



River Cities News

Volume 13 Issue 2

February 1, 2016

Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter, Commandant

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Just got home from the Devil Dog Growl for January and realized that the entire month of January is almost in the books and I had not written my column for our editor. Shame on me. I guess that just shows that life is moving much too fast. It has been two years (January 26th) since my wife and I lost everything we owned except each other and our 15 year old cat to a house fire. But like a Phoenix rising from the ashes we have persevered, adapted and overcome.

Our detachment had an eventful January with several funeral home visits and graveside services for Marines that had passed. It is very rewarding to see the gratitude on the faces of relatives after one of these services. I think many of them realize how special it is to be a Marine when a dozen or so men and women they have never met come to honor their loved one with our presentation. I think they can see how much it means to us to be there and they understand why being a Marine was so important to their departed.

If you were at the January League meeting on Wednesday, the 27th you saw our newest addition – a food booth to be used at fund raising events for the League.



The booth is 9 x 12 feet with serving windows on both sides and lots of working space inside. It is wired inside with several electrical outlets and pigtailed ready to hook up when we go to major events. It had belonged to a local church and was used at the West Side Fall Festival for many years until they outgrew it and built a larger one. We picked it up at a very respectable price and it will serve us well at Shrine Fest, Harbor Freight and any other event we might attend. Thanks to everyone who looked for a booth for us and to several who found booths we investigated before settling on this one.

As always we need to keep recruiting new members to our Detachment. A couple of months ago we included a copy of our recruiting brochure in the newsletter. If you would like a supply of brochures to carry with you please let me know and I will get them to you. It has a partial list of some of the things we do as well as a current registration form. They are good to give to Marines you see out in area. I like to tuck one in the driver's side window of a car/truck/van that has Marine Veteran license plates or any other Marine decals, bumper stickers, etc. We have added some new members this way.

Semper Fi

Department of Indiana, 2016 Spring Conference Registration

HOSTED BY: SOUTHERN INDIANA LEATHERNECKS #931

DATES: 19 - 20 MARCH 2016

LOCATION: JASPER INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER
951 WERNING ROAD
JASPER, IN 47546

MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CALLING (812) 482-5555

RATE: \$65 PLUS TAX

RESERVE BY 19 FEBRUARY 2016

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Registration \$10 in advance / \$15 at the door or if postmarked after 5 March 2016, please make checks payable to "SILD931"

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Pancake Breakfast



hosted by the
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY

Date: Saturday, February 6, 2016

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Place: AmVets Post 84
2912 Broadway Avenue
Evansville, IN 47712

Cost: Adults \$5.00
Children under 10 \$3.00



Menu: Pancakes, sausage links along with coffee, milk, and juice.

Adults: 3 Pancakes 2 Sausage Links Children: 2 Pancakes 1 Sausage Link

Sports Stars in the Corps

By Bob Reutter, Commandant

The lessons learned in the Corps have been useful to people from all walks of life through the years. This month's column dips into the realm of sports. Famous players and coaches in all sports have passed across the yellow footprints on one coast or the other. Here are some of the more famous names:

Golf Lee Trevino - On his seventeenth birthday Lee Trevino enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. The previous few years had been a time of confusion and change for him. The Marines provided the perfect, stable environment for a directionless young man. Trevino still looks back fondly at the comradeship and fun of those years spent in the company of his peers. Of course he was by no means a model soldier - he had his fair share of disciplinary problems. However, by the fourth year of his service he had matured sufficiently to make the rank of Lance-corporal and, through an administrative error, found himself in the Special Services Unit issuing athletic equipment and driving the football team bus. More importantly, he spent the last eighteen months of his service playing golf with the officers in the afternoons.



Patty Berg - Patricia J. Berg was born February 13, 1918, Minneapolis, Minnesota. She started playing golf at the age of fourteen. Two years later she won the Minneapolis City Championship and at eighteen she was the state amateur champion. Winning twenty-nine titles in seven years, including the 1938 U. S. Amateur, and she was easily the most famous female golfer in the country. She turned professional in 1940 with no women's professional tour at that time, and just three or four tournaments a year, so she earned income conducting clinics and exhibitions. She also worked for Wilson Sporting Goods, which began to manufacture "Patty Berg" signature golf clubs.



She joined the Marine Corps in 1943. She was a Procurement Officer with the Eastern Procurement Division in Philadelphia, PA until 1945. Returning to golf at the end of the war, she won the 1946 U. S. Women's Open. Impacting the future of women's golf, Patty Berg became a founder and the first president of the Ladies' Professional Golf Association (LPGA) in 1948.

Football - Keith Jackson, Broadcaster - It was 1952 when Keith Jackson broadcast, on radio, his first college football game -- Stanford at Washington State. Stanford won 14-13 when the Cougar holder fumbled the snap for the extra point. And 48 seasons later, Keith Jackson is still having fun at the college football stadium.



