



# Bunker News



**A MULTIPLE  
AWARD WINNING  
NEWSLETTER!**

**JANUARY 2024**

## OFFICERS

### Commandant

**Jimmy Grote**  
941-807-2490

### Sr. Vice Commandant

**Joe Filice**  
863-245-3540

### Jr. Vice Commandant

**Dave Hildibrand**  
610-804-9299

### Judge Advocate

**Everett Whipple**  
678-634-7497

### Pay Master - Vicki Mann

859-420-1590

### Adjutant

**Bob Fields**  
941-504-3693

### Sergeant at Arms

**John Olexa 305-322-8832**

### Chaplain

**Ron Schneider**  
941-749-5799

### Historian

**John D'Alusio**  
941-209-8873

### Jr. Past Commandant

**Gerry Vinopal**  
414-688-3153

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or

[RMFields0117@gmail.com](mailto:RMFields0117@gmail.com)  
On 941-504-3693

**DESOTO DETACHMENT 588, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

Website: [MCL588.Org](http://MCL588.Org)

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2024. It will probably take me about 3 months to adjust to that. In some ways, 2023 is a welcome sight in the rear view mirror. We lost far too many old friends last year, politics were crazy, and the world seems to have gone mad. But 2023 had several bright spots, especially for the detachment. Joe Intoppa stepped up as the Bar Manager and has done a magnificent job. Our Marine Corps Birthday Ball wasn't as well attended as we would have liked but those who did attend had a great time thanks to our head party planner Gerry Vinopal assisted by Dave Mathews and John D'Alusio. Those who did attend, please talk to those who didn't and let them know what they missed. For the second year Tara Country Club provided us with a splendid venue and will be our host again for 2024.

We wrapped up the year with Toys for Tots. I have been a supporter of Toys for Tots for years. I sent them a few bucks, would see the collection boxes here and there and thought that I knew something about the operation. I had no idea! We lost our coordinator early on causing the Manatee Campaign to flounder until Mike McClain stepped up again as the coordinator. Many detachment members pitched in to help by running routes, shuffling and sorting tens of thousands of toys and representing the league at various events. Our Adjutant, Bob Fields spent countless hours on the computer with requests, reports and all of the administrative drudgery needed to meet Quantico's requirements. The shining star of the effort was Toni Chase who did a phenomenal job managing the logistics of people, trucks, toys, warehouses and multiple storage locations. This is not to minimize the work of all of the other volunteers but it is no exaggeration to say that the program would not have been as successful without Toni. Please read Bob Fields' article about the Toys for Tots campaign. What started as a potential disaster ended up as an accomplishment that demonstrates the true heart and spirit of the 588. If you are one of the few who didn't pitch in, please thank those who did. They are easy to spot. Just look for someone who has a PTSD reaction to black trash bags!

One of the most difficult assignments in business or in the military is taking over an organization that is well run by someone that everyone likes. Outgoing Commandant Jim Grote has presented me with a challenging assignment but one made easier by a dream team executive board and an outstanding group of volunteers. As we start on 2024, many thanks to all who helped make 2023 a success for the 588.

**Semper Fi, Joe**



**Desoto Detachment #588, 5225 26th Street West, Bradenton, Florida 34207 (941) 301-4598**

MEETINGS ARE THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1830 Website: [MCL588.Org](http://MCL588.Org)



