



River Cities News

Marine Corps League
River Cities Detachment #1090
Evansville, Indiana

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June 2017

Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter, Commandant

Toys for Tots. If you are a Marine, you have likely participated in an annual Toys for Tots drive, either while on active duty in the Corps or in your local community. Although we are 6 months out from the 2017 campaign I would like to bring up a hot topic at this time. It seems that there are MCL (and just plain folks as well) running toy collection efforts that do not end up with the toys and/or dollars collected being turned over – totally – to Toys for Tots. This is an illegal activity and must be stamped out. Not to belabor a point but TFT was started in 1947 by a Marine Major in California and was adopted by the Corps in 1948 as a function of each and every Marine location in the country. In the mid-80's the program was expanded to other organizations such as the Marine Corps League. Toys for Tots and the TFT Foundation have a reputation for totally dedicated, completely above board dealings with the public. In the event of a breach of honor – including but not limited to theft of money, running an unauthorized campaign, misdirecting toys to family or friends who have not be properly qualified – the TFT foundation will use any and all means at their disposal to stop the activity and pursue civil and criminal means to restore the reputation of Toys for Tots.

Our campaign in Southwestern Indiana is now and has always been approved by the TFT foundation. Each year we must re-register and be re-approved if, and only if we have followed the SOP provided each year by the Foundation. In the nine years I have been involved with the River Cities Detachment 1090 Toys for Tots campaign we have completely complied with the rules and regulations of the Foundation. At each event our detachment attends throughout the year, we have both TFT and Detachment signs and donation boxes. Any money

collected in the TFT box goes to our TFT campaign. Our Detachment collection box and the brochures that accompany it does refer to our TFT campaign but **only to the effect that it is one of the community related things we do.** *The fact that we have the TFT brochures and collection box next to our League box helps to make the public aware that they are totally separate entities. Typically when people donate to one box they will make an equal donation to the other as well, again demonstrating that they are aware that there is a distinct difference between the two.*

During our 2016 TFT campaign we delivered over 17,500 toys to more than 4,600 children in our 4 county Southwestern Indiana area of responsibility. We did this in a total community effort with both Marines and non-Marines working together to collect toys and money for toys. We participated in community events to gather toys, we made public appearances to keep TFT in the forefront of the public eye and provided color guards to local sporting and civic events where toys were donated to our campaign. The important thing to remember is that we did all of this within the framework provided by the Toys for Tots Foundation.

I would like to enlist the help of every member of the River Cities Detachment to find and stop unauthorized use of the Toys for Tots name, logo and materials. If we approach an offender and explain the rules we usually get cooperation from them. In the event they feel they don't have to comply, the TFT Foundation will step in to assist us. With each of us doing our part, we can help the Foundation keep the name Toys for Tots near the top of the list of respected charities.

Semper Fi, Bob

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Barbara Kortz

Marine Corps History

By Gary Burk

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

One battalion of the 1st Marines seized a crucial knob only to discover their high explosives had kicked up so much wet volcanic dust their weapons were fouled. True to form, here came the Japanese counterattack from just beyond the crest, forcing the Marines to resort to bayonets, entrenching tools, rocks – anything at hand – to drive them off. The knob quickly resembled a cattle-yard slaughter pen.

The fighting took a heavy toll of proven Marine leaders. Five of the twenty-four infantry battalion commanders who landed on Iwo Jima were killed in action; twelve others fell wounded.

Jumping Joe Chambers had qualified for the Metal of Honor on D-Day for leading his survivors over the crest of the Rock Quarry, but three days later his luck wore out. A Japanese Nambu gunner shot him in the chest late in the day.

Dr. Irish Mike Keleher got to him quickly, but the wound was critical, the position terribly exposed. Scrambling on knees and elbows, Keleher and his corpsman snaked their stricken commander out of the line of fire – but now the beach was closed.

