



River Cities News

Marine Corps League
Business Name
Evansville, Indiana

Volume 14, Issue 4

April 2017

Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter, Commandant

April! How in the world did we get past the first three months – that is the first quarter of this new year? From talking to those around me I know that I am not the only one who experiences the feeling that life is flying by. In our March League meeting our detachment held its annual election of officers for the coming year. It seems that you are stuck with my ramblings in this column for the next 12 months. This will be my third year as Commandant of the River Cities Detachment 1090. I am proud to be entrusted with this position and will try to represent our membership in as positive a way as I can. One thing I would like to stress (again) is commitment. We have many members who are reading this message but are somewhat like ghosts. You feel they are around but never see them! We have many events over the course of a year, from fund raisers to picnics to regular meetings. I know that many of us have demands on our time from too many directions. I am asking that **YOU** make a commitment (that word again) to attend as many of those events as you possibly can.

One of my goals since taking office has been to reach out to the members of our detachment who – for various reasons – have stopped coming to our monthly meetings. I have heard from several who stopped attending because of the stormy nature of discussion in the past. I will not say that we don't have discussion. In a group as varied as we are will not have everyone agreeing on all issues. What I will promise to you is that your voice will be heard and your opinion will be considered by the group. I hope that in the end our decisions will be based on what is best for the Detachment. If you have not been to a meeting in a few years I am asking that you give us another chance.

OK. Off my soap box and onward. Last month we did our Harbor Freight fund raiser. From March 9th thru the 12th we had our food booth parked at HFT

while we sold food for lunch at the parking lot sale. While the weather was uncooperative we did have a good time, made a little money for our general fund and – best of all – made several contacts with Marines who are good prospects for membership in the League.

We have some opportunities in the next three months for fellowship both in fundraisers and in plain old good times. The ninth annual Southern Belles Bowling event will be held on April 22nd. More information is in this newsletter. The event this year is aimed at family participation. Form a team with your kids and grandkids to have a fun day.

The decision was voted on and approved to be part of the Evansville Streets Alive festival at Garvin's Park on May 20th. It is a one day (Saturday) afternoon event and we will have our food booth there. The same day is the annual "Ride to Remember" by the Patriot Guard Motorcycle group. We will provide a color guard and a bugler to play taps for this event as well. We are still working diligently on the League Convention to be held in Evansville the first weekend of June. Our committees have been formed and things are progressing well. Also in June we will have another opportunity to raise funds at Harbor Freight Tools. The Shrine Fest will be at the end of June as well. We have formed a committee to review our Detachment Bylaws. If you have suggestions you would like to see incorporated into our bylaws contact any of the Detachment officers to have your voice heard.

As you can tell we have a pretty full 'dance card' for the next three months. I look forward to seeing all our members at every event that you can work into your busy schedule.

Semper Fi and Gung Ho!

Detachment Officers

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Paymaster
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Sgt At Arms
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Sr. Vice Commandant
Kelly Williams (812) 598-0656

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Ludie DeV Vaughn Jr. (812) 629-6481

Judge Advocate
Don Counts (812) 422-1792

Web Sergeant
Paula Landers (812) 483-5114

Jr. Past Commandant
Tim Jones (812) 454-8717

Chaplain
Joe Filipczak (812) 476-3762

Marine Corps History

By Gary Burk

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

As always, the Marines' first challenge was getting this large a landing force ashore with full tactical integrity.

Schmidt planned to assault Iwo Jima's southeast coast with two divisions abreast, Rockey's 5th on the left, Cates's 4th on the right. The high ground on both flanks was worrisome.

On the left flank the 28th Marines of Colonel Harry "the Horse" Liversedge would have to cut directly across the island before assaulting 556-foot Mount Suribachi.

On the right, Lieutenant Colonel Justice "Jumping Joe" Chambers' battalion of the 25th Marines would have to storm the near-vertical walls of the "Rock Quarry" from the water's edge.

Said a worried General Cates, "If I knew the name of the man on the extreme right of the right-hand squad I'd recommend him for a medal before we even go in."

Schmidt would hold Erskine's 3^d Marine Division initially in reserve. And Holland Smith, looking ahead to the titanic battles to come against the Japanese homeland, would piss off all hands by holding one regiment of Erskine's division, the 3^d Marines, in strategic reserve throughout Iwo Jima.

On D-Day, February 19, 1945, the weather held good. Admiral Kelly Turner ordered, "Land the landing force," and the intricate choreography began, this time clicking like a fine Swiss watch.

