



# River Cities News

River Cities Detachment #1090  
Marine Corps League, Inc.  
Evansville, Indiana

Volume 15, Issue 4

April 2018

## Commandant's Corner

**Bob Reutter, Commandant**

I speak frequently about commitment in this column. It is a trait that is often applied to Marines in stories, television ads for the Corps, movies and sometimes in life. I think we had a demonstration of the power of commitment by our Detachment members at our recent fund raising weekend. We had our food booth at the local Harbor Freight Tools while their parking lot tent sale was held. Although the weather on



two of the four days was less than stellar, we had a full crew of at least four member each of the eight shifts during that time. As a result, we had our most successful net profit since we started almost 3 years ago.

The next couple of weeks will test the commitment of the rest of our Detachment. I printed, stuffed and mailed our letter concerning monthly pledges to support a 'home' of our own. Each member of our detachment will receive a letter with a post-paid card to make a pledge of ongoing support for our future home. It will be interesting to see how many of our 102 members a) respond to the letter by at least marking the card and dropping it in the mail (there is already a stamp on the card) and b) actually pledge to support the building fund. This will give us a handle on whether we should continue to try or to drop the idea altogether.

We are entering a busy time for our Detachment. In the next three months we have our food booth at a street festival in Evansville, at the annual

Shriner's Fest and another weekend at Harbor Freight. We also have the MCLA Southern Belle's annual Bowling event. To get more families involved the bowling has been opened to all ages. We have been attracting some younger members and by welcoming younger family members we hope to expand that trend. We are also planning another Marine family picnic for



some time this year. We have not settled on any details yet but hopefully we can use it as a recruiting tool as well. We try to get the word out to all the Marines in

our area, members and non-members alike, to show that being Marine is a life-long thing, not only for the Marine but for his/her family also.

I have made this request before but if there is any topic you would like to see explored in the column or if you have any suggestions how to make this newsletter better or more appealing, please contact me or our editor, Paula Landers. Both of us are committed (that word again) to being open to improvement. It is very hard to do if you don't let us know what you do and do not like. Semper Fi and I hope you have a great month.



### Detachment Officers

Commandant  
Bob Reutter (270) 314-9484

Paymaster  
Don Landers Sr. (812) 483-3014

Sgt At Arms  
Jack Kincaide

Sr. Vice Commandant  
Jim Grayson

Adjutant  
Art Midle (812) 760-4349

Newsletter Editor  
Paula Landers (812) 483-5114

Jr. Vice Commandant  
Joe Filipczak

Judge Advocate  
Don Counts (812) 422-1792

Web Sergeant  
Paula Landers (812) 483-5114

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

Chaplain  
Barbara Kortz (812)550-0552

## Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

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

### GULF WAR/DESERT STORM

If anything as miserable as war can be said to be the realization of a dream, the Gulf War was it for the United States Marine Corps. A beautifully rebuilt, expensively crafted fighting machine at the peak of its readiness and ferocity was injected into a sudden war with an outrageously evil enemy. The terrain was tailored to the Corps' slashing mobility. Deployment was near flawless, battle planning and performance even more so. Teamwork was beautiful within and without the Corps. Against a huge, veteran, capable military machine they achieved swift, crushing victory in a key sector. And, most gloriously, casualties were astonishingly low. They returned home to the smashing acclaim that had been withheld after Vietnam. If the battle history of the Marine Corps were to end, this would be an ideal place. Of course, that would mean the end of war, or rumors of war. Good luck.

Realization that a maverick dictator suddenly sat securely on 20 percent of the world's oil supplies and threatened to double that domination prompted Present George Bush to declare, "This will not stand."

Iraqi dictator Saddam had launched his invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, in partial belief that neither the United States nor the rest of the free world would do much more than cry foul and wring their hands. In short order, he had seized Kuwait and staged formidable armored forces along the Saudi border.

Closely supported by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and noticeably unopposed by Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, the President began to build a coalition of thirty-seven nations willing to oppose Saddam.

The Marines were instantly on the move. While one Marine expeditionary brigade deployed from the East Coast loaded for the traditional amphibious mission, two others marched aboard strategic airlifters to fly directly to Saudi Arabia to marry-up with their maritime preposition (MPS) ships.

Desert Storm would be the largest single combat operation in Marine Corps history. Nearly 91,000 Leathernecks took part—men and women, aviators and grunts, amphibians and desert rats, staff pukes and snake-eaters. Lieutenant General Walter Boomer commanded more Marines in combat than did Harry Schmidt at Iwo Jima or Roy Geiger at Okinawa. As Joint Chiefs Chairman General Colin Powell set out to execute the President's policies, he exacted from the Commander-in-Chief a promise to avoid the "mission creep" and top-level micro-management of the Vietnam War. In this crisis, Powell insisted, "Set a clear political objective, provide sufficient forces to do their job, then keep out of the way."

