



River Cities News

River Cities Detachment #1090
Marine Corps League, Inc.
Evansville, Indiana

Volume 16, Issue 7
July 2019

From the Editor

Paula Landers

I must say that I feel that our new alliance with Marine Corps League Auxiliary of sharing duties with the food booth was a huge success. I actually enjoyed preparing for my maiden voyage as manager of the Food Booth. We made a small profit and handed out several applications for membership.



It definitely made for a long day with set up and breakdown in one day. I would like to thank Bob Reutter for his assistance getting the trailer and generator to and from Rural King. Our

volunteers for this outing were Jim Grayson, Jack Kincaide, Tim Jones, John Mills, Bob Reutter, Dani Cook, and Rita Evans. A special shout out to my husband Don Landers, for helping get the trailer in place late Friday night, and the back to the warehouse to pick up the coolers and grill early Saturday morning. In addition, he stayed all day to help with set up, cooking, and breakdown with about 5 hours of sleep and pulling a 12 hour shift on Sunday. Thanks everyone for making this outing a success.

Our next set up will be in September, and we will be setting up for 2 days instead of one. The menu may change to add sausage burgers in the A.M., as suggested by a customer, but mainly Hot Dogs and Hamburgers. Keeping the menu simple made for a very easy clean up at the end of the day.



Our Marine Family Picnic is set for Saturday, August 3rd from 1100 to ???. It will be at the FOP Camp again this year. As always this is picnic is for ALL Marines and their families, not just detachment members. **Please invite every Marine you know.** The only thing we ask is that everyone make reservations, so we have enough food for everyone. I have set up a page where everyone can make their reservations.



mclrivercities.org/picnic2019

The menu this year will be Fried Chicken with everyone bringing a covered dish and beverages of their choice. There will be bouncy houses for the kids and games for everyone to enjoy. There is fishing at the lake, so bring your rod and enjoy

Detachment Officers

Commandant
Jim Johnson

Sr. Vice Commandant
Jim Grayson

Jr. Vice Commandant
Jack Kincaide

Jr. Past Commandant
Bob Reutter

Paymaster
Don Landers Sr. (812) 483-3014

Adjutant
Tim Jones (812) 454-8717

Judge Advocate
T C Shane

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Bob Reutter (270) 314-9484

Sgt At Arms
Melissa West

Newsletter Editor
Paula Landers

Web Sergeant
Paula Landers

Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

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

MARINES IN THE CIVIL WAR

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Huntington, a bearded, bristling Marine with an unpleasant memory of the Battle of First Manassas, assembled a large, well-armed battalion of troops from posts and stations throughout the east. The Marines mobilized with a speed that would have made the ghost of Archibald Henderson smile approvingly, Huntington had his 647-man First Marine Battalion embarked and underway for Key West in two-days' time.

With most of the Spanish fleet holed up in Santiago Harbor, Admiral William Sampson ordered the forcible seizure of the eastern Cuba harbor of Guantanamo Bay as an advance naval base and coaling station. The nod went to Huntington's impatient Marines.

Eight thousand Spanish troops occupied the rugged hills around Guantanamo, but non opted to oppose Huntington's landing on June 10, especially after a pelting bombardment by the cruiser *Marblehead*.

Huntington soon realized that Guantanamo's fate remained inextricably linked to access to fresh water. Spaniards and Marines alike had their eyes on Cuzco Well, several miles away.

Huntington sent two Marine rifle companies under Captain George Fielding Elliott to seize the well. Supporting fire would come from the gunboat *Dolphin* steaming along the coast.

Elliott maneuvered into position and launched his attack. Spanish riflemen of the 6th Barcelona Regiment returned a brisk fire.

Dolphin, lying offshore, began dropping shells into the Marine lines. Hot shrapnel whickered through the underbrush, and Marines went down painfully wounded. In the middle of this unwelcome chaos, Sergeant John H. Quick scrambled to an exposed overlook to wave an emphatic semaphore message to *Dolphin*. The ship abruptly shifted its fire to the nearby Spaniards, as directed by Quick, and the Marines resumed their advance with a growl.

Intense fighting ensued in the thick vegetation, but the Marines had the advantage of momentum and the corrected fire of the gunship. The Spaniards yielded the precious well.