Everyone there, from Kuribayashi's wary gunners to the Marines waiting to debark, had a spectacular view. "Iwo Jima was a rude, ugly sight," said one observer. "Only a geologist could look at it and not be repelled."

As the pounding of Iwo Jima by naval guns

reached a crescendo, the Marines grinned appreciatively when the old battleship *Nevada*, so valiant yet seemingly doomed at Pearl Harbor, churned daringly close to the island to deliver her smoking broadsides against Suribachi's caves and pillboxes.

Another cheer went up from the troops when two squadrons of Marine Corsairs swept in low, splattering rockets and machine gun bullets against the Rock Quarry. These were Lieutenant Colonel William "Tex" Millington's carrier pilots from Task Force 58, hitting Iwo as an interlude between raiding the Japanese home islands, but on this day of the days they were magnificent.

"Drag your bellies on the beach," Tex Millington ordered his pilots.

This they literally did, shrieking barely fifty feet above the terraced beaches just as the assault waves of troop-laden LVTs churned ashore.

The assault landing was an awesome spectacle, the pinnacle of the amphibious war,

flawlessly executed by the veteran Navy-Marine team. As a stared in disbelief at an immortal fallen—until some young corporal broke the spell, snarling, "All right, you sons of bitches, move it! *Move it!*"

The fifth Fleet did not take kindly to this unwelcome ambush of their landing force by Japanese gunners in the highlands. Ships and planes reacted quickly, giving Kuribayashi a taste of his own medicine, stinging his exposed gun positions with shrapnel and napalm. The little island seemed to rock and quake, literally hell on earth.

To be continued-

SEMPER FIDELIS
Once A MARINE, Always A MARINE



Membership Dues

By Don Landers, Paymaster

All membership dues will now expire on August 31st of each year instead of on a members anniversary month. New membership cards will be dated September 1.

RENEWAL DATES for Current Members.

For those members whose dues are due between July 2016 and December 2016, they will pay **\$35** and dues will be due again on 31 August 2017. (Cards will be dated 1 September 2017) Members with expiration dates between January 2017 and June 2017 will pay **\$25** and their dues will be due again on 31 August 2017. (Cards will be dated 1 September 2017)

Only the current fiscal year will be affected; all other years will be the amount of the current annual dues and they are due on 31 August.

NEW MEMBERS

1 September through 28 February: Cost will be the full annual dues of **\$35** (The card will be dated 1 September and renewal dues will be due by 31 August)

1 March through 31 July: Cost will be **\$25** (The card will be dated 1 September and renewal dues will be due by 31 August)

1 August: Cost will be the full annual dues of **\$35** (The renewal date will be 31 August of the following year - they will get 13 months of membership for the cost of 12 months.)

Detachment Ribbons and Awards

Ceremonial Guard Ribbon



Ribbon: Thin White, Blue, Red, Blue, Thin white

Awarded by: National, Department, or Detachment Commandant

Recommended by: Ceremonial Guard Commander

Criteria for Award: Must participate in 10 events for each award. Events include Color Guard, Funeral/Honor Detail, Rifle Detail or Marching Squad. **Just walking or riding on a float in a parade does not qualify unless it is part of a specific detail or program such as a Marching Unit.** This award is retroactive to January 2010 for all individuals who have met the qualification for the award.

Enclosure Four (4) National By-Laws

Marine Corps League Awards



At the Central Division Conference in March the Department of Indiana was awarded the National Meritorious Unit Commendation which means all members of River Cities may now wear this ribbon plus a star because we were authorize a previous award.



Marines in the Public Eye

By Bob Reutter

Victor H. "Brute" Krulak



When he attended the Naval Academy, he was nicknamed Brute by his fellow midshipmen, a wry reference to the fact that he was only 5 feet 4 and weighed 120 pounds or so. But General Krulak became a renowned figure in the Marines. He helped develop the landing craft that carried troops, vehicles and supplies onto the invasion beaches of World War II.

He received the Navy Cross, the Marines' highest award for valor after the Medal of Honor, for his exploits against the Japanese. He told of the corps' history and ethos in his book "First to Fight" (1984).

In 1937, while a lieutenant in an intelligence outfit in Shanghai, when the Japanese were trying to conquer China, he used a telephoto lens to take pictures of Japanese landing craft with a square bow that became a retractable ramp, enabling troops and equipment to be dispatched quickly onto an enemy beach. Envisioning those ramps as answering the Marines' needs in a looming world war, Lieutenant Krulak showed the photographs to his superiors, who passed on his report to Washington. But two years later, he found that the Navy had simply filed it away with a notation saying it was the work of "some nut out in China."