The 7<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Brigade flew from California to Al Jubail on August 14.

The next day their five MPS ships arrived from Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. On hand watching the tanks rumble ashore was the campaign's commander-in-chief, Army General Norman Schwarzkopf. Seeing the flow of combat gear coming off the ships "made me feel great," he said. Within five days the 7<sup>th</sup> MEB moved north, ready to fight, 15,248-men strong, fielding 123 tanks, 425 artillery pieces, and 124 tactical aircraft, both helos and fixed wing.

Saddam missed a golden opportunity to make an early grab for Saudi Arabia's economic center of gravity along the east (Gulf) coast. The 7<sup>th</sup> MEB and the Army Airborne forces on hand were no match for the hundreds of thousands of first-echelon Iraqi troops stacked up along the Kuwaiti-Saudi border.

*(to be continued)*

## MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441

Dani Cook, President



We are still selling the Veteran Bracelets to raise much need funds for our Auxiliary, In addition, our Annual Bowling Tournament is Saturday April 7th at Franklin Lanes. Although pre-registration was preferred but we will be registrating teams at the door. Registration starts at 1130.

This event is for all age and skill levels, it is a fun time for all.

Even if you don't bowl come on down and join us for the chance auction and cheer on your favorite team.

## Marines in the News

Bob Reutter

### Marines Already Revamping Close Combat Ahead of Mattis' Initiative



At a recent Senate Armed Services Subcommittee meeting Marine Lt. General Robert Walsh was asked by Committee chair Roger Wicker from Mississippi if "the Marine Corps

has let other priorities overshadow readiness for close combat." He went on, "I have heard concerns that the Marine Corps may have prioritized readiness recovery efforts on aviation units to the detriment of close combat units."

General Walsh was able to immediately answer that the Commandant Neller had, over a year ago, directed the Corps to 'experiment with new equipment and tactics focused on close combat.' Gen. Walsh went on to say, "The Commandant is an infantryman and that is where he's got the focus, and I think we are completely in line with where the secretary of defense is taking us."

Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, asked Walsh "What are your thoughts on the changes in personnel, policies, training methods and equipping strategies that you believe this task force should be looking at?"

Walsh said the Corps began focusing on close combat during its Sea Dragon 2025 experiments that began more than a year and a half ago. "We took 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, an infantry battalion, and we took that organization and reorganized them," he said, describing how each of the three line companies were organized and outfitted differently. Units were given new equipment such as unmanned ground and aerial systems, new night vision goggles, helmets and small arms. "We have learned a lot from Marine Corps Special Operations Command, so we have gotten much more developed in that area on how do we raise the game up to a higher level," Walsh said. "That program took about a year and a half. We took that back to the commandant, and I think out of probably the

40 different recommendations they made, we have probably now already programmed 20 of those recommendations," Walsh said. "Out of the experiment, we have fielded over half of the squads of the Marine Corps with unmanned aerial systems -- unheard of that we would give an unmanned aerial system to the squad. All of those members that are down at the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab have been involved with the Close Combat Strategic Portfolio Review done by the secretary of defense that has now turned into this close combat task force," he said.

"In fact, our experiment lead, who was leading our experiment division, we gave up to go work for the secretary of defense on this to help continue to move our things forward," Walsh said.

### In the Alps: Mountain Marines compete in France

For the first time, US Marines from the Mountain Leaders Section, Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport CA competed in the Mountain Troops Winter Challenge 2018, a competition that tests mountain warfare skills and tactics, hosted by the French Army.

Located in the French Alps near Grenoble, the competition teams from 6 different countries including several teams from France, Germany, Italy, Lebanon, Georgia and the United Kingdom. All teams had to use the French FAMAS service rifle.

By the end of the event the Marines finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place besting the teams from Georgia and Lebanon as well as most of the French teams. Events including shooting, cross country skiing as well as casualty evacuation with a litter. The event posed severe challenges due to the steep incline on certain portions of the track and incredibly high winds.



Continued on pg 5

## Marines in the News *continued from pg 3*

### Marine Corps trials kicks off at Camp Lejeune



For the first time ever, the Marine Corps trials is being held at Camp Lejeune.

The week long Paralympic style event kicked off today with it's opening ceremonies. The event features more than 200 wounded, ill, or injured service-members from around the globe.

