



River Cities News

Marine Corps League
River Cities Detachment #1090
Evansville, Indiana

Volume 14, Issue 9

September 2017

Commandant's Corner

Bob Reutter, Commandant

This past Tuesday was the day before my monthly column was due to our editor, Paula Landers and it is now Saturday - I am late - again. I had once again put it off until the last minute telling myself that I had worked the weekend at our Harbor Freight Tools sales weekend with our food booth, I had family 'things' going on (who doesn't) and I just hadn't had time. Besides, I usually - not normally or frequently - get it to her by the deadline of the 22nd of the month before it goes to press for delivery near the first of the month. For September I was down to the deadline and planned to work on it after dinner Monday night. As I rose from the dinner table I was hit by a pain about 8 inches long and 3 inches high right below my ribcage. If you are not familiar with the doctor's pain scale it runs from 0 - 10. 0 is no pain, 10 is unbearable. My pain started at an 8 and stayed there all night and into Tuesday. At about 0400 my wife interrupted my 4th hot shower/bath of the night (a trick I had learned during my spell of 7 kidney stones in 2002) and told me we were headed to the ER. After several hours of poking, prodding, ultrasounding, puncturing and Cat scanning we got the prognosis - gall stones. I was told they were bad (not bad enough to be admitted right then ('call us in the morning and make an appointment') given some pain meds and sent home. But that is not the reason for this column.

We all know people in our own detachment, in our State and across the country who have endured much greater things than this. I know I will not remember to mention everyone who deserves it in this piece. My defense is that I am sleep deprived and nourishment deprived (no appetite since Monday) and do not purposely overlook anyone.

In my own Detachment we have John. Pushing 90, acting 50 and first to step up when there are things to be accomplished. John was in the Chosin campaign in Korea where he helped defend the pass to allow the First Division to escape the Chinese trap. As he was finally being evacuated (severe frostbite to the feet) the truck he was in was struck by Chinese HE and over-

turned on him. John spent the next 16 months in military hospitals being put back together 'never to walk again.' Don't ever tell a Marine he 'can't' anything. John was medically discharged from the Corps, sent home and resumed a civilian career. He has been a Marine for 70 years.

Then there is Gary. Past 80 with severe shoulder and back issues. He had a neck surgery in the spring and is scheduled for another back surgery in October. Gary cannot be as active in 'field' exercises but has found a way to assist by finding and working the grants that are available out there.

We cannot forget our Vietnam Marines. Having fought in Vietnam with distinction these men have come home not to the hero's welcome of WWII or even to the lukewarm welcome after Korea. They have come home to derision and scorn from an uneducated public and a media that believes its own propaganda and ignored them. These are often not physical injuries that can be seen and treated. These are men who deserve much better treatment than our county has given them. Men with names like Gary W., Don L., Don C., Butch E., Frank C. Art M. and many, many more. Almost each week we perform a 'farewell' service at a funeral home in our area to honor another deceased Marine from this era.

We are now welcoming the Marines from the desert engagements. Like all the others I mentioned they stepped up when asked and served our Country and our Corps with distinction.

Through the years our Corps has produced men and women who don't ask 'what's in it for me?' They go and get the job done. And when they are no longer active Marines they come to our League to continue their service without 'woe is me', 'get someone else to do it' or any of the other excuses lesser people use to avoid being involved. They step up and do what they can. Not "I can't" rather "what can I?" As a Marine Reserve from the Vietnam era it makes me proud to be associated with them. Semper Fil!

Detachment Officers

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Bob Reutter (270) 314-9484

Paymaster
Don Landers Sr. (812) 483-3014

Sgt At Arms
Jack Kincaide

Sr. Vice Commandant
Jim Grayson

Adjutant
Art Midle (812) 760-4349

Newsletter Editor
Paula Landers (812) 483-5114

Jr. Vice Commandant
Joe Filipczak

Judge Advocate
Don Counts (812) 422-1792

Web Sergeant
Paula Landers (812) 483-5114

Jr. Past Commandant
Tim Jones (812) 454-8717

Chaplain
Barbara Kortz

River Cities Detachment #1090, Marine of the Year Nominations

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Marine of the Year award shall be presented to a regular member of the Detachment who has rendered service(s) and performed deed(s) **above** and **beyond** the duties and obligations required of a member of the River Cities Detachment. Nominations for the Marine of the Year shall be considered and selected by the current members of the Detachment Marine of the Year Society. The Marine of the Year Society shall be comprised of all recipients of the Detachment Marine of the Year Award in good standing with the Marine Corps League. The Society is charged with receiving and reviewing nominations for the Detachment Marine of the Year. The President of the Society will name their selection at the Marine Corps Ball in November. Each recipient of the Marine of the Year Award shall serve as President of the Society for the following year. The Society shall have no less than five members present to deliberate the selection.

