



River Cities News

Volume 13 Issue 12

December 1, 2016

Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter, Commandant

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Wow! November was a very busy month for the Marines and other members of the River Cities Detachment 1090. Why, just on one day, November 10th we had a Veterans Day observance at a local elementary school, a burial detail for a Marine, 30 minutes north of the school where we read our prayers to the deceased, folded the flag and did a rifle salute. We then raced to the Evansville Country Club to practice our cake ceremony and other things for that evening's Birthday Ball. Then it was off to our respective homes to finish last minute details prior to the Ball.

In addition to that busy day, we did weekend Toys for Tots collections at three local Walmarts, had color guards and firing details at local cemeteries for Veteran's Day observances, distributed toy and/or money collection boxes to 200 locations in our 4 county AOR. We had a shopping trip to Toys R Us to purchase over 800 toys in less than 2 hours and we met at the TFT warehouse to assemble more than 120 bicycles purchased for our campaign. We also marked out the bar codes (so the toys can't be returned for cash) on all the toys we collected thus far and sorted, counted and distributed them to the toy tables in our warehouse.



Our local Birthday Ball was a great success. We held it on Thursday, November 10th this year. Our preferred venue, the Evansville Country Club was not available on any Saturday close to the birthday so we opted to hold it on the birthday date. The room we were in was perfect for the ball. The pathway for the cake ceremony was a good length, the color guard made up of local active duty Marines (recruiters and recent recruits) was resplendent in their Dress Blues. Our keynote speaker – MGySgt Jared L. Cobb – delivered an inspirational speech on the current state of our Corps. Detachment Marine of the Year was presented to Jim Grayson. Jim has been a pillar of strength, always ready to do whatever is necessary for the success of the Detachment. A special award was presented to Paula Landers for her 15 years of dedication to the Detachment including (but not limited to) editing this newsletter, maintaining our excellent web presence and contributing to just about every committee we have had. Another special award was presented to Linda Reutter for her contributions to the Detachment including registering more than 1000 families for Toys for Tots each of the past several years – a nearly thankless task requiring 2 months of long days (and nights) trying to get people to complete our registration process before receiving toys.



A very special OohRah! goes to Laura Ferguson of "Piece of Cake" bakery for the excellent cake (again) and to the management and staff of the Evansville Country Club for their flawless execution of the entire evening. The biggest cheer goes to the co-chairs of the committee for the second year – Jim Johnson and Tim Jones – as well as their whole committee who put together a great event to celebrate our Corps' 241st birthday. Mark your calendar right now for the 2017 Birthday Ball which will be held on Saturday, November 11th, 2017 and 2018 on Saturday, Novem-

Commandant's Corner - continued from page 1

ber 10th. We are already tentatively scheduled for the Evansville Country Club on these dates.

I hope everyone is ready for a joyous Christmas season and looking forward to what 2017 will bring. My best wishes to all who are reading this.

Semper Fi and Gung Ho!

Marine Corps History

By Gary Burk

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

Continued from November Issue

Korea –

Continuation of the Allied thrust at Inchon by redeploying experienced brigades and regiments to reinforce Seoul.

When Puller's 1st Marines first sailed from California, the troops had to gain their "sea legs," and after landing they had to regain their "combat legs," engaging in an increasingly deadly series of fire-fights against NKPA troops determined to sting their ranks for every mile advanced toward Yongdong-po.

The presence of Chesty Puller, naturally, offset much of the greenness of the new troops. Under his stern gaze, and in the capable hands of veteran company commanders and NCOs, the rookies among the 1st Marines learned the essential lessons of combat rapidly.

One new member of the 1st Marines who learned his lessons well was Private First Class Monegan, bazooka gunner with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines. When a NKPA tank column attacked the battalion's positions at dawn just west of Yongdong-po, Monegan leaped into action.

Having knocked out two T-34s with his 3.5-inch rocket launcher in earlier fighting, Monegan knew to tackle the behemoths from the flank. He and his loader raced down the hill to take up a firing position less than a hundred yards abeam the lead tank. While his squad-mates on the hillside covered him by fire and held their breaths, Monegan calmly knocked out two more tanks with two expertly placed shots. But the distinctive backblast of the 3.5-inch bazooka always pinpointed the gunner's exact position. Monegan could either play dead or cut and run. He did neither.

As Monegan knelt upright to attempt an unprecedented third kill, the next tank cut him down with its coaxial machine gun. The nineteen year old from Melrose, Massachusetts, would receive the posthumous Medal of Honor.

The Continental Marines had crossed the ice-clogged Delaware with George Washington, but their modern-day descendants had made few deep-water river crossings under fire-the Meuse River, the last night of World War I, being the principal exception.

The Han would prove a challenge. Army officers, past-masters of the art, watched intently as the Marines made their preparations.

The preliminary efforts came to grief.

An advance squad of stealth swimmers from the division Recon Company under Captain Kenneth Houghton set out to pave the way. The recon Marines stripped to their skivvies and slipped into the river, towing two rubber boats with their weapons and radios behind them. Safely across, they checked the surrounding hills and ridges for enemy concentrations. Finding none-or believing they had found none-they signaled the main body of the company to cross in LVTs. Big mistake.

The noise of the tractor engines could wake the dead. And the hills came alive with NKPA gunners.

Captain Houghton, astounded by the outburst of heavy mortar fire, gathered his small force to meet the LVTs and turn them back. His was mission of reconnaissance, not conquest. But a mortar round exploded in the river nearby, stunning the captain, and wounding others.

To be continued –

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.)