Cortney Wells a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps sustained a hip injury during a training exercise and also deals with fibromyalgia. She will be featured in a couple of competitions including archery. Wells says she uses the sport to help

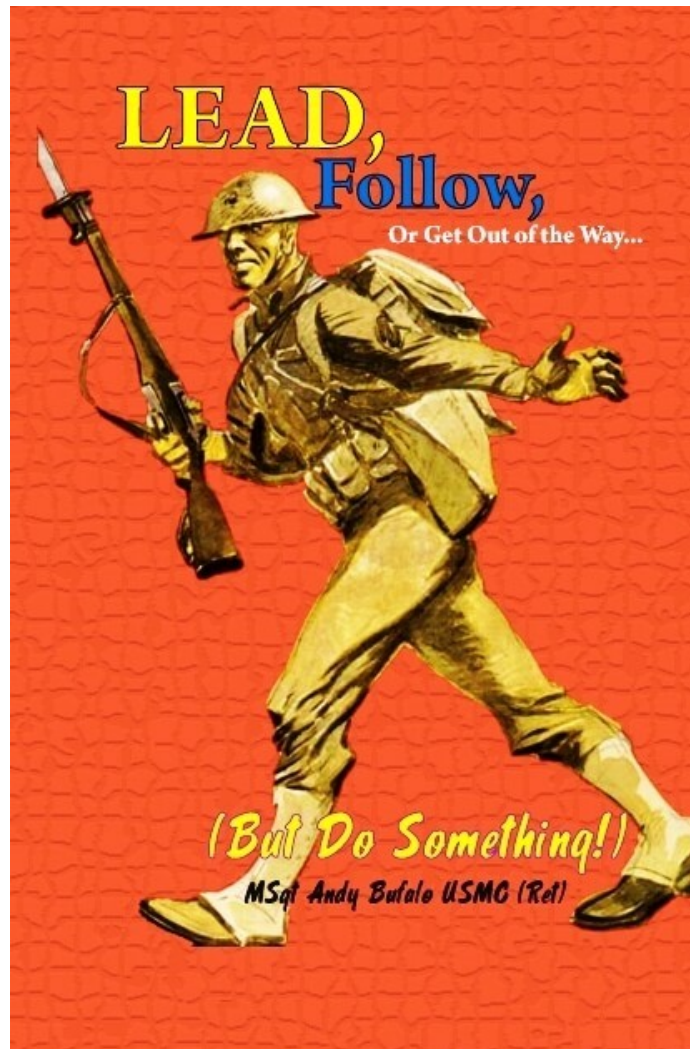
cope with her injuries. "You're focused on so many different things your form, aim, and breathing, that stuff is all I'm thinking about," said Wells.

Rob Jones a retired U.S. Marine had both of his legs amputated after stepping on an IED in Afghanistan. During the trials, he will be participating in several rowing and track competitions.

"I think one of the best things about sports in recovery is it kind of shows the person what they're still capable of doing," said Jones.



The event also features competitions including wheelchair basketball and rugby, sitting volleyball, and more.



## Humor in (Marine) Uniform

### Marines and The Police

The following is supposedly a true story relating a situation that actually occurred in Los Angeles. The Marines were backing-up LAPD on a call that someone had broken into a store. At the scene, the cop told the Marines to "cover" him as he approached the store (to police, "cover" means to point your weapons in the direction of the threat, to Marines it means lay down a base of fire!). The Marines promptly laid down a base of fire. The Marines fired 178 rounds before they stopped shooting. The thief, probably a little scared at this point, called 911 and reported, "They're shooting at me!"



"It looks like a trap to me, sir."

### Tax Season

Tax day, April 15, was looming when an elderly woman showed up at the IRS. She said she required a thick stack of tax forms. "Why so many?" the clerk asked. "My son is stationed overseas," she said. "He asked me to pick up forms for the Marines on the base." "You shouldn't have to do this," the clerk told her. "It's the base commander's job to make sure that his troops have access to the forms they need." "I know," said the woman. "I'm the base commander's mother."

### How to sell GI insurance.

Airman Jones was assigned to the induction center, where he advised new recruits about their government benefits, especially their GI insurance. It wasn't long before Captain Smith noticed that Marine Jones was having a staggeringly high success-rate, selling insurance to nearly 100% of the recruits he advised. Rather than asking him about this, the Captain stood at the back of the room and listened to Jones' sales pitch. Jones explained the basics of GI Insurance to the new recruits, and then said, "If you are killed in a battle and have a GI Insurance, the government has to pay \$200,000 to your beneficiaries. But, if you don't have a GI insurance and get killed in the battle, the government only has to pay a maximum of \$6000." "Now," he concluded, "which group do YOU think they are going to send into battle first?"



