



**Marine Corps League**  
**Pikes Peak Detachment**  
 P.O. Box 10536  
 Colorado Springs, CO 80932-1536  
[www.mclpikespeak.org](http://www.mclpikespeak.org)



**Commandant**  
**Russ Miller**  
[rcmlr@msn.com](mailto:rcmlr@msn.com)  
 719-235-1058

Hello Marines, Navy FMF Corpsmen, Associate Members, and families. With the weather that

was forecasted, I didn't expect us to have the turnout that we did for our 21 February meeting and I wish to say thank you to all 37 who attended. Our Junior Past



**February Meeting**

Commandant, PDD Gibson (that's Pedigree Devil Dog for those new to the lingo) shared at the meeting that he is working to re-establish our Detachment's Military Order of Devil Dogs Pound so please see his newly added article to this newsletter for more details. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of January a group of us attended the Guide Dogs for Our Heroes Benefit Dinner and Auction in Cañon City. The chow was good, the auction was long, and the cause was great. We learned that the dogs that cannot complete the guide dog training are instead trained as PTSD dogs. Both the dogs and the training



**Guide Dogs for Our Heroes Benefit Dinner**

are provided to the veterans free of charge. For those who ride motorcycles, the 5<sup>th</sup> annual guide dog motorcycle ride is to be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2015. The ride starts at 0930 following a 0815-0915 continental breakfast and silent auction at the Double Tree hotel on Cheyenne Mountain Blvd. The route will take you through Woodland Park, Divide, and Cripple Creek where riders will receive a \$10 playing card. The ride will finish up in Florence with a BBQ at Fremont Motor

Sports. Joe and Sandy Esposito will be at our 21 March meeting to pre-register those who would like to participate. The cost is \$30/rider and \$25/passenger. There is a savings of \$5 for the driver if you pre-register. Get more information at [www.lets-ride.com](http://www.lets-ride.com). If you have a child or grand-child who will be heading off to college or trade school in the near future, please remember to have them apply for one of our Detachment Scholarships. For more information, please contact our Scholarship Committee Chairman, Past Commandant Jim Woods.

**Semper Fi, Russ**



**February Meeting**



**Senior Vice Commandant**  
**Terry Crum**  
[terry-crum@hotmail.com](mailto:terry-crum@hotmail.com)  
 719-432-7340

Greetings Devil Dogs, Devil Docs and awesome Associates; thanks are directed to all those that attended the February 2015 Pikes Peak Detachment meeting. If I say anything during the meeting that you feel requires clarification in any way, please speak up. My goal is to better serve the detachment and all members. Next Monday morning Commandant Russ Miller and I will be at West Campus School (this school is a combination elementary and middle school) in which we will present the school with a very nice Yamaha keyboard which was a Toys for Tots donation. We are expecting members of the school staff and half of the school 600+ students to be in attendance for the presentation. This will be done in conjunction with the schools "Reading Across America" kickoff event. If that is not enough fun, Russ and I will both be at the West Campus Monday afternoon still in MCL uniforms to read a kids book to 3rd graders. I plan to read "The Great Fuzz Frenzy". The 2015 St Patrick's Day Parade will be upon us soon enough and we will need some detachment members to help make our contribution to the parade a good one. If you are able and willing, we can put you to good use in the parade. The parade

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takes place March 14, 2015 and begins at 1200 (noon). We will begin staging at 1100 as soon as the 5k run is over. Do wear lots of green and a big smile :-). For long term planning the Pikes Peak Detachment will have plenty to do May 23-25 at the Territory Days in Old Colorado City. It will be fun for all and do be sure to mark your calendar! Until the next MCL meeting on March 21 2015 stay MOTO as we continue to work together to make 2015 an outstanding year.