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Marines in the Public Eye

By Bob Reutter

Just to change things up a bit I decided to offer up a few Marines who have received attention for less than stellar performance of their Marine heritage. It is interesting to note that I had to really scour the internet to find these. There are not a lot of references to 'bad' Marines (as opposed to **BAD** Marines of which there are many!)

Clayton J. Lonetree (born 1961), son of a Winnebago father and Navajo mother, served nine years in prison for espionage. During the early 1980s, Lonetree was a Marine Corps Security Guard stationed at the Embassy of the United States in Moscow.

Lonetree is the first U.S. Marine to be convicted of spying against the United States. Lonetree, who was stationed in Moscow as a guard at the U.S. Embassy in the early 1980s, confessed in 1987 to selling documents to the Soviet Union. Lonetree was seduced by a 25-year-old female KGB officer named "Violetta Seina" in that year. He was then blackmailed into handing over documents when he was assigned to Vienna, Austria. These documents included the blueprints of the U.S. Embassy buildings in Moscow and Vienna and the names and identities of U.S. undercover intelligence agents in the Soviet Union. He was tried in a military court in Quantico, Virginia and convicted of espionage on August 21, 1987.

In May 1991, Lonetree filed an appeal, asking that his conviction be overturned because he had never learned the identity of one accuser, but this was denied. He initially received a 30-year sentence with a reduction in rank from E-5 to E-1, a fine of \$5,000, the loss of all military pay and allowances, and a dishonorable discharge. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Alfred M. Gray, Jr., recommended to the Secretary of the Navy that Lonetree's sentence be reduced from 30 to 15 years in a letter written in 1989 that said that the effect of Private Lonetree's actions "was minimal." In addition, he said, the Marine's motivation "was not treason or greed, but rather the love-sick response of a naive, young, immature and lonely troop in a lonely and hostile environment." His sentence was reduced to 15 years, but he was released in 1996 after serving only nine years at the United States Disciplinary Barracks.



Charles Joseph Whitman (June 24, 1941 – August 1, 1966), who became infamous as the "Texas Tower Sniper", was an American engineering student at the University of Texas and mass murderer who shot 49 people on August 1, 1966, before being killed by the police. A total of 17 people, including an unborn baby, died in the tragedy, including Whitman himself and then-engineering student David H. Gunby, who died from complications of his wounds decades later in 2001.

In the early morning hours of August 1, 1966, Whitman murdered his wife and his mother in their homes. Later that day, he brought a number of guns, including rifles, a shotgun, and handguns, to the campus of the University of Texas at Austin where, over an approximate 90- to 95-minute period, he killed 14 people and wounded 32 others in a mass shooting in and around the Tower. Whitman shot and killed three people inside the university's tower and eleven others after firing at random from the 28th-floor observation deck of the Main Building. Whitman was eventually shot and killed by Austin police officers Houston McCoy and Ramiro Martinez.



Lee Harvey Oswald (October 18, 1939 – November 24, 1963) was an American sniper who assassinated President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. According to five U.S. government investigations, Oswald shot and killed Kennedy as he traveled by motorcade through Dealey Plaza in the city of Dallas, Texas.

Oswald was a former U.S. Marine who defected to the Soviet Union in October 1959. He lived in the Belarusian city of Minsk until June 1962, at which time he returned to the United States with Marina, his Russian wife, eventually settling in Dallas.



Following Kennedy's assassination, Oswald was initially arrested for the murder of police officer J. D. Tippit, who was killed on a Dallas street about 45 minutes after Kennedy was shot. Oswald was later charged with the murder of Kennedy; he denied shooting anybody, saying that he was a patsy. Two days later, while being transferred from the city jail to the county jail, Oswald was shot and mortally wounded by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby in full view of television cameras broadcasting live.

In September 1964, the Warren Commission concluded that Oswald acted alone in assassinating Kennedy by firing three shots from the Texas School Book Depository. This conclusion was supported by previous investigations carried out by the FBI, the Secret Service, and the Dallas Police Department. Despite forensic, ballistic, and eyewitness evidence supporting the lone gunman theory, public opinion polls taken over the years have shown that most Americans believe that Oswald did not act alone, but conspired with others to kill the president. The assassination has spawned numerous conspiracy theories.

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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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Semper Fi
Roy McWilliams

02/2017

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In recognition and appreciation to Dakota Meade who recently graduated from Parris Island. He is the sixth of our family to become a Marine.



Roy and Carolyn McWilliams

Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

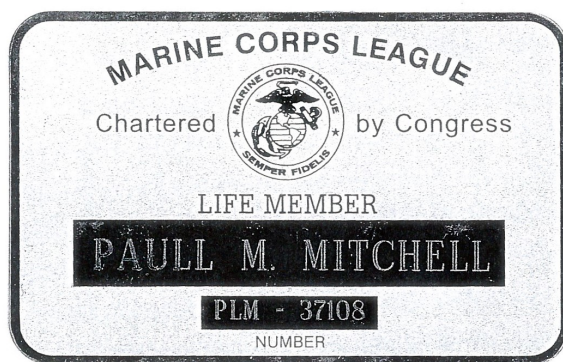
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Semper Fi Marines!

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-0-

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

Semper Ji

December 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|--|-----|---|
| Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for January 2017 are due NO LATER THAN December 22, 2016 | | | | 1 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 VA Project 8 a.m. | 2 | 3 |
| 7 | 5 | 6 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 No Devil Dog Growl | 13 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 TFT FAMILY DISTRIBUTION DAY |
| 18 | 19 | 20 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25  |
| 26 | 27 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 No Meeting | 28 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800 | 29 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 1900 VFW 1114 | 30 | 31 |  |

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

December 17, 2016

Toys for Tots
 Family Distribution Day

December 29, 2016

The Detachment will have a carry-in at the meeting in December. Bring a covered dish or desert to share.