A passing DUKW driver refused to make a twilight run out to the hospital ship. Keleher, acutely aware that Chambers was tying fast, drew his pistol and took dead aim at the driver's head. There was an abrupt change of view.

The driver accepted his precious cargo, lumbered out to sea, and made it too the ship at the absolute last minute.

Twenty-six Marines and Navy corpsman would receive the Metal of Honor for this cataclysmic battle. Exactly half would be posthumous

awards. Jumping Joe Chambers would live to receive his.

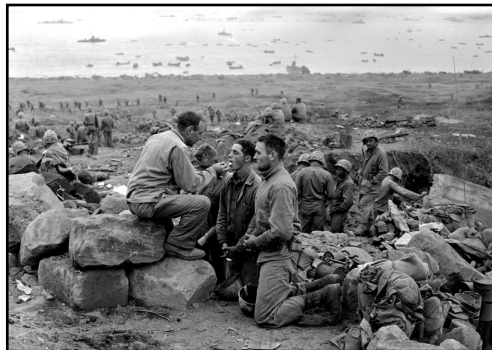
Iwo Jima took such a toll on leaders that junior officers and enlisted men assumed roles of responsibility unimaginable in garrison.



Captain James Headley took command of Chamber's battalion after the fourth day and led it effectively through the heart of eastern Iwo's "Meat Grinder" for the next three weeks.

Sergeant Hubert Faltyn, a former Raider, became the sixth commanding officer of Dog Company, 2/26, in the fourth week of the fighting. Private First Class Dale Cassell commanded a rifle platoon in Baker Company, 1/28, until he was killed in action three days later.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cushman, future commandant, commanded the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, throughout the battle and suffered egregious losses. By the time Iwo Jima was over, I had gone through two complete sets of platoon commanders," he said. "We had such things as artillery forward observers commanding a company and sergeants commanding the platoons."



Likewise, Lieutenant Colonel Lowell English commanded 2/21 until a Japanese machine gunner shot him through the knee on the twelfth day. "I lost every company commander," he said. "It was pretty goddamned rough."

June:

4/1942 – Battle of Midway Begins

6/1944 – D-Day

14 – Flag Day

25/1950 – North Korea Invades South Korea

To be continued-

MCL & MCLA Department of Indiana Convention

By Don and Paula Landers, co-chairpersons

It's a wrap and I must say I am pleased at how it turned out. Putting on the Convention was so much different than hosting a Conference and I think we all learned a lot of dos and don'ts.

The detachment and the unit both earned the Meritorious Commendation Award from Com-

mandant Hunsinger for all our efforts.

I want to giving a very special shout out to Dani Cook, Alice Kick, and Linda Reutter for keeping the hospitality room running smoothly and well supplied. Our membership come through with enough donations to make our Hospitality Room one of the best ever. I must also thank John Mills for being there to help keep everyone entertained.

Kyle Swain, Joe and Kathy Filipczak, Barbara Kortz, Jim Grayson, and Tim Jones all helped with Registration. Sue Grayson did a great job on our Welcome Bags. The cleanup crew Saturday for the Hospitality Room were Kyle Swain, John Mills, Art Midle, Bob and Linda Reutter, Tim Jones and Alice Kick. It was amazing how fast we got that room cleaned out.

Last but not least a huge thank you to our own Commandant Bob Reutter for putting together and printing the Convention Booklet.



PDC Hunsinger, and Commanant Tom Duncan



DIVISION VICE COMMANDANT Ray Daily giving the speech at Convention dinner



Outgoing Department Commandant Ann Hunsinger receives a Henry rifle in appreciation for her service to the Department.



