



# River Cities News

Marine Corps League  
Business Name  
Evansville, Indiana

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February 1, 2017

## Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter, Commandant

It has long been a dream of our editor, Paula Landers and yours truly to have more 'meat' in our newsletter. Our newsletter currently has a circulation of 200. While most of these are Detachment members, there is a significant number that go to organizations - VFW, American Legion, DAV, AmVets, etc. – and are read by many more people at those organizations. In this issue is the first installment of a new feature on Veteran's Services. Each month will feature a different organization that offers services to veterans. It will be written by Mark Burrier who is a FMF Corpsman and a long-time member of the Marine Corps League. Mark works for the Vet Center and will be a great resource for us.

While it is rather difficult to believe, being early in February, spring is nearly upon us with summer being close behind. It is time to start looking forward to some of the things we do in the spring and summer both as fund raisers and as community service. We have been asked once again to provide a color guard for the residents of the Riverwalk Community located in the site of the former Welborn Hospital. We have done this for several years. We will need a color guard and someone to play taps. The date is Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 1300. We will gather at 1230. Uniform will be L/S white shirt, black field scarf (tie) dress blue or black trousers, League cover, white gloves and white duty belt. There will be a reminder email about a week prior to the event.

Also upcoming is a 4 day fund raiser at Harbor Freight Tools in March, Streets Alive in Garvin's

Park in May, and the Marine Corps League State convention in June hosted by our detachment. I hope that each Detachment member can contribute something to the success of the summer convention.

It is also time to start to think about the election of Detachment Officers coming up in March. If you would like to see things change, if you have suggestions about someone you think would do a good job in an officer's position in the Detachment or if you have skills that would benefit the detachment, make those nominations at this month's meeting.

One final thought – the more members we have in the Detachment the more opportunity we have to share the tasks we take on. Also the more we can benefit from different personalities, different skill sets and just different, fresh points of view. I am certain that like me, you see those Marine bumper stickers, EGA or USMC front plates on vehicles and both the Hoosier Marine Veteran and MCL Foundation license plates on cars and trucks in the community. Please keep a supply of our recruiting brochures in your car or truck and place on in the weather stripping on the driver's side window of every Marine owned or drive vehicle you see. I am pleased to print as many of them as we need to accomplish this task. It amazes me to talk to a Marine and find they have no idea there is such a thing as the Marine Corps League. We need to make it our mission to spread the good news about the League to every Marine out there.

Semper Fi and Gung Ho!

### Detachment Officers

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## Marine Corps History

By Gary Burk

*The following is an excerpt from "US Military."*

This month's article will be a deviation from the regular history of the Marine Corps.

The movie "Hacksaw Ridge" has brought a lot of attention to the medical aspect of war which brings to the forefront of the Navy Corpsmen who support the Marines in combat.

**"Marine Corpsman Field Medical School. This is One Training That You Do Not Ever Want To Forget!"**

The standard to become Corpsman in the Marine Corps is a little confusing, as the Marines use Navy Corpsmen for their missions. But the Navy Corpsman serving in a Marine Unit is for all intents and purposes a Marine, and is treated like a Marine by other Marines and by everyone whom they have contact with. So the Marines and the Navy Team up in training corpsmen for the Marine Force Fleet. Candidates for Marine Fleet Corpsman have to attend a 7 week course that is much like Marine Boot camp in makeup at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina.

The Marines have a saying, Every Marine is a Rifleman, and that extends to Navy Corpsmen serving in Marine Units, corpsmen have to learn to carry a rifle and how to use it as well. Marines need qualified medical personnel on the battlefield and that is why the Field Medical Service School (FMSS) exists. For a Corpsman to be effective he has to earn the right to be regarded as a fellow Marine, and that can be an eye opening experience to many Navy Corpsmen unfamiliar with Marine Corps ways. For a Corpsman to be effective in a Marine Corps unit he has to be someone that the other Marines know and trust. He has to be able to lay down cover fire, dig a hole, or do whatever other Marines in



his unit are doing toward accomplishing the mission.

The top priority for a FMSS corpsman is to learn to save Marine Corps lives, but they have to be accepted by the unit in which they work. They learn to look like Marines, act like and function just as other Marine Corps personnel function, despite in reality being Navy Corpsmen assigned to a Marine Corps Unit. Much of this need to be a Marine is not understood by those who have not experienced it, but it is vital to the success and cohesiveness of the unit.

