



# River Cities News

Volume 12, Issue 5

May 1, 2015

## Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter

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I don't know about you but I thought it was great seeing so many River Cities Detachment members at the April Meeting. We have several events upcoming that we can use to vault us to the next level of membership. The Southern Belles Bowling outing, the Detachment Golf Scramble, the Shrine Fest – all events in the next few months. If we try to make each event an opportunity not only for our membership to enjoy each other's company and to raise some money but also to reach out to the community to find and recruit the many, many Marine veterans we have not reached so far. Several people I talked to at the meeting have run into the same thing – in talking to a Marine they meet out in public, too many have not heard about the Marine Corps League.

Paula and I spoke about the need for an enthusiastic Marine to talk to the businesses in our community about sponsoring an ad in our newsletter. If we could reach 250, 300 or more subscriptions to the newsletter it would be like ripples on a pond. As we reach more people, even more will be exposed to what we are about. Just think, if each Marine at the meeting in April brought in just one new member in the next 12 months – just one – what our meeting could be like, what our events could be like, what our Detachment could be.

A word adopted from the Chinese by the Marines that I hope can describe our Detachment in the coming months is "Gung Ho." Gung Ho is Chinese for 'working together.' We are Marines. We know from the past 239 years of our history what a dedicated group of Marines is capable of when working together. If each of us displays a bit of the gung ho attitude and esprit de corps that we have in us, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

See you at the May meeting.

Semper Fi!

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## Jr. Past Commandant

By Tim Jones

It was a pleasure serving as Commandant again. The most rewarding aspect was to see the Detachment grow with the initiation of so many new members.

The beginning of the calendar year has been slow, but the pace will soon quicken as we get ready for Shrinefest, the golf outing, the Birthday Ball and Toys for Tots. These activities, and the camaraderie that goes with them, are what makes being a member worthwhile. Please make an effort to take part in every activity and be part of the team.

Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed officers. Please give them your full cooperation so we can continue to make the detachment stronger. Also, work to bring new members in to the detachment so we can continue to grow.

Semper Fi

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## Marine Corps History

By Gary Burk

### *IN THE BEGINNING – NOVEMBER 10, 1775 . . .*

The Marine Corps Birthday is celebrated around the world on 10 November each year. The U. S. Marine Corps had its' beginning by resolution of the Continental Congress to raise two battalions of Marines. They were part of a navel expedition to Nova Scotia to preserve their rights and liberties. This was scuttled by George Washington who was commander of the Continental Army.

After Washington's decision, the Continental Congress went ahead with recruiting Marines. They were recruited to serve in the Continental Navy then forming in Philadelphia.

Approximately three hundred Marines were in eight ships that went to New Providence in the Bahamas. A landing party went ashore on 3 March 1776 and captured two small stone forts and a large quantity of military stores.

Marines, under the leadership of John Paul Jones, were used to harass the British ports on the Irish Sea. The Marines exemplified themselves in the historic battle off Yorkshire, England on 23 September 1779 when Jones' 44-gun Bonhomme Richard defeated the British 50-gun frigate Serapis. (A painting of this historic battle may be seen at the U. S. Naval Academy Museum)

Although the Marines marched across six hundred miles of North Africa's Libyan Desert to storm the fortified Tripolitan city of Derna, they primarily served at sea with the Navy. (We sing today in the Marine Corps Hymn ". . . to the shoes of Tripoli.")

The Marine Corps' officers' sword was adopted in 1826. It is modeled after the Mameluke scimitar presented to Lt. Presley O'Bannon for his exploits.

On 18 June 1812, the United States was pushed into war with Britain, because of Britain's imprisonment of merchant seamen from America. At the beginning of the war, the Marine Corps consisted of ten officers and 483 men, half were at sea in ships' detachments and the rest were in the navy yards, or at Washington and New Orleans. Marines were in sea battles on the Great Lakes and fought on shore, notably in the defense of Washington in August 1814 and at New Orleans at the end of the year.

In 1835, the U. S. Government decided to relocate the Seminole Indians from Georgia and Florida to an area that would eventually become Arkansas. A six-year war, which included the Seminole allies, the Creek Indians, was not much to brag about. It was an ugly war which cost the Marines sixty-one casualties which included a lot of tropical fever. Other Marines served in the "Mosquito Fleet" off the coast of Florida. Marines would fight on the rivers again during the Civil War and Viet Nam. As a side note, many people use the term, "if the creek don't rise" when talking about doing something or making appointments. The actual term was, "God willing and the Creek don't rise", was captioned by Benjamin Hawkins when he was being called back to Washington by Thomas Jefferson. It had to do with the Creek Indians rising to fight again.

Next month's article will deal with the Marines involvement in the Civil War and other engagements before the first world war began.



