Department Commandant Charles Ynman and his wife, and the Jr. Vice Commandant Charles R. Bones and his wife. There were well over 350 people in attendance.

The eight Detachments in the District all

remain active and continue to function with little or no difficulty. Perhaps the two most active are the Hopkins County Detachment and the Jacksonville Detachment, and they never seem to lack for something to do in the community. It should be noted that a Detachment's activities make a major contribution to **new membership**.

Plans have been underway for a couple of months to organize a new Detachment in Houston County. A recent visit to **Crocket** set the date of January 16th, 2016, to have the initial organizational meeting. If prior commitments are upheld, all necessary paperwork for a new Detachment Charter will be on the way.



**BIG D DETACHMENT
DALLAS**



Submitted by Melody Bronson,
Commandant
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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE

Big D Detachment!

I would like to start off with saying how saddened we were to learn about the passing of our dear friend and brother Marine, Dennis Bradford. He was a wonderful man and friend to all who knew him and will be missed so very much. Semper Fi Dennis.

Our Detachment was quite busy as we were bringing 2015 to a close. On November 4th, we were honored guests at the Rotary Club of Dallas 11th Annual Salute to America's Veterans. On November 11th we participated in the Dallas Veterans Day Parade.

Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving!!



December arrived and on December 4th we participated in the Grapevine Parade of Lights and then came our busy week of Toys for Tots!! A big "Thank You" and appreciation goes to Big D Board of Trustee member Linda Shook, who is one of the local Toys for Tots coordinators and Big D



Big D Toys for Tots Workers

representative. We had another huge successful year in both our collections of money and toys. Our Christmas Luncheon and

Officer Installation was December 20th.

My dear friend Dennis Bradford was to be our Installation Officer. Due to his passing, our own Helen Hicks (Past National Commandant and a Past National Marine of the Year) did the honors of installing our 2016

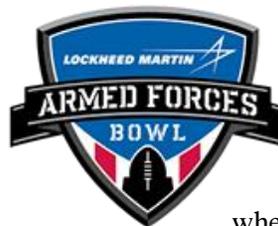
Officers. Several awards were given out to include: Certificates of Appreciation, Outstanding Associate Member recognitions, Distinguished Meritorious Awards and Marine of the Year.



Helen Hicks installing Melody as Commandant

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas!

We wrapped our year being part of the 2015 Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl played at the TCU stadium in Ft. Worth



where all veterans can attend the game for free. Before the game, there is a Veterans Village set up right outside the stadium

where there are several veteran booths. Our Big D tent/booth was very visible with our new tent and our Big D banners all around it. We got quite a bit of Marine visitors! So we were able to do lots of Marine Corps League recruiting, handing out Marine Corps League pamphlets, business cards and membership forms.

Happy New Year!

**COMANCHE PEAK DETACHMENT
GRANBURY**

Submitted by Ray Beard, *Commandant*
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THE LAST QUARTER of 2015 was

just like a whirlwind. It started with our Detachment donating a trailer to the MCJROTC program in the Granbury High School.



Then we held a cake cutting on the 240th Marine Corps Birthday that coincided with drawing the winning ticket for the 30/30 Henry rifle that was the centerpiece of our fundraising. The winner was Henry Kulow of Cleburne, Texas.



Presenting a \$1,000 donation to Mission Granbury for fuel and heaters for the people in need.

And we ended the year with a very successful Toys for Tots campaign. We served 11 charities and facilitated the delivery of over 5,000 toys to the children in Hood and Somervell Counties. We held 12 events collecting and presenting toys.



**DEANE HAWKINS DETACHMENT
EL PASO**

Submitted by Robert Way, *Commandant*
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THE DEANE HAWKINS

Detachment had another very busy last quarter of 2015.

Several Eagle Scout presentations were made to some very deserving young men.



(L-R) Sam Holden, Matthew Glade and Alan Carrasco received Eagle Scout Certificates from Bob Way.

The Young Marines were very active with fund raising, Adopt a Highway, Color Guards, Veterans Parade, a Recruit Graduation and, best of all, a Christmas Party.



Veterans Parade, Santa Teresa NJROTC

Members of Detachment, Young Marines and UAVO who helped with Veterans Parade



Detachment members were the key organizers and parade officials of the El Paso Veterans Parade. We had 78 organizations participating in the parade. Additionally, we helped put up and take down the Avenue of Flags at the Ft. Bliss Cemetery.



Ft. Bliss Avenue of Flags working party. (L-R) Pete Gomez, Chon Pena, Bob Way

We also coordinated with the USMC Reserve I&I staff to help with the cake cutting ceremony at the SSGT Guillen Nursing Home.



Delta Battery, I&I Staff, at Guillen Nursing Home, for Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony.



Guillen Nursing Home patients at Cake Cutting Ceremony

The Detachment also helped the Marine Reserves with Toys for Tots by picking up and delivering toys.

The Detachment was involved in several Honor Details for deceased veterans as well as doing a special memorial service at Sgt. Roberto Itruarte Elementary. Sgt. Itruarte was killed in Vietnam December 11th, 1965.