**Take care and Semper Fi**  
**Terry Crum**



**February Meeting**

all down his left side. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. This past week, I also had the pleasure of speaking with Jack Crowson, who is still on the mend from some recent health challenges, and Tom Burns who reported "he is doing about as well as he expected to be at 95" and just gave up driving the week before last. Tom asked for us all to keep his wife Loretta in our prayers as her health is not fairing as well as his. Thank You for the faithful service of our bereavement team (Patricia Thompson, Joe G. Martinez and Melvin Postlewait) who attended the Memorial Service of LtCol. Elton Curnutt at Soldier's Memorial Chapel on Ft Carson during the little snow storm this past Monday. Elton's daughter shared with us that although he would not discuss many of his experiences in the Marines with his family, her father's greatest point of pride was not the twenty plus years as an Army officer but of his time as a United States Marine. The family did not expect any Marines to show up at the service and were in tears when they realized who we were. As I mentioned at the 21 Feb meeting, we are always in need of more members for the Bereavement Team and I would also ask you to consider spending some time

**Junior Vice Commandant**  
**Terry Boston**  
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 719-393-3141



**Judge Advocate**  
**Kazimir "Kaz" Mueller**  
[Kazmueller@gmail.com](mailto:Kazmueller@gmail.com)  
 719-471-3102



**Chaplain's Corner**  
**Russ Miller**  
[rcmlr@msn.com](mailto:rcmlr@msn.com)  
 719-235-1058



Greetings Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Associates, and Friends; after our 21 Feb meeting Melvin Postlewait and I went and visited with Roland Durden at his home. Roland has the distinction of not only being one of the few surviving Montfort Point Marines but he also landed on Iwo Jima on his 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday (24 Feb) 70 years ago incidentally. He had just returned from a bone chilling walk in the snow from the bus stop when Melvin and I arrived. Roland is having increasing trouble not only seeing, but is now battling weakness



**February Meeting**

going and visiting some of our fellow Marines and FMF Corpsmen that are hospitalized, living in nursing care facilities, or just unable to get out and about on their own. Finally, I have signed the detachment up to the National Association of Chaplains distribution list which will provide us information on events at local hospitals, nursing homes, etc. so that we may participate in those events if members are available. If you are aware of any of our members, member's families, Marines, or FMF Corpsmen residing in our community that are sick or in distress, please contact me day or night 719-235-1058 so that we might lift them up in our thoughts and prayers and see how we might otherwise comfort them and be of assistance in their time of need.

**Semper Fi, Russ Miller, Chaplain**

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**Paymaster**  
**Denise Wickersheim**  
[Md1970@q.com](mailto:Md1970@q.com)  
 719-590-9109

Please send your membership dues (annual renewal) to the Pikes Peak Detachment address (located at the top of the Newsletter).

New Member and Renewal Dues - \$36.00  
**Think about becoming a Life Member!!!**

**Life Membership Costs:**  
 Age 35 - below - \$500.00  
 36 - 50 - \$400.00  
 51 - 64 - \$300.00  
 65 & over - \$200.00  
**Semper Fi, Denise**



**Adjutant**  
 Terry Boston  
[bostoncolorado@peakinet.net](mailto:bostoncolorado@peakinet.net)  
 719-393-3141

Minutes of the 21 February 2015 Meeting of the Marine Corps League Pikes Peak Detachment (Note: Draft until accepted at the 21 March 2015 meeting).

- Commandant, Russ Miller opened the 21 February 2015 meeting of the Marine Corps League Pikes Peak Detachment for Official business at 0900 with Salute to Colors and opening prayer. All officers were present.
- Guests / Application for Membership:
  - Member Heike Cummins introduced guest Johnathon Booth; a young man very interested in joining the Marine Corps. He met with GySgt Jackson of the Young Marines and will continue in his quest to prepare to become a Marine! The Detachment wishes him all the best in his future endeavors.



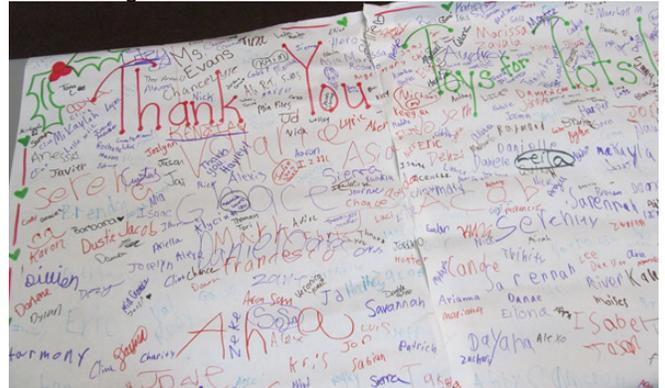
Johnathon Booth, Heike Cummins & Terry Boston

- Sgt Jared Patton and his wife, Olivia, were also our guests. Sgt Patton is an Air Defender. He is now in a Joint Billet in the local area.



