



# River Cities News

Marine Corps League  
River Cities Detachment #1090  
Evansville, Indiana

Volume 14, Issue 5

May 2017

## Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter, Commandant

On a quiet Thursday evening last month I received an email from one of the Marine Recruiters stationed in Evansville. He apologized for the tardiness of the request but asked if any of our Detachment members would be available to attend the semi-annual family day held for the poolees and families of the future Marines from the greater Evansville (Evansville, Owensboro, Jasper, Vincennes) area. I forwarded the request to our Detachment Marines and on the next evening – Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> in spite of the very short notice, Joe Filipczak and Jack Kincaide joined me as we attended the family style gathering. It was certainly an interesting evening. The first thing all three of us asked was “were we **EVER** that young?” That applied to not only the young, future Marines but to the Sergeants, Staff Sergeants and even the Major who represented the current crop of Marines. Seeing those Recruiters in their Blues with the razor-creased uniforms made all three of us subconsciously ‘suck in that gut’ and stand just a little taller. As each of the recruiters told his story of MOS, time in the Corps and why they were Marines, we each reflected on our own time on active duty.

Finally it was time for the ‘Main Event’ of the evening. Major Hotchkiss introduced the star of the evening – a very thin, very erect, perfectly dressed Marine Drill Instructor. The Sergeant marched to the front center of the stage and proceeded to put the poolees through their paces. To the man (and one woman) the potential recruits executed facing movements at the command of the DI. Weekly training sessions with the Recruiters has given the soon-to-be boots a good grasp of what they will encounter when they step off the bus and they performed admirably. After a spirited three minutes the Sergeant had

them take their seats and opened the floor for questions from all in attendance. For the next fifteen or so minutes the questions came – slowly at first but then with regularity as the young people and their parents tried to get a ‘feel’ for what life would be like when they (or their offspring) arrived at Parris Island. You could tell that many of the parents had put a lot of worry about what the future held for their son or daughter. Just as I did when we attended this event last year, I left feeling very good about future of our Corps. These recruits will go into boot camp with a much better idea of what will be expected of them than I did almost 50 years ago!

After the Q & A session Joe, Jack and I got on stage and told them a little about the League. We invited them to attend one of our League meetings and gave them contact information should they have any questions or just needed insight into what their child was experiencing at PI. We explained that once their Marine has received his/her EGA they are part of a lifelong family. Several of the families took us up on the offer and came to our table to pick up business cards and League brochures. Dinner was an excellent pulled pork provided by another of our recent League recruits (Terry Wells) and covered dishes brought by the wives of the recruiters and the parents of the poolees.

May will be a busy month for our Detachment with several events scheduled including the annual VOICE (Veterans Organizations Involved in Community Education) Expo to support Veterans at the National Guard Armory May 13<sup>th</sup> from 1100 until 1500. We will have a table with our applications and information about the League.

Continued on pg 3

### Detachment Officers

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Ludie DeV Vaughn Jr. (812) 629-6481

Jr. Past Commandant  
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Paymaster  
Don Landers Sr. (812) 483-3014

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Sgt At Arms  
Jack Kincaide

Newsletter Editor  
Paula Landers (812) 483-5114

Web Sergeant  
Paula Landers (812) 483-5114

## Marine Corps History

By Gary Burk

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

The veterans in the ranks steadied the rookies, junior men took over from fallen leaders, and shot-up units merged quickly to maintain the attack.

Communicates never failed in this battle. Schmidt kept pouring men ashore, despite the steep beach, savage surf, and ungodly enemy fire.

Dr. Michael "Irish Mike" Keleher, a tough-as-nails field surgeon making his fourth combat landing with the 25<sup>th</sup> Marines, stared in horror as he dashed ashore at noon: "Such a sight on that beach! Wrecked boats, bogged-down jeeps, tanks burning, casualties scattered all over."

Reported one veteran Marine combat correspondent: "At Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian, I saw Marines killed and wounded in a shocking manner, but I saw nothing like the ghastliness that hung over the Iwo beachhead."

Field radios crackled with urgent pleas to the fleet for plasma, stretchers, mortar shells – and sandbags.

The loose sand would allow no foxholes ("like digging a hole in a barrel of wheat!")