Honor Detail for Memorial Services for Sgt. Roberto Itruarte at Itruarte Elementary School

Wally Gonzalez was recognized as the Detachment's Marine of the Year at our annual Christmas Party.



At the Detachment Christmas Party Wally Gonzales is congratulated on his selection as Detachment Marine of the Year.

So, with the beginning of a new year the Detachment is getting ready for the 5th Annual Youth Physical Fitness competition on February 11th, 2016. We are also working with the Ft. Bliss National Cemetery to have the traveling Vietnam Wall displayed at the cemetery April 14th – 17th, 2016.



*December 26th, 2015...
YES! It does snow in El Paso*

**JACKSONVILLE DETACHMENT
JACKSONVILLE**

Submitted by Bill Hamby, *Historian*
(903) 881-9499 (H) • hbillyboy@suddenlink.net

SEMPER FI...

The fall months seem to always be the busiest and my hats off to the Detachment Commandant, Chuck Bones, and the entire Detachment membership. You talk about ‘teamwork’ – I’ve

TEAMWORK

got to hand it to you, this Detachment has got what it takes to get the job done.

The month of October 2015, in addition to the regular Monthly Meeting, included providing another class on shooting sports, firearms and safety instruction, to Rusk School 4H students, elementary through high school, on October 3rd, 2015.



Class on firearms & safety instruction

On the 10th of October a Flag Retirement Ceremony was conducted by the Detachment, and the civilian on-lookers who happened to be in the area were impressed with this all-inspiring ceremony and the reverence displayed toward our National Colors.



Flag Retirement Ceremony

Several Detachment members attended the Fall Staff Conference during the period 22-24 October, 2015, in Ft. Worth, Texas. Commandant Chuck Bones continues to encourage different members to attend state events so that eventually all members will have a better understanding of the importance of participating and learning the functions of each level of command in the League.

On October 27th and November 3rd, 2015, the Detachment marksmanship members provided a Weapons Safety Class, open to the community. This class has been provided at no cost to

participants on several occasions during the past three years and has proven to be a valuable source for fostering excellent relations with the citizens of Jacksonville.

As an annual event for the past three years, the Detachment provides a Color Guard for the opening of the Jacksonville Spooktacular Bull Bash Rodeo, on 31 October. In addition, they provide security at the gates for the event.



Color Guard for Spooktacular Bull Bash Rodeo

On October 31st, 2015, the Detachment provided an Honor Guard for Korean War Veteran, MSgt. James Martin, USMC. The Jacksonville Texas Detachment #1381 is well known in District 8 for their willingness to provide an Honor Guard for any deceased Veteran, regardless of branch of service.

The celebration of the 240th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps was carried out on November 7th, 2015, in Tyler, Texas. Several members attended an afternoon Q&A Session with LtCol. Allen West, USA (Ret), who was the Guest of Honor at the Marine Corps Ball. The Department Commandant, Charles Ynman and his wife Marcia, were guests of the Jacksonville Detachment at the Ball, held at the Cascades Country Club, Tyler, Texas.



L-R: Cmdt. Chuck Bones, LtCol. Allen West, & Bill Hamby

On November 10th, the Detachment provided an Honor Guard for a Vietnam Veteran, Cpl. Sid Danner, USMC. This Detachment's Honor Guard Detail takes great pride in providing an Honor Guard, marked with precision and distinct honors for the deceased and surviving family members.

Beginning with November 8th – December 25th, the Detachment saw plenty of action in their local Toys for Tots Campaign for 2015. The response from the Community since the first season the Detachment introduced the TFT Program in 2012, has been overwhelming. There were two deserving families this year, as well as last, who received their toys, gift wrapped, and delivered by two active duty Marines, in full dress blue uniforms on Christmas morning. The Detachment distributed approximately 9,000 toys and received approximately \$7,000 in donations. Another successful year and a JOB WELL DONE.



**LOST PINES LEATHERNECKS
DETACHMENT
BASTROP**

Submitted by Ken Steffek, *Commandant*
(512) 965-6176 (H)
steffeksr.kenneth@yahoo.com

OVER THE LAST QUARTER

our Detachment continued in our community involvement. There are now three Marines and two Associates involved in the Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard rendering Military Funeral Honors for area Veterans. There were two funerals in October, three in November, and again three in December.



Detachment members in Honor Guard

The Final Honor Flight Austin flights for 2015 that sends WWII, Korea and Vietnam War Veterans to D.C. to see their memorials were held in October. There are six Detachment members who are Honor Flight Guardians at the airport for these flights.

There are four Detachment members who are members of the Austin Chapter of the Texas Association of Vietnam Veterans (TAVV).



(L-R) Ken & Pat Steffek, & Patti Fenter attending TAVV Meeting.



During November they participated with TAVV in the annual Turkey Fry. There were three fries and one of those was at the VA Hospital in Kerrville for the Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner. The other two were fundraisers for TAVV. Then in December we were back at the VA Hospital in Kerrville to fry turkeys for their Christmas Party for Veterans.

