



River Cities News



River Cities Detachment 1090
Marine Corps League—Evansville, Indiana

Volume 18
Issue 8
August 2021

Commandant's Corner

by Jim Johnson

We sure have a lot to look forward to in the next 6 months. First off the Marine Corps League Det # 1090 is planning a group picnic for the 21st of August. This should be a great time by all. I understand that we have a lot of members that have jobs and other obligations that keep them from attending meetings and many other obligation that the Detachment has. But the two events that every Marine should strive to attend is the yearly picnic and the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Speaking of the Birthday Ball. it is still in the planning stages but we do know that it will be at

the Evansville Country Club on the 6th of November and that the price will be approximately 50 dollars per ticket,. We will have more information in the next newsletter. Every Marine should make every attempt to attend these two events. I'm looking forward to meeting Marines who has been members for awhile and has had no contact for awhile and hear their experience in our Marine Corps and in our detachment. We are always looking for advice to make our Detachment better.

At our monthly meeting last night, we found out that we lost
(contend on page 24)

A note from the Paymaster

By John Bryant

I just wanted to pass the word that with the exception of people who paid for Life membership, dues for both Marine Corps League and Military Order of Devil Dogs are due no later than **September 15**. Dues for Regular Member or Associate Member are \$35. Dues for MODD are \$15. You can give a check or cash to Paymaster Bryant at the August meeting or to Dog Robber Bryant at the August Growl. **Semper Fi and Woof.**



Veterans Overview

The basic Military Funeral Honors (MFH) ceremony consists of the folding and presentation of the United States flag to the veterans' family and the playing of Taps. The ceremony is performed by a funeral honors detail consisting of at least two members of the Armed Forces.

The Funeral Honors rendered to you or your veteran will be determined by the status of the veteran. The type of Funeral Honors may be Full Military Honors, 7 Person Detail or a Standard Honors Team Detail.

At least one of the funeral honors detail will be from the Armed Force in which the deceased veteran served. Taps may be played by a bugler or, if a bugler is not available, by using a quality recorded version. Military Funeral Honor Teams may act as Pall Bearers if requested by the veteran/family.

How do I establish veteran eligibility?

The preferred method is the DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. If the DD Form 214 is not available, any discharge document showing other than dishonorable service can be used. The DD Form 214 may be obtained by filling out a Standard Form 180 and sending it to:

National Personnel Records Center(NPRC)
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132

The Standard Form 180 may be obtained from the National Records Center or via the following web site: <http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf>



History of the Marines

by Gary Burk

United States Marine Corps Aviation is the aircraft arm of the United States Marine Corps. Marine Corps aviation units have a very different mission and operation than their ground counterparts and thus have their own history, traditions, terms, and procedures. Aviation units within the Marine Corps are assigned to support the Marine Air-Ground Task Force, as the aviation combat element, by providing six functions: assault support, antiair warfare, close air support, electronic warfare, control of aircraft and missiles, and aerial reconnaissance. The Corps operates both rotary-wing and fixed-wing air-

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craft mainly to provide transport and close air support to its ground forces. Other aircraft types are also used in a variety of support and special-purpose roles. All Marine Corps aviation falls under the influence of the Deputy Commandant for Aviation, whose job is to advise the Commandant of the Marine Corps in all matters relating to aviation, especially acquisition of new assets, conversions of current aircraft, maintenance, operation and command.



The first USMC plane: a Curtiss C-3

(Continued on page 9)

Marine Family Picnic

When: August 21, 2021

Time: Noon til ???

Where: Robinson Township Conservation Club



The River Cities Detachment 1090 is planning a picnic for all Marine Families in our area. Depending on the number registering, we plan to have activities for the kids, food, fun and activities for all ages and Marine fellowship all day.

We will supply sliced pork BBQ, hamburgers and hot dogs with buns for all. We ask each family attending to bring a covered dish and drinks for your family. Our building is air conditioned and we have bathrooms.



To register to attend please contact Tim Jones at (812) 454-8717. Let Tim know how many to expect and what covered dish you are bringing. Tim's email address: tsjones@wowway.com.