Dept Paymaster Richard Renbarger and PDC Annie Hunsinger

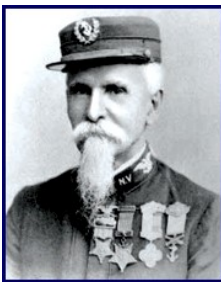


Marines in the Public Eye

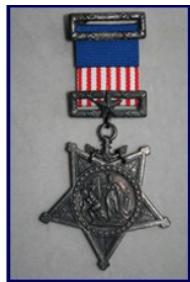
By Bob Reutter

Through the years many Marines have answered the call for service to their country. Here are the stories of the first (Corporal John Mackie) and one of the latest (Sgt. Dakota Meyer) Marines to be awarded our highest honor for bravery – the Medal of Honor.

John Freeman Mackie (October 1, 1835–June 18, 1910) was a United States Marine and a recipient of America's highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his actions in the American Civil War. He was the first United States Marine to receive the Medal of Honor. Mackie enlisted in the Marine Corps from New York on April 24, 1861. By 1862, he held the rank of Corporal and was serving on the ironclad warship USS *Galena* (1862). On May 15, 1862, a five-ship Union Navy squadron, including the *Galena*, steamed up the James River to test the defenses of the Confederate capital, Richmond, Virginia. After reaching a bend in the river upstream of Dutch Gap, the squadron encountered submerged obstacles and heavy fire from Fort Darling, atop Drewry's Bluff. The fort's artillery batteries inflicted severe damage on the *Galena* and forced the Union squadron to turn back. During the battle (which would come to be known as the Battle of Drewry's Bluff), most of *Galena's* naval gun crew was killed or wounded. Mackie led a group of Marines who took over operation of the guns for the remainder of the battle.



Corporal John Mackie



Civil War Era Medal of Honor

Mackie later served at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and aboard the USS *Seminole*. It was aboard the *Seminole* that he received his Medal of Honor on July 10, 1863 by the US Postal Service Mail as he was on active duty at the Sabine Pass, Texas. Mackie rose to the rank of Orderly Sergeant before receiving an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps on August 24, 1865, after four years of service.

Mackie eventually married and settled near Philadelphia. He died at the age of 74 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania. His grave can be found in the Melrose section, lot 606, grave 2. At Drewry's Bluff, now within Richmond National

Battlefield Park, a marker is posted which features Mackie's Medal of Honor action.

Dakota Louis Meyer (born June 26, 1988) was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Battle of Ganjgal on September 8, 2009, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. Meyer is the second youngest living Medal of Honor recipient, the third living recipient for either Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan and the first living Marine in 38 years to be so honored. Meyer was born and raised in Columbia, Kentucky, the son of Felicia Gilliam and Michael Meyer. In 2006, after graduation from Green County High School, he enlisted in the Marine Corps at a recruiting station in Louisville, Kentucky and completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. Meyer deployed to Fallujah, Iraq, in 2007 as a scout sniper with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines. He gained national attention for his actions in Afghanistan during his second deployment in Kunar Province with Embedded Training Team 2-8.

On September 8, 2009, near the village of Ganjgal, Meyer learned that three Marines and a Navy corpsman, who were members of Meyer's squad and his friends, were missing after being ambushed by a group of insurgents. Under enemy fire, Meyer entered an area known to be inhabited by insurgents and eventually found the four missing servicemen dead and stripped of their weapons, body armor and radios.^[10] With the help of Afghan soldiers, he moved the bodies to a safer area where they could be extracted.^[11] During his search, Meyer "personally evacuated 12 friendly wounded and provided cover for another 24 Marines and soldiers to escape likely death at the hands of a numerically superior and determined foe.



President Barack Obama and the audience applaud after Meyer is awarded the Medal of Honor during a ceremony in the White House on September 15, 2011.

continued on pg 5

Humor in (Marine) Marine

Army and Marines

Two Army soldiers boarded a quick shuttle flight out of Dallas, headed for Houston. One sat in the window seat, the other sat in the middle seat. Just before take-off, a Marine got on and took the aisle seat next to the two soldiers. The Marine kicked off his shoes, wiggled his toes and was settling in when the soldier in the window seat said, "I think I'll get up and get a coke."

