

River Cities News

Volume 13 Issue 1

Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter, Commandant

Another Toys for Tots campaign is in the books. It was a good one with over 12,600 toys, 500 books and 4,000 stocking stuffers delivered to underprivileged children in our area. We served almost 4,000 children with 2,500 being from individual families and 1,500 with our church and civic group partners. We were fortunate to have the support of the Eyewitness News teams from Channels 7 and 25 as our media partners this year. In addition to several spotlights on our happenings they ran regular short 'hits' reminding people about our box locations and scope of our campaign. They are already talking about next year's TFT and what more they can do to help.

As with any undertaking of this magnitude it didn't happen without massive participation. We registered over 125 volunteers this season. Most of them were non-Marines but many in the Detachment were there to help. One of our Marines said that he had a small part in the campaign. I told him that there were no small parts. Everyone who worked a few hours, days or weeks was part of our success. I told him that we had deposited over \$1500 in coins during the collection process. None of that was in denominations over \$.25. Each of those pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters contributed to the grand total. Each of you who contributed hours or money to our campaign were a part of the success.

This year we saw our membership grow a bit with the addition of several new members. I hope these new members will add a jolt of enthusiasm and help to jump start our Detachment to be more active and to perhaps schedule some spring and summer family oriented activities to attract even more new, young members. If you have an idea of a good spring/summer event please let someone know so that we can discuss it. We have shown that we can do great things if everyone gets behind it.

While we mourn the loss of three members of the Detachment in 2015, we can try to remember the good times with them and dedicate ourselves to honor their memory by making the Detachment a vibrant part of the local veteran community. We would like to modify our Christmas float by making it into a replica landing craft and enter some of the local summer parades. It will be a good way to get into the public eye with the detachment members riding on the float. We have lots of small stuffed animals and matchbox type cars to pass out to children along the parade routes. Our Color Guard is a big hit as we fire our M-1 rifles with blank cartridges along the parade route. We will publish a schedule of upcoming appearances in the coming months. Try to make time to participate with us.

I hope you and your families had a very merry Christmas and will have an exciting and prosperous 2016.

Semper Fi

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VIP's in the Corps

By Bob Reutter, Commandant



We are going to wander away from the path of Hollywood to talk about some famous Marines from another field – space exploration. Beginning in 1959 Project Mercury was the first human spaceflight program of the United States. The Mercury-Atlas 6 flight on 20 February 1962 was the first Mercury flight to achieve this goal. Col. John Glenn was the only Marine to fly in the Mercury Program. He also flew aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery in 1998.

Apollo program

The Apollo program was a NASA spaceflight endeavor that landed the first humans on the Earth's moon. It set major milestones in human spaceflight and stands alone in sending manned missions beyond low Earth orbit. The Apollo program ran from 1961 until 1975, and was the U.S. civilian space agency's third human spaceflight program (following Project Mercury and Project Gemini). The program used Apollo spacecraft and Saturn launch vehicles, which were later used for the Sky-lab program and the joint American-Soviet Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. U.S. Marines who were astronauts in the Apollo program are:

- * R. Walter Cunningham (Apollo 7)
- * Fred W. Haise, Jr. (Apollo 13)
- Jack R. Lousma (Skylab 3)
- * Gerald P. Carr (Skylab 4)
- * Vance D. Brand (Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, Command Module Pilot)

Space Shuttle program

NASA's Space Shuttle, officially called the Space Transportation System (STS), was the United States government's manned launch vehicle until its retirement in 2011. The winged Space Shuttle orbiter was launched vertically, usually carrying five to seven astronauts (eight have been carried) and up to 50,000 lb (22 700 kg) of payload into low Earth orbit. When its mission is complete, the shuttle could independently move itself out of orbit and re-enter the Earth's atmosphere. U.S. Marines who have been astronauts in the Space Shuttle program are:

- * Fred W. Haise, Jr. (ALT program) * Jack R. Lousma (STS-3)
- * Vance D. Brand (STS-5, STS-41-B, STS-35) * Robert F. Overmyer (STS-5, STS-51-B)
- * David C. Hilmers (STS-51-J, STS-26, STS-36, STS-42)
- * James F. Buchli (STS-51-C, STS-61-A, STS-29, STS-48)
- * Bryan D. O'Connor (STS-61-B, STS-40) * Randolph J. Bresnik (STS-129)
- * Charles F. Bolden, Jr. (STS-61-C, STS-31, STS-45, STS-60) Bolden is the current NASA administrator
- * Robert D. Cabana (STS-41, STS-53, STS-65, STS-88) Cabana is the current director of the Kennedy Space Center
- * Robert C. Springer (STS-29, STS-38) * Kenneth D. Cameron (STS-37, STS-56, STS-74)
- * Andrew M. Allen (STS-46, STS-62, STS-75) * Douglas G. Hurley (STS-127, STS-135)
- * Terrence W. Wilcutt (STS-68, STS-79, STS-89, STS-106)
- * Carlos I. Noriega (STS-84, STS-97) * George D. Zamka (STS-120, STS-130)
- * Frederick W. Sturckow (STS-88, STS-105, STS-117, STS-128)
- * Charles O. Hobaugh (STS-104, STS-118, STS-129)
- * Joseph M. Acaba (STS-119, Soyuz TMA-04M, Expedition 31, Expedition 32)

Marine Corps History By Gary Burk

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

Capturing Washington represented the apogee of British military action in America. The Treaty of Ghent, signed on Christmas Eve 1814, essentially ended the war. But rudimentary communications kept word of the war's end from reaching the combatants until more blood had been spilled.

In January 1815, Major General Sir Edward Pakenham, brother-in-law to the legendary Lord Wellington, led 9,000 veterans against New Orleans. There General Andrew Jackson assembled a hodgepodge force.

Captain Daniel Carmick's 300 Marines joined the frontiersmen, pirates, adventurers, and Army regulars in one of the greatest underdog victories in American military history, cutting down half the invading force and slaying its major general. Carmick, shot in the head, later died of his wounds.

A month after the Battle of New Orleans, still oblivious to war's end, USS *Constitution* engaged HMS *Cyane* and HMS *Levant* in four hours of short-range dueling in which the aimed musketry of the Marines contributed significantly to victory. Commanding the Marine detachment on *Old Ironsides* was Captain Archibald Henderson, a thirty-two-year-old Virginian.

Earlier, bored with marginal assignments that kept him away from the action, Henderson had threatened to resign the Corps and join the Army. Now, in the war's extended final hour, he gained both fame and a brevet promotion to major.

Five years after his heroics on the high seas, Archibald Henderson became the youngest offer ever selected to become Commandant of the Marine Corps.

In January 1944 Admiral Kelly Turner steamed westward with 380 ships of his V Amphibious Force, at his side the pugnacious Marine Holland Smith. The tempestuous pair made the original "Odd Couple," but as Smith later wrote, "between the two of us we spelled hell on earth in big red letters for the Japanese."

For the assault on Kwajalein, Smith's expeditionary troops consisted of the 7th Infantry Division, Army veterans of the seizure of Attu Island in the Aleutians the previous year, and – making their combat debut – the new 4th Marine Division, which had sailed from San Diego loaded for bear.

Major General Harry Schmidt commanded the Marines. His division, whose infantry regiments were the 23d, 24th, and 25th Marines, would achieve lasting renown for waging four violently successful amphibious campaigns in barely a year, suffering 17,000 casualties in the process.

The invasion group also included the reinforced 22d Marines, a separate regiment fresh from eighteen months of guard duty on Samoa, well led by Colonel John Walker and spoiling for a fight.

January Trivia

New Year's Day - The most celebrated holiday around the world.

January 22, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, Japanese resistance ended in New Guinea, resulting in the first land victory of the war for Allied forces.

Birthday - Betsy Ross (1752-1836) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was a seamstress credited with helping to originate and sew the Stars and Stripes flag of America in 1776.

