



River Cities News

Marine Corps League
Business Name
Evansville, Indiana

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March 1, 2017

Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter, Commandant

February was another busy month for the River Cities Detachment. We were called upon to attend several funeral homes to bid farewell to brother Marines. We were also, on occasion requested to do graveside services for a fallen Marine. On Monday, February 20th we were asked to do such a graveside service. We fielded 10 Marines in full League uniforms to offer a final prayer, fold the casket flag and present it to this Marine's widow. We had our colors flying while a 7-member rifle squad fired three volleys to honor this 91-year-old fallen brother. All Marines present saluted while our Marine bugler sounded "Taps" to honor his life and recognize his passing.

It is a ceremony that we have done many times in the past. Why did this one have a profound effect on me resulting in this entry? This Marine was a veteran of "Operation Cactus" – the occupation of the island of Guadalcanal during WWII. Leo Stratman was born in July of 1925. He joined the Marines when he was 16 years old was sent to Guadalcanal a few months after D-day (7 August 1942.) There was still plenty of fighting on that malaria and dysentery plagued island and the barely 17-year-old went to be part

of it. In speaking to his family and friends at the funeral home during our farewell service on Sunday, several of them spoke of Leo's pride in being Marine. When we went to pin an EGA to his lapel - as we do for all Marines we honor - we were pleasantly surprised to find one already there. Leo had made it clear to his family that he wanted to show his esprit to the world one last time.

I think it is a good time for all of us to reflect on our own service to our Corps – past and present. Life in this day and age is hectic with our limited time being pulled in many directions at once. All too soon we will follow Leo into what lies after death. Will you be able to look in the faces of the Marine that have gone before us and say that **you** lived up to our motto? Semper Fidelis is not just a passing slogan. Always faithful should be part of us. It is what sets us apart from others. I ask that you think about Leo when next we are called upon to honor a fallen Marine. If a sixteen year old can step up to face war thousands of miles from home, can you step up to honor the memory of another fallen brother?

Semper Fi

SEMPER FIDELIS
Once A MARINE, Always A MARINE

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Marine Corps History

By Gary Burk

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



The unholy marriage between the assault Marine and the long-range B-29 Superfortress spelled death and ruin to the Japanese empire.

Seventy-two thousand U.S. Marines assaulted heavily fortified Iwo Jima island in 1945 as the spearhead of a veteran amphibious force at the peak of its lethality. No surprise, no subtlety here. Simply massive, unremitting force, battering ashore on a godforsaken sulfuric rock to seize a pair of invaluable airfields on the very doorstep of Japan.

The Marines expected a tough fight. Tokyo was 650 miles to the north, less than three hours' flight time. The island itself was a defender's dream – few beaches; broken, convoluted ground; a lunar landscape of cliffs, crags, and caves. With its pork chop – shaped area less than seven square miles, Iwo was bigger than Tarawa and Peleliu, but much smaller than the Marianas.

The volcanic island reeked of sulfur, leaked steam, and looked evil – “like hell with the fire out, but still smoking,” said one unimpressed Marine.

The Japanese spared no expense in fortifying the island, using the Empire's most gifted mining

engineers. Soon miles of tunnels linked fighting positions carved out of the soft rock. Pounded daily by Seventh Air Force bombers, the garrison simply moved underground, living and dying as moles. They had plenty of big guns, heavy mortars, enormous rockets – and scores of the wickedly effective 25mm automatic machine cannons, emplaced to fire horizontally at troops and landing craft.

Lieutenant General Tadamichi Kuribayashi commanded the Iwo garrison with an iron will and was well served by a brilliant artillery chief and several veteran infantry officers.

American intelligence knew little about Kuribayashi, fifty three, a cavalry officer with an unremarkable record. The Marines would quickly discover their chief adversary had the soul of a samurai, the lethal caginess of a wounded tiger. Soon they would describe Kuribayashi as “the most redoubtable commander we faced in the entire war.”

For the Marines, Iwo Jima would be the last battle for the old amphibious warhorse, Lieutenant General Howlin' Mad Smith. One final time he would rage against the Navy's parsimonious allocation of preliminary naval bombardment. One last time he would scoff vehemently at some “staff puke's” prediction of an easy victory. When Smith darkly suggested the island would cost 15,000 Marine casualties, his Navy counterparts thought he was out of his mind.

While Holland Smith battled the Navy's top brass, real leadership of the Marines storming Iwo Jima devolved to Major General Harry Schmidt, commanding the V Amphibious Corps. Schmidt's stirring victory at Tinian in that capacity made him well qualified to lead the largest contingent of Marines ever to fight a battle. The 3d, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions would provide the landing force, each unit as well led, trained, and equipped as any outfit that ever crossed the Line of Departure in the Pacific war.

To be continued-

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

A Marine is driving from Annapolis to Quantico and a sailor driving from Quantico to Annapolis. In the middle of the night with no other cars on the road they hit each other head on and both cars go flying off in different directions.

The Marine manages to climb out of his car and surveys the damage. He looks at his twisted car and says, "Man, I am really lucky to be alive!"

