



River Cities News

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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 DeVaughn 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
Vacant
- Newsletter Editors
Paula Landers (812) 483-5114
- Web Sergeant
Paula Landers (812) 483-5114

The Detachment has had a very eventful November. Our Birthday Ball was held at the Evansville Country Club with about 80 Marines and guest attending. The food was excellent, the music was lively and everyone there had a great time. People were dancing until almost midnight. Our guest speaker, Sgt. Major John K. Wyatt had a very inspirational message and referencing the three members we lost in 2015 was a touching tribute. The birthday cake was supplied by a company in Evansville owned by a Marine and his wife. It not only looked good, it tasted as good as it looked!

Toys for Tots is in full swing with a handful of Detachment members delivering toy and cash collection boxes to well over 100 locations. Eyewitness News Channel 25 and 7 came to the warehouse and spent over 2 hours shooting footage of the Marines sorting toys and working on the Downtown Evansville Christmas Parade float. The piece aired on the 10PM news on Wednesday November 18th and referenced the Marines as Santa's Helpers. The entire morning team from the station accompanied our float and in the words of Shelley Kirk, lead anchor of the morning team "had the best time of their lives." Instead of just riding on our float the whole team walked along side passing out small toys to the children lining the parade route.

The parade was a grand success with the Detachment occupying a space at the front of the procession (#3 unit) with our Color Guard, float and Tom Kick's van making up our entry. Unfortunately, Larry Scott's jeep and the 2 ½ ton truck from the Sheriff's Department both had mechanical issues and were not able to join us in the parade. We had a dozen Detachment members and friends walking beside the float passing out small stuffed animals and toy cars to excited children along the entire 2-mile route. Others from our Detachment and the MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 rode in the float to fill bags for the walkers and wave to the crowd. The Color Guard provided a little excitement to the crowd by firing the M-1 rifles every half block or so along the entire route.

Our distribution day for Toys for Tots is December 19th with over 1,000 families registered. If you want to have a fun day join us from 0700 until 1800 on that day to 'fill orders' for the children we serve. We are also having work days each Saturday from now until the 19th from 0900 to 1200 to sort toys and get ready for the big day. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Semper Fi



A Year in Review

By Paula Landers, Editor





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Marines in the Movies

By Bob Reutter, Commandant



Our Marine in the Movies this month got his first big role as the sheriff who drives Rambo to extreme measures in *“First Blood.”* Born in Connecticut on 9 July 1938 Brian Dennehy knew he was born to act. He was a big kid, at six foot three inches he played football in high school until a teacher, who was a part time actor and former football player himself, talked Brian to try out for a school production of Macbeth. Brian was hooked. He finished high school and was awarded a scholarship to Columbia University as an offensive lineman. But after marrying in 1959 he left school without graduating.

At a loss as to what to do with himself he joined the Marines in September 1959. He trained at Parris Island (3rd Recruit Training Battalion) and then went to A Company First ITR at Lejeune. He finished infantry training and was assigned to HQ company, HQ battalion, 2nd Marine Division working in the G-2 Admin section. 2 years later he joined HQ Battery, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa as an intelligence assistant.

Dennehy remained on active duty until June 1963 when he transferred to the Enlisted Volunteer Reserves. Finally on 14 September 1965 he was discharged from the reserves leaving the active Marine Corps as a corporal.

In 1970, after working at a number of mundane jobs that he hated (truck driver, bartender, salesman and several others) he decided to go back to his passion – acting. His list of major Hollywood films include: *“Gorky Park”* (1983), *“Silverado”* (1985), *“Cocoon”* (1985), *“F/X”* (1986), *“Presumed Innocent”* (1990).

Brian Dennehy credits the Marine Corps for teaching him that life is too short not to pursue a career that you enjoy leading him into acting. He currently lives with his second wife outside of Sante Fe, New Mexico.

MCLA, Southern Belles Unit 441

By Dani Cook, President

I hope you all had a great and safe Thanksgiving Holiday. The Belles will have their Toy Wrap and Eat on Saturday, December 5th. We will be meeting at the Toys for Tots warehouse at 3:00 p.m. to wrap presents for the Boys and Girls Club Christmas Party. After the wrapping is completed we will be going out to eat for our December meeting. The Boys & Girls Club Christmas Party will be on Thursday, December 10th at the Fulton Square location. We will need to be there by 6:00 p.m. with Santa arriving at 6:30.

Toys for Tots in is full swing and in need of volunteers. Please check the calendar for work days and times. Don't forget that the Detachment can especially use help on December 19th toy distribution day.

Our auxiliary is going to be hosting a Pancake Breakfast in February, more details will be published in the January newsletter.