The FMSS field school teaches the tactics, methods and procedures it takes to be a Marine Corpsman in the field. It also gives the new Navy Corpsman self-confidence, and the ability to experience real life conditions before being thrust into the field. The level of mental and physical discipline that are imposed on a Navy Corpsmen headed for the field to serve with Marine Corps units is not a trifle, but vital. The training serves to make the corpsman ready to handle whatever is put into their path.

**SEMPER FIDELIS**  
*Once A MARINE, Always A MARINE*

## 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.)

## Humor in (Marine) Uniform

An Army Ranger was on vacation in the depths of Louisiana and he wanted a pair of genuine alligator shoes in the worst way, but was very reluctant to pay the high prices the local vendors were asking. After becoming very frustrated with the "no haggle" attitude of one of the shopkeepers, the Ranger shouted, "maybe I'll just go out and get my own alligator so I can get a pair of shoes made at a reasonable price!" The vendor said, "By all means, be my guest. Maybe you will run into a couple of Marines who were in here earlier saying the same thing."

So the Ranger headed into the bayou that same day and a few hours later came upon two men standing waist deep in the water. He thought, "those must be the two Marines the guy in town was talking about." Just then, the Ranger saw a tremendously long gator swimming rapidly underwater towards one of the Marines.

Just as the gator was about to attack, the Marine grabbed its neck with both hands and strangled it to death with very little effort. Then both Marines dragged it on shore and flipped it on its back. Laying nearby were several more of the creatures.

One of the Marines then exclaimed, "Damn, this one doesn't have any shoes either!"

Many know about the "history" of the Marine Corps. Few know the REAL story behind the world's finest fighting force...

*The USMC is over 237 years of romping, stomping, hell, death and destruction. The finest fighting machine the world has ever seen. We were born in a bomb crater, our Mother an M-16, our Father the Devil himself. Each moment that I live is an additional threat upon your life. I am a rough looking, roving soldier of the sea.*

*I am cocky, self-centered, overbearing, and do not know the meaning of fear, for I am fear itself. I am a green amphibious monster, made of blood and guts, who arose from the sea, feasting on anti-Americans throughout the globe.*

*Whenever it may arise, and when my time comes, I will die a glorious death on the battlefield, giving my life for Mom, the Corps, and the American Flag. We stole the eagle from the Air Force, the anchor from the Navy, and the rope from the Army.*

*On the 7th day, while God rested, we over-ran his perimeter and stole the globe, and we've been running the show ever since. We live like soldiers and talk like sailors and slap the Hell out of both of them. Soldier by day, lover by night, drunkard by choice, Marine by the grace of God.*

Ooh rah...

## Marines in the Public Eye

By Bob Reutter

With the Inauguration of our 45<sup>th</sup> President it seems like a good time to highlight his first two confirmed picks for posts – Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Homeland Security.

James Norman "Mad Dog" Mattis is the 26th United States Secretary of Defense under the Trump administration and a retired United States Marine Corps general. He previously served as the 11th Commander of United States Central Command, the Unified Combatant Command responsible for American military operations in the Middle East, Northeast Africa, and Central Asia, from August 11, 2010, to March 22, 2013. Mattis was confirmed by 98-1 by the United States Senate on January 20, 2017, the first of Trump's cabinet to be confirmed.

In 2003, Mattis was the commander of the 1st Marine Division, which pushed into Iraq as part of the initial invasion force. In a letter to his 20,000 Marines, he encouraged them to "demonstrate to the world there is 'No better friend, no worse enemy' than a U.S. Marine," quoting the division's motto. He returned to Iraq in 2004 to lead the fight against insurgents in Anbar province, in particular, two key battles in Fallujah. In all his combat tours, he was known for visiting his Marines on the front lines.

In November 2001, as a brigadier general, Mattis commanded Task Force 58, the first Marine force to enter Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks.

As a lieutenant colonel during the Persian Gulf War in February 1991, Mattis commanded the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, one of the units that pushed into Kuwait to liberate it from Iraqi troops.

Mattis is known for a singular focus on military history, tactics and strategy, traits that, along with his unmarried status, led to his Warrior Monk nickname. He is said to have a personal library of 7,000 books and during deployments often took with him "Meditations of Marcus Aurelius," quotes from the Roman emperor and stoic

philosopher. His Mad Dog nickname appears to be a reference to his combative nature on and off the battlefield.