Likewise the sailor scrambles out of his car and looks at his wreckage. He too says to himself, "I can't believe I survived this wreck!" The sailor walks over to the Marine and says, "Hey man, I think this is a sign from God that we should put away our petty differences and live as friends instead of archrivals"

The Marine thinks for a moment and says, "You know, you're absolutely right! We should be friends. Now I'm gonna see what else survived this wreck." So the Marine pops open his trunk and finds a full, unopened bottle of Jack Daniels. He says to the sailor, "I think this is another sign from God that we should toast to our new found understanding and friendship"

The sailor replies, "Damn right!" and he grabs

the bottle and starts sucking down Jack Daniels. After putting away nearly half the bottle the sailor hands it back to the Marine and says, "Your turn!"

The Marine twists the cap back on the bottle and says, "Thanks but I think I'll just wait for the cops to show up."

'A Recruit Goes AWOL'

As the sun rose over Parris Island, the senior drill instructor realized that one of his recruits had gone AWOL. A search party was dispatched immediately. After a few hours the recruit was discovered hiding in some bushes. He was sent back to the base and promptly escorted to the drill instructor's office. The instructor asked the young recruit, "Why did you go AWOL?"

The recruit replied, "My first day here you issued me a comb, and then proceeded to cut my hair off. The second day you issued me a toothbrush, and sent me to the dentist, who proceeded to pull some of my teeth. The third day you issued me a jock strap, and I wasn't about to stick around and find out what would follow that SIR!"

Marines in the Public Eye

By Bob Reutter

Paul Howard Douglas (March 26, 1892 – September 24, 1976) was an American politician and economist. A member of the Democratic Party, he served as a U.S. Senator from Illinois for eighteen years, from 1949 to 1967. During his Senate career, he was a prominent member of the liberal coalition.

Born in Massachusetts and raised in Maine, Douglas graduated from Bowdoin College and Columbia University. He served as a professor of economics at several schools, most notably the University of Chicago, and earned a reputation as a reformer while a member of the Chicago City Council (1939–1942). During World War II, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel and becoming known as a war hero.

As alderman, Douglas had worked with *Chicago Daily News* publisher Frank Knox in fighting corruption in Chicago. Knox, who had been Republican vice-presidential nominee in 1936, had become Secretary of the Navy, thus responsible for both the Navy and the Marine Corps.

Shortly after losing the primary, Douglas resigned from the Chicago City Council and, with the aid of Knox, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as a private ***at the age of 50***, one of the oldest men in Marine Corps history to do so. As a member of the 57th Street Meeting of the Quakers, Douglas recognized that joining the Marines was contrary to the traditional testimony of that group against war and offered to resign his membership; the meeting refused to release him. Promoted to corporal, then to sergeant, Douglas was kept stateside, writing train-

ing manuals, and giving inspirational speeches to troops. He was told he was "too old to go overseas as an enlisted man." With the aid of Knox, and of Knox assistant Adlai Stevenson, Douglas was commissioned as an officer, and was subsequently sent to the Pacific theater of operations with the 1st Marine Division.



On the second day of the Battle of Peleliu, Captain Douglas finally saw action when his unit waded into the fray. He earned a Bronze Star for carrying ammunition to the front lines under enemy fire and earned his first Purple Heart when he was grazed

by shrapnel while carrying flamethrower ammunition to the front lines. In that six-week battle, while investigating some random fire shootings, Douglas was shot at as he uncovered a two-foot-wide cave. He then killed the Japanese soldier inside at which point he wondered whether his enemy might be an economics professor from the University of Tokyo.

A few months later, during the Battle of Okinawa, Douglas earned his second Purple Heart. A volunteer rifleman in an infantry platoon, he was helping to carry wounded from 3rd Battalion 5th Marines along the Naha-Shuri line when a burst of machine gun fire tore through his left arm, severing the main nerve and leaving it permanently disabled.

After a thirteen-month stay in the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Maryland, Douglas was given an honorable discharge as a Lieutenant Colonel with full disability pay.

You cannot exaggerate about the Marines. They are convinced to the point of arrogance, that they are the most ferocious fighters on earth- and the amusing thing about it is that they are.

Father Kevin Keane
1st Marine Division Chaplain
Korean War

Veteran Services

By Mark Burrier

WorkOne

Southwest Indiana

Veteran's Services

Indiana is committed to providing quality employment services to Veterans to every WorkOne. Veterans go to the front of the line, and WorkOne has an onsite Veteran Representative that assists with employment needs.

Every WorkOne provides Priority Service to Veterans and their spouses, which means Veterans are first to access available job training funds and receive first preference in job placement.

