



River Cities News

Volume 14 Issue 1

January 1, 2017

Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter, Commandant

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Another year has passed us by and here we are on the threshold of yet another chance to do things right. In December we did several funeral home farewell services as well as cemetery honors with rifle detail. Tom Kick and I went to Mt. Carmel to pay our respects to the William Sherman, father of FMF Corpsman Tim Sherman. The following day Tom and I were joined by John Mills, Jim Grayson, TC Shane and Jack Kincaide when we returned to Mt. Carmel to attend the burial services of Mr. Sherman. Military rites were performed by the Mt. Carmel VFW and we were there to pay our final respects to an Army veteran of Korea.

We completed another successful Toys for Tots campaign on December 17th when we delivered toys to almost 800 families. I would like to thank the Marines that worked tirelessly for almost 2 full months distributing boxes and collecting toys to help make the campaign successful. Although there were several who participated regularly, three stand out – John Mills, Jack Kincaide and Tim Jones. These three were out almost daily making their rounds. They made countless trips in their personal vehicles picking up toys and delivering them to the warehouse. We had over 100 volunteers on distribution day. Between donated bicycles and the ones we were able to purchase, we had nearly 180 bikes to give on this day. This process worked smoothly because of the dedication of two individuals. Jack Kincaide and Bill Wazny stood out at the trailers donated by Meisler Trailers from before 0900 until nearly 2000 to deliver bikes to the families who were awarded them. This was a pleasant task in the morning when the skies were sunny and the temperature was 68 degrees. By late afternoon the skies had darkened, the rain began and the temperature fell to 35 degrees. By the time the last family loaded their bike, Bill and Jack were soaked (and chilled) to the bone. Of all who helped I think they were the most happy to see the last family receive Christmas wishes and head out the door.

Our detachment has the opportunity to really shine this summer. We will be hosting the Department of Indiana annual convention the first weekend of June. This is a very large undertaking that will put a huge spotlight on our group. In order to be successful we will need much better participation from our detachment members than we have had in many of our recent endeavors. There will be several committees formed so please volunteer to help with the one or ones where you can contribute.

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"

Korea –

The 5th and 7th Marines, bloodied but intact, were having a hell of a time blasting their way clear of the trap that surrounded them at Yudam-ni. And for all the importance of fighting for the immediate high ground to get their road-bound convoy moving, the whole force would be in deadly peril unless a relief column could be sent to the aid of Captain Barber's survivors, still holding Toktong Pass by sheer guts and world-class supporting arms.

Colonel Litzenberg tried four times to reach Fox Company; each failed. Finally he called for Lieutenant Colonel Raymond Davis, commanding the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. "Nothing works. You've got to get to them. Come back in twenty minutes with a plan."

Ray Davis was never one to toot his own horn. It was months before the many reservists in his new battalion learned that their skipper had commanded a battalion and won the Navy Cross under Chesty Puller at Peleliu. He was a proven, rock-solid combat leader – but trying to rescue Fox Company at Toktong would be his greatest test.

Davis realized that any attempt to reach the pass by road would be doomed. So would any daytime maneuver. He proposed to Litzenberg that his shot-up battalion strip to the essentials and take off cross-country, over the ridges, at night, approaching the encircled Fox Company lines from the north. "Go" said Litzenberg.

Artillery units in the valley recorded the temperature at 24 degrees below zero at dusk, the time Davis began his ridgeline journey. Then the winds came. Davis figured the wind-chill factor was probably seventy-five below – mind-numbing,, strength sapping, bone-chilling cold. "We would freeze if we didn't move."

Davis and his 500 Marines lurched painfully through the snow, making noise in spite of every effort. But the shrieking wind masked the movements.

Lieutenant Joseph Owen left a moving account of the journey. "The trail became icy, packed by the feet of those ahead. Men slipped to their knees, staggered up, and slipped again. . . Exhaustion was telling on us. . . Under the heavy parkas our bodies sweated with the strain, but our hands and feet were frozen numb. The wind-borne cold attacked with terrible fury. We shivered violently."

Hours later the slogging column encountered the outer ring of Chinese attacking Fox Company at Toktong Pass. At first, the PLA forces thought the snow-covered troops were Chinese reinforcements and let them traverse unchallenged. Then the Marines unveiled bayoneted M-1 Garands and unmistakable BARs amid Chinese cries of surprise and delivered a point-blank volley. A vicious firefight ensued, but more Marines came up, now unmindful of the cold, ready to shoot. Very quickly the battalion cleared a wedge in the circle of attackers.

Ray Davis raised Captain Barber on the radio. Barber, badly wounded, offered to lead out a patrol of his survivors to guide Davis into the perimeter. This brought tears to Davis's eyes. "Thanks, but we know where you are, and we'll fight our way in at daybreak," he replied.

Both officers would receive the Medal of Honor for their respective roles at Toktong Pass.

To be continued –

... "These Marines have the swagger, confidence, and hardness that must have been in Stonewall Jackson's Army of the Shenandoah. They remind me of the Coldstreams at Dunkerque."

