



River Cities News

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

Volume 17, Issue 8
August 2020



Donald Lee Landers, Sr.

December 31, 1945 – July 23, 2020



By Chaplain Bob Reutter

The River Cities Detachment 1090 of the Marine Corps League lost one of its finest Marines in July. Don retired from the Marines after a twenty-year career. He and his wife, Paula (Davis) Landers made their home on the west side of Evansville where they raised their family. Don was a proud father (4 children,) grandfather (10 grandchildren) and great-grandfather (12 great-grandchildren.)

During his post-active duty life, Don was employed by the University of Southern Indiana, The Aviation Administration, Air Force Administration and until the time of his death, the G4S Security Company. In addition to the Marine Corps League, Don was an active member of the Military Order of Devil Dogs, AmVets Post 84, VFW Post 1114 and Westside Sportsman's Club.

Don was a very active member of the Marine Corps League. During his career with the Evansville Detachment (Don has been a member since the Detachment was formed,) he served in many capacities, including Commandant, Adjutant and Paymaster. He also served as an officer at the State level with the Department of Indiana. Don and Paula almost always attended conferences and conventions of the Department of Indiana MCL, sometimes being the only representative from River Cities. Although he worked full time, he tried to always be available for color guards, funerals and other events where our Detachment participated. Don and Paula always did their share when we did fund-raisers, even to the extent of allowing our Detachment food booth to 'live' at their west side home.

During his time with the Detachment, Don only missed one meeting. I cannot begin to list all the events Don participated in during just the eleven years I have been a member of the League. The pictures in the montage on the next page show just some of them. Farewell Don, you will be missed.

Chaplain Bob Reutter

Detachment Officers

Commandant Jim Johnson	Paymaster Don Landers Sr. (812) 483-3014	Sgt At Arms Melissa West
Sr. Vice Commandant John Bryant	Adjutant Tim Jones (812) 454-8717	Newsletter Editor Paula Landers
Jr. Vice Commandant Jack Kincaide	Judge Advocate T C Shane	Web Sergeant Paula Landers
Jr. Past Commandant Bob Reutter	Chaplain Bob Reutter (270) 314-9484	



Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

The Battle of Saipan

June 15 – July 9, 1944 (part two)

Author's Note: This is the conclusion of the battle history begun in July.

By 6 July, the Japanese had nowhere to retreat. Saito made plans for a final suicidal banzai charge. On the fate of the remaining civilians on the island, Saito said, "There is no longer any distinction between civilians and troops. It would be better for them to join in the attack with bamboo spears than be captured." At dawn of the 7 July, with a group of 12 men carrying a great red flag in the lead, the remaining able-bodied troops — about 4,000 men — charged forward in the final attack. Amazingly, behind them came the wounded, with bandaged heads, crutches, and barely armed. The Japanese surged over the American front lines, engaging both Army and Marine units. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 105th Infantry Regiment were almost destroyed, losing well over 650 killed and wounded. However, the fierce resistance of these two battalions, as well as that of Headquarters Company, 105th Infantry, and of supply elements of 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Artillery



Regiment, resulted in over 4,300 Japanese killed and 2,000 dead US soldiers. For their actions during the 15-hour Japanese attack, three men of the 105th Infantry

Regiment were awarded the Medal of Honor: Lt. Col. William O'Brien, Cpt. Ben L. Salmon, Pvt. Thomas A. Baker, all posthumously. The attack on 7 July would be the largest Jap-

anese Banzai charge in the Pacific War.

By 16:15 on 9 July, Admiral Turner announced that Saipan was officially secured.

Saito, along with commanders Hirakushi and Igeta, committed suicide in a cave. Vice-admiral Chuichi Nagumo, the naval commander who led the Japanese carriers at Pearl Harbor, also committed suicide in the closing stages of the battle. He had been in command of the Japanese naval air forces stationed on the island.

In the end, almost the entire garrison of troops on the island — at least 29,000 — died. For the Americans, the victory was the most costly to date in the Pacific War: out of 71,000 who landed, 2,949 were killed and 10,464 wounded. Future Hollywood actor Lee Marvin was among the many Americans wounded. He was serving with "I" Company, 24th Marine Regiment, when he was hit by shrapnel in the buttocks by Japanese mortar fire during the assault on Mount Tapochau. He was awarded the Purple Heart and was given a medical discharge with the rank of private first class in 1945.



While the battle officially ended on July 9, Japanese resistance still persisted with Captain Sakae Ōba and 46 other soldiers who survived with him during the last banzai charge. After the battle, Ōba and his soldiers led many civilians throughout the jungle of the island to escape capture by the Americans, while also conducting guerrilla-style attacks on pursuing forces. The Americans tried numerous times to hunt them down but failed due to their speed and stealth. In September 1944, the Marines began conducting patrols in the island's interior, searching for survivors who were raiding their camp for supplies.