He persevered, building a balsa wood model of the Japanese boat design and discussing the retractable ramp concept with the New Orleans boat builder Andrew Higgins. That bow design became the basis for the thousands of Higgins landing craft of World War II. "There would not have been a Normandy or an Okinawa or an Iwo Jima without that boat," his son Charles said in an interview. In a speech to the Marine Corps Association in 2007, Defense Secretary Robert

M. Gates told of the young marine lieutenant of the late 1930s who pursued his ideas for an innovative landing craft after being written off as a "nut." Mr. Gates said that "Victor Krulak's story and accomplishments" provided lessons in "overcoming conventional wisdom and bureaucratic obstacles."

In the late 1940s, General Krulak helped pioneer the use of helicopters to carry marines and supplies into battle, a maneuver employed in the Korean War, when he was chief of staff of the First Marine Division. He coined the phrase 'air cavalry' and wrote a manual on the offensive use of helicopters in battle. His manual, with a different front page and term Air Calvary were 'appropriated' by Army for their fledgling helicopter service.

During the Vietnam War's early stages, General Krulak expressed optimism over the prospects for American and South Vietnamese success. But in the mid-1960s, when he commanded all marines in the Pacific, he opposed the strategy pursued by Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the overall American commander in Vietnam. General Westmoreland proposed the use of marines in large-scale battles. General Krulak wanted to emphasize pacification, the effort to win over the South Vietnamese villagers by assisting in economic projects and protecting them from the enemy. He also advocated the bombing and mining of Haiphong's harbor to cut off supplies to North Vietnam. He met with President Lyndon B. Johnson in mid-1966 to press those ideas, but, as General Krulak later put it, "as soon as he heard me speak of mining and unrestrained bombing of the ports, Mr. Johnson got to his feet, put his arm around my shoulder, and propelled me firmly toward the door."

Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak, a highly decorated Marine commander who championed innovative tactics in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, died Dec. 29, 2009 in San Diego. He was 95. His death was announced by his son Gen. Charles C. Krulak, the Marine commandant from 1995 to 1999.

Veteran Services

By Mark Burrier

Yoga for Veterans

A Partnership between **Evansville Vet Center** and the **YMCA**.

Why YOGA?

Movement + Breath + Awareness

Can help deal with life's challenges like:

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Anger
- Insomnia
- Chronic Pain
- Depression
- Lack of Focus

While developing:

- Body Coordination
- Flexibility
- Focus

Self Confidence
Expression

What to Expect:

60-minute group sessions will involve physical movements guided in a careful and effective way.

Eligibility:

You must be eligible for Vet Center services to attend this group. Prior to attending, all participants are encouraged to talk with their VA or non-VA primary care provider to ensure that participating in physical activities including stretching and low intensity exercises will not increase physical risk to your current condition.

Contact:

Paul Greene or Trudy Buckman at the Vet Center 812-473-5993. Meet Wednesdays and Fridays at 1 PM @ Dunigan YMCA. There is no cost, no attendance obligation and no equipment to buy.

Humor in (Marine) Uniform

Military Rules of Combat

USMC

1. Bring a weapon. Preferably bring at least two. Bring all of your friends who have weapons. Bring their friends who have weapons.
2. Anything worth shooting is worth shooting twice. Ammo is cheap. Life is expensive.
3. Only hits count. Close doesn't count. The only thing worse than a miss is a slow miss.
4. If your shooting stance is good, you're probably not moving fast enough, nor using cover correctly.
5. Move away from your attacker. Distance is your friend. (Lateral and diagonal movement are preferred.)
6. If you can choose what to bring to a gunfight, bring a big weapon and a friend with a big weapon.
7. In ten years nobody will remember the details of caliber, stance, or tactics. They will only remember who lived and who didn't.
8. If you are not shooting, you should be communicating, reloading, and running.
9. Accuracy is relative: most combat shooting is more dependent on "pucker factor" than the inherent accuracy of the weapon.
10. Someday someone may kill you with your own weapon, but they should have to beat you to death with it because it is empty.

11. In combat, there are no rules, always cheat; always win. The only unfair fight is the one you lose.

12. Have a plan.

13. Have a back-up plan, because the first one won't work.

14. The faster you finish the fight, the less shot you will get.

15. Be polite. Be professional. But have a plan to kill everyone you meet.

Do not attend a gunfight with a handgun, the caliber of which does not start with a ".4."