# Marine Corps League

## Desoto Detachment 588

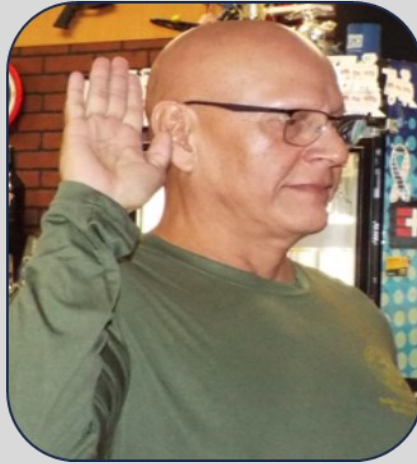
### Event Calendar for JANUARY 2024

Open to all Members, Veterans and Guests for all Special Events



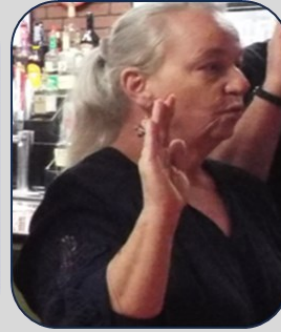
1/3	12:00 PM	BURGER DAY @ THE BUNKER!
1/3	5:00 PM	TONY ROSADO VIEWING @ BROWN & SONS FUNERAL HOME.
1/4	11:00 AM	TONY ROSADO MASS @ SECRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH.
1/4	2:00 PM	TONY ROSADO BURIAL @ SARASOTA NATIONAL CEMETERY.
1/6	3:00 PM	BAR POKER @ THE BUNKER WITH HOT DAWGS!
1/7	3:00 PM	TRIVIA WARS WITH THE WHIP @ THE BUNKER!
1/8	6:15 PM	E-BOARD MEETING @ THE BUNKER.
1/9	12:00 PM	HOME MADE GUMBO W/RICE & FRENCH BREAD \$5.00 @ THE BUNKER!
1/10	12:00 PM	BURGER DAY AT THE BUNKER!
1/12	6:00 PM	KARAOKE @ THE BUNKER!
1/13	3:00 PM	BAR POKER @ THE BUNKER WITH HOT DAWGS!
1/14	3:00 PM	TRIVIA BATTLES WITH THE WHIP @ THE BUNKER!
1/15	6:30 PM	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS)!
1/17	12:00 PM	BURGER DAY @ THE BUNKER!
1/19	6:00 PM	KARAOKE @ THE BUNKER!
1/20	1:00 PM	CHICKEN WING COOK OFF @ THE BUNKER! BRING YOUR APPETITE.
1/20	3:00 PM	BAR POKER @ THE BUNKER WITH HOT DAWGS!
1/21	3:00 PM	TRIVIA CLASH WITH THE WHIP @ THE BUNKER!
1/23	12:00 PM	SMOKED SAUSAGE, GRILLED ONIONS & PERIOGIES \$6.00 @ THE BUNKER!
1/24	12:00 PM	BURGER DAY @ THE BUNKER!
1/26	6:00 PM	KARAOKE @ THE BUNKER!
1/27	3:00 PM	BAR POKER @ THE BUNKER WITH HOT DAWGS!
1/28	3:00 PM	TRIVIA WAR WITH THE WHIP @ THE BUNKER!
1/29	12:00 PM	CELEBRATE KANSAS DAY AT THE BUNKER! DANCE, DRINK, PARADE!
1/30	12:00 PM	RECOVER FROM KANSAS DAY CELEBRATION @ THE BUNKER!
1/31	12:00 PM	BURGER DAY @ THE BUNKER!

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DECEMBER 2023



Three Marines were sworn in as members of Desoto Detachment 588.

From Left to Right: Robert Goodlow, Vincent Gomez and Jennifer Calvo. OORRAAHH!



Five Associate Members were sworn in to Desoto Detachment 588.

From Left to Right: Howard Moran Jr., Harold Leventry, James Swackhammer, Cathleen Swackhammer and Kevin Sandage. OORRAAHH!

# WELCOME ABOARD!





## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DECEMBER 2023



Ron Darden was presented the Desoto Detachment 588 **“Marine of the Year”** award. Ron was absent from the meeting due to poor health so the award was delivered to him at his home. Ron has spent countless hours volunteering at the Detachment. He helps in nearly every event, works as bartender and provides sage straight shooting advice at general and E-Board meetings.

**Congratulations Ron Darden!**

Joe Intoppa was named as the Desoto Detachment 588 **“Associate Member of the Year”**. Joe stepped up to the position of Bar Manager during a time of turmoil. He has worked hard to make sure everyone is treated well at the Bunker which has really increased the attendance at the Bunker by our membership. Before being the Bar Manager, Joe volunteered as a bartender for many years. He can be relied upon for straight talk, good jokes and rapid fire insults (all in good humor).