Directions: The Robinson Township Conservation Club is 13 miles west of Evansville. Take Diamond Avenue (Hwy 66) west to Stierley Road. There is a flashing light at

Stierley. Turn left onto Stierley and travel about 2 miles to the club. You will see signs marking the location.

Spread the word to all Marines and their families. We want to meet as many Marine families as possible. **"Once a Marine, always a Marine"** is not just a slogan. We **are** family!

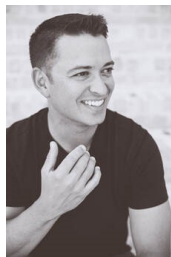




Coming Soon!!
November 6, 2021
Evansville Country
Club
246th Marine
Birthday Ball



C. G. Cooper is the USA TODAY and AMAZON BESTSELLING author of the CORPS JUSTICE novels, several spinoffs and a growing number of stand-alone novels. After college, Cooper was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps and went on to serve six years as an infantry officer. C. G. Cooper's final Marine duty station was in Nashville, Tennessee, where he fell in love with the laid-back lifestyle of Music City.



For more information about C. G. Cooper and his writing (including a free short story and list of all his novels,) go to www.cg-cooper.com.



10/2021

A blast from the past—here is the entire

newsletter f

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 8

Newsletter Date August 1, 2007

River Cities News



A MARINE MAY LEAVE THE CORPS
...BUT THE CORPS WILL NEVER LEAVE THE MARINE!



THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

WEB ADDRESS: www.mclrivercities.org

Shop our online mall. By shopping with us you will be donating to the
DETACHMENT BUILDING FUND

Detachment Officers

Commandant - Gene Grigsby 401-5052	Sgt At Arms - Charles Bodell 303-4918
Sr. Vice - Sparky Perrette 479-1574	Public Relations Officer - Gene Grigsby 401-5052
Jr. Vice - Tom Kremer 479-3388	Newsletter Editor: - Donald Landers 491-0042
Junior Past Commandant - Donald Landers 491-0042	Toys for Tots - Kelly Williams 424-4236
Adjutant - Timothy Jones 401-6460	Paymaster - Donald Landers 491-0042
Chaplain - Kenneth Odom 768-6621	Judge Advocate - Kelly Williams 424-4236

Detachment meetings at VFW 1114 at 7:00 PM every 4th Wednesday of the month
unless otherwise announced at previous meeting or special mailing
Next Meeting is August 22, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

Commandant's Message



Hello Marines

Things are moving along real good. Our next thing coming up is the presentation of Colors for the Germania. They always have plenty of good food and drink and make us feel really welcomed. The next thing is the Rib Sales get out and get your orders. I would like to see us beat last year, and as always get out there and sign up new members.

SEMPER FI
GENE GRIGSBY

LOST, STOLEN OR DESTROYED DOCUMENTS www.firstgov.gov

from August 2007. 14 years ago!

Share the pride in being addressed as...MARINE

Announcement

This newsletter belongs to all of us and your comments are valued and appreciated. If you have any submissions for the *Member Comments* section send them to:
River Cities Detachment
Attn: Editor
P O Box 6581
Evansville, IN 47719-0581

Freedom isn't Free



Support Our Troops

Welcome New Life Members

New Members

Michael Strickland

Renewals

Ricky Winters
Darren Lewis

Associate Member

Associate Member Renewals

Detachment Picnic July 21, 2007

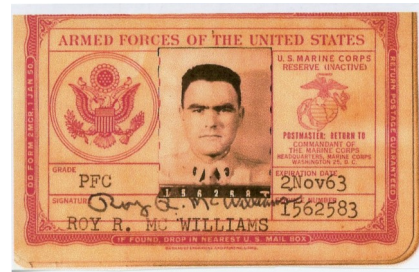
Hillbilly Golf, Horse Shoes, and good food thanks to Darrin for the ribs, and turkey. Everyone had a good time at the picnic and needless to say Dan's Cooler Scooter was a big hit. Everyone took a turn riding it and most of the guys now have to have one. Next year we might even have Cooler Drag Races.