**Sgt Jared Patton Speaks to the Members**

- Minutes: Commandant Miller made a motion to accept the January minutes. Member Roger Baty seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- New Correspondence:
  - Senior Vice Terry Crum read a note from West Campus thanking the Detachment for its Toys-for-Tots efforts. The children also provided a signed banner.



**Thank You Toys for Tots!**  
**From West Campus School**

- Commandant Miller read an e-mail from Ken Lucero, a Marine Corps League member currently in Yokota, Japan. He is active in Toys-for-Tots in Japan and appreciates being kept on the roster and in the loop for Detachment information.
- Report of Officers:
  - Pay Master – Pay Master Denise Wickersheim has the financial report. See her if you have questions or want a copy. Members should provide her change of address information.
  - Chaplain – Commandant Miller, acting Chaplain, had the following information on members who have requested our thoughts and prayers:

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- Tom Burns and wife, Loretta have been ailing; although Tom hopes to attend the WWII / Korea Veterans Breakfast.
- Jack Crowson has been in the hospital, but is now recovered. We hope to see him soon.
- Jim Wiese has also been ailing and welcomes visitors.
- Pat Carty has our best wishes as he waits for hip replacement surgery.
- **Commandant**
  - Commandant Miller imparted information on the Guide Dogs for Heroes Banquet at The Abbey in Canon City. The evening's activities netted \$9,000.00!
  - The Department Staff meeting is scheduled for 28 February 2015. Let Commandant Miller know if you are interested in attending or have an issue you would like raised.
  - June 6 2015 is the 5th Annual Guide Dogs Ride sponsored by Fremont Motorsports, Doubletree Hotel, Triple Crown Casinos, and Kwik Stop. The ride starts at the Doubletree Hotel, 7775 Cheyenne Mountain Blvd. in Colorado Springs. Registration with coffee is from 8:15 am to 9:15 am and the motorcycles roll out at 9:30 am. The fee is \$30.00 for the rider and \$25.00 for a passenger. The fee includes a free \$10.00 playing card and barbeque. The ride will stop in Cripple Creek for one hour. The ride ends in Florence with auction items and barbeque. First timers get an additional gift as long as supplies last. For more information call 719-285-8425.
  - The Department of CO Convention and Division Conference is 11, 12 & 13 June 2015 at the Double Tree Hotel, Denver, CO. See Commandant Miller if you are interested in attending.
- **Senior Vice – Sr. Vice Terry Crum** stated the 14 March 2015 St. Patrick's Day Parade is all set. Participants are needed for Color Guard, wheel walkers, DI handlers and riders. Contact him if you can participate and wear your green! Get prepared for Territory Days scheduled for May, too.
- **Junior Vice / Adjutant, Sergeant at Arms, and Judge Advocate** had nothing significant to report.
- **Chaplain –** Contact Chaplain Miller if you are interested in participating as a Bereavement Committee member. Volunteers are also needed to visit hospitals. Chaplain Miller announced he has secured a spot on the National Association of Chaplains distribution list.

- **Quartermaster (QM) –** The Kelly Green T-Shirts the Detachment generally wears for St. Patrick's Day Parade are prohibitively expensive. So wear any green for the event! If you need to order anything from the Semper Fi Store, let QM Miller know. It saves money on shipping to consolidate orders.
- **Web Sergeant –** If you are not getting the Newsletter (check your e-mail junk folder) or if your information is not correct, let Roger Baty know.