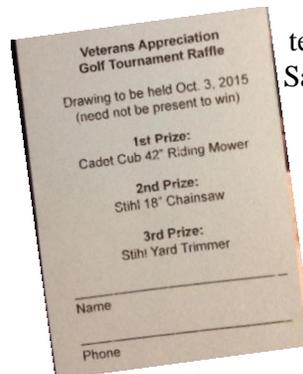
On October 3rd the Detachment had its second Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament at Cola Vista Golf Club in Bastrop. The 2016 tournament was with the assistance of Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard and Bastrop & Elgin High School NJROTCs providing opening ceremonies.



NJROTC Cadets

The NJROTCs also provided workers during the day. The rest of the quarter was devoted to certificate and banner presentations to all our Golf Tournament Sponsors.

We also had a successful Lawn Maintenance Equipment Raffle as part of this tournament. The 2016 Golf Tournament is tentatively being planned for Saturday, October 15th, again at Cola Vista Golf Club. Come on out and join us as players are needed.



Also in November Detachment members participated in Bastrop County's Red, White, & Blue Veterans Banquet at Bastrop High School. We were also asked for the second year to display our Memory Garden of Veterans Crosses at the banquet. We supplied a vehicle and trailer in the Austin Veterans Day Parade with WWII Honor Flight Veterans on it. Four members were interviewed by the Cedar Creek High School Freshman Social Studies Class. There was participation in Veterans Day programs at Smithville VFW Post, Bastrop Emile Elementary School, Cedar Creek Lost Pines Elementary School, and placement of flags on veterans' graves at Ridgeway Cemetery.

In December we provided Christmas dinner and Christmas gifts for the children in the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program in Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee counties. This year we had four families that were given a Christmas by our Detachment. This was our 4th year of doing this of our almost five years as a Detachment in Bastrop County. We also had a Detachment Christmas Party at Good Shepard Lutheran Church here in Bastrop.



Detachment members participating in CASA Christmas program

There is a lot more I could put in as this Detachment is very active locally and there are small activities not mentioned. The ones mentioned are the major activities.

Devil Dog Doings

Taylor Rice
Pack Leader, Pack of Texas
(817) 466-2295 (C)
taylor.rice@texasmcl.org



WOOF WOOF TEXAS PACK!!

It is with a heavy heart that we lay to rest our Pack Leader Dennis Bradford. He will be sorely missed.

Since I'm the Sr. Vice Pack Leader I will take hold of the big red Texas Pack Bone until we meet in Growl forum at the Department of Texas Convention. I hope to get out and attend Pound Growls and help dig up some bones for a good cause.



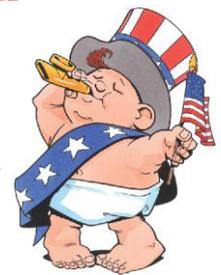
Auxiliary Announcements

Viola Trevino
Marine Corps League Auxiliary
Department President &
Southern Division Vice President
(361) 960-0142 (H)
viola.trevino@auxiliary.texasmcl.org

GREETINGS LADIES!!!

Hope you had a Merry Christmas and a great start to the New Year.

Since our last Department newsletter, I traveled to Ft. Worth to attend the Department Fall Staff Meeting. I would like to thank the Longhorn Detachment for hosting our Conference and for their hospitality and accommodations. We had a great turnout and covered quite a few things. We only had one officer and one trustee absent. Thank you Dorcas for acting as our Secretary in Ann's absence.



Department Fundraiser (2016 Calendars) for the Auxiliary is going well but some Units have

not sold them all. Please contact Johnnie Lopez
 ((254) 405-9404 or
luizjohnnie@yahoo.com) if you
 have any questions.



A reminder to all units on our
 Activity Reports that have to
 be received by the committee
 chair no later than **May 15th**.

(Report of Activities are
 from May 1st, 2015, through April 30th, 2016).
 According to previous meeting notes it was voted
 that any reports received after the 15th of May
would be disqualified.

I hope all the Units received my email on the
 filing of the Unit EIN numbers that need to be
 reported to National Headquarters. If you have any
 questions on this contact me at (361) 960-0142 or
vtat47@yahoo.com.

I will be attending the Mid-Winter Conference
 in Falls Church, Virginia, on March 3rd, 4th, and 5th,
 2016. If you have any questions or concerns that
 need to be brought up before the National Board
 please contact me.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at
 Southern Division in April. Please check my
 Southern Note for the upcoming events.

