



# River Cities News

Volume 13 Issue 4

April 1, 2016

## Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter, Commandant

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### Detachment Officers

- Commandant  
Bob Reutter (812) 985-5759
- Sr. Vice Commandant  
Kelly Williams (812) 598-0656
- Jr. Vice Commandant  
Ludie DeV Vaughn Jr. (812) 629-6481
- Jr. Past Commandant  
Tim Jones (812) 454-8717
- Paymaster  
Don Landers Sr. (812) 483-3014
- Adjutant  
Art Midle (812) 760-4349
- Judge Advocate  
Don Counts (812) 422-1792
- Chaplain  
Joe Filipczak (812) 476-3762
- Sgt At Arms  
Jack Kincaide
- Newsletter Editors  
Paula Landers (812) 483-5114
- Web Sergeant  
Paula Landers (812) 483-5114

The Department of Indiana Spring Conference was held this past weekend in Jasper, Indiana home of the Southern Indiana Leathernecks Detachment. Attending the conference was excellent with the opportunity to be with other Marines and share ideas, swap stories and just enjoy the weekend. Once again I was reminded why we are different from every other branch of the services. As soon as you drove into the parking lot of the hotel you saw – on nearly every vehicle there – evidence of who was there. Every license plate was Marine based, every bumper had stickers, rear windows were adorned with the EGA – in short there was no question about who drove each and every car, truck or van in the lot – Marines.

In my report to the Commandant's council meeting at the conference I offered the following statistics about our detachment. All of these numbers have been since the Fall Conference the first weekend of October:

- 24 Funeral Home visits
- 3 Graveside services (prayer, flag folding, rifle salute and taps)
- 10 Color Guards
- 9 Honor Guards (posting colors at a static event)
- 17 other events.

We have talked in earlier issues of this newsletter about many of these events. It was just eye opening to see the numbers compiled. I was extremely proud to represent our Detachment at this council meeting. We don't have the membership numbers of some of the other Detachments but we are as active as any and more than most. In addition, we have added 9 new members in less than a year. This is the life blood of any organization – new members. They have already begun to have a positive impact on the Detachment.

I look for us to be more active with the Marine recruiters in our area in the coming months. Look for more information in future River Cities News issues. Gung Ho!

### Wearing the Marine Corps Uniform

One issue that was discussed in meetings at the Spring Conference was how we present ourselves to the public. The Commandant of the Department of Indiana of the Marine Corps League said there have been reports of League members in Marine Dress Blue uniforms who did not conform to USMC standards of grooming. I think we would all agree that our dress uniform is the best

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## Commandant's Corner - continued from pg 1

looking of all the services. With that in mind, it is important that **if** we are going to wear the uniform we should wear it in a manner that would make those who have gone before us proud to look upon us.

That means no facial hair except mustaches and those trimmed to acceptable lengths. All buttons buttoned, all uniform components in place, clean and in good repair. Weight should be within acceptable parameters. If you have any question have another Marine tell you if you should be representing our Corps in the eyes of the public.

The State Commandant stated there could be repercussions should this not be taken seriously by League membership. This is not just a Department of Indiana problem; this is nation wide. The League is not trying to tell us how to look or dress in our daily life. Only how we wear the signature **Dress Blue** Uniform. We have already lost our khaki shirts. Let's not do anything to lose the right to wear our Dress Blue Uniform.

Semper Fi!  
Bob

## 100th Anniversary of the Coliseum

By Barbara Kortz

The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Coliseum will be celebrating their 100th anniversary on April 23, 2016. The Coliseum is dedicated to all veterans past and present.

The Vanderburgh County Veterans Council is the overseers for this building, which the Marine Corps League is part of. We need to help support the Coliseum. Our MCL will be the honor guard greeting the guest as they arrive. There is a dinner and the Templeairs, which is a swing band, will be playing for your pleasure. The tickets are \$30.00 for veterans. A vetean and their guest will be \$60.00 All others are \$75.00 each. One can sponsor a table for \$500.00. I have found many pictues of the Coliseum and WWi soldiers for the scrapbook. Come join us. It will be a great night for all and supporting the Coliseum.

If you need more info call me Barbara Ising Kortz 812-568-4274.

## Marine Foundation of Indiana, Inc.

By Gary Burk

Commandant Reutter asked me to be the River Cities Detachment 1090 representative to the Marine Foundation of Indiana committee. I, of course agreed and went to a seminar on the foundation this past weekend. We learned a couple of surprising things at this gathering. The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles has a couple of different plates we can buy. If you have the Marine Hoosier Veteran plate a \$15 fee goes to the Military Family Relief Fund of the State of Indiana. If you have a DAV plate, the money you pay to the DMV goes to the National Guard, not the DAV.



