

July 2022

Marine Corps League



**Marine Corps
League #790
Detachment
Newsletter**

**Next Meeting:
July 11, 2022 1830 hours at
the American Legion**

Semper Fi fellow Marines!

This past month has been a flurry of activity. We had the soap box derby and so many kids participated and had fun. The Marine Corps League had our car repainted and fixed a few things and Riley Delgado was the kiddo that raced it. Please see page 2 for more information. We need to give a round of applause to the Optimist Club for promoting and holding this every year.

We also had former President Donald Trump here at the Adams County Raceways for a Rally endorsing Mary Miller for Congress. As many of you know, Mary won the nomination for Congresswoman for the 15th district. She has big plans for the Veterans in our Tri-State area.

I was honored to be able to sit and talk to her about the challenges our Veteran's face every day in this area. I was asked to speak at the Rally in regards to our Veteran's and what we need in this area. The Veterans (you and I alike as well as others) have placed our lives on the line for our country and we need so many things to happen or occur in order to reduce the suicide rate in our fellow military men.

Remember the Military night at the Gems Game on July 1st

Commandant Jesus Delgado

Jesus Delgado
2022 Commandant
Gem City Detachment #790
Marine Corps League
Quincy, Illinois

Historic Win for 8-year-old Fowler boy in 18th Annual Grand Prix of Gravity

If a Mount Rushmore equivalent for accomplishments tied to the Quincy Derby ever were to exist, a Riley Delgado caricature is guaranteed a spot.

Delgado may have forever chiseled his way into the folklore of an event that has long been part of a community's heartbeat.

What Delgado did was simply the stuff of legends. The 8-year-old Fowler resident put together what is arguably the single-most impressive feat in the 18-year history of what was once known as the Quincy Soap Box Derby.

Delgado was knocked into the Super Stock division's losers bracket after his 2nd race. He then proceeded to string together an unprecedented 11 consecutive victories, coming out of the losers' bracket to defeat Maddie Maas of Quincy twice in the finals.

Delgado not only won his first derby championship after going 0-2 a year ago as a rookie. He established a record for most victories en route to his 12-1 finish on the 18th Street hill bordering Bob Mays Park. That was three more wins than any driver had ever amassed in a single derby since the Quincy Optimist Club-sponsored Gran Prix of Gravity's 2005 inception. Delgado was racing in the Gem City Marine Corps leagues car, for which his father is the Commandant of the Gem City Detachment #790.

"After his early loss, he wanted to quit," said Riley's dad, Jesus Delgado. Obviously, Riley did not.

"I was getting a little tired (as the day wore on)," Riley said as he wiped the sweat from his face and rolling his eyes moments after winning the title—and just after he had leaped into his dad's arms for a massive victory embrace.

Jesus had been dealing with this own emotional tightrope. "It was just so ... unreal," he aid. "It was especially difficult during those last few races. My stomach was turning." Dad was not alone with his feelings.

"I was nervous," admitted Riley, his eyes lighting up again while reliving his march to the championship.

Riley's eyes also lit up when he talked about the new Playstation 5 he'll soon be getting. "I promised him one if he won," Jesus admitted.

Once the post-race hoopla began to fade, Jesus scanned the track and those still lingering and began talking about what had unfolded. "What those who put on this even do for the kids is amazing," he said, shaking his head in admiration. "I just hope even more people get involved with them on this."

That Saturday's Super Stock, Stock and Elite Masters competition followed a day-long Friday event devoted to Super Kids — kids with emotional and/or physical challenges, some of them severe.

"I just can't say enough good things about this. The Quincy Optimist Club is an amazing program," Jesus said.



Marine Corps News

RIP Herschel “Woody” Williams

Herschel “Woody” Williams was born in 1923 and raised in West Virginia. After initially being rejected by the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943 for being too short, he was able to join the Marine Corps Reserve a few months later when the height requirement was reduced. On October 30, 1943, he joined the 32nd Replacement Battalion, which was sent to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Williams fought in the Battle of Guadalcanal and in Guam before landing on Iwo Jima on February 21, 1945.

Two days later, on the day the flag was raised on Iwo Jima’s Mt. Suribachi, Williams’ unit was bogged down in a heavily fortified area. Williams, with the aid of cover fire from only four Marines, used a flamethrower to attack enemy machine gun pillboxes. After destroying several Japanese positions, he opened a gap in the Japanese defenses which enabled the Marines to move ahead. For his actions on February 23, Williams received the Medal of Honor on October 4, 1945. from President Truman. He was also awarded the Purple Heart after being wounded on March 6.

Following the war, Williams served in the Marine Corps Reserve and retired as a chief warrant officer in 1969. He became lay minister for his church and served as Chaplain Emeritus of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. He was also a Veteran Services Officer at the Veterans Administration for 33 years, until his retirement in 1978

Read Herschel “Woody” Williams’ full Medal of Honor Citation.

“This Medal really does not belong to me—I could not have received it without the assistance of other Marines. So when I wear this Medal, I don’t wear it for what I did. I wear it in honor of two Marines — I don’t know their names—who gave their lives protecting mine. It really belongs to them. I’m just a caretaker of it.”— Woody Williams



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4
HERSHEL “WOODY” WILLIAMS
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

OCTOBER 2, 1923 - JUNE 29, 2022

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Visit us on our websites:

www.gemcity790.org

www.mclnational.org

www.marinecorpstimes.com

www.theillinoismarine.com

Or on Facebook at:

[Gem City Detachment 790 Marine Corps League](#)

Coming Events - 2022

Adams County Fair - July 27, 2022 through August 2, 2022 Adams County Fairgrounds
 Knights of Columbus annual picnic — August 2022
 Military night at the Gem City Gems Game—July 1st

Upcoming events TBD:

NOTE: Membership annual dues are \$35.00. MCL National does NOT send out a notice any longer. Dues are due September 1st.

The band for the 2022 Marine Corps Veterans Dances is going to be Gary McVeigh when IVH states it is safe to hold the dances. At this time it does not appear the dances will resume this year

PLEASE REMEMBER ALL PICTURES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE LEAGUE AS A WHOLE PRIOR TO BEING SUBMITTED ANYWHERE!

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Judge Advocate		
Sergeant-At-Arms	SUMMERS, JOHN	(217) 653-3625
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Trustee 2021	CANE, STEPHEN	(217) 577-7086
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