**Commandant Miller Presents Certificate of Appreciation to Sgt Jared Patton for his Toys for Tots efforts!**

- **Standing Committees:**
  - **Toys-for-Tots –**
    - Coordinator Russ Miller recognized Sgt Jared Patton with a MCL Certificate of Appreciation and the USMC Reserve Commander's Award for his exceptional Toys-for-Tots participation. He dedicated more time to Toys-for-Tots than all the other Active Duty in the local area, combined.
    - John Kowall announced he received a Thank You letter from CASA for Toys-for-Tots support.
  - **Scholarship Committee –** Jim Woods announced the deadline for applications is 30 April 2015 and encouraged all to let eligible family members know about this opportunity. Roger Baty will send out applications and procedures via e-mail.
- **Unfinished Business:** None.
- **New Business:** Gunny Gibson is interested in re-establishing a Devil Dog pound in Colorado Springs. If you want to join or reinstate your status as a Devil Dog, let him know. Woof Woof!
- **Good of the League:**
  - Jim Woods reminded the Detachment that it is the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima and led the Detachment in a

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moment of silence for the fallen. "The Battle of Iwo Jima (19 February – 26 March 1945) was a major battle in which the United States Armed Forces landed and eventually captured the island of Iwo Jima from the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. The American invasion, designated Operation Detachment, had the goal of capturing the entire island, including the three Japanese-controlled airfields (including the South Field and the Central Field), to provide a staging area for attacks on the Japanese main islands. This five-week battle comprised some of the fiercest and bloodiest fighting of the War in the Pacific of World War II." (Quote is from Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Iwo\\_Jima](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Iwo_Jima)). Web Sgt Roger Baty then asked Jim Woods to recount his experience during the battle. The battle lasted 36 days with 6821 dead and over 19,000 wounded. Jim landed on the 4th of March and after 11 days of intense combat was wounded. In the end, he is happy to still be with us!

They organize fishing trips, both one-day and multi-day. **Everything is provided to all participants at no cost.** Visit the website and see Terry if you are interested in associating with the organization and spread the word about this organization.

- With no additional business at hand, the 50 / 50 drawing was held. Member Toby Bolender was the lucky winner!
  - With all business being completed Commandant Miller closed the meeting at 0953. The next meeting will take place on 21 March 2015.
- Respectfully submitted, Terry Boston, Adjutant  
 Pikes Peak Detachment, Marine Corps League**



**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
 Ron Asmussen  
[iasmussen@msn.com](mailto:iasmussen@msn.com)  
 719-648-0071

**Next Meeting**

**21 March 2015 0900 at TREA** – Come early (0730), drink coffee, eat breakfast and tell stories

**Upcoming Events**

- St Patrick's Day Parade 14 March
- Territory Days - Memorial Day Weekend 23-25 May
- Department of Colorado and Rocky Mountain Division Convention – 11-14 June, Denver
- Monument 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade – 4 July



**Toys for Tots**  
 Russ Miller  
[rcmlr@msn.com](mailto:rcmlr@msn.com)  
 719-235-1058

In addition to the awards presented to Sgt Jared Patton at our Feb meeting, Letters & Certificates of Appreciation have been sent to the following active duty Marines for their assistance with the 2014 Pikes Peak Detachment Toys for Tots Campaign. Major D. Donaldson, Major E. Siegel, SSgt V. Alcorn, SSgt R. Ayers, SSgt I. Narcisse, SSgt K. Wong, and Sgt M. Downsguevara. Also, there was a bit of a SNAFU on the awards for our Detachment members who gave so much of their time and energy to T4T this past Christmas, so I will plan on awarding those folks at our March meeting.

**Semper Fi, Russ**



**After a moment of silence for all those who fought at Iwo Jima, Jim Woods recounts the fighting, the Japanese tactics, his wounding and recovery!**

- Paul Darrow informed the Detachment of a delay in the opening of the VA cemetery. We will have to wait to see if Congressional action will make a difference.
- Terry Farstad provided information on Project Healing Waters [www.phwffcoloradosprings.org](http://www.phwffcoloradosprings.org) a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings. Volunteers from local fishing clubs teach classes at the VA, DoD, Warrior Transition Units (WTU) and other locations.