"Half of it's good."

### Marine Training Exercise

During a Marine training exercise, a commanding officer's jeep got stuck in the mud. The C.O. saw some men lounging around nearby and asked them to help him get unstuck. "Sorry sir," said one of the loafers, "but we've been classified dead and the umpire said we couldn't contribute in any way." The C.O. turned to his driver and said, "Go drag a couple of those dead bodies over here and throw them under the wheels to give us some traction."

## Newsletter Booster Club

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Pat Dillback	Sept - 18
Bob and Linda Reutter	Oct - 18
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David Jones	Dec - 18
Casey Canfield	Feb- 19
Gary Burk	April -19

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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## 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

## MCL River Cities Fundraiser


Own a piece of Marine Corps history. This card has a small vial of actual volcanic ash from the Island of Iwo Jima. Scott Hanson, whose father was in an Army unit occupying Iwo after the island had been deemed 'secure', visited Iwo recently as part of the Japanese program to allow family of Americans who participated in the battle to visit the island, brought us back some actual volcanic 'sand' from the island. For a small donation of \$10 (including postage) our detachment will send you the pictured 5 ½ by 8 ½ inch card with a small piece of Iwo Jima.



# Sands of Iwo Jima

The island of Iwo Jima (Japanese for Sulfur Island) was strategically located for airfields to receive US Army Air Corps b-29s damaged in air strikes against Japan. The Japanese had built two airstrips on the island and used them to harass Allied aircraft. For these reasons Iwo Jima as selected as a target.

Battle of Iwo Jima Facts and Figures	
Number of Japanese troops on Iwo	21,000
Number of Japanese survivors of invasion	1,083
11 miles of tunnels were dug to depths of 75 feet which protected the defenders from Allied naval and Air Corps bombardment.	
Number of American Marines in attack	69,893
Number of American's killed	6,800
Number of Americans wounded	62,000



Actual volcanic ash

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

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ "Sands of Iwo Jima" cards. I have enclosed a donation to the River Cities Detachment 1090 of \$10 for each card ordered. Makes checks payable to River Cities Detachment 1090. Mail requests to River Cities Detachment, PO Box 6581, Evansville, IN 47719-0581

## MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441

AMERICAN VETERAN  
12 TILE



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**American Veteran Bracelet**

Quantity	Total
\$5 X _____	= _____

**Mail order form along with payment to:**  
 Southern Belles Unit 441, c/o Paula Landers  
 807 Frank Avenue, Evansville, IN 47712-4548

### American Veteran (12 tile) Bracelet

*All branches of the military are honored on this versatile wooden bracelets for men and women. These would make great gifts for any occasion and the price is only \$5.00 each. You may contact any MCLA member or use the order form below to make your purchase. Thank you for your support.*

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In memory of Detachment #1090 members who have gone on to guard the streets of Heaven.



**2017**

Clarence Mitsdarffer  
 Frank Counts  
 Tom Coomes  
 Sparky Perette  
 Richard Swonder  
 Jack Moretto

04/2021

***Compliments of  
 Casey Canfield***

*Life Member  
 River Cities Detachment #1090*

07/2018

***Compliments of  
 Bob and Linda Reutter***

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06/2021

**DAVID L. JONES**

[djones@joneswallace.com](mailto:djones@joneswallace.com) 420 Main Street, Suite 1600  
 Telephone (812) 402-1600 P.O. Box 1065  
 Facsimile (812) 402-7977 Evansville, IN 47706-1065

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**Southern Belles Unit 441**

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River Cities Detachment #1090*

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***In Memory of  
Marine Tommy Collins  
And Deceased  
Detachment Members***

***PLACE YOUR AD HERE***



08/2018

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**Once a Marine, Always a Marine**

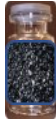


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Own a piece of history

Actual volcanic ash from Iwo Jima



**River Cities Detachment  
 Fundraiser**  
 See pg 7 for details

# Semper Ji

## April 2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	4	5 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	6	7 MCLA Bowling Tournament 1130 - 1500 Franklin Lanes
8	9 MODD Growl Lamasco 1331 W Franklin 1830	10 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	11	12	13	14 MCL Dept of Indiana Spring Conference LaPorte IN
15 MCL Dept of Indiana Spring Conference LaPorte IN	16	17 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	18	19	20	21
22	23 MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441 AmVets 84 6:30 p.m.	24 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	25	26	27	28
29	30	<b>Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for May 2018 are due NO LATER THAN April22, 2018</b>				