- (1) Nominations for this award will be accepted from **any member** in good standing of the Detachment.
- (2) Each nomination shall have a brief sketch of the person being nominated as well as a written summery stating why this nominee should be the Marine of the Year. The nominee must also be a member in good standing. The President of the Society shall announce the recipient of the Marine of the Year Award at the Marine Corps Ball in November.
- (3) Nominations will be addressed to River Cities Detachment #1090, ATTN: Marine of the Year Society, P. O. Box 6581, Evansville, IN 47719-0581 and ***mailed postmarked or hand delivered no later than October 1, 2017. Nominations received after that date will not be considered.*** All letters should be in a sealed envelope and will remain sealed until the Society meets to make the selection. The society will convene on a date determined by the President of the Society in the month of October.

CRITERIA:

There are no minimum criteria to be eligible for this award, but consideration will be given to members who have demonstrated contributions in the following areas:

Commitment: This is defined as a member's participation in Detachment affairs, such as attendance at monthly meetings, working on committees and projects, taking a leadership role in detachment affairs and functions, supporting the various MCL programs sponsored by the Detachment. Also considered is the commitment to perpetuate membership through recruiting and retention efforts.

Service: This is defined as a member's participation in the community, which provides help and relief to underprivileged and reflect positively the Marine Corps League and on the nominee's character. Also, contributing to patriotic programs, which espouse good citizenship and strong moral values. (i.e.—volunteer work in the community, as well as service to church and similar activities.)

Marine of the Year Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Person Nominating: _____

Commitment: (Indicate here MCL activities in which the nominee has contributed)

Service in the Community: (Community Activities— Organizations supported)

Personal Statement of Recommendation: (You may attach a letter if you wish.)

Signature of person making the nomination: _____

Mail to: River Cities Detachment #1090
Attn: Marine of the Year Society
P. O. Box 6851
Evansville, IN 47719-0851

NOMINATIONS MUST POSTMARKED OR HAND DELIVERED
NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2017

Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

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

Conclusion of Iwo Jima

The battle of Iwo Jima also featured the largest concentration of Navajo Code Talkers in the war to date. The Navajos spoke one of the most unique dialects in the world. They drove Japanese cryptologists crazy in their repeated attempts to break or translate U.S. tactical communications.

Each division at Iwo employed about two dozen trained Navajos – all United States Marines - to translate operation orders and situation reports, the critical information so earnestly sought by the Japanese. But not once-not at Iwo, or anywhere-were the Japanese able to "break the code." And like every other Marine ashore at Iwo, the Navajos were also trained to drop their headsets and pick up their bayoneted Garands whenever Kuribayashi's "prowling Wolves" came calling at night.

African-American Marines made their mark at Iwo Jima as well.

The small Marine Corps, with its prevalence of Southern-born officers and NCOs had been slow to accept these newly integrated troops, but their battlefield performance at Saipan and Peleliu had paved their way.

Black Marines at Iwo Jima served as ammo humpers and stevedores by day – keeping the vital flow of combat cargo moving north into the lines – and fought the Prowling Wolves at night. Privates James Whitlock and James Davis received Bronzed Stars for their valor in derailing a violent Japanese counterattack with unerring carbine fire at great personal risk.

Once the Marines forced General Kuribayashi to evacuate his headquarters in the central highlands for the northwest coast, the discipline of his principal subordinates began to crumble.

A brigade commander who had successfully withstood the assaults of

the 4th Marine Division in the "Meat Grinder" for weeks gave in to despair one night and launched a traditional banzai attack.

This was welcome news for General Cates and his veterans, who had faced a more critical attack the night of D-Day at Tinian.