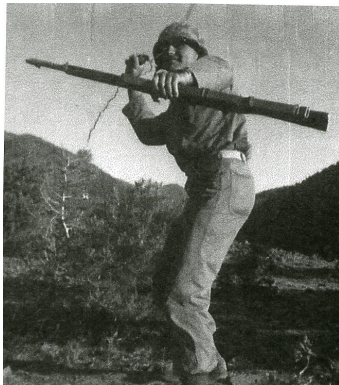
Roy R. McWilliams

Marine Spotlight On:



Roy McWilliams comes from a family of Marines. In 1955 Roy joined the 17th Rifle Company of the USMCR in Evansville. He followed his brother, M.T. who had joined a year earlier. Two of Roy's cousins joined after he did. Roy was assigned the MOS of 0331 (machine gunner) and went to Reserve summer camps in Norfolk VA, Camp Lejeune NC, Hawthorne NV and Pickle Meadows CA. Roy reached the rank of L/CPL (E-3) before he separated from the Corps in November of 1961.

As a civilian Roy worked as a Pharmaceutical Sales Rep for Charles Leich and for Mullen & Haynes. He also worked as a Realtor for Caldwell Banker. While working for Jagoe Homes in Evansville Roy sold a home to our own Gary Burk.



Roy with M-1 rifle preparing to toss a grenade.

Roy has been married to his wife Carolyn for 62 years and they have 2 daughters and 2 sons. They also are proud of their 11 grandchildren (4 girls and 7 boys) and 1 great-grandson (with one on the way!)

Roy has many hobbies and one of them will be bringing income to the Detachment in the near future. Roy is quite adept at stained glass construction. He is planning a red, white and blue stained glass sun catcher cross to be sold by the Detachment. These are about 8 inches tall with a red top, white 'arms' and blue bottom. They will be advertised on this site in September and will sell for \$10. They make great additions to any décor and we are working on a "Marine' cross with a white top, Dress Blue arms and Blue bottom with red 'blood stipes' on both sides. These will sell for \$15 due to the extra labor involved. I hope to have pictures of both in this newsletter next month.

I am certain you have seen Roy's ad in this publication noting the seven members of his family who are Marines—either now serving or having served.

When next you see Roy, tell him Semper Fi and good job Marine.



Aviation (from page 3)

Marine Corps aviation officially began on 22 May 1912, when First Lieutenant Alfred Austell Cunningham reported to Naval Aviation Camp in Annapolis, Maryland, "for duty in connection with aviation." On 20 August 1912, he became the first Marine aviator when he took off in a Burgess Model H given to him by the Burgess Company in Marblehead Harbor, Massachusetts.

As the number of Marine Corps pilots grew, so did the desire to separate from Naval Aviation, an objective realized on 6 January 1914, when First Lieutenant Bernard L. Smith was directed to Culebra, Puerto Rico, to establish the Marine Section of the Navy Flying School. In 1915, the Commandant of the Marine Corps authorized the creation of a Marine Corps aviation company consisting of 10 officers and 40 enlisted men. The Marine Aviation Company was commissioned on 17 Feb 1917 as the first official Marine flying unit (continued on page 22)



Evansville Vet Center

1100 N. Burkhardt Rd
Evansville, IN 47715



www.vetcenter.va.gov

812-473-5993

The Vet Center in Evansville offers many services to aid the mental health of Veterans. Some of the services offered:

*** Homecoming after Deployment**

Dealing with changes and expectations
Tips for reunion

*** Becoming a couple again**

How to create a shared sense of purpose after deployment

*** War-zone related stress reactions**

What Veterans need to know

*** Coping with Traumatic Stress Reactions**

A National Center for PTSD fact sheet

*** Depression**

A National Center for PTSD fact sheet

*** Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

*** What if I have sleep problems?**

A National Center for PTSD fact sheet

- * PTSD and negative coping
- * Help for Homeless Veterans
- * Employment assistance” Career OneStop for Veterans
- * Filing a disability claim
- * Gulf War registry examination
- * My HealtheVet
- * E-benefits
- * Information for Veterans” Websites
- * Points of contact for new combat veterans