Newsletter Booster Club

Booster Member	Expires
Southern Belles Unit 441	Feb - 16
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Frank Bockting	June - 16
Bob Moore	July - 16
A. J. Hardin	July - 16
Irene Blessing	July - 16
Art & Mary Beth Midle	July - 16
Bill Bitter	July - 16
Larry & Casey Scott	Oct - 16
Casey Canfield	Dec - 16
Ludie DeVaughn Jr.	Dec - 16
Gary Burk	Dec - 16
David Jones	Dec - 16
S. T. Shane Jr.	Jan - 17

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 <u>*defray*</u> the cost of printing and postage.

NEV	SLETTER BOOSTER MEMBER
NAME:	
DONATION	V:
Please Mai	/ <i>to:</i> River Cities Detachment
	P.O. Box 6581
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<u>www.mclrivercities.org/news</u> 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. 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

Information on Life Membership

National Bylaws Article Six - Members, Section 645 - Life Members:.

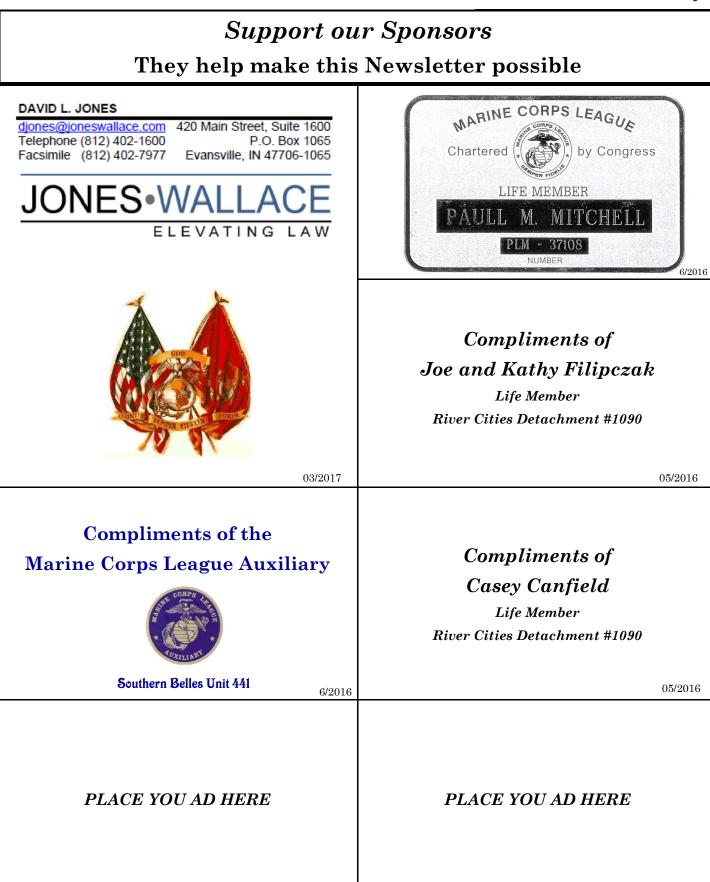
Any member of the Marine Corps League who is in good standing may become a Life Member, upon proper payment of the fee, as is required herein. A Life Member shall be subject to payment of no further dues of a Detachment, or National, such member shall have all the privileges, rights, and benefits enjoyed as a member so long as that Life Member shall live.

<u>Current Life Membership Price Information</u> <u>As of January 2014</u>

Up to and including age 35 - \$500.00 Age 36 up to and including age 50 - \$400.00 Age 51 up to and <u>including age 64</u> - \$300.00 <u>Age 65 and over - \$200.00</u>

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

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River Cities Detachment 1090 Marine Corps League Inc. P. O. Box 6581 Evansville, IN 47719-0581

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<u>Renewals</u> Kermit Neighbors Benny Benjamin Daniel Fuller

New Associate Members

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Associate Renewals

-0-

Note: Annual Membership Dues - New and Renewal \$35.00



January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for February 2016 are due NO LATER THAN January 22, 2016					1	2
3	4	5 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	6	7 MCLA VA Project 8 a.m.	8	9 TFT Work Day 0900 to 1200
10	11	12 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	20	21	22	23
24 31	25 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 6 p.m. AmVets #84	26 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	27 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 1900 VFW 1114	28	29	30



Dani Cook 1/14 Carl Stroud 1/14 James Sanders 1/25 Kermit Neighbors 1/29 Casey Canfield 1/31

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.