The 4th Division, glad to have live targets in the open for a change, reacted calmly, set the stage with illuminating rounds from the ships offshore, laced the approaches with artillery and mortars, shredded the attacking columns with well-sited machine guns, then rose up with a vengeance to greet the survivors at bayonet point.

The Japanese brigade commander and 700 of his troops lay lifeless among the rocks at daybreak.

Given this windfall, the 4th Marine Division accelerated its advance to clear the east coast, finishing the job with a flourish two days later.

Then they began backloading their ships. Their battle was over. Next stop, they grimly realized, would be Japan itself.

Captain William Ketchem commanded Item Company in the division's 24th Marines throughout the battle. His company landed on D-Day with 133 riflemen in its three rifle platoons. Only nine of these Marines were still on their feet when Ketchem led them back aboard ship six weeks later.

"All I ever wanted to get out of Iwo Jima with my fanny and my dog-tags," said Corporal Edward Hartman of 2/24.

September –

4th Labor Day

8th National Grandparents Day

11th Patriot Day

21st National Oktoberfest Day

28th Drink Beer Day

MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441

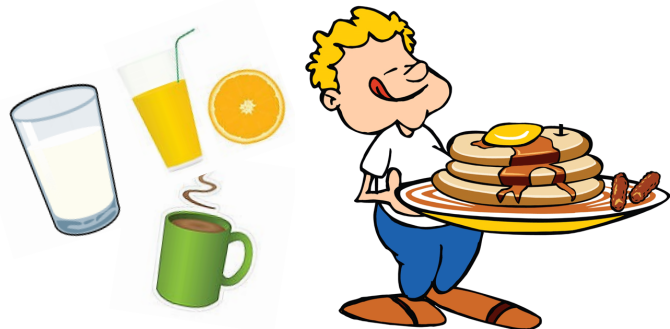
By Paula Landers, Treasurer

The Marine Corps League Auxiliary will be hosting another Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at AmVets Post #84, 2912 Broadway Avenue in Evansville IN on Saturday, September 9th 2017 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. All of the profits from this year's pancake breakfast will go to our Little Angels Project Fund. We use these funds to support projects on the local, state, and national level that benefit children.

All Breakfasts include Coffee, Juice, and Milk

Small Plate \$5.00 - 2 pancakes, 1 sausage

Large Plate \$7.00 - 3 pancakes, 2 sausages



Marines in the Public Eye

Bob Reutter

Most all of us have a tendency to think about Marines as charging into the breach, getting the job done then partying hearty. I think it is time to highlight some of the unsung Marines that make it possible for the rest to get their job done. First up is CLB-4 of the Combat Logistics Regiment 3.



MISAWA AIR BASE, Aomori - During the training, a helicopter support team with CLB-4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistic Group, would rush under one of the Marine Corps' primary heavy-

lift aircraft, a CH-53E Super Stallion, to attach a 6,500 pound CONEX box to the helicopter while the aircraft hovers above them. The aircraft would then lift the container and briefly flies around the landing zone, returns and lowers the weight to the ground, permitting the HST to disconnect the weight. The pilots and HST repeated the process numerous times for accuracy and proficiency.

"External lifts are important because it allows the Marine Air Ground Task Force commander to shape the battle space," said Capt. Patrick X. Kelly, a CH-53E pilot assigned to HMH-462, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, currently forward deployed under the Unit Deployment Program with MAG-36, 1st MAW, based out of Okinawa, Japan. "Letting the MAGTF commander move his assets where he wants them, when he wants them there." Unlike other aircraft used for external lifts, such as the MV-22 Osprey which can lift external loads of up to 12,500 pounds, the CH-53E has the capability to lift approximately 36,000 pounds. This allows the Super Stallion to transport vehicles, cargo, food and other vital equipment needed to accomplish the Marine Corps mission.

"In a real-life situation, if [HMH-462] was trying to emplace artillery, such as the M777 Howitzer to the battlefield, we could sling up the artillery and take it from where it was to where they need it to be to support to the Marines on the ground." Kelly said external lift training couldn't be accomplished without the support from the HST. "The Marines with the HST are very important, and they are all professionals," said Kelly. "Having the Marines load the rig quickly and properly on the first try is crucial for the lift and these Marines typically get it every time." Both units ensured they were taking the proper safety provisions to conduct the training. The crew chiefs observed the HST Marines from the aircraft while a safety observer Marine watched the Marines from the ground. The pilots can-

not see beneath or behind the aircraft, which create hazards that require the safety observer, crew chiefs and pilots to communicate with one another to help prevent accidents.