Schmidt and his marvelous staff filled each demand with an urgency of their own. The stuff flowed ashore – and somehow kept moving inland. So did the reserve battalions and regiments of the assault divisions. By dark Schmidt had an incredible 30,000 Marines ashore, well supported by tanks, half-tracks, and field artillery. Already the Marines outnumbered the Japanese on the island.

As for the price – 2,400 casualties, comparable to American losses at Omaha Beach o Normandy's D-Day – steep, sobering, but affordable. Proportionately better than the first days at Tarawa or Saipan.

Howling Mad Smith, who always had a better way with words than the efficient but tongue-tied Harry Schmidt, would describe Iwo Jima as "the most savage and most costly battle in history of the Marine Corps." No exaggeration there.

Just getting ashore was a bitch. Crossing the terrace minefields was a bitch. The Rock Quarry was a bitch (Jumping Joe Chambers lost 22 officers and 500 men from his 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Marines, scaling those heights on D-Day alone!). And seizing Mount Suribachi was beyond a bitch.

But Suribachi had to fall. From its cave-dotted heights Japanese gunners continued to shoot Marines in their backs as they wheeled north to wrest the first airfield from Kuribayashi's disciplined defenders.

Three of the six flag-raisers in the historic Rosenthal photograph would die in the fighting to come; two others would fall wounded. Photographer Genoust would die in a cave shoot-out.

And the battle for Iwo Jima had only just been joined.

Dead ahead lay Kuribayashi's main defensive belt and the island's increasingly broken terrain, all uphill from the landing beaches. The island was too constrained for major flank attacks' towering cliffs along the northern shoreline ruled out any end-run amphibious landings.

Schmidt had no option other than attacking frontally into the teeth of the Japanese strength.

Ashore cam Erskine's veteran 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. Schmidt ordered them to occupy the center of a three-division line as he huge force surged forward, uphill, always manacled by the loose sand.

"Here everything is beach and you can't get off it," complained one sergeant.

Every night Kuribayashi sent out his "prowling wolves," small patrols that attached Marine sentries and listening posts with bayonets and grenades.

The Japanese were also good at reverse-slope defenses. The Marines might finally capture a long-contested ridge, only to face swarms of the enemy boiling out of nowhere, an innocuous hole in the rocks, and the fighting would be desperate, hand-to-hand.

*To be continued-*

## Commandant's Corner - continued from pg 1

On Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> we will have our food booth at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Streets Alive festival in Garvin's Park. The event is from 1100-1600 and gives us an opportunity to make some additions to the League's treasury. On the same day is the annual 'Ride to Remember' by the local chapter of the Patriot Guard. As usual we will provide a color guard and bugler for this event. Planning is still ongoing for the Department of Indiana annual convention which we are hosting for the state the first weekend of June. Hope to see everyone at every event that you are able to attend.

One final note, Don Landers is working to update the Detachment mailing list to include email addresses. Please email him at [marine64.dl@gmail.com](mailto:marine64.dl@gmail.com) with your current email and contact phone number.

Semper Fi and Gung Ho!



## Detachment Ribbons and Awards

### Ceremonial Guard Ribbon



Ribbon: Thin White, Blue, Red, Blue, Thin white

Awarded by: National, Department, or Detachment Commandant

Recommended by: Ceremonial Guard Commander

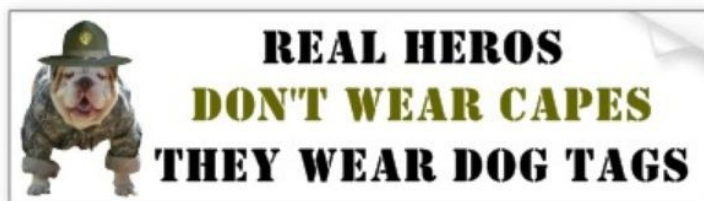
Criteria for Award: Must participate in 10 events for each award. Events include Color Guard, Funeral/Honor Detail, Rifle Detail or Marching Squad. **Just walking or riding on a float in a parade does not qualify unless it is part of a specific detail or program such as a Marching Unit.** This award is retroactive to January 2010 for all individuals who have met the qualification for the award.