**ONCE A MARINE  
ALWAYS A MARINE**



## Marines in the Movies

By Bob Reutter

This month's Marine was born in Sam Bernardino, California 30 January, 1931. He was raised in Danville, Illinois where his father worked for the local newspaper. Dad took off when the lad was 13. This made him very shy and although he played on the local basketball team in high school he spent most of his free time alone in movie theaters. Finally one month after his 16th birthday he went to the local Marine recruiter's office and enlisted. He shipped off to Parris Island the next day. After graduation he was assigned to Signal Bn. And later ordered to H&S, 2nd Mar.Div. at Camp Lejeune. In the spring of 1948 he was sent to Tsingtao, China to help with the repatriation of Japanese military personnel. On 17 March he sailed for home onboard the USS Chilton (AP-38.) He was honorably discharged on 12 Feb. 1950 but the next day re-upped and served another 4 years. After 7 years' service he left the Corps as a PFC in February 1954. He had earned his GED while in the Corps and after several attempts at school he took a bus to New York where he tried to get into acting. He made friends with another struggling actor named Dustin Hoffman who was also not thought likely to be a star. Several years they shared an apartment while trying out for many roles. In the '60's he had small roles in many different TV shows and several films. He was nominated for an Oscar as Clyde's yokel brother in Bonnie and Clyde. He won a Best Actor Oscar for The French Connection and in 1971 a second Oscar for Best Supporting Actor in Unforgiven (1992.) Yes, our Star in the Corps for this month was none other than Gene Hackman.

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## A Ride to Remember - Indiana Patriot Guard

By Joe Filipczak / Don Counts Jr.

2015 Indiana Patriot Guard  
"Ride To Remember" May16/17, 2015

Please join the PGR and the families in honoring the fallen of the area who have died while wearing the uniform of the United States Military during the Iraq and Afghanistan conflict. We do this by visiting the grave sites of these heroic men and women, where possible, and conducting a short memorial service in their honor. This year we will be honoring sixteen men and women.

The Ride To Remember is neither a Memorial Day or Armed Forces Day Ride. This ride is our way of demonstrating to those families, who invited us to participate in their loved one's funerals, that we remember their sacrifice and that we will Never Forget, what they have done for us.

Please join us in honoring these wonderful men and women along with their families. You do not need to ride a bike, all vehicle types welcomed. Our only requirement is respect for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and their families.

We meet at the Atlas Van Lines parking lot, US 41 and St. George Rd. by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 16th and then go to Sunset Memorial Park at 9:45 a.m. At 11:00 a.m. on to Salmon Cemetery and lunch in New Harmony. Then to Murphy Hill Cemetery in New Harmony for 1:15 p.m. and on to St. Joseph Cemetery in Evansville for 2:00 p.m.. At 3:00 p.m. we are at Alexander Memorial Garden on Mesker Park Drive and a second stop at Alexander at 4:00 p.m..

On Sunday, May 17th we meet at Evansville American Red Cross at 29 S. Stockwell Rd. at 8:00 a.m. for a memorial service and for those who can, the group travels to Jasper, Dubois and Celestine and Gatchel, IN. Then to Deer Creek Baptist Church in Tell City and onto Boonville at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Our Detachment provides the Color Guard every year for this ride.

Please use this link for more information <http://swinrtr.org/>

**NEVER FORGET**

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## Newsletter Booster Club

<i><b>Booster Member</b></i>	<i><b>Expires</b></i>
Art & Mary Beth Midle	May - 15
Irene Blessing	May - 15
Larry & Casey Scott	May - 15
Bill Bitter	June - 15
Luddie DeVaughn Jr	Oct - 15
Casey Canfield	Oct - 15
Paul & Yolanda Sowders	Nov - 15
Gary Burk	Dec - 15
David Jones	Dec - 15
Southern Belles Unit 441	Feb - 16
John & Dottie Mills	Feb - 16
Tom & Alice Kick	May - 16
Joe and Kathy Filipczak	May - 16

A big thank you to all those that donate to the Newsletter Booster Club. We still need Booster Members, **a donation of \$5.00 per individual or more** 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**P.O. Box 6581**  
**Evansville, IN 47719-0581**

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

[www.mclrivercities.org/news](http://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.

**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.

### 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

***Support our Sponsors***  
**They help make this Newsletter possible**

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**Southern Belles Unit 441**

06/2015

***Compliments of***  
***Luddie DeVaughn Jr.***  
*Member*  
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Pat Dillback

**Note: Annual  
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 and Renewal \$35.00**

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John Mills 5/3  
 Thomas Kick 5/3  
 Larry Scott 5/6  
 James Voelker 5/10  
 Clarence Mitsdarffer 5/14  
 Ronald Byrley 5/15  
 Earnest Dillard 5/15  
 Larry France 5/16  
 Trever Simon 5/26

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.

Memorial Days Services

Locust Hill Cemetery and  
 Tupman Cemetery. Contact  
 Commandant Reutter for  
 more information.

Woof Woof

No Devil Dog Growl this  
 month.

# Semper Fi

## May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for June 2015 are due NO LATER THAN April 27, 2015					1	2
3	4 Breakfast Pie Pan 8:00 a.m.	5	6	7	8	9 MCL Auxiliary Bowling Tournament Franklin Lanes 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
10	11 Breakfast Pie Pan 8:00 a.m.	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Breakfast Pie Pan 8:00 a.m.	19	20	21	22	23 MCL Auxiliary Operation Care Package Big Lots North 10 a.m - 4 p.m
24 MCLA Big Lots North 12 - 4	25 Memorial Day Services MCLA Unit 441 Southern Belles No Meeting	26	27 MCL Det. 1090 7:00 p.m. VFW 1114	28	29	30
31						