Southern Division Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Upcoming Events:

National Mid-Winter Conference

March 3rd - 5th, 2016
 Marriott Fairview Park, 311 Fairview Park
 Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22042
 (703) 849-9400 - \$103 per night

Southern Division Conference

April 7th - 10th, 2016
 Wyndham Gardens Hotel,
 2101 South Meridian Ave., Oklahoma
 City, OK 73108 - (405) 685-4000
 For reservations: (888) 215-2756
 Room rates \$92+tax per night with 2 free
 breakfast buffets with rooms
 Suites \$129+tax per night with 2 free
 breakfast buffets with rooms

DOT Marine Corps League Convention

June 23rd - 25th, 2016
 MCM Elegante' Hotel & Suites
 2330 West Northwest Hwy., Dallas, TX
 75220 - (214) 351-4477

Flea Fiddlings

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



THE MODDF FALL STAFF

Scratch in Ft Worth was held in October. The Flea
 Scratch theme was Comic-Fest featuring
 cartoon/comic characters. The room was decorated
 with Peanuts characters, Underdog mascot, comic
 strips, and Superhero elements. Hide Big Flea
 Karren Ogg installed new Crawler Robin Borel,



*Karren installs
 Robin Borel*

who was all decked out
 in her "Wanna be a Flea"
 signs and wig. The Fleas
 participated in a Comic
 Trivia contest displaying
 their knowledge of
 comic characters - old
 and new: 1st Place
 won by Johnnie
 Lopez, 2nd Linda Rigg,
 and 3rd Marcia Ynman.

The Fleas were fined and dined with
 refreshments of cookies and punch. The Fleas then
 descended on the DD Growl and provided the

Dogs with all
 sorts of candy
 and sweets for
 their bone
 donations. Big
 Flea Karren
 presented PDD
 Taylor Rice,
 PDD Dennis
 Bradford, and



*Karren presenting appreciation
 certificate to PDD Taylor Rice*

the Longhorn Detachment with MODDF appreciation certificates for their excellent Dog support of the Texas Fleas.

Upon returning to the Comic Flea room Karren also presented appreciation certificates to Johnnie Lopez, Dorcas Simpson, and Brenda Tomonelli.

The costumed Fleas then paraded for the judges.



The prizes were bestowed to **1st Place** Brenda Tomonelli, **2nd** to Marcia Ynman, and **3rd** to Johnnie Lopez. The Fleas voted and donated all fines and bones to the Texas Operation Little Angel fund.

Past Big Flea,

Dorcas Simpson, also presented Past National Madame Big Flea Colleen English with a photo album of her Elvis/Beach Party shenanigans from the Supreme Scratch in Arizona.

Big Flea Karren invited all MODD Fleas to attend the Southern Division Scratch in Oklahoma City in April and announced that the Scratch theme will be

Roarin' 20's. Think feathers, bangles, beads, glitzy, and shimmering fringe!! All Fleas should find their inner-Flea-Flappers and participate in the costume/ decorating adventure (maybe even a little Great Gatsby and gangsta vibe). The Hide is looking



Dorcas presents photo album to Colleen English

forward to meeting with our Arkansas sister Crawlers for some Rip-Roarin' 20's Flea fun and Dog Pesterin' frivolity!!!

The Fleas also issue invites to Marine Corps League spouses from Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas 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 OKC!!!

Reminder: Visit websites texasmcl.org, nationalmcla.org and nationalmoddfleas.org for more information.

National News

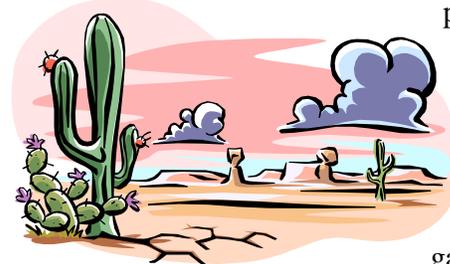
*Commandant
Richard D. Gore, Sr.
(774) 239-6067*

*Article from Semper Fi
Magazine (Nov/Dec 2015)*



A NEW COURSE

What a great and successful convention we had in hot and sunny Arizona! The hotel staff was prepared for our arrival, and



after the initial shock of seeing Marines on liberty, they gave us excellent service. They even invited us to come back again, if only for a visit.

There were many issues that had to be confronted at the convention. I believe that everyone was well advised and questions were answered honestly and sincerely. I hope the new spirit that is prevailing throughout the League is infectious, and will continue to foster our arrival in the new century of enlightenment and hope.

Go on to the new web page at *mclnational.org* to learn what is happening in our League. On the bottom of the home page, read the Commandant's Message, which is there to keep everyone up to date with new and important issues. This will be updated **twice each month** so the membership can be kept informed on issues that relate to our growth.

Your Division Vice Commandants are available to answer your questions, and they should keep you advised on the League's issues as they are put before the Board of Trustees. The goal for this year is to add 7,000 new members and, if possible, two new Detachments in each Division. That should be easily accomplished if every member works on recruiting one new member each.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for electing me as your National Commandant. I hope to earn your respect every day that I represent you in my daily work.

Article from Semper Fi Magazine (Winter 2016)

KEEP ADVANCING!

Our National Convention was more than four months ago, and I am happy to say that professionally we are making huge strides in our efforts to build our database and make our website productive for the membership. Please remember that this is a complete rebuild, and it will take more than three months to complete this project in order to encompass all aspects that need attention and to make everyone in our membership happy. Patience is a virtue, and we will be well served to be understanding of the problems.



You, the members, have been very responsive in emailing your concerns to your Board of Trustees. We want you to be aware that we are listening to your suggestions. However, please include your names and phone numbers so we can respond to you and open a dialogue to discuss your ideas and wishes.

Your Division Vices work for you and represent you on the Board, so most membership concerns are communicated through them. Their

input at board meetings should be representative of what you are looking for as far as building our League to be progressive and not regressive.