"No problem," said the Marine, "I'll get it for you." While he was gone, the soldier picked up the Marine's shoe and spit in it.

When the Marine returned with the coke, the soldier in the middle seat said, "That looks good, I think I'll have one too." Again, the Marine obligingly went to fetch it and while he was gone, the soldier picked up the Marine's other shoe and spit in it. The Marine returned and they all sat back and enjoyed the rest of the short flight to Houston.

As the plane was landing, the Marine slipped his feet into his shoes and knew immediately what had happened. "How long must this go on?" the Marine asked. "This fighting between our services? This hatred? This animosity? This spitting in shoes and peeing in cokes?"

Tax Season

Tax day, April 15, was looming when an elderly woman showed up at the IRS. She said she re-

quired a thick stack of tax forms. "Why so many?" the clerk asked. "My son is stationed overseas," she said. "He asked me to pick up forms for the Marines on the base." "You shouldn't have to do this," the clerk told her. "It's the base commander's job to make sure that his troops have access to the forms they need." "I know," said the woman. "I'm the base commander's mother."

A Dog for a Wife

It was a dark, stormy, night. The Marine was on his first assignment, and it was guard duty. A General stepped out taking his dog for a walk. The nervous young Private snapped to attention, made a perfect salute, and snapped out "Sir, Good Evening, Sir!" The General, out for some relaxation, returned the salute and said, "Good evening soldier, nice night, isn't it?" Well it wasn't a nice night, but the Private wasn't going to disagree with the General, so the he saluted again and replied, "Sir, Yes Sir!" The General continued, "You know there's something about a stormy night that I find soothing, it's really relaxing. Don't you agree?" The Private didn't agree, but then the private was just a private, and responded, "Sir, Yes Sir!" The General, pointing at the dog, "This is a Golden Retriever, the best type of dog to train." The Private glanced at the dog, saluted yet again and said, "Sir, Yes Sir!" The General continued "I got this dog for my wife." The Private simply said, "Good trade Sir!"

Marines in the Public Eye - continued from pg 4

On June 9, 2011, the Marine Corps announced that two other Marines on Meyer's team in Ganjgal would receive the Navy Cross, the second-highest award for valor a Marine can receive. Capt. Ademola D. Fabayo and Staff Sgt. Juan J. Rodriguez-Chavez were recognized for their roles in retrieving the bodies of the fallen Marines and corpsman. Before Meyer began searching for the missing servicemen on foot, Rodriguez-Chavez drove a gun truck into the kill zone with Fabayo manning the truck's machine gun.

Meyer was awarded the Medal of Honor in a ceremony on September 15, 2011. When a White House staffer contacted Meyer to arrange the ceremony, Meyer asked if he could have a beer with the president. He received an invitation to the White House for

the afternoon before the ceremony. Meyer also requested that when he was honored, simultaneous commemorative services should be held at other associated locations to honor the memory of his colleagues who died or were mortally wounded during the ambush and his rescue attempts.

Four Americans died in the ambush: 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, 25, of Virginia Beach, VA; Staff Sgt. Aaron Kenefick, 30, of Roswell, GA; Gunnery Sgt. Edwin Wayne Johnson Jr., 31, of Columbus, GA; and Hospital Corpsman Third Class James R. Layton, 22, of Riverbank, CA. A fifth man, Army Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth W. Westbrook, 41, of Shiprock, NM, later died from his wounds.

Veteran Services

By Mark Burrier

Coaching into Care (CIC)- When a Veteran you know needs help

Coaching into Care is the VA's confidential national call center for family members and friends of Veterans. When a loved one returns from deployment, separates or retires from military service he or she may have difficulty transitioning to civilian life. This transition can be an adjustment for family members as well as the Veteran. In addition, combat stress is not always recognized and sometimes Veterans are reluctant to reach out for the assistance they are entitled to receive.