Enclosure Four (4) National By-Laws

### Marine Corps League Awards



At the Central Division Conference in March the Department of Indiana was awarded the National Meritorious Unit Commendation which means all members of River Cities may now wear this ribbon plus a star because we were authorize a previous award.



## Marines in the Public Eye

By Bob Reutter



Unless you are a big fan of Marine aviation the name of Alfred A. Cunningham may not mean a lot to you. Cunningham was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1909 at the age of 27. His love of flying was rewarded when he was ordered to the Aviation camp the Navy had set

up in Annapolis. He reported on 22 May 1912 – the date that has become recognized as the birthday of Marine Corps aviation.

Cunningham was essentially involved in every aspect of Marine aviation: he flew, tested, and experimented with new aircraft, selected sites for air stations, organized and planned Marine air squadrons, served on the board that organized the Naval aeronautical service and created NAS Pensacola, as well as commanding the 1st Marine Aviation Force.

As with many military pioneers Second Lt. Cunningham ran into obstacles all along the path. There were no training facilities. The pilots already in the service had been trained at one of the two airplane factories then in existence. Cunningham was given 2 hours and 40 minutes of instruction including two practice landings in rough weather in a 2 seater. Rather than to continue paying the large salaries of the civilian instructors the decision was made to have Cunningham solo. He took off safely and flew

around for a while. When it was time to land he remembered that he had not successfully landed the plane by himself. He made multiple passes over the landing field before he finally got the nerve to attempt to land. He made a good landing and was notified that he was a Marine Pilot.

When he reported to Annapolis, Naval Aviation consisted of one B. Wright plane and one Curtis with bamboo outrigger controls and an elevator in the front. Congress had allocated only \$10,000 for aviation for the year and re-building after wrecks used most of this. As a result pilots had to use personal money to purchase wire, nuts, bolts and tools to keep the airplanes flying.

The First Marine Aviation Force (FMAF) was the first Marine aviation unit to see combat. Serving in northern France and Belgium between 9 August and 11 November 1918, FMAF pilots flew 43 missions with British counterparts and 14 independent raids, dropping a total of 33,932



pounds of bombs, losing 4 killed, two wounded, downing 4 enemy aircraft with claims on 8 more. In addition to combat casualties, the FMAF lost 22 more to accidents and disease.

### **Misunderstanding Terms:**

One reason the Services have trouble operating jointly is that they don't speak the same language.

For example, if you told Navy personnel to "secure a building" they would turn off the lights and lock the doors.

Army personnel would occupy the building so no one could enter.

Marines would assault the building, capture it, and defend it with suppressive fire and close combat.

The Air Force, on the other hand, would take out a three-year lease with an option to buy.

## Humor in (Marine) Marine

### Is Sex Work?

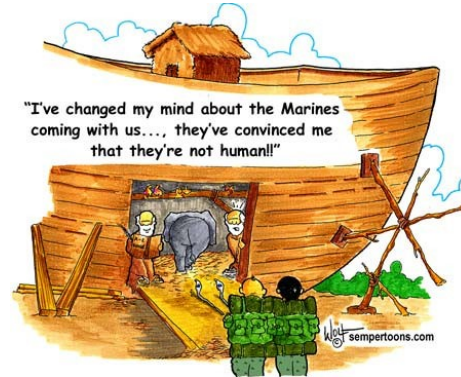
A U.S. Marine Colonel was about to start the morning briefing to his staff. While waiting for the coffee machine to finish brewing, the colonel decided to pose a question to all assembled. He explained that his wife had been a bit frisky the night before and he failed to get his usual amount of sound sleep. He posed the question of just how much of sex was "work" and how much of it was "pleasure?"

A Major chimed in with 75%-25% in favor of work. A Captain said it was 50%-50%. A Lieutenant responded with 25%-75% in favor of pleasure, depending upon his state of inebriation at the time.

There being no consensus, the colonel turned to the PFC who was in charge of making the coffee and asked for his opinion? Without any hesitation, the young PFC responded, "Sir, it has to be

100% pleasure. The colonel was surprised and as you might guess, asked why?

"Well, sir, if there was any work involved, the officers would have me doing it for them." The room fell silent. God Bless the enlisted man.