Continually strive to be positive in your thoughts. Let us help one another and lay aside our differences at a Detachment level and not let problems fester until they become unmanageable or enter Chapter Nine territory.

We hope the new format of *Semper Fi* magazine has your approval. It appears the first issue was a rousing success. The feedback was very positive, and everyone likes the photos and stories about our members, as well as our affiliation with the Corps. All I can say is that it is all related to our T.E.A.M. concept of management, and everyone having a reason to want to showcase your Detachments and the things you are doing in your communities.

Keep up the good work and congratulate one another for being successful in what you do.

God bless our troops as they continue in harm's way and always remember: "Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it: It flies with the last breath of every serviceman who dies protecting it."

*Acting Executive Director
Thomas W. Hazlett*



Article from Semper Fi Magazine (Nov/Dec 2015)

HAPPY 240TH MARINES!

On 10 November 2015, our beloved Marine Corps celebrates its 240th Birthday, and Marines everywhere will be busy with balls, luncheons and dinners! Here's to all of you and your families, and to many, many more years of service to this great nation. Speaking of service, many of you will be launching your Toys for Tots drives about this time. I wish you record-breaking collections so we

can help many more deserving kids!

It has been a couple of months since our National Convention in Scottsdale, AZ, and many things have changed since then. A new Board of Trustees is now in place, and we have a new website. Little by little, we have regained the ability to operate. Your National Staff has been working to right the ship and to correct that which needed correcting.

When we returned from the National Convention, we began prioritizing the items that needed attention.

PRIORITIES

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Naturally we needed to secure the home front, safeguard the server, and have all of the workstations and software needed by the headquarters

employees installed and working. With that done, we were able to start building areas of the website that are critical to the membership.

We've taken many steps to repair and replace documents that were password-protected. We made a new staff roster, adding many new names who were replaced by the Commandant.

We focused on getting our domain name back, setting up **MCLLeague.org** email addresses, and of course providing the many pieces of information needed by our legal team to resolve our ongoing legal issues.



Many of you have made suggestions about what you want on the website and what you'd like to see the National Staff concentrate on. And for the most part you have remained patient while the recovery and rebuilding process continues. I cannot tell you how important your patience is, and how much it means to us.

As I write this letter, we are about to begin the Modern Day Marine Expo week at Quantico, where the Board of Trustees will meet. The U.S. Marines Youth Foundation will hold its September meeting, and our League will show its support for the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League by entering two teams in the Young Marines Golf Tournament.

The week will be busy and your Board of Trustees will be occupied with meetings with ISSI and reviewing the new database; meeting with Hammock Inc. and discussing the future of *Semper Fi* magazine, and planning for the Midwinter meeting in March.

During the July staff meeting, it was decided that we'd like to see more articles about the Marine Corps League in our *Semper Fi* magazine. I have asked your Division Vice Commandants to reach out to their Departments and Detachments for articles that are worthy to publish. There is so much good done by our membership that deserves to be revealed to our readers. I encourage you to get those stories into headquarters so we can share our worthy deeds with the entire membership.

With the release of the new database, it is anticipated that our workload at Headquarters will decrease.

You will start seeing quicker responses from membership, and our locator system will be one step closer to being put into place. Our 990 issues will be easier to track and resolve, and most important, the Departments will be able to provide input directly to the server. That will help eliminate some of the postage costs as well as reduce the delays that were due to the previous methods of doing business.

Our Bylaws will soon be completed and published online, and eventually our tasks will switch from a repair and rebuilding process to a growth process. Your voices do not go unheard; your suggestions are looked at and discussed. Our Commandant is insistent that we serve the membership and make it the priority.

It has been a great pleasure working with the staff and seeing the motivation and desire to correct things that need attention. I encourage you to keep your ideas and thoughts coming; hold your Officers responsible for their actions and assist them in their endeavors.

Remember, being a critic is fine – but constructive criticism is much more productive. Don't just tell us what is wrong; tell us how you



would go about fixing it. The leadership of an organization is only as good as its membership; your elected Officers need your support and cannot be expected to do things alone.

We have come a long way in the past month, but we still face a road that will be filled with potholes and obstructions. I look forward to what's ahead and the direction we are going. There has never been a doubt that we would not correct what was wrong.

Keep looking for ways to increase our membership, reduce delinquencies and provide an atmosphere that will make our members want to come back. As a Devil Dog, I have always stated, "If you keep it fun, they will come." There is no difference in our League membership: If you stay active, if you provide an atmosphere that encourages attendance, our membership will increase, our delinquent members will come back and our League will grow and prosper. Thank you for your support. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve our membership.

Article from Semper Fi Magazine (Winter 2016)

NEW YEAR .. NEW CHALLENGES

I hope all of you had a happy holiday season. Every now and then I feel it is important to take a glance over my shoulder to see how far I've progressed; this past year is no exception.

At the start of 2015, I never would have imagined writing this article for *Semper Fi* magazine. The year started out just as many of the past years had. The only difference was that I was a year older. In June, I was elected to serve as the Sr. Vice Commandant of the Department of Pennsylvania, and I envisioned few, if any other, changes during the year.