When he was the head of Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Mattis co-wrote the counterinsurgency manual with his Army counterpart, Gen. David Petraeus. That manual became the guide for how the U.S. military operated in Iraq to successfully combat the Sunni insurgency.

In April, Mattis said in remarks at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank, "The Iranian regime, in my mind, is the single most enduring threat to stability and peace in the Middle East." He added, "Among all the issues facing us in the Middle East, I think Iran is actually foremost. And yet at the same time, it appears here in Washington that we've forgotten how to keep certain issues foremost."

In the same speech, he criticized Barack Obama's administration for being naive about Teheran's intentions in agreeing to the Iranian nuclear deal. But he was at odds with those who favor scrapping the deal. "We are going to have to recognize that we have an imperfect arms control agreement," he said. "What we achieved was a nuclear pause, not a nuclear halt. We're going to have to plan for the worst."

In February 2005, comments he made about using force against the Taliban in Afghanistan generated some controversy. "You go into Afghanistan, you got guys who slap women around for five years because they didn't wear a veil. You know, guys like that ain't got no manhood left anyway," said Mattis. "So it's a hell of a lot of fun to shoot them. Actually, it's a lot of fun to fight. You know, it's a hell of a hoot. It's fun to shoot some people. I'll be right up front with you — I like brawling." Marine Commandant Gen. Mike Hagee later counseled Mattis about the comments, and Mattis said he should have chosen his words more carefully. Hagee said in a statement, "While I understand that some people may



**James Norman Mattis**  
U.S. Secretary of Defense

## Veteran Services

By Mark Burrier

### Welcome Home! The Vet Center

The Vet Center program was established in 1979 out of recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era Veterans were still experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers are community based and part of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

In 1996 Congress extended the eligibility to include WWII and Korean Combat Veterans. In 2003, eligibility was extended for Veterans who served during other periods of armed hostilities to include Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf, Somalia, Kosovo/Bosnia, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and subsequent operations with the Global War on Terror (GWOT). The family members of all Veterans listed above are eligible for Vet Center Services as well.

Most recently, Vet Centers have been authorized to furnish bereavement counseling to surviving family member of service members who die on active duty, to include federally activated Reserve and National Guard, as well as select combat support personnel in need of readjustment counseling services.

The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible Veterans to help them make a satisfying readjustment to civilian life.

### Services Provided

- ◆ Individual Counseling
- ◆ Group Counseling
- ◆ Marital and Family Counseling
- ◆ Bereavement Counseling
- ◆ Sexual Trauma Counseling
- ◆ Education and Outreach
- ◆ Assistance with Applying for VA Benefits
- ◆ Referral to Medical Services
- ◆ Alcohol/Drug Treatment Referral
- ◆ Employment Referral
- ◆ Referral to Community Resources



### Other Eligible Veterans

- ◆ Military Sexual Trauma Counseling for veterans of both sexes, all era who have experienced MST while on active duty
- ◆ Bereavement Counseling for Parents, Spouses and Children of Armed Forces personnel who died while on Active Duty.
- ◆ Active duty, emergent medical care or mortuary affairs
- ◆ Unmanned Aerial vehicle crew providing support of combat operations

### Free and Confidential

Vet Center services are pre-paid by your Military service. Our services are also confidential. No information will be released without written consent from the Veteran, except in circumstances averting a crisis.

We can be reached at:

Evansville Vet Center  
1100 N. Burkhardt Rd  
Evansville, IN 47715  
812-473-5993

Combat Call Center  
877-WAR-VETS (877-927-8387)  
24 hours a day / 7 day per week

## Marines in the Public Eye continued from pg 4

take issue with the comments made by him, I also know he intended to reflect the unfortunate and harsh realities of war. Lt. Gen. Mattis often speaks with a great deal of candor.”

The Senate on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> overwhelmingly confirmed retired Gen. John Kelly as President Trump’s secretary of Homeland Security. Lawmakers voted 88-11 in favor of Kelly, who testified before the Senate Homeland Security Committee at his confirmation hearing last week, and who succeeds Secretary Jeh Johnson.

Kelly, 66, told lawmakers at his hearing last week that he supports Mr. Trump’s idea of a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico, but also stressed that the use of manpower and technology are needed to improve border security. He said that he doesn’t support the idea of registering people based on their religion or ethnicity and he doesn’t think religion should be used as the foundation for law enforcement or counterterrorism operations.