I sincerely hope all have a blessed and safe Christmas and New Years!

Semper Fi

Marine Corps History

By Gary Burk

The following is an excerpt from "Article and photos by Jeremy Bender".

The Chosin Reservoir Campaign of the Korean War is the stuff of legend in the Marine Corps.

During the pivotal battle, which lasted from late November to mid-December of 1950, 15,000 US soldiers and Marines, alongside another 15,000 UN soldiers, fought through a force of 120,000 Chinese soldiers to reach the sea some 78 miles away.

During the campaign, US forces successfully evacuated 98,000 refugees while inflicting heavy losses on the Chinese army.

The Marine Corps led the push against a numerically superior Chinese force. They broke through an enemy encirclement, and even rebuilt a bridge that the Chinese had destroyed.

In the process, they also saved the UN's army in Korea from total defeat.

The campaign is one of the defining events of the Marine Corp's modern history, but it remains largely unknown outside of military and historical circles.

United States Marines sit covered with ice and snow at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in North Korea in December of 1950. Thousands of veterans of "Frozen Chosin", as the two-week-long battle is sometimes referred to, suffered frostbite in 30-below-zero temperatures.

Frostbite casualties of First Marine Division and Seventh Infantry Division, which linked up in order to break out of the Communist encirclement, waited for evacuation by plane in the Changjin area, North Korea. Extreme temperatures and exposure caused 7,338 frostbite casualties.

Overall, there were over 17,000 UN casualties in the campaign, and the Chinese suffered over 40,000 casualties.

Still, the UN forces reached Hungnam by December 24. A 193-ship armada evacuated the soldiers, along with 98,000 refugees that the UN and Marines Corps troops protected on the long march to the sea. After the evacuation, the US destroyed the port to deny the Chinese access to it. The Korean War wouldn't end until July of 1953, and although the US prevented the communists from dominating the south of the peninsula, Korea remains divided to this day.



United States Marines sit covered with ice and snow in this photograph taken at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in North Korea in December of 1950. Thousands of veterans of "Frozen Chosin", as the two-week-long battle is sometimes referred to, suffered frostbite in 30-below-zero temperatures.

Charles Hughes has written an excellent book entitled, "*Accordion War: Korea 1951*". He was a Navy Corpsman in a Marine Rifle Company in the 1st Marine Division. I am in the process of reading this book, and I can say that it is hard to put down.

Newsletter Booster Club

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Gary Burk	Dec - 15
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Southern Belles Unit 441	Feb - 16
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Frank Bockting	June - 16
Bob Moore	July - 16
A. J. Hardin	July - 16
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Art & Mary Beth Midle	July - 16
Bill Bitter	July - 16
Larry & Casey Scott	Oct - 16
Casey Canfield	Dec - 16
Ludie DeVaughn Jr.	Dec - 16

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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

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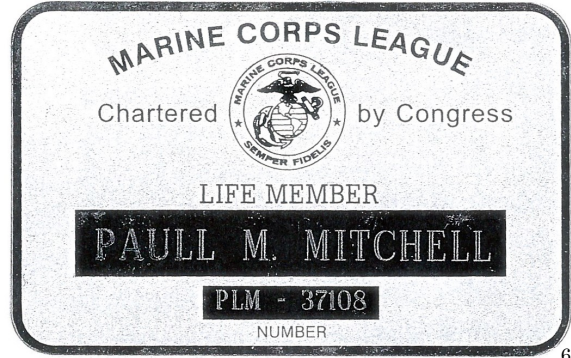
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Southern Belles Unit 441

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-0-

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Semper Fi

December 2015



Greg Wagoner 12/6
 Sparky Perrette 12/07
 Tim Jones 12/7
 James Johnson 12/10
 Butch Effinger 12/18
 John Williams 12/18
 Gene Grigsby 12/19
 Kim Favinger 12/20
 Raymond Ko 12/25
 Don Landers 12/31

Note: If we did not list your birthday, it was an oversight or we don't have it on our roster. Please contact us so we can correct the error next year.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	2	3 MCLA VA Project 8 a.m.	4	5 Toys for Tots Work Day 0900 to 1200
6	7	8 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	9	10 MCLA Boys and Girls Club Christmas Party 6:30 p.m. at Fulton Square	11 TFT Walmart West 0900 to 1700	12 TFT Work Day 0900 to 1200 Walmart West 0900 to 1700
13 TFT Walmart West 0900 to 1700	14	15 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	16	17	18	19 Toys for Tots Distribution 0700 to 1800
20	21	22 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	23 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 1900 VFW 1114	24	Merry Christmas	26
27	28 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 NO MEETING	29 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	30	31	Happy New Year 2016	