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**Quarter Master**  
**Russ Miller**  
[rcmlr@msn.com](mailto:rcmlr@msn.com)  
 719-235-1058

If you are planning to order anything from the Semper Fi Store and would like to cooperate on the freight costs, please

contact me with your order so we can place one larger order and save everyone a few chits. Additionally, we may have some of the items already in our Ship's Store stock. Walmart will not take requests for cash sales events outside area stores for the months of April-June until after 1 March, so as soon as we are able to coordinate our calendar with theirs, I will send out a notification email to the detachment alerting every one of the dates and times. After looking at the events calendar for this year and dates where outside cash sales events conflict with our monthly meetings, I have decided to have cash sales at our monthly meetings only in the odd months, Jan., Mar., May., etc....

**Semper Fi....Russ**



**Garry D. Gibson**  
**Pedigree Devil Dog (PDD)**  
[gunny1@mindspring.com](mailto:gunny1@mindspring.com)  
 719-495-9640

**WOOF, WOOF Everyone!**  
 Military Order of the Devil Dogs (MODD) – I brought this topic up at our February 21<sup>st</sup> monthly

meeting. I would like to re-activate our Detachment Pound - our Pound Charter was turned in several years ago because we didn't have sufficient active membership required to maintain the Pound. When our membership dropped below (5) MODD members, we turned in our Charter. I will be able to provide all of you with more information as to how we go about re-activating our Pound (the cost to join, etc.) after I return from the Department MODD Growl (Growl means a meeting) held on Saturday, 28 February in Lakewood, CO in conjunction with the quarterly Department meeting. Till then I would like to provide you with some info on the MODD: What is the purpose of the MODD? The MODD is the Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League; the MODD promotes good fellowship amongst the members of the MCL Detachments. The Order provides amusement and entertainment at all gatherings of the League, when and where advisable, preserves and strengthens the principles and ideas of the League and maintains true allegiance to the United States of America. The MODD is active at raising funds for different charities. The MODD can be found in

**Scholarship Fund**

**Jim Woods**  
[jimw12152@aol.com](mailto:jimw12152@aol.com)  
 719-390-6538



The Scholarship Committee (Jim Woods (Chair), Roger Baty, Peggy Baldwin) administers the

MSTSGT Bill Walters Memorial Scholarship Fund. Scholarship award(s) are determined through a competitive selection process. This scholarship may be used at any accredited university, college or trade school that offers higher education that could lead to a degree or certification. Applicants may reapply annually for a maximum of four (4) years. Scholarship grants (one-time \$500.00 grant) are available to Pikes Peak Detachment members in good standing (dues paid up) and their immediate families. (Eligible candidates are Pikes Peak Detachment Marine Corps League Members (excludes Associate Members), members' spouse, children, and grandchildren.) The number of Scholarship grants awarded annually will be determined by the amount of money in the Fund. **Scholarship applications are due to the committee 30 April 2015.** Details on Scholarship Committee Administrative Procedures and application were emailed to all members (21 Feb 2015 - who have email). For those members who do not have email, please contact me if you require the application.

**Semper Fi, Jim Woods**



**Gunny and Kaz at their Pedigree Initiation**  
**Check out those collars!**

nearly state where there are MCL Detachments. Who's eligible to join? You must be invited to join the Order, you must be a regular member in good standing (dues paid) and you must be a member of the League for a minimum of (1) year. You have to be recommended by the Detachment Commandant and be sponsored by (2) DEVIL DOGS or PEDIGREE DEVIL DOGS. You are

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then interviewed by members of the Pound at a Pound Growl. If accepted you must undergo an initiation (that's fun) and obligation ceremony; when the ceremonies are over you are a PUP in the MODD and will be issued a Black Dog Collar (black ribbon) a Dog Tag and you will be issued your Passport. ORGANIZATION: the Pound is on the local level (Detachment) and is usually made up of members of different MCL Detachments. On the State level (Department) there is the Pack, and on the National level there is the Kennel. There are three different degrees in the Order. The lowest is that of the Pup. The next highest level is that of a Devil Dog. The highest level is that of a Pedigree Devil Dog. All Dogs wear a dog collar (ribbon) around their neck with a Dog Tag attached. A Pup wears a black ribbon; A Devil Dog wears a red ribbon; A Pedigree Devil Dog wears a gold ribbon (Kaz Mueller had his on at the February meeting). A few words in Dog Talk & what they mean: Front Paw= Clenched Fist/Hand Salute, Bark=Speak, Big Bone=Money (\$1.00) Grrr=No. (See, it's fun!) If anyone has any questions about the MODD, please don't hesitate to ask me. Till I see you all at the St Patrick's Day Parade on 14 March...Think Positive...Laugh...Have fun...Help someone less fortunate than yourself...and Continue to March.