Elliott reported the loss of six Marines killed, sixteen wounded, to Huntington. Elliott, a future commandant, also nominated Sergeant Quick for the Medal of Honor.

Later that month, the U.S. Army's 5th Corps landed east of Santiago. Soon Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders battled their way into history at San Juan Hill, and the "Splendid Little War" petered out.

But America was suddenly an imperial nation, with overseas colonies or protectorates in Puerto Rico, Guam, Midway, the Philippines, and Hawaii. And the Marines, back in favor, abruptly had a lot of Uncle Sam's dirty work to do.

MARINE MARKSMANSHIP

Although Commodore Rogers cited his Marines for their superior marksmanship during the forcible capture of the Salee River forts, Captain Tilton complained to Commandant Zeilin about having to use "the blasted old Muzzle Fuzzels" in the action. Tilton had a good point. Even the Korean "barbarians" proved to be better armed than the Marines with their pre-Civil War, muzzle-loading muskets. Years earlier Tilton had served on Marine ordnance boards which favorably endorsed such new breech-loaders as the Remington Navy Rolling-Block rifle. In fact, the Commandant in 1870 had approved the so-called "Allin Conversion" breech-loading Springfield for issue to all fleet Marines. But the new rifles failed to arrive before Tilton's squadron sailed to the Far East the following year—a situation not unlike the 1st Marine Division landing in Guadalcanal in 1941 still armed with the M—1903 ("03") bolt-action Springfield, years after the M—1 semiautomatic Garand had gained approval. Small wonder that Tilton's Marines to quickly resorted to hand-to-hand fighting against the well-armed Koreans.

The Lore of the Corps

Bob Reutter

The following are excerpts from a story in Fox News by Tara McClary Reeves. She is an author and motivational speaker from South Carolina. I think she did an excellent job capturing the essence of what Memorial Day should be. She also gave a 'spot-on' example of Marine behavior.

Every year, the approach of Memorial Day is heralded by advertisements for weekend appliance sales, vehicle discounts, and mattress price drops. Many Americans celebrate it with backyard barbecues, family road trips, or by opening their swimming pools. For most, it has become little more than an unofficial signal of summer's arrival. But for me, the last Monday of May is one of the most important dates on America's calendar.

A few years ago, I was traveling in Pennsylvania with my parents when we stopped to have breakfast at one of our favorite places, Cracker Barrel. When Daddy briefly excused himself near the middle of our meal, the restaurant's manager approached the table and kindly asked my mother if she minded telling him about my father's extensive injuries.

Mom replied in the same way she always does in such instances, enthusiastically: "Oh, not at all! You see, my husband gave his arm and eye in Vietnam. He was there defending the rights of the Vietnamese people. He's always hated oppression like what they faced in those days, and he grew to love them."



Just about then, Daddy returned, and the manager wanted to buy his breakfast. When Daddy politely refused, he insisted. "Sir," he said with deep respect, "your wife just told me how you were hurt. I am Vietnamese. And I know that if it had not been for men like

you fighting to liberate us, I would never have had the opportunity to do this job – nor would my son have graduated from medical school as a neurosurgeon!" To see the two men embracing and crying together brought tears to my own

eyes, as shows of appreciation for our veterans always do. What was not mentioned that day – though it often is – was that Daddy survived the Vietnam War only because another U.S. serviceman did not. In the fall of 1966, Daddy was an assistant football coach in college. When he saw an antiwar protester set fire to an American flag before one of their games, he was so outraged that he immediately volunteered to join the overseas fight. It wasn't long before Daddy graduated from the Basic School at Quantico and flew on October 8, 1967, halfway around the world to base area for the First Marine Division's First Reconnaissance Battalion about five miles from Da Nang.

What would become my father's 19th – and final – recon patrol was set for an intense battle zone in the Quan Duc Valley, located about 30 miles southwest of Da Nang. To that point, Daddy hadn't lost a single Marine on any of his assignments. Hill 146, however, would become the setting of tragedy.

My father's 13-man team, affectionately known as "Texas Pete," was comprised of men from all walks of American life who found comradery through their work together. The unit included four veteran Marines and nine young troops who were fairly new recruits. As they all crouched on that jungle hillside and silently waited for night to fall, Daddy considered his men's tense faces. Somehow, he knew an enemy attack was imminent. He sensed it.