I did anticipate running for Jr. Vice Chief Devil Dog at the Supreme Growl in Scottsdale, AZ, but for the most part the year would remain uneventful. It was not until later in June when events started to take place that would lead to what I envision to be one of the most memorable years with the Marine Corps League.

I do not need to relive what took place in July, to go from a weekly volunteer at Headquarters to finding myself here three or four days a week. That

was not at all expected. In August I wrote that we, the Marine Corps League, needed to look ahead and not back at what happened; that we needed to grow. I do feel we have grown.

Thanks to your patience, we have managed to create a new website; we are soon to release our Locator System; we are applying our finishing touches to our online Semper Fi Store. We have already started to implement electronic forms that will ultimately replace the old manual forms that were mailed into National Headquarters.

Our database is being cleaned up, and new applications are being applied that will allow our membership to better serve you. I would like to mention a quote by President John F. Kennedy that I feel easily applies to our membership: "Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."

Our current generation of members showed what a united membership can accomplish. Your current Board of Trustees have all agreed to work together, to place the best interest of the League at heart, and all agree that no one person is greater than the whole.

I still cannot put an end to the last few months of legal issues, to countless hours of reports, letters, recollection of events and having to deal with issues that are both disturbing and embarrassing.

Fortunately there are many good things going on. We had a fantastic Modern Day Marine event in Quantico, VA. We are busy mending relations with those who were both directly and indirectly affected by our recent events.

The Board of Trustees went out of their way to meet and greet the vendors during Modern Day Marine; they have also gone the extra mile to work with the Young Marines, an organization that we can all be proud of.

In late October the Marine Corps League Board of Trustees voted to support the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Birthday Ball.



President John Kennedy



Through a donation, we showed Headquarters Marine Corps that we were once again a part of their team. In my opinion, we were a divided house and as we all know Abraham Lincoln stated: “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

Because of certain occurrences, our relationship with the Marine Corps became strained.

Supporting that Birthday Ball is perhaps the single most important event performed by the League over the past few months.



*President
Abraham Lincoln*

We also supported the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League by having two teams enter their golf tournament. It is the little things that make for long and lasting impressions.



Building and maintaining a strong foundation is vital to our success, and we definitely had developed some cracks.

As I prepare for the events of 2016, I thank you, the membership, for sticking to your guns. Your voices were heard. The reaction might not be immediate, but changes were obviously necessary. A small vehicle might be able to stop on a dime and then make a sudden turn, but a long train takes a great distance to stop. Our MCL is like that train: We were moving – but in the wrong direction.

Thank you for constantly reminding us what direction we needed to take. I do believe that before we know it, most of our deficiencies will be corrected and we will be on the right track. Again, I thank you for your patience. It is necessary to know that you, too, realize that it does take time and a distance to stop and change directions.

With the blessed holiday season just over and with the horrible events taking place around the world, perhaps we all should consider who we are, what we have, and most important, what we have the capability to do with what we have.

Please keep in mind our Marines and FMF Navy Corpsmen and Chaplains who are deployed. Keep in mind the families who are separated from their sons and daughters, mothers and fathers; pray for those who are in harm’s way and ask for their safe return.

Marine Corps History



The armies of the ancient Greeks and Romans knew their stuff. Their military drummers dictated cadence — and, perhaps confidence — as their legions marched into combat. By the 1700s in Europe and America, fifers added “fighting spirit” as they accompanied the military drummers.

The U.S. Marine Corps drummers and fifers evolved into the U.S. Marine Corps Band, the oldest musical organization in the United States. On 11 July 1798 the U.S. President, John Adams, signed a congressional act that

formalized the band members as “a drum major, a fife major, and thirty-two drums and fifes.” There was no war at the time, so the band concentrated on its music. They held their first documented concert in Washington on 21 August 1800. By December of that year their inventory of instruments had expanded to include two oboes, two clarinets, two French horns, and a bassoon. Today, the Marine Band also includes the Marine Chamber Orchestra and Marine Chamber Ensembles.

President and Mrs. John Adams were the first occupants of the White House in the nation’s new capital, the city of Washington. Shortly after moving into the mansion in November 1800, the Adams’ invited the young United States Marine Band, consisting of only eight or ten musicians, to play at their first reception on New Year’s Day, 1801. This event established the tradition of the Marine Band’s performances at the White



*President John
Quincy Adams*

House that exists to the present day and has earned the organization the title, “**The President’s Own.**”

On July 4, 1806, the band performed also for President Thomas Jefferson, a fine amateur violinist and music lover,



*President
Thomas Jefferson*

rendering the song “To Anacreon in Heaven” (or “The Anacreontic Song”). Eight years later this popular tune received new lyrics by Francis Scott Key, becoming immortalized as “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and in 1931, President Hoover made the song America’s official national anthem.

The Marine Band is entirely separate from its sister military band, the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, “**The Commandant’s Own,**” and the 12 active duty Marine Corps field bands.