Semper Fi... The Gunny

**This Month in History**

**Dates of Marine Corps Historical Significance**

**2 March 1867:** Jacob Zeilin, Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps from 30 June 1864, was this date promoted to the rank of Brigadier General Commandant, the first time Congress authorized this rank for the Marine Corps. The statute, however, was repealed in June 1874 so that the rank of Commandant would again revert to colonel upon Zeilin's retirement.

**8 March 1965:** The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at DaNang, Republic of Vietnam as the first U.S. ground combat troops to be committed to that conflict. The 3,500 men arrived both across the beach with Battalion Landing Team 3/9, and at DaNang Airfield with Battalion Landing Team 1/3.

**11 March 1778:** Marines participated in action when the Continental Navy frigate Boston, enroute to France, sighted, engaged, and captured the British merchant ship Martha. As the drum of the Boston beat to arms, John Adams seized a musket and joined the Marines on deck until the frigate's captain, Samuel Tucker, sent him below for safety.

**13 March 1943:** The first group of 71 Women Marine officer candidates arrived at the U.S. Midshipmen School (Women's Reserve) at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The Navy's

willingness to share training facilities enabled the Marine Corps to begin training Marine Corps Women's Reserve officers just one month after the creation of the MCWR was announced.

**17 March 1967:** The first woman Marine to report to Vietnam for duty, Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky, began her 18-hour flight to Bien Hoa, 30 miles north of Saigon. MSgt Dulinsky and the other officer and enlisted Women Marines that followed were assigned to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) based in Saigon. Most worked with the Marine Corps Personnel Section providing administrative support to Marines assigned as far north as the DMZ, but two Lieutenant Colonels, Ruth Reinholz and Ruth O'Holleran, served as historians with the Military History Branch, Secretary Joint Staff, MACV.

**25 March 1945:** After 35 days of bitter fighting, the amphibious assault on the rocky fortress of Iwo Jima finally appeared over. On the night of 25 March, however, a 300-man Japanese force launched a vicious final counterattack in the vicinity of Airfield Number 2. Army pilots, Seabees and Marines of the 5th Pioneer Battalion and 28th Marines fought the fanatical Japanese force till morning but suffered heavy casualties--more than 100 killed and another 200 American wounded. Nearly all of the Japanese force was killed in the battle.

**27 March 1953:** The 5th Marines, supported by the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, in the first full day of fighting after the Chinese assault the previous evening of Outpost Vegas on Korea's western front, counterattacked to regain enemy-held positions. Companies E and F of 2/7, down to only three platoons between them, managed to regain partial control of Outpost Vegas that day.

**31 March 1801:** On this date, LtCol Commandant William W. Burrows rode with President Thomas Jefferson to look for "a proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on." President Jefferson was a personal friend of the Commandant, and deeply interested in the welfare of the Corps and accompanied Burrows on horseback on the morning of 31 March. They chose a square in Southeast Washington, at 8th and I streets, because it lay near the Navy Yard and was within easy marching distance of the Capitol.

**Editor's Note:** Some of you may have realized that this month in history has not been changing from year to year. I pull Marine Corps history events from "This Month in History" at the Marine Corps' website. I spoke with the Marine Corps Historian and to provide different events in history has not been possible due to a myriad of factors. So, I could use your support to identify different events in Marine Corps history for this section

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of the newsletter. I require sources to verify the information you provide. I would like this section to not be just about the Marine Corps itself but also about you and your Marine Corps experiences. So if you have pictures (I can scan paper photos) of yourself and your fellow Marines from events in the past and can provide dates and information of the event, I will gladly publish them in this newsletter. If anyone has any Marine Corps history books lying around that they are no longer using then I'll be happy to accept them to pull information from (I will give them back). My time is just as valuable as yours so if you're willing to identify various events for the next month (April) and send them to me, it would be helpful.

**Thanks, Semper Fi, Roger**

**Past Event Photos – You Guess the Event**



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