If you feel than any, some or all of these topics might be beneficial to you, contact The Vet Center at (812) 473-5993 or come by our offices at:

**Evansville Vet Center
1100 N. Burkhardt Rd.
Evansville, IN 47715**

**Our hours are Mon—Thurs 8:00 AM—7:00 PM
 Friday—8:00 AM—4:30 PM
 (Other hours available by appointment)**

Bar-b-que Rib & BUTT Fundraiser

RIVER CITIES DETACHMENT 1090 MARINE



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

TAKING ORDERS

Until Wednesday, August 25, 2021

ORDERS WILL BE AVAILABLE

Orders May also be placed on our website:

www.mclrivercities.org/ribs

PLEASE PAY WHEN ORDERING

River Cities Detachment
Bar-b-que Fundraiser

\$25 each for 4 to 4 1/2 lb. slab

\$25 each for 7—8 lb. butt

Orders taken until

Monday, August 25, 2021

Orders may be picked up

between 3 P.M. and 5 P.M. on

Saturday, September 4, 2021 at

J. D. Byrider

2116 N. First Avenue

Evansville, IN

ALL ORDERS AND MONEY

MUST BE TURNED IN BY

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

BETWEEN

6:30 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M.

At Funkhouser American Legion

Prior to the Detachment Meeting



1st Marine Provisional Brigade lands at Pusan, South Korea. 1950



The Marine Corps Reserve was founded. 1916

Southern Belles #441
AmVets Post #84
2921 Broadway Ave.
6:30 PM



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
1 Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	2 Marine Corps League receives federal charter signed by President Roosevelt. 1937	3
8	9	10
Marine Corps League Annual C		
15 Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	16  M.O.D.D. Funkhouser Post #8	17
22 Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's—Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	23 Detachment Meeting Funkhouser Post on New Harmony Road 1900 begins—come early to eat dinner from menu.	24
29 Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	30	31 If you have anything you would like to see in the next Newsletter , the de

August 2021



DAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	4	5	6 Marines commenced their march on the "Halls of Montezuma" in Mexico 1847	7 1st Marine Division lands on Guadalcanal. 1942
	11 Convention	12	13	14 President Truman announced unconditional surrender of the Japanese. 1945
	18 1830	19 Marines Hymn registered with the US Copyright Office. 1919	20	21 Marine Family Picnic 1200—??? Robinson Township Conservation Club
	25	26 	27	28 
	1	2	3	4
<p>You would like to submit for the September deadline for submission is August 22nd.</p>				

Support Our Sponsors -----



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

2020

*Donald Landers, Sr.
Irene L. Midle-Blessing*

Susan Grayson

2021

Keith Benedict

Joe Shimek

04/2022

Compliments of John & Judy Bryant

Life Member

01/2022

Compliments of Bob & Linda Reutter

Life Members

06/2022

Compliments of Casey Canfield

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

01/2022

For All Who Served With The 17th Rifle Company.....



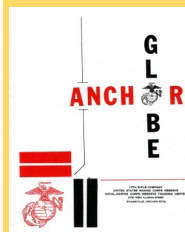
Semper Fi

Compliments of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary



Southern Belles Unit 441

10/2021




06/2023

---They Help Make This Newsletter Possible

“Oorah”

Stan Rickard

Life Member



River Cities Detachment 1090


05/2023

Semper Fi!

Mike Mitchell

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090



06/2023


***You're AD
could be
here!***

In Memory Of

Marine Tommy Collins

And All Deceased

Detachment Members



Semper Fi

09/2021

Compliments of

Joe & Kathy Filipczak

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

12/2021

Compliments of

Gary Burk, Life Member

Optimist Club of Evansville Downtown

Friend of Youth Since 1921

07/2021

Ship's Store

The following items are in stock at the Detachment Ship's Store. The Ship's Store will be brought to each meeting so you may purchase items. A slight increase in cost over National Ship's Store has been added to cover shipping costs.