A British military officer visiting the U.S. Marines in Korea included the above in his daily report to the British command in Tokyo, 16 Aug. 1950

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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Toys for Tots 2016

By Bob Reutter

The 2016 Southwest Indiana Toys for Tots campaign began with a work day/planning meeting on Saturday, November 12th. We unpacked the toys left over from 2015, we distributed boxes to volunteers and planned routes for box distribution. Before the campaign was over nearly 200 toy collection boxes and over 100 cash collection boxes had been distributed. We were treated to a great lunch provided by Mission BBQ to celebrate the 241st birthday of the Marines. A reporter from Eyewitness News channel 7/25 was there to document the proceedings and to kick off their coverage of our campaign.



We once again were at the front of the Downtown Evansville Christmas Parade on Sunday, November 20th. Our detachment color guard led the parade while the TFT float was the first element. Parade organizers told me that was because it was a Christmas parade and what was more symbolic to Christmas than giving toys! Many of our detachment members and their families joined the float to celebrate the beginning of the season. Members of the Morning Team from Eyewitness News joined our members and families in walking beside the float passing out small toys to the children along the parade route. Weather was almost perfect with a sunny day with temps in the mid 50's.

The next few weeks saw weekly appearances on the Eyewitness News morning show with several more visits by reporters to various events at the warehouse to generate interest in our campaign. It also saw our volunteers servicing our donation boxes and bringing toys to the warehouse where regular Saturday morning workdays served to sort, count and distribute toys to the tables. We were once again joined, on Saturday December 3rd by members of the University of Evansville Women's Softball Team. In less than three hours these human dynamos made over 500 stocking stuffer bags as well as filling 3 of our largest group orders, providing toys to over 400 children. Perhaps because of the unseasonably warm weather or the timing of the season, our tables were very slow in filling with toys this year. By mid-December I was beginning to worry that we would not be able to provide more than one toy per child this season. The last week prior to distribution the number of toys began to increase. By the time we distributed toys on Saturday, December 17th we had enough toys to give an average of 3 toys per child.



We were supported by many companies as well as countless individuals during our campaign. Some of the companies that provided significant contributions included Equipment Depot. They donated a fork lift truck for three months. This allow us to apply for and receive Gift in Kind toys from companies who donated multiple pallets of toys to TFT. We received 10 pallets of Lego building sets because of our fork lift. Meisler Trailers donated two 40 foot box trailers for us to store our bicycles in the last month of the campaign. We purchased 130 bikes and had another 50 or so donated. These would have really cramped our storage capacity



without the storage trailers. ComScore is a company who has been an important part of our campaign the past 3 years. In addition to many boxes of toys and 18 full size bicycles, employees from ComScore contributed many hours up to and including distribution day. Employees of Eyewitness News Channel 7/25 made several trips to film segments on the television news to publicize our efforts. They ran public service spots several time daily about Toys for Tots.

Members of the River Cities Detachment 1090 worked from the beginning to the end of the 2016 campaign joined by over 100 other volunteers from local churches, businesses, schools and involved local citizens. Without the assistance of these wonderful people the campaign just would not have been able to happen.

Thanks to everyone who played a part in helping the less fortunate children of our 4 county southwest Indiana Toys for Tots campaign.

Newsletter Booster Club

<i>Booster Member</i>	<i>Expires</i>
T. C. Shane Jr.	Jan - 17
Southern Belles Unit 441	Feb - 17
Joe Barron	Mar - 17
John & Dottie Mills	Apr - 17
Bob & Linda Reutter	June - 17
Dorothy Odom	June - 17
Tom & Alice Kick	July - 17
Joe & Kathy Filipczak	July - 17
Bill Bitter	Aug - 17
Roy & Carolyn McWilliams	Aug - 17
Larry & Casey Scott	Oct - 17
Melissa West	Dec - 17
Casey Canfield	Dec - 17
Bob Moore	Dec - 17
Gary Burk	Dec - 17
David Jones	Dec - 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 **defray** the cost of printing and postage.

NEWSLETTER BOOSTER MEMBER

NAME: _____

DONATION: _____

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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

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Visit our web site for the forms to submit an advertisement.

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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*Compliments of
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06/2021

**Compliments of the
Marine Corps League Auxiliary**



Southern Belles Unit 441

06/17

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



*Semper Fi
Roy McWilliams*

02/2017

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

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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

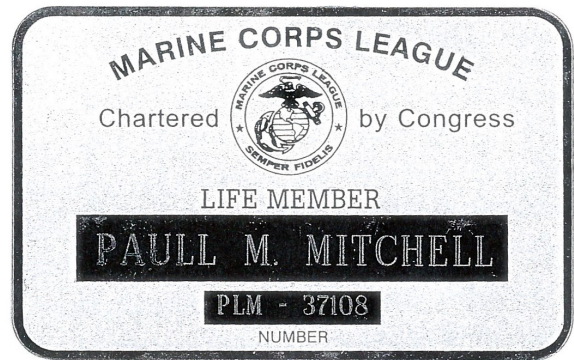
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*Compliments of
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10/2017

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Dedicated to the memory of good
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Semper Fi Marines!



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Semper Ji

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR</i>	2	3 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	4	5 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 VA Project 8 a.m.	6	7
8	9 Devil Dog Growl 1830 Texas Roadhouse	10 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	18	19	20	21
22	23 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 6 p.m. AmVets #84	24 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	25 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 1900 VFW 1114	26	27	28
29	30	31 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for February 2017 are due NO LATER THAN January 22, 2017			

WELCOME ON BOARD

New Members

-0-

Renewals

-0-

Associate Members

-0-

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