Q. How many Marines does it take to change a light bulb?

A. None. Marines are not afraid of the dark.

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 For all who served diligently, and  
 with dedication.*



*Semper Fi*  
 Roy McWilliams

## MCL/MCLA Department of Indiana Convention 2017

Holiday Inn Airport Holiday Inn Airport Holiday Inn Airport  
7101 U. S. Highway 41 North Evansville, Indiana 47725 (812) 867-7999



**Friday, June 2, 2017**  
**Saturday, June 3, 2017**  
**Sunday, June 4, 2017**

The Holiday Inn Airport offers free airport transportation, free breakfast and free wireless high-speed Internet access in all rooms.

Make your reservation by **May 15, 2017** to receive the group rate of \$91 plus tax. All rooms are available from Friday, June 2nd through Sunday, June 4th.

Contact the hotel directly at (812) 867-7999 and ask for Marine Corps League Evansville rate.

### Marine Corps League, Dept of Indiana 2017 Convention

#### Marine Corps League Detachment

Det. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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#### Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Auxiliary Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**LST Trip:** Friday, June 2nd 1300 \$10 per person

Tours are roughly 60 minutes long. Tours include the Main Deck, Troop Berthing, Tank Deck, Mess Deck, Galley, Stern of ship (Guns and Anchor), Wheel House, Officer's Country and the Captain's Cabin. It includes 3 sets of stairs down and 3 sets of stairs up. You are allowed to ask questions and take pictures at any point during the tour. During the summer we also recommend carrying water during the tour (available in the Gift Shop) due to the increased temperatures onboard ship. The LST is a FULLY OPERATIONAL ship; all tours are guided.

**Luncheon:** Sat., June 3rd 1200 \$15 per person

Buffet will include Sliced Turkey Breast, Sliced Roast Beef, and Shaved Ham, Potato Salad, Creamy Style Slaw, Swiss and American Cheese, as well as, tomatoes, lettuce, onions, multi-grain and rye breads, Kaiser Rolls. Featured Desert

Selection. Freshly brewed coffee and ice tea.

**Banquet:** Sat., June 3rd 1800 \$35 per person

Buffet will include Chicken, Roast Beef, and Herb Roasted Pork Tenderloin, Salad with assorted dressings, vegetables, dinner rolls, coffee and tea. Cash Bar Available

Registration **prior to May 15, 2017** will be **\$15.00 per attendee**, or **\$20.00 per attendee** when registering at the Convention. Meal reservations **MUST** be made in advance.

Registration Fee: \$15.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

LST Trip: \$10.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Luncheon: \$15.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet: \$35.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

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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
Southern Belles Unit 441	Feb - 18
T C Shane	May - 18

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.

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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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***Bob and Linda Reutter***  
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06/2021

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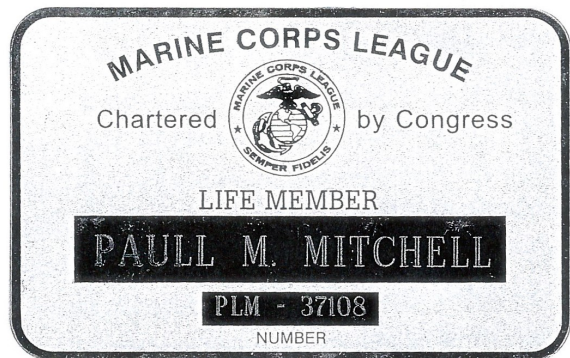
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**Compliments of the**  
**Marine Corps League Auxiliary**



**Southern Belles Unit 441**

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***Compliments of***  
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*Life Member*

*River Cities Detachment #1090*

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Marines and good friends:**

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**Semper Fi Marines!**



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

# Semper Ji

## May 2017

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	3	4 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 VA Project 8 a.m.	5	6
7	8 NO MODD Growl	9 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	10	11	12	13
14	15 Last Day for Convention Registration SEE PG 6	16 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	17	18	19	20 Streets Alive Garvin Park 1100 - 1700
21	22 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	30
28	29	30 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	31	June 1	June 2 Dept of Indiana Convention SEE Pg 6	June 3 Dept of Indiana Convention SEE Pg 6

Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for June 2017 are due **NO LATER THAN** May 22, 2017