Item	Cost	Item	Cost	FMF
EGA Cap Ornament, Regular Member, gold, screw-back \$	5.00	Department Staff Elected ribbon, silver		1.50
Patch, MCL logo with ASSOCIATE rocker, 3" for right shoulder	4.25	Detachment Commandant ribbon		2.00
Patch, MCL logo, for REGULAR member, 3" for right shoulder	4.00	Detachment Staff Appointed ribbon, bronze		2.00
Patch, US Flag, field forward, for regular member, right shoulder	4.00	Community Service Ribbon		2.00
Sunburst Collar ornament, regular member, prong back	12.00	National Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon		2.00
Cover, MCL, woman's, 7 5/8	30.00	Individual Meritorious Commendation ribbon		2.00
Cap Strip, LIFE, Red with gold lettering and border	3.50	Ceremonial Guard ribbon		2.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 3 ribbon	1.25	EGA Belt Buckle, for leather belt		18.50
Metal Ribbon Holder, 4 ribbon	2.50	Trousers, dress blue, 44R		45.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 8 ribbon	3.50	Trouser stripe, red, 1 1/8"		15.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 9 ribbon	3.50	Belt, white, for dress blues		15.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 12 ribbon	4.50	Patch, Devil Dog, 3" round for cover		4.00
Tie Clasp	9.00	Rocker, Colorguard, for Devil Dog Vest		3.00
Star Clusters for Ribbons, 2 stars, bronze	1.50	Cap Strip, Dogrobber		3.50
Star Clusters for Ribbons, 3 stars, bronze	1.50	Neck Ribbon, PDD, gold with eyelet		5.00
Patch, Life Member	8.25	Neck Ribbon, DD, black with eyelet		5.00
Tie, black	6.00			
Pin, MCL	1.00			
Pin, MCL Life	1.00			
Pin, MCL Associate	1.00			

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.

Age 36 up to and including age 50 - \$400.

Age 51 up to and including age 64 - \$300.

Age 65 and over - \$200.

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



Marine Corps League Department of Indiana News

The following dates have been selected by the Conference/Convention Committee and approved by the members through Motions at the 2020 Fall Conference:

J

October 16/17, 2021 Department of Indiana Fall Conference

All events will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Plainfield, IN. Specific information on each event will be sent appropriately beforehand, including hotel and event registration, agenda's and other pertinent information.

Questions can be directed to Conference/Convention Chair Glenn Newton at sgtglenn@psci.net or Department Paymaster Dave Englert at englertd@psci.net.

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

JONES•WALLACE
ELEVATING LAW



01/2022

IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Dues for 2020 - 2021
By July 31st - \$25
August 1st or after - \$35

Initial Membership Dues are \$35

Mail your annual membership fees to:

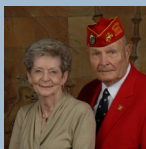
River Cities Det. #1090
Attn: Membership
PO Box 6581
Evansville IN 47719-0581

In fond memory of my life's love

Dorothy Lee "Dottie"

(McCord) Mills

1930-2020



08/2021

River Cities Detachment Officers

Commandant Jim Johnson

(812) 431-2451

Sr. Vice Commdt. Gary Burk

Jr. Vice Commdt. Melissa West

Jr. Past Commdt. Bob Reutter

(270) 314-9484

Adjutant Tim Jones

(812)454-8717

Paymaster John Bryant

(775) 287-1876

Judge Advocate T.C. Shane

Chaplain Bob Reutter

Sgt. at Arms Tom Kremer

Newsletter Editor Bob Reutter

Web Sergeant Tim Jones



We have space available in our ad pages.

Advertisements are available at the following rates.

Business Card Size....\$15.00 for 6 months

1/4 page \$25.00 for 6 months

1/2 page\$50.00 for 6 months

The editor has the right to reject an ad that is not appropriate such as loan companies, adult entertainment, etc.