Sure enough, just after midnight on March 3, 1968, violent battle ensued. Daddy's left arm was severed by the impact of the first grenade the Communist-backed Viet Cong, one of the groups along with the North Vietnamese Army largely responsible for mistreating Vietnam's citizens tossed. Pfc. Tom Jennings died in the next blast. Daddy kept shouting orders to encourage his men to fight back bravely. And they did – though badly outnumbered.

Through the gathering smoke and growing chaos, my father watched in horror as another grenade fell into the foxhole beside him, immediately to his right. Instinctively, Daddy moved to

Continued pg 4

The Lore of the Corps - continued from pg 3



throw his hands over his face – forgetting that he'd already lost one. And that's when he saw with his one uncovered eye that Ralph H. Johnson, a 19-year-old African American who was also from South Carolina's low country, had determined to intervene.

In one courageous move, he threw himself over the explosive right before it detonated. Daddy lost the uncovered eye, but he and the rest of his men lived because their friend and fellow Marine brother in arms, Ralph, absorbed the deadly blast.

Though gone for many years now, Ralph Johnson remains one of my family's greatest heroes. Without him, in fact, I wouldn't be here. Thus, often over the decades, I have seen Daddy work to memorialize that young Marine's self-sacrifice. Efforts actually began before my birth, when he and his men made sure Ralph received the Congressional Medal of Honor and Daddy lobbied for the Veterans Affairs hospital in Ralph's hometown of Charleston, South Carolina, to be named for him.

More recently, he lobbied to have one of the Navy's new destroyers named for Ralph: and on March 24, 2018, my family along with the surviving members of "Texas Pete" sat in the front row

at the Columbus Street Pier in Charleston, S.C.



as the Navy's 64th Arleigh Burke class destroyer, the USS Ralph Johnson, was commissioned. Moreover, when Daddy shares his own story

at speaking engagements, he always makes much of Ralph's bravery. And in the times that my family has visited the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., we've taken extra time at Ralph's name as well as Tom's. Those men, to us, are family.

After President Trump signed the Vietnam War Recognition Act a few months after his inauguration, I was thrilled when my home state chose to be among the first to officially honor the brave men and women who served in Vietnam. After all, my father is one of those heroes! Yet so many of them, he's made sure I know, never came home. Or if they did, they never knew it. Their bodies were immediately interred all over our great land. Their sacrifices soon forgotten. *Whatever you do, please remember that future Memorial Days are not about the sales, the swimming, or the kick-off to summer. It's about honoring sacrifice. Up to and including the ultimate.*

Semper Fi

SEMPER FIDELIS

Once A MARINE, Always A MARINE

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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

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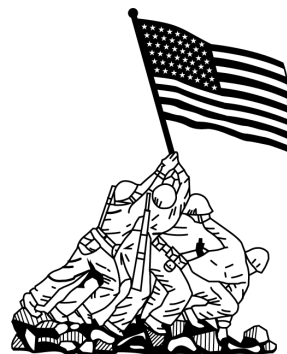
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In honor and memory of the
17th Rifle Company
2700 West Illinois Street
Evansville, IN

For all the men who served
diligently, and with dedication.



*In Memory of
Marine Tommy Collins
And Deceased
Detachment Members*



Semper Fi

03/2020

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In memory of Detachment #1090 members who have gone on to guard the streets of Heaven.



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 (Associate Member)

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IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

National changed the due date,
 so that everyone is
 paying at the same time.

Dues for 2019 - 2020
 Before August 1st - \$25
 After August 1st - \$35

Initial Membership Dues are \$35

Mail your annual membership fees to:

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Semper Fi

June 2019

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	3	4 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m.-11 a.m.	5	6
7	8 MODD Growl O'Charlie's Westside 1830 Elections	9 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	17	18	19	20
21	22 MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441 AmVets #84 6:30 p.m.	23 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	24 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 VFW 1114 1900	25	26	27
28	29	31 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	31	Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for August 2019 are due NO LATER THAN July 22, 2019 <i>There are No Exceptions to this deadline</i>		