Musicians are currently selected through an audition process similar to that of major symphony orchestras. Those selected must also pass a physical examination — it is still the Marine Corps, troops! But, successful applicants enlist for four years “for duty with the U.S. Marine Band only,” and there is no boot camp. Further, each new band member is immediately appointed to the rank of Staff Sergeant. What a deal! Commissioned officers are drawn from the band, although drum majors are career Marines and are selected from Fleet Marine Force bands, as they are responsible for the military development of the band’s members. The Marine Band’s performance schedule is coordinated by the Marine Band Branch of Headquarters Marine Corps Public Affairs, which works with the Director of the Marine Band and the Marine Band Operations Office to schedule performances and ceremonies by the band, chamber orchestra, and chamber ensembles. As of 2010, the USMC spends about \$10 million annually to support the band. Historically, more than 90% of Marine Band members serve for 20 years or more.



*Current Drum Major
MSgt. Duane F. King*

The Marine Band also has a professional support staff (Library, Recording Lab, Stage Managers, and Stage Crew) as well as the Administration, Public Affairs, and Supply offices, who work to coordinate, promote, and facilitate performances throughout the year.

The full band has a complement of about 130 members, but rarely do they all play together.

A 42-piece Marine Band is used for all Pentagon and formal military arrivals and patriotic openers for large events. Patriotic openers are 15 minutes of patriotic music, including the presentation and retirement of the colors, the “Star-Spangled Banner” (national anthem), and the “Marines’ Hymn.” Patriotic openers are performed throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area at a variety of events for military organizations, federal agencies, and associations.

Events that the Marine Band participates in include:

- **United States presidential inaugurations.**
- **State funerals.**
- **State Arrival Ceremonies.**
- **Arlington National Cemetery military funerals.**
- **Friday Evening Parades** held at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. during Friday evenings in summer (May through August).
- **Other events.** The Marine Band sometimes performs at additional events, such as state dinners and formal receptions at the White House, as well as performances at the National Sylvan Theater in Washington, D.C. during the summer months.

Today, the Marine Band performs in approximately **500 events every year.** The Marine Band also travels across the country each October and November during its fall concert tour, a tradition that began in 1891 under its most famous director, composer John Philip Sousa.

A long and distinguished association with the presidency has honored the Marine Band. There is a sense of family among band members toward the presidents and their families, and the feeling is mutual. On one occasion during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln appeared outside during a Marine Band concert and the audience clapped and clamored for a speech. The president retreated inside saying, “I wish they would just let me sit out there quietly, and enjoy the music.”

For nearly a century, the United States Marine Band's Saturday afternoon public concerts on the south grounds of the White House from June to September were a fixture of cultural life in Washington, D.C. Performed largely in an era before radio, motion pictures, television and the internet, the concerts offered people a chance to sample free, high quality entertainment, maybe enjoy a cooling breeze or two – and perhaps get a glimpse of the president and first family.



People enjoy a United States Marine Band concert on the south grounds of the White House on July 16, 1921

About 1842, the band began its 90-year tradition of playing Saturday outdoor concerts on the White House grounds. By the 1850s the concerts were being described as “A charming resort for all well behaved people who desire to inhale for an hour or two the odor of blooming grass, shrubs, flowers and foliage.” In the 1870s President Ulysses Grant and First Lady Julia Grant walked freely greeting friends and their guests, while their children Nellie and Jesse “had many a gay hour running about among the people.”

Francis Maria Scala, who directed the Marine Band from 1855 to 1871, was on friendly terms with many presidents, particularly Zachary Taylor, Franklin Pierce and Abraham Lincoln. Scala admired the fact that although Lincoln had no formal musical training, he was nonetheless passionate about music and greatly enjoyed the Marine Band's concerts. When the band opened the 1864 summer concert season, President Lincoln appeared on the South Portico and took a seat, “enjoying the pleasant scene



Francis Maria Scala

before him.”

Following the tragic death of her 11-year old son Willie in February 1862, First Lady Mary Lincoln insisted that the band not play its usual summer concerts on the White House grounds. The following year, 1863, Mrs. Lincoln again wanted to ban the concerts, at least until after



Mary Todd Lincoln

July 4. On June 8 Navy secretary Gideon Welles noted in his diary: “[Last year] there was grumbling and discontent, and there will be more this year if the public is denied the privilege for private reasons. I... suggested [to President Lincoln] that the band could play in Lafayette Square. The President told me to do what I thought best.” Five days later Welles wrote, “We had music from the Marine Band today in Lafayette Square. The people are greatly pleased.” In 1864 the concerts returned to the White House grounds.

The popularity of the Marine Band concerts was in large measure due to the high quality of the music. John Philip Sousa was the band's director between 1880 and 1892, and brought world fame to “The President's Own.”



John Philip Sousa

While the band was already considered a beloved national institution, Sousa's dynamic leadership transformed the Marine Band's repertoire, emphasized symphonic music, changed the instrumentation, and made rehearsals exceptionally strict.

The Marine Band delivered some of its most memorable outdoor concerts in this period, including a performance of the musical score from Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera *The Mikado*, just three months after its premiere on the London stage and before it became a smash hit in American theaters.