Newsletter Booster Club

Booster Member Expires

MCLA Southern Belles.....Oct-2021

Joe & Kathy Filipczak..... Dec-2021

David Jones.....Jan—2022

Casey Canfield.....Feb-2022

Tom & Alice Kick.....May-2022

Gary Burk.....May-2022

Tom Kremer.....July-2021

Ned E & Rose Wellmeier.....July-2022

Dannie & Debbie Russell.....July-2022

Roy & Carolyn McWilliams.Aug-2021

Bob & Linda Reutter.....Aug-2022

Dorothy Odom.....Sep-2021

Chris Boyd.....Oct-2021

Judy & John BryantNov-2021

Gary & Cynthia CullisonAug 2022

Jim and Christie Johnson.....Aug 2022

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.

NEWSLETTER BOOSTER MEMBER

NAME: _____

DONATION: \$ _____

Please Mail to:

River Cities Detachment

P.O. Box 6581

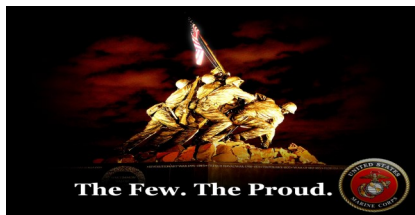
Evansville, IN 47719-0581



Marines

Thank you!!

A very heartfelt “thank you” to Debbie & Donnie Russell and to Rose & Ned Wellmeier for renewing. And to Gary & Cynthia Cullison for becoming River City Boosters.



Aviation (cont from page 9)

World War I

The first major expansion of the Marine Corps' air component came with America's entrance into World War I in 1917. War-time expansion saw the Aviation Company split into the *First Aeronautic Company* which deployed to the Azores to hunt U-boats in January 1918 and the *First Marine Air Squadron* which deployed to France as the newly renamed 1st Marine Aviation Force in July 1918 and provided bomber and fighter support to the Navy's Day Wing, Northern Bombing Group. By the end of the war, several Marine Aviators had recorded air-to-air kills, and collectively they had dropped over fourteen tons of bombs. Their numbers included 282 officers and 2,180 enlisted men operating from 8 squadrons, with Second Lieutenant Ralph Talbot being the first Marine Corps aviator to earn the Medal of Honor, for action against the *Luftstreitkräfte* air arm of Imperial Germany on 8 October 1918. In 1919, the 1st Division/Squadron 1 was formed from these units and still exists today as VMA-231.

It was not until 3 May 1925 that

the Marine Corps officially appeared in the Navy's Aeronautical Organization when Rear Admiral William A. Moffett, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics, issued a directive officially authorizing three fighting squadrons. In the 1920s, Marine Corps squadrons began qualifying on board aircraft carriers. However, in terms of mission and training, the assignment of two Marine scouting squadrons as component units of the Pacific Fleet carriers would be one of the greatest advancements for Marine Corps aviation. Prior to this, Marine Corps squadrons were loosely controlled with regard to doctrine and training. This assignment enabled nearly 60% of active duty aviators at the time to be exposed to a disciplined training syllabus under a clearly defined mission.

The turning point for the long-term survival of Marine Air came with the structural change of the establishment of the Fleet Marine Force in 1933. This shifted Marine doctrine to focus less on expeditionary duty and more on supporting amphibious warfare (continued on page 24)

Literary Easter Eggs are hidden words/phrases or items that an author hides within a story for sharp- eyed readers to spot. I have hidden a series of eggs in the first seven issues of this newsletter. The first person to spot them and email me at: ***rapid1@evansville.net***

will win a 1 year booster recognition to our newsletter and everyone who finds them by the end of December will receive a “Well Done” notice in January 2022.

No one has identified the string of items mentioned above by the end of June. I will extend the contest until the end of the year to see if any of the readers are paying attention enough to spot them. (Editor)

In Recognition of Family Members

who have served, or are now serving in the United States
Marine Corps.