If you have The Disabled Hoosier Veteran plate the money goes to the State of Indiana but there is no additional fee.

If you purchase the Marine Foundation of Indiana plate you will pay an additional \$25 annually but that amount goes to the Foundation. Here is what happens to that money. A committee made of up of representatives from each of the MCL Detachments in Indiana has a vote to approve or disapprove requests for funds from the Foundation.



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## Marines in the Movies

By Bob Reutter, Commandant



Today's Hollywood Marine is famous for what goes on behind the camera. Donald P. Bellisario was born 8 August 1935 to a Serbian mother and Italian father. Attaining the rank of Sergeant in his 4 years in the Corps (1955-1959) he received the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism at Penn State University in 1961. In 2006 Bellisario endowed a one million dollar scholarship to the Penn State College of Communications. He recalled "growing up in a western Pennsylvania coal mining town, I know firsthand the sacrifices that are made to give a child a university education. As a Marine veteran who returned to Penn State with two small children and little money, I remember all too well the struggle. I hope this scholarship will ease the burden of other young men and women."

He worked several years under other television producers, adopting some of their techniques like using a small 'pool' of actors for different productions. Over the years he created several successful TV series including: "**Magnum, P.I.**," "**Airwolf**," "**Quantum Leap**," "**JAG**," "**Black Sheep Squadron**," and "**NCIS**." Stemming from his service in the Corps, his main character is always a current or former member of the Military. All of his main characters share the same birthday – 8 August. The final episode of "**Quantum Leap**" takes place on 8 August 1953, the year being the reverse of the last two digits of his own birth year of 1935. He served in the Corps alongside Lee Harvey Oswald which was the basis for a two hour episode of the show originally aired 22 September 1992.

His son, Michael played a recurring role as Midshipman Michael Roberts on "**JAG**" and as 'Chip' Sterling on "**NCIS**". His daughter Troian played Sarah McGee on "**NCIS**" and his stepson Sean Murray is Timothy McGee on the same series

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## Marine Foundation of Indiana, Inc. - continued from pg 2

Last year over \$32,000 was available for such requests.

Requests can be of two different natures:

Individual request - to provide help or assistance to one Marine or family. This would be things like building a ramp for a handicapped Marine. Up to \$500 is available for a single grant.

Group request – this would be things like sponsoring a party for deployed Marines. We could plan a summer gathering for families of Marines currently deployed and the Foundation would provide up to \$1500 for such a request.

In both cases we would create an account at the location where we purchase items to complete the request. Bills, along with the proper Foundation paperwork would be submitted to the committee. If approved by the committee a check would be cut to directly pay the invoice(s) submitted.

I strongly suggest that the next time you renew your plates with the Indiana Dept. of Motor Vehicles you consider the Marine Foundation plate. It looks good, designates you as a Marine and provides funding for us to help our Marine brothers and sisters.

Please contact me with any questions you may have, or if you know of a Marine or his/her family member who needs help. Gary A. Burk – HP: 812-867-5854 or C: 812-499-3045 or Email: gaburk05@att.net Please do not call after 9 p.m. Thank You!

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# **Eighth Annual Marine Corps League Auxiliary Bowling Tournament**



**Sponsored by  
Southern Belles Unit 441**

Bowlers, and non-bowlers can get in on the action of this bowling event. The proceeds from this event will help fund the activities of Southern Belles Unit 441, such as community projects and Operation Care Package. There will be Door Prize Drawings, a 50/50 Drawing, and a silent auction with great merchandise to bid on. So come on down to Franklin Lanes on Saturday, May 21, 2016. If you don't want to get a team together you can still help by participating in the silent auction.

### **Join Us For a Fun Afternoon**

Saturday, May 21, 2015

Franklin Lanes

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Entry Fee: \$60 per team of 4

9-Pin No Tap \* Three Games

Mixed Teams (No separate divisions)

Registration Deadline is May 14, 2015

#### ***Your entry fee includes:***

Three games of bowling \* Shoe Rental \*  
2 Soft Drinks \* Prize drawings

#### **Prizes**

First Place Team - \$200

Second Place Team - \$100

Third Place Team - \$50

High Series Male - \$25

High Series Female - \$25

*Prizes are based on 40 bowlers, we reserve the right to lower prize money based on number of participates.*