**John Francis Kelly** (born May 11, 1950) is the fifth United States Secretary of Homeland Security. He is a retired United States Marine Corps general and the former commander of United States Southern Command, the Unified Combatant Command responsible for American military operations in Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Kelly previously served as the commanding general of the Multi-National Force—West in Iraq from February 2008 to February 2009, and as the commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North in October 2009.<sup>[1]</sup> Kelly succeeded General Douglas M. Fraser as commander of U.S. Southern Command on November 19, 2012.<sup>[2]</sup> Kelly was succeeded by Navy Admiral Kurt W. Tidd on January 14, 2016.

Kelly initially enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1970, and was discharged from active duty as a sergeant in 1972, after serving in an infantry company with the 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Following graduation from the University of Massachusetts Boston in

1976, he was commissioned on December 27, 1975<sup>[4]</sup> as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps via Officer Candidates School.<sup>[1]</sup> He received a Master of Science degree in National Security Studies from the Georgetown School of Foreign Service in 1984.

Kelly returned to the Second Marine Division where he served as a rifle and weapons platoon commander, company executive officer, assistant operations officer, and infantry company commander. In 1987, Kelly transferred to the Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, serving first as the head of the Offensive Tactics Section, Tactics Group, and later assuming the duties of the Director of the Infantry Officer Course. After three years of instructing young officers, he attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the School for Advanced Warfare, both located at Quantico.<sup>[1]</sup>

In 2002, Kelly again served with the 1st Marine Division, this time as the assistant division commander. Much of Kelly’s two-year assignment was spent deployed in Iraq.<sup>[1]</sup> In March 2003, while in Iraq, Kelly was promoted to brigadier general, which was the first known promotion of a Marine Corps colonel in an active combat zone since that of another First Marine Division assistant division commander, Chesty Puller<sup>1</sup> in January 1951.<sup>[7]</sup>



In mid-April Gen. Kelly took command of the newly formed Task Force Tripoli and drove it north from Baghdad into Samarra and Tikrit. During the initial assault on Baghdad, Kelly was asked by a reporter of *The Los Angeles Times* if (considering the size of the Iraqi Army and the vast supplies of tanks, artillery and chemical weapons available to Saddam’s forces) if he would ever consider defeat. Kelly’s archetypal response was, "Hell these are Marines. Men like them held Guadalcanal and took Iwo Jima. Baghdad ain’t shit." Kelly’s next assignment, in July 2007, was as commanding general, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward). On February 9, 2008 Kelly assumed command of the Multi-National Force—West in Iraq.

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## 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

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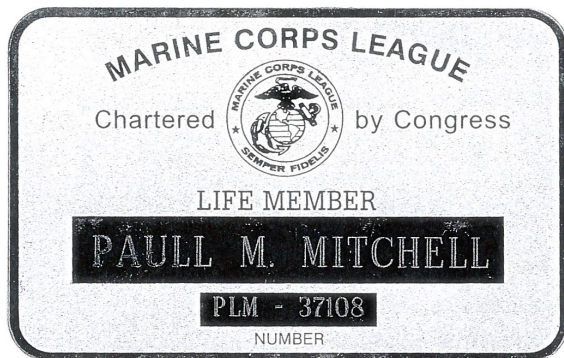
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***In honor and memory of the***  
***17th Rifle Company,***  
***2700 W. Illinois Street***  
***Evansville, Indiana***  
***For all who served diligently,***  
***and with dedication.***



***Semper Fi***  
***Roy McWilliams***

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

# Semper Ji

## February 2017

**Inside this issue:**

Commandant's Corner	1
Marine Corps History	2
Membership Dues Update	3
Humor in (Marine) Uniform	3
Marines in the Public Eye	4
Veteran Services	5
Newsletter Boosters	7
Life Membership	7
Sponsors	8/9
Event Calendar	10

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 VA Project 8 a.m.	3	4
5	6	7 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	8	9	10	11
12	13 No Devil Dog Growl Scheduled	14 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	22 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 1900 VFW 1114	23	24 River Walk Community Color Guard 1300	25
26	27 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 6 p.m. AmVets #84	28 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for March 2017 are due <b>NO LATER THAN</b> February 22, 2017			