Now serving

Nephew—Dakota Meade



Served in the past

Edward Mangold—(Dakota’s Great Grandfather)

William Joseph Maurer (my first cousin and brother to Michael)

Michael Maurer (my first cousin and brother to William)

Marion Thomas McWilliams (my brother)

Curtis McWilliams (Marion’s Son)

Roy McWilliams (me)

Semper Fi, Marines

(09/2021)

Commandant (from page 1)

our Toys for Tots warehouse where we had stored some Detachment gear. we will be having a working party and relocating . Where We are not sure yet, but look for an e-mail telling us when we are to move and where. We will also be having a working party to get our food booth ready for the Fall Festival. Again look for an e-mail for the time and date.

Please be cautious with the new strain of COVID-19, I have my shots and strongly suggest that you get yours if you have not done so already.

SEMPER FI

Aviation (from page 22)

This also saw the establishment of *Aircraft One* and *Aircraft Two* to replace the old *Aircraft Squadron, East Coast* and *Aircraft Squadron, West Coast* that had supported operations in the Caribbean and China as part of their expeditionary duties. This organization would remain until June 1940 when Congress authorized the Marine Corps 1,167 aircraft as part of its *10,000 plane program* for the Navy. Just prior, in 1939, the Navy's General Board published a new mission for Marine Aviation, which stated: "*Marine Aviation is to be equipped, organized and trained primarily for the support of the Fleet Marine Force in landing operations*

and in support of troop activities in the field; and secondarily as replacement for carrier based naval aircraft." On 7 December 1941, the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Marine Corps air units consisted of 13 flying squadrons and 230 aircraft.

During World War II, the Marine Corps' air arm expanded rapidly and extensively. They reached their peak number of units with 5 air wings, 31 aircraft groups and 145 flying squadrons. During the war, and for the next fifty years, the Guadalcanal campaign would become a defining point for Marine Aviation. The great takeaways were the debilitating effects of not having air superiority, the vulnerability of targets such as transport shipping, and the vital

importance of quickly acquiring expeditionary airfields during amphibious operations. Because of the way the Pacific War unfolded, Marine Aviation was not able to achieve its 1939 mission of supporting the Fleet Marine Force at first. For the first two years of the war, the air arm spent most of its time protecting the fleet and land-based installations from attacks by enemy ships and aircraft.



VMF-214 F4U Corsair in WWII

This began to change after the Battle of Tarawa as the air support for ground troops flown by Navy pilots left much to be desired. After the battle, General Holland Smith recommended, "*Marine aviators, thoroughly schooled in the principles of direct air support,*" should do the job. The New Georgia campaign saw the first real close air support provided to Marine ground forces by Marine Air; the Bougainville campaign and the campaign to retake the Philippines saw the establishment of air liaison parties to coordinate air support with the Marines fighting on the ground, and the Battle of Okinawa brought most of it togeth-

er with the establishment of aviation command and control in the form of Landing Force Air Support Control Units.

During the course of the war, Marine Aviators were credited with shooting down 2,355 Japanese aircraft while losing 573 of their own aircraft in combat, they had 120 aces and earned 11 Medals of Honor. Immediately following the war, the

strength of the Marine Corps flying arm was drastically cut as part of the post war drawdown of forces. Their active strength fell from 116,628 personnel and 103 squadrons on 31 August 1945 to 14,163 personnel and 21 squadrons on 30 June 1948. They maintained another 30 squadrons in the Marine Air Reserve Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson attempted to eliminate Marine Corps aviation by transferring its air assets to other services and even proposed to progressively eliminate the Marine Corps altogether in a series of budget cutbacks and decommissioning of forces.



Mark these dates on your calendars:

When: Labor Day Weekend
What: Rib and Butt sale
Full Slab of BBQ Ribs or 7-8lb boneless butt only \$25 each. Details in this newsletter.



When: October 4-9
What: Our food booth at the Nut Club Fall Festival.
Details to follow.
Volunteers needed.

When: November 6, 2021
What: 246th Marine Birthday Celebration
Watch this space for further information.

The River Cities News is the place to get all the information about what is going on in the Detachment. We need you to be an active part in your MCL.



**Once A Marine,
Always A Marine.
Right?**



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