(continued on page 4)

The Battle of Saipan (continued from page 3)

Although some of the soldiers wanted to fight, Captain Ōba asserted that their primary concerns were to protect the civilians and to stay alive to continue the war. At one point, the Japanese soldiers and civilians were almost captured by the Americans as they hid in a clearing and ledges of a mountain, some were less than 20 feet (6.1 m) above the heads of the Marines, but the Americans failed to see them. Oba's holdout lasted for over a year

(approximately 16 months) before finally surrendering on December 1, 1945, three months after the official surrender of Japan. Oba was so successful in his resistance that the Marines nicknamed him the "Fox", and once even caused the reassignment of a commander.^[15]



More than 1,000 Japanese civilians committed suicide in the last days of the battle to take the offered privileged place in the afterlife, some jumping from places later named "Suicide Cliff" and "Banzai Cliff". These would become part of the National Historic Landmark District as Landing Beaches; Aslito/Isley Field; & Marpi Point, Saipan Island, designated in 1985. Today the sites are a memorial and Japanese people visit to console the victims' souls.

ARE YOU FIT TO FIGHT? By Daniel Brown

When you look in the mirror do you still see the broad shoulders, narrow waist, and bulging biceps you sported when you were wearing Marine Corps green on a daily basis? Well, truth be told, you probably don't - - but active duty and reserve Marines STILL have to meet some of the highest fitness standards of any branch of the military. In fact, there have been numerous changes to the tried and true Physical Fitness Test (PFT) in the past decade or so, and an additional test, the Combat Fitness Test (CFT) is also administered to better simulate the physical stresses of ground combat.

As it was in years past, the PFT is performed annually, and the core exercises remain dead-hang pullups, crunches, and a 3-mile timed run. Additional changes to the overall test have been made in the past several years, though, including:

- Elimination of the 'flexed arm hang' as an alternative to pullups for female Marines.

- Addition of a push-up option which can be used instead of pull-ups as a measure of upper body strength. One catch, though - - the max score a Marine can achieve using pushups is lower than the max score achievable using the pullup option. Pullups remain the gold standard.

- Addition of a 5,000 meter rowing machine option for Marines who may have chronic or acute injuries which don't allow them to complete the 3 mile run.

- Allowing Marines to choose between performing crunches or a timed plank as a measure of core / abdominal strength.

- Increasing the maximum number of certain exercises which are required to achieve a perfect score.

If you want to test yourself against the new standards, there are calculators available at www.fitness.marines.mil which can be used to determine what you would score in the various events based on age and performance. As a 47 year-old male, the author would need to do the following to 'max-out' his annual PFT:

- Perform 19 dead-hang pullups (no time limit)

- Perform 100 crunches in 2 minutes or less, or hold a plank position for 4 minutes and 20 seconds

- Run 3 miles in 19 minutes or less, or row 5,000 meters in 19 minutes, 35 seconds or less.

On second thought, THIS old Sergeant thinks he will leash up his dogs for a leisurely walk around the neighborhood instead... Next newsletter, we will take a look at the USMC Combat Fitness Test.

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SEMPER FI!

Mike Mitchell

*Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090*



06/2021

*Compliments of
Joe and Kathy Filipczak*

*Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090*

12/2020

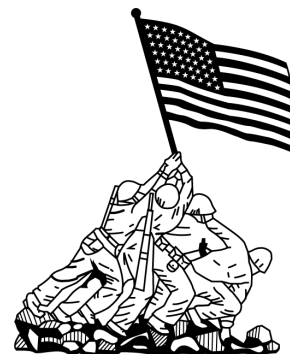
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*In Memory of
Marine Tommy Collins
And Deceased
Detachment Members*



Semper Fi

Our prayers for our nephew who was recently deployed. May God bless all of our service members, protect them, and give them strength to carry on, Amen!

Roy & Carolyn McWilliams



05/2021

09/2021

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



2019

Jasper Marshal
 Bill Bitter
 Pat Dillback
 (Associate Member)

04/2021

***Compliments of
 Casey Canfield***

*Life Member
 River Cities Detachment #1090*

01/2021

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

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06/2021

DAVID L. JONES
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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***Compliments of
 John and Judy Bryant***

*Life Member
 River Cities Detachment #1090*

05/2021

River Cities Detachment 1090
 Marine Corps League Inc.
 P. O. Box 6581
 Evansville, IN 47719-0581

www.mclrivercities.org
 mclrivercities@gmail.com

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IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

National changed the due date,
 so that everyone is
 paying at the same time.

Dues for 2020 - 2021
 Before August 1st - \$25
 After August 1st - \$35

Initial Membership Dues are \$35

Mail your annual membership fees to:

River Cities Det. #1090
 Attn: Membership
 PO Box 6581
 Evansville IN 47719-0581

The Detachment and Devil Dogs
 will be holding meetings at:

American Legion, Funkhouser Post 8
 6001 New Harmony Road
 Evansville, IN 47720

«First» «Middle» «Last»
 «Address»
 «City» «State» «Zip Code»
 «F8»
 «F9»

Semper Fi

August 2020

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for September 2020 are due NO LATER THAN August 22, 2020. There are No Exceptions to this deadline.						1
2	3	4 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's 0700	5	6	7	8
9	10 MODD Growl 1830 Funkhouser	11 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's 0700	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's 0700	19	20	21	22
23/30	24 Southern Belles #441 6:30 p.m. AmVets #84	25 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's 0700	26 River Cities Det #1090 1900 Funkhouser	27	28	29