WorkOne Veteran Representatives are trained in a variety of Veteran-specific topics and services, including:

- Knowledgeable on the current labor market
- Translating military experience into civilian job skills
- Veteran's Service Organizations
- Instruction on accessing Veteran's Assistance (VA) benefits
- Reemployment Rights Act

WorkOne Veteran Representatives are all honorable discharged service members. Services that are provided to Veterans include:

- Personal orientation to WorkOne services
- Information of Veterans' rights and employment

benefits

- Resume development and interview preparation
- Occupational skills assessments
- Evaluation of eligibility for training incentives and grants
- Direct job referrals
- First preference in job placement
- Veterans are able to view new job listings on www.IndianaCareerConnect.com before the general public
- Referral to other federal, state and local agencies
- Post-employment counseling

These services provide Veterans with the necessary information they need to find and secure employment and make the transition from military to the civilian workforce.

In addition, WorkOne Veterans Representatives work with area employers to educate them on how Veterans' skills sets can translate to their workforce. They also provide intensive employment services to Veterans with significant barriers to employment (including homelessness, incarceration, low educational attainment, etc.).

For more information, visit the WorkOne Veterans Services page at www.workoneworks.com. Also, please contact Savannah Hulin, Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist at 812-428-4416 or Bill Lawrence, Disabled Veteran Outreach Specialist at 812-428-4411.

A New Marine in our Marine Family

Barbara Kortz

Marine Melissa (Gill) West and her husband Ryan have brought a new member into our detachment. Melissa gave birth to William Thomas West at 12:14 pm on 7 Feb 2017. William weighted 7 lbs. 13 ozs. and was 20.5 inches long. William's mother is a Marine having served from April 2005 until May 2015. As part of her service she served OEF Afghanistan. While serving she was 6046/Aviation Maintained

Admin. I am sure she can tell you of her experiences in the new Marine Corps, since it has changed since most of us where in. We are proud to have her as part of our detachment. Approximately 7% of the Marine Corps is now female. We are working in most mos's now and are allowed in war zones. We are The Few, The Prouder, Women Marines.

MCLA Bowling Event

Ninth Annual
Marine Corps League
Auxiliary
Bowling Tournament
Hosted by
Southern Belles Unit 441

When

Saturday

April 22, 2017

12:30 pm - 3: 00 pm

Register by April 8, 2017

Where

Franklin Lanes

1801 Franklin Street

Evansville, IN 47712

**NINE-PIN NO TAP - THREE GAMES - MIXED TEAMS
DOOR PRIZES - CHANCE AUCTION**

On-line registration at

www.mclrivercities.org/auxiliary

**All Ages
Event**

Team Registration

\$60 for a

Team of 4

**includes 3 games of bowling
and shoe rental**

Schedule

12:30 pm

Check-In

1:00 pm

Bowling Tournament

3:00 pm

Awards Ceremony

Prizes

First Place Team - \$200

Second Place Team - \$100

Third Place Team - \$50

High Series Male - \$25

High Series Female - \$25

**Youth: Ages 16 and under Indi-
vidual prizes for High Series**

*Cash prizes are based on 40
bowlers, we reserve the right to low-
er prize money based on
number of bowlers. In case of a
tie, prize money will be combined*

Contact

Dani Cook - 812- 468- 1395

Paula Landers - 812-483-5114

Newsletter Booster Club

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Joe Barron	Mar - 17
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Joe & Kathy Filipczak	July - 17
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Roy & Carolyn McWilliams	Aug - 17
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Melissa West	Dec - 17
Casey Canfield	Dec - 17
Bob Moore	Dec - 17
Gary Burk	Dec - 17
David Jones	Dec - 17
Southern Belles Unit 441	Feb - 18

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- 1/2 page\$50.00 for 6 months

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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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Joe and Kathy Filipczak*

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06/2021

*Compliments of
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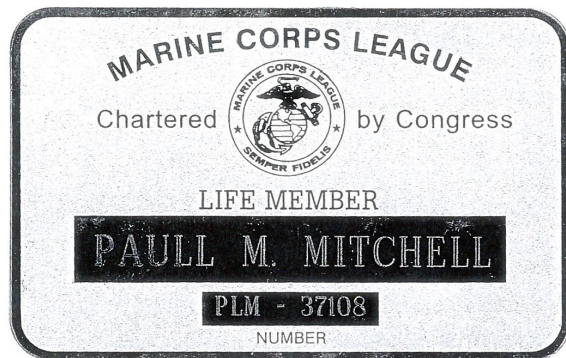
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Southern Belles Unit 441

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04/2017

*Compliments of
Marine Larry Scott*

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

04/2017

Dedicated to the memory of good
Marines and good friends:

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Chuck Bridges

A.J. Hardin

Semper Fi Marines!



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WELCOME ON BOARD

-0-

Life Member

Stanley Rickard

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

Semper Ji

March 2017

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for April 2017 are due NO LATER THAN March 22, 2017			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 Harbor Freight Fund Raiser 0900-1800	10 Harbor Freight Fund Raiser 0900-1800	11 Harbor Freight Fund Raiser 0900-1800
12 Harbor Freight Fund Raiser 0900-1800	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 Central Division Conference Richmond IN	24 Central Division Conference Richmond IN	25 Central Division Conference Richmond IN
26 Dept of Ind. Spring Conference Richmond IN	27 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 6 p.m. AmVets #84	28 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800				