When to Call Coaching into Care

If you are observing some of the signs of distress listed below regarding the Veteran in your family or community, please call Coaching into Care. They will help you assess and understand the situation, work with barriers to getting care and provide suitable resources and referrals.

- You may notice changes in the Veteran's behavior or personality.
- You recognize that the Veteran is anxious, irritable, agitated or moody. They may not be able to sleep or may be easily angered.
- You observe a decrease in personal care or hygiene. Changes in usual judgement such as abusing alcohol, drugs or risky behavior may be present.
- You notice increased isolation or withdrawal

from others. If severe, the Veteran may stop attending work, school or functioning as a parent or spouse.

- You become aware that the Veteran seems hopeless, overwhelmed or suicidal.

How Coaching into Care Helps

They offer families and loved ones encouragement and support along with the following services:

- Educational materials and print and online topics such as readjustment, mental health concerns and substance abuse.
- Consultation with a coach to develop ideas for improving communication and understanding the problem.
- Referrals to services for Veteran, their families and loved ones.

Value Your Privacy

Every aspect of your interactions, from the initial contact to any service provided will be kept in confidence, except for cases in which they protect the life of the Veteran, caller or others.

The highly trained staff members are experts in bridging the worlds of mental health and military culture and can assist you with resources, navigating the VA, and finding appropriate treatment.

Please call 1-888-823-7458 Monday through Friday 8am to 8pm EST www.va.gov/coachingintocare and on Facebook.

MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441

By Dani Cook, President

I would like to thank the ladies of the Southern Belles Auxiliary Unit #441 with entrusting me to be your new President. I am hoping we can accomplish some wonderful things this year.

First off, we have our State Convention from June 2nd thru June 4th here in Evansville at the Holiday Inn. I am hoping to see you all there. We are needing snacks and finger foods for the Hospitality Room. I know I can count on all of you to help me accomplish this task.

Second, we will need to discuss what we are

going to do with the Boys & Girls Club of Fulton Ave. this summer.

I am hoping we will have many of you in attendance for our meetings so we can get some great input of ideas. Our meetings are on the 4th Monday of each month at Amvets Post #84 on the corner of Barker Ave and Broadway Ave. They begin at 6:30 p.m.

Again, I thank you all and hope to see everyone at the functions and meetings.

God bless you all, our Country and our Military.

Support our Sponsors

They help make this Newsletter possible

*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*

10/2017

*Compliments of
Joe and Kathy Filipczak
Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090*

12/2017

*Compliments of
Bob and Linda Reutter
Life Members
River Cities Detachment #1090*

06/2021

*Compliments of
Casey Canfield
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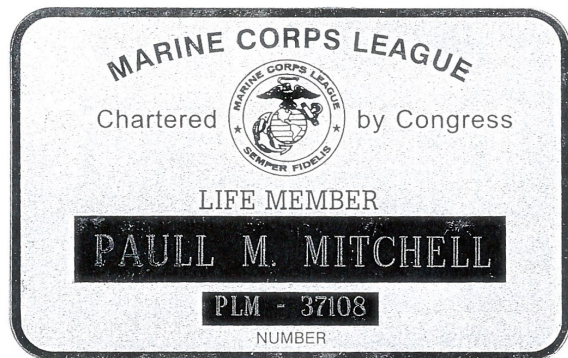
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**Compliments of the
Marine Corps League Auxiliary**



Southern Belles Unit 441

12/2017



10/2017

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Semper Fi Marines!

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Semper Fi

June 2017

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for July 2017 are due NO LATER THAN June 22, 2017				1 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 VA Project 8 a.m.	2 Dept of Indiana Convention	3 Dept of Indiana Convention
4 Dept of Indiana Convention	5	6 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	7	8	9	10
11	12 NO MODD Growl	13 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	21	22 Shrinefest	23 Shrinefest	24 Shrinefest
25 Shrinefest	26 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 6 p.m. AmVets #84	27 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	28 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 1900	29	30	