Army

1. See USMC Rules for combat

2. Add 60 to 90 days

Hope the Marines already destroyed all meaningful resistance

Navy

1. Spend three weeks getting somewhere

2. Adopt an aggressive offshore posture

3. Send in the Marines

4. Drink Coffee

5. Bring back the Marines

Air Force

1. Kiss the spouse good-bye

2. Drive to the flight line

3. Fly to target area, drop bombs, fly back.

4. Pop in at the club for a couple with the guys. Go home, BBQ some burgers and drink some more beer

MCLA Bowling Event

Ninth Annual
Marine Corps League
Auxiliary
Bowling Tournament
Hosted by
Southern Belles Unit 441

When

Saturday

April 22, 2017

12:30 pm - 3: 00 pm

Register by April 8, 2017

Where

Franklin Lanes

1801 Franklin Street

Evansville, IN 47712

**NINE-PIN NO TAP - THREE GAMES - MIXED TEAMS
DOOR PRIZES - CHANCE AUCTION**

On-line registration at

www.mclrivercities.org/auxiliary

**All Ages
Event**

Team Registration

\$60 for a

Team of 4

**includes 3 games of bowling
and shoe rental**

Schedule

12:30 pm

Check-In

1:00 pm

Bowling Tournament

3:00 pm

Awards Ceremony

Prizes

First Place Team - \$200

Second Place Team - \$100

Third Place Team - \$50

High Series Male - \$25

High Series Female - \$25

**Youth: Ages 16 and under Indi-
vidual prizes for High Series**

*Cash prizes are based on 40
bowlers, we reserve the right to low-
er prize money based on
number of bowlers. In case of a
tie, prize money will be combined*

Contact

Dani Cook - 812- 468- 1395

Paula Landers - 812-483-5114

Newsletter Booster Club

<i>Booster Member</i>	<i>Expires</i>
John & Dottie Mills	Apr - 17
Bob & Linda Reutter	June - 17
Dorothy Odom	June - 17
Tom & Alice Kick	July - 17
Joe & Kathy Filipzcak	July - 17
Bill Bitter	Aug - 17
Roy & Carolyn McWilliams	Aug - 17
Larry & Casey Scott	Oct - 17
Melissa West	Dec - 17
Casey Canfield	Dec - 17
Bob Moore	Dec - 17
Gary Burk	Dec - 17
David Jones	Dec - 17
Southern Belles Unit 441	Feb - 18

A big thank you to all those that donate to the Newsletter Booster Club. We still need Booster Members, **a donation of \$5.00 or more per individual** is all it takes to become a member. As a Booster Member you get your name listed in the Newsletter for 1 year. This lets everyone know that you help support the River Cities News. The Booster Club and Advertisements help to **defray** the cost of printing and postage.

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1/2 page\$50.00 for 6 months

Visit our web site for the forms to submit an advertisement.

www.mclrivercities.org/news Anyone can use these forms to put an ad in the newsletter. The editor has the right to reject an ad that is not appropriate such as loan companies, adult entertainment, etc.

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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Joe and Kathy Filipczak
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12/2017

Compliments of
Bob and Linda Reutter
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River Cities Detachment #1090

06/2021

Compliments of
Casey Canfield
Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090

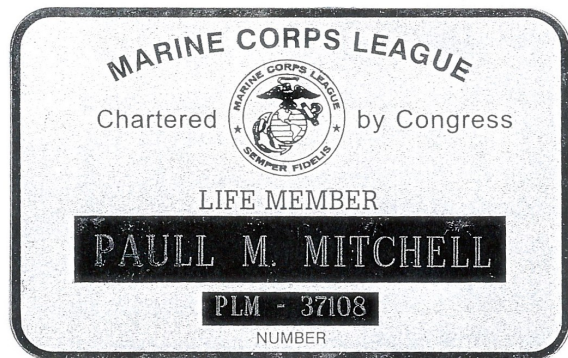
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Southern Belles Unit 441

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Compliments of
Marine Larry Scott

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

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Dedicated to the memory of good
Marines and good friends:

- Ken Odom
- Chuck Bridges
- A.J. Hardin
- Tommy Collins

Semper Fi Marines!



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WELCOME ON BOARD

Kyle Swain

Note: Important change in membership due date go to page 3 for the update.

Semper Fi

April 2017

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	5	6 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 VA Project 8 a.m.	7	8
9	10 MODD Growl TFT Warehouse 1830	11 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	19	20	21	22 MCLA Bowling Tournament See pg 6 For details
23	24 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 6 p.m. AmVets #84	25 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	26 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 1900 w/dinner From Mission BBQ. VFW 1114	27	28	29
30	May 1	May 2 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for May 2017 are due NO LATER THAN April 22, 2017			