"HMH's role in the aviation community is to support the MAGTF commander and provide assault support transport of heavy equipment, combat troops and supplies, day or night, under all weather conditions during expeditionary, joint or combined operations," said Kelly.



CAMP LEJEUNE, NC -- The training was held to give the Marines an opportunity to increase their proficiency at providing timely and effective fire support missions.

"We're conducting this live-fire range to maximize our readiness

so we are able to complete any mission thrown our way whenever we're deployed overseas," said Lance Cpl. Juan Castaneda, a joint terminal attack controller with 1/10. "We need to be able to effectively employ our skills during support-by-fire missions." To obtain the highest level of expeditionary readiness, Marines often spend time outside of work improving their occupational specialty skills.

"We spend a better portion of our downtime taking classes on how to be more proficient at our military occupational specialty," Castaneda said. "Whenever we aren't taking classes or doing practical application of the skills we learn in class, we're out here in the field doing live-fire training, which is the most effective training we get." This training not only provides the opportunity for the Marines to improve the skills necessary to be combat efficient, but also to work as one to complete any mission they are assigned.

"This type of training builds unit cohesion by allowing us all to train together while going through the various rigors of field exercises," Castaneda said. "Being out here with your fellow Marines will always build cohesion, no matter what type of training you're doing." Live-fire training events prepare Marines to face situations they may encounter in a combat environment. "This training puts us in scenarios we might face while overseas," Castaneda said. "We receive fire missions and we have to complete them in a timely, yet efficient manner and it's usually fast paced which adds stress and only makes us better prepared for real-life situations." 1/10 continues to train and prepare for an upcoming unit deployment program next year.

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Gary Burk	Dec - 17
David Jones	Dec - 17
Southern Belles Unit 441	Feb - 18
T C Shane	May - 18
Dorothy Odom	June - 18
Joe & Kathy Filipczak	July - 18
Bill Bitter	Aug - 18
Roy & Carolyn McWilliams	Aug - 18
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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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Evansville, IN 47719-0581



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



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.

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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
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River Cities Detachment #1090*

06/2021

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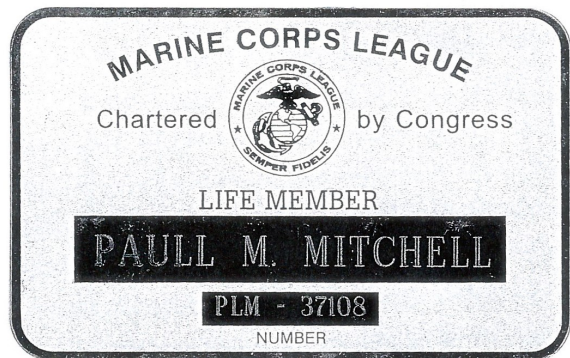
7/2018

**Compliments of the
Marine Corps League Auxiliary**



Southern Belles Unit 441

12/2017



10/2017

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Gary Burk, Life Member
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River Cities Detachment 1090
 Marine Corps League Inc.
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Once a Marine, Always a Marine



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Important Notice

MCLA Southern Belles
 Unit 441 will be hosting a
 Pancake Breakfast
 Saturday, September 9th,
 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at
 AmVets Post 84, 2912
 Broadway, Evansville IN.
 All profits will go to their
 Little Angels Project Fund.

Semper Fi

September 2017

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures For October 2017 are due NO LATER THAN September 22, 2017					1	2 Pick-up Ribs/Butts at JD Byrider 2 p.m. - 4 p.m 1st Avenue
3	4	5 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	6	7 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	8	9 MCLA Southern Belles Pancake Breakfast 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. See Pg 4
10	11 MODD No Growl	12 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	20	21	22	23
24	25 MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441 6:30 p.m. AmVets #84	26 Det. 1090 Breakfast Pie Pan 0800	27 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 1900	28	29	30