An 1891 account of the popular concerts reported, “Administrations come and go, but the band plays on forever.” That summer President Benjamin Harrison confided



President Benjamin Harrison

to friends that the Marine Band's opening notes of "Hail, Columbia" always made him feel a bit sad, as they reminded him of his Civil War days as commander of a brigade in the 20th Corps – "Hail, Columbia" was the music always played before camp broke up and the army began marching.

Although the band performed serious orchestral works, it also played many selections from fashionable operas and did not neglect popular ballads like "Home on the Range," "Oh, Promise Me," "After the Ball," "On the Banks of the Wabash," "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" and "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

In the early 1930s the summer concert tradition had come to an end. By that time three generations of Washingtonians had experienced a popular custom of hobnobbing with the president, members of the diplomatic corps, army and navy officers, and the elite of self-defined Washington society as children frolicked and couples strolled on the South Lawn while the band played on.

"When I leave this job, I'll miss a lot of things about Washington and the White House; a few things I won't. But I'll really miss the Marine Band."

President Bill Clinton

"Your music inspired me and often made me shed a tear of gratitude for those who serve the nation in uniform."

President George Bush

U.S. Marine Corps News

Twelve Marines Declared Dead After Helicopter Crash off Hawaii

By Victoria Cavaliere in Los Angeles; Editing by Paul Tait - Reuters
January 21, 2016...

Twelve U.S. Marines missing after two military helicopters collided last week off Hawaii's Oahu island have been listed as deceased, the military said on Thursday.

The Coast Guard called off the search for the missing Marines on Tuesday after five days of

search and rescue efforts across some 40,000 square nautical miles of ocean, along with shorelines.

The Marines were officially classified as deceased on Wednesday and Marine Corps officers personally notified each family, a statement from the Marines said.

The victims ranged in age from 21 to 41, the statement said - Maj. Shawn Campbell, 41, of College Station, Texas; Capt. Brian Kennedy, 31, of Philadelphia; Capt. Kevin Roche, 30, of St. Louis; Capt. Steven Torbert, 29, of Florence, Alabama; Sgt. Dillon Semolina, 24, of Chaska, Minnesota; Sgt. Adam Schoeller, 25, of Gardners, Pennsylvania; Sgt. Jeffrey Sempler, 22, of Woodruff, South Carolina; Sgt. William Turner, 25, of Floral, Alabama; Cpl. Matthew Drown, 23, from Spring, Texas; Cpl. Thomas Jardas, 22, of Fort Myers, Florida; Cpl. Christopher Orlando, 23, of Hingham, Massachusetts; and LCpl. Ty Hart, 21, from Aumsville, Oregon.

The two CH-53E helicopters belonging to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing from the Marine Corps Air Station at Kaneohe Bay were on a routine training mission when they were reported to have collided just before midnight on January 14th, according to the Coast Guard.

The search was hampered by storms.

A Coast Guard helicopter crew spotted debris in the water off the town of Haleiwa on the north shore of Oahu but no passengers were found. The debris field spanned more than 7 miles off the coast, the Coast Guard said.

No distress call was issued by either aircraft.



Upcoming Events



National Mid-Winter Conference

Fairview Park Marriott
311 Fairview Park Dr. • Falls Church, VA 22042
(703) 849-9400 • **March 3rd – 5th, 2016**



Marine South Expo

Marine Corps Base • Camp Lejeune, NC
April 6th – 7th, 2016



Southern Division Conference

Wyndham Garden Hotel
2101 S. Meridian Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
(405) 685-4000
April 8th – 10th, 2016



Department of Texas State Convention

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



MCL National Convention

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



DEADLINE

for
**Texas Marine
SPRING Edition**
will be
April 15th



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

Southern Division Conference

April 7th – 10th, 2016 -- Oklahoma City, OK



HOTEL: Wyndham Gardens Hotel – Oklahoma City Airport
(405) 685-4000 -- 2101 S. Meridian Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73108

RATES: \$92+tax - Suites: \$129+tax (with 2 free breakfast buffets)

For Reservations: (888) 215-2756

(Mention reservations are for MCL Southern Division Conference)

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: 3/15/2016



FRIDAY NIGHT:

Dinner on Your Own

OR Optional Catered Rib Dinner @ hotel hosted
by the Sooner Detachment (For those who have pre-paid)



SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET BUFFET: \$35 per person

EVENT DEADLINE: 3/15/2016



POSSIBLE TOUR: If there is sufficient interest we will arrange for transportation to Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum, Murrah National Memorial and Bricktown, Friday or Saturday. Email judgelyons@cox.net with names of those wishing to go on a tour by **3/15/2016**.



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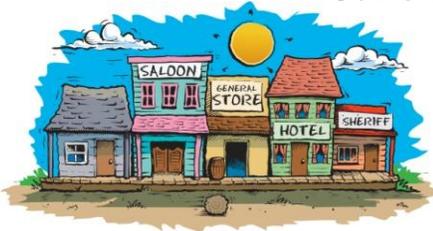
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DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS CONVENTION

June 23rd – 25th, 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



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