At the close of 1999, Keith Jackson was awarded the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame Gold Medal, its highest honor; and named to the Rose Bowl Hall of Fame, the first broadcaster accorded these distinguished honors. Another first for Jackson was the Amos Alonzo Stagg Award from the American Football Coaches Association; and he was named National Sportscaster of the Year five successive times by the National Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association. He is in the NSSA Hall of Fame, The National Sportscasters Association Hall of Fame and the Southern California Sports Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Jackson's career highlights include 10 Winter and Summer Olympics. He has worked eleven World Series and League Championship Series in baseball; NBA basketball in the '60s and '70s; auto racing, including NASCAR, USAC, and Formula One, including seven Grand Prix of Monaco races. Jackson has covered many different kinds of events for "ABC's Wide World of Sports," with travels to 31 different countries. In 1958, while at KOMO Radio and Television in Seattle, he did the first live sports broadcast from the Soviet Union to the United States.

Jackson was born and raised on a farm near the Georgia-Alabama state line. He served four years in the U.S. Marines, including time in China. He attended Washington State College with the intent to study police and political science, but graduated with a degree in broadcast journalism, learning his trade in the same studios that produced Edward R. Murrow, among others in the broadcast industry.

Marine Corps History

By Gary Burk

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

Vietnam –

The battle for Hue would run twenty-five bloody days. A pair of infantry companies from the 1st and 5th Marines, accompanied by a platoon of tanks, tried bravely to retake control on the second day. The small force fought their way to the American compound, re-enforced, then battled their way across the main bridge. The Marines were too few, too light to breach the Citadel, and fell back to the MACV compound to await reinforcements.

With American forces all across the land under attack during Tet, there weren't a hell of a lot of infantry units to spare for the recapture of Hue.

Once their forces grew to two battalions, the Marines began a street-by-street, house-by-house sweep along the south side of the Perfume River. At the same time, ARVN forces under Lieutenant General Huang Lam began clearing the north side of Hue.

There was a great reluctance to turn the full firepower of the Marines against the historic city and its civilian population. The Leathernecks relied principally on direct-fire weapons such as recoilless rifles and tank guns in the attack south of the river.

This was brutal, savage, heartbreaking fighting at point-blank range. Clearing the south bank and destroying two disciplined NVA battalions took a full week and proved costly.

The ARVN troops had it worse. When their attacks on the Citadel fell short, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Thompson's 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, entered Hue from the north by helicopter and landing craft. With U.S. Marines on the left flank, ARVN forces in the center, and South Vietnamese Marines on the right, the attack resumed.

NVA resistance was so fierce it still took ten days to close on the Citadel. Gradually the restrictions on Allied firepower gave way to reality: Parts of Hue would have to be destroyed in order to save it.

There was little that was “surgical” about the ensuing bombardments by aircraft, artillery, and naval gunfire. It was a vicious urban street fight as the Marines ever experienced – all the horrors of Seoul, Garapan, and Vera Cruz, and more.

On February 22, the southeast wall of the Citadel fell to the Marines. The Leathernecks then stepped aside to let ARVN troops make the final assault on the sacred Imperial Palace.

February Trivia

February 9, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 Americans killed.

February 13, 1943 – The U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve was formed.

February 20, 1962 – Marine LtCol. John Glenn made three orbits in a manned space capsule. First American to orbit the earth.

February 23, 1942 - During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.

Newsletter Booster Club

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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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www.mclrivercities.org/news

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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

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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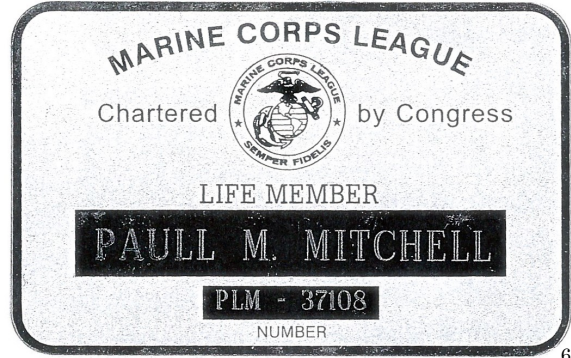
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**Note: Annual
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Semper Ji

February 2016



Frank Counts 2/9

Joe Shimek 2/22

James Miller 2/24

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	2 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	3	4 MCLA VA Project 8 a.m.	5	6 MCLA Pancake Breakfast See pg 3 for details
7	8	9 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	17	18	19	20
21	22 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 6 p.m. AmVets #84	23 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	24 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 1900 VFW 1114	25	26	27
28	29	Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for March 2016 are due NO LATER THAN February 22, 2016				