*In case of a tie, prize money will be combined.*

#### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

##### **Semper Fi Sponsor**

[ ] \$200 - Includes business or sponsor name on Semper Fi Signage, 1 team of 4

##### **Lane Sponsor**

[ ] \$100 - Includes business or sponsor name on Signage

### **Entry Form**

Contact Person:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to **Southern Belles Unit 441**

Mail to c/o Paula Landers  
807 Frank Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47712-4548

To pay using debt card or credit card please use our convenient online registration form at

[www.mclrivercities.org/auxiliary](http://www.mclrivercities.org/auxiliary)

## Marine Corps History

By Gary Burk

*The following is an excerpt from "The Battle History of the U.S. Marines".*

At first glance, Vietnam might have seemed like a good old-fashioned U.S. Marine drop-in straight out of the Philippines or Nicaragua. Sooner or later the Marines seemed destined to fight a protracted land war on the Indochinese Peninsula. Rumors circulated widely among the amphibious ships evacuating the battered 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division from Hungnam in 1950 that the next mission for the Old Breed would be to bail out the French in their desperate fight against Viet Minh guerrillas in Vietnam. "At least it ain't cold in Vietnam," exclaimed one frostbitten veteran, repacking his duffel bag.

Not yet. While American foreign policy sought to contain Communist expansion in east Asia, the nation could not afford to fight two wars – even two "Police Actions" – at once. The Korean War would have to be played out first.

The first U.S. Marine arrived in Vietnam less than six months after the fall of Dien Bien Phu. Lieutenant Colonel Victor Croizat's main responsibility was to train and inspire the nucleus of a Vietnamese Marine regiment, which would grow in proficiency and lethality into a very good infantry division.

Now the principal focus for the Marines became Southeast Asia, especially Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, each threatened by Soviet-supported insurgencies.

*Counterinsurgency* became in vogue as a political-military art form. Marines studied the recent counter-guerrilla campaigns in Malaya and the Philippines, read Bernard Fall's *Street Without Joy*, conducted war games involving the landing of expeditionary forces at a place halfway down the Indochinese coast called Tourane (later: Da Nang), and vied for the coveted thirty-day "OJT" (On the Job Training) assignments as observers to the hard-pressed ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam).

The inauguration of President John F. Kennedy in January 1961 ushered in a period of more adventuresome foreign policy. The Marines, ever prideful of their "First to Fight" motto, found themselves whipsawed through a series of pulse-quickening deployments and frustrating recalls.

In 1961 the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Brigade sailed from Hawaii for a landing exercise in California, only to find the sun rising in a different direction at daybreak – an overnight crisis instituted by Pathet Lao guerrillas in Laos caused urgent orders for the task force to reverse course. The brigade circled in the Western Pacific for weeks waiting for the command to land somewhere, anywhere, and do something, anything. Nothing, not yet.

The following year, Brigadier General Ormond Simpson led the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Brigade ashore in Thailand, where they deployed north near the Laotian border for four months.

Such was the frustrating nature of the Cold War. Marines often landed, but the diplomats and politicians always seemed to be on the beach ahead of them. There would be no Iwo Jimas.

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Project Mercury-John Glenn was the first Marine astronaut.

Apollo Program-Five Marines were astronauts.

Shuttle Space Program-Twenty U.S. Marines have been astronauts.

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## Information on Life Membership

***National Bylaws Article Six - Members, Section 645 - Life Members:***

Any member of the Marine Corps League who is in good standing may become a Life Member, upon proper payment of the fee, as is required herein. A Life Member shall be subject to payment of no further dues of a Detachment, or National, such member shall have all the privileges, rights, and benefits enjoyed as a member so long as that Life Member shall live.

### ***Current Life Membership Price Information***

***As of January 2014***

- Up to and including age 35 - \$500.00**
- Age 36 up to and including age 50 - \$400.00**
- Age 51 up to and including age 64 - \$300.00**
- Age 65 and over - \$200.00**

The cost of replacing a Life Membership Gold Card is \$10.00

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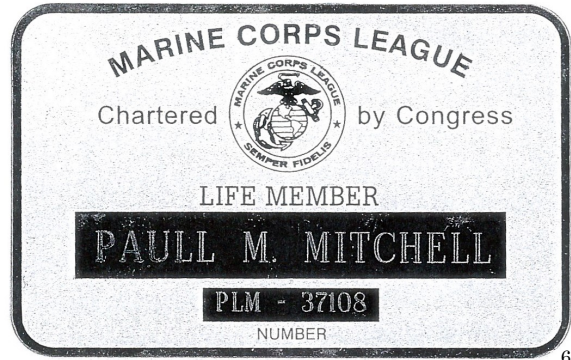
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