**Congratulations Joe Intoppa!**





A Blast from the Past.  
Our own Tom Martel.

*Ends Leave*



**PVT. THOMAS E. MARTEL**

ROCKLAND. — Marine Pvt. Thomas B. Martel has returned to Camp Lejeune, N. C., after completing a 20-day leave here. He will have advanced infantry training and schooling in motor transportation. He visited his mother, Mrs. Frances Martel of 115 Vernon St. The Marine expects to be sent to the Far East early in the coming year.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in July and was graduated from Rockland High School in 1965. Before entering the corps, he worked at General Dynamics in Quincy.



# The Marine Corps has trained its final 8 scout snipers

*Editor's Note. Three of them must be really good at the art of camouflage, because I can only see five of them. - A sad day for the Corps.*



## COLD WAR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Attn: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept. 480  
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.  
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408  
Fax: (888) 276-9472 or (502) 613-9510  
<https://www.hrc.army.mil>  
Search "Cold War Certificate"

Chicken wing cook off Saturday January 20 @ 1 P.M.. Bring in your own special concoction for making wings. A vote will be taken by attending members and the winner will receive a \$25 gift card for Bunker purchases. Members who are not participating in the cook off who would care to bring in a side dish or dessert are more than welcome to do so.

## Winner of Gun Raffle for 1911A1 Commander Pistol

By John D'Alusio

The most recent gun raffle started on Thursday, 14 December. The pistol being raffled off was a highly desirable 1911A1 Commander (4.25" barrel) chambering .45ACP cartridges (8+1) in cold forged stainless steel, manufactured by Tisas.

The last raffle involving a full size 1911A1 in carbon steel sold out in 5 hours. Predictions largely were that this every day carry (EDC) version of John Browning's iconic military sidearm for 75 years would at least match that in terms of speed of sale of the tickets. Not hardly...although it did move rather quickly (four days).

Although 52 raffle tickets were sold on the first day sales opened, the remaining 48 tickets were not all purchased until late on Monday, 18 December, which also happened to be the night of our monthly business meeting. Therefore, the winner was chosen during the proceedings.

Paymaster Vicki Mann (who did not purchase a ticket) was selected to choose the winner. After the 100 tickets were thoroughly mixed up, Vicki selected the lucky ticket holder. It turned out to be Jackie Haverkamp. Jackie had come into The Bunker on 14 December with her husband Jack, and purchased one raffle ticket (Jack bought two). As often happens, a one ticket purchase was enough to gain the firearm.



Congratulations to Jackie. The 1911A1 Commander was coveted by many (me included) who had purchased tickets, but Jackie is the one who is taking it home. What a nice Christmas present to find under the tree!!!

The 1911A1 Commander concludes the 2023 firearm raffles. Boisterous congrats to our five winners for the year (one lucky SOB won twice). They are:

Jerry Ham – Anderson AR-15 in 5.56 X 45 NATO

Glenn Weik – Tisas 1911A1

Pam Miller – SAR 2000 ST 9mm

Jerry Ham – Taurus 605 .357 Magnum Revolver

Mike McClain – Taurus TH40C in .40 S&W

Jackie Haverkamp – Tisas 1911A1 Stainless Steel Commander

Thanks to everyone who supported the 588 in 2023 by purchasing raffle tickets. Net profit to the Detachment was in excess of \$3,600, which is sizable. We appreciate the fact that everyone knows the chances of being the winner are slim, but you are materially helping out our Detachment with your kind purchases as our operating expenses continue to rise (just like yours) in this inflationary economy.

A very happy holiday season to you and yours. We'll look forward to a successful 2024 for MCL Detachment 588, and all our members!!!



**An update on services for Marine Tony Rosado who passed away on December 26th:**

There will be a viewing for all, January 3 from 5:00 P.M.-8:00P.M. at Brown And Sons located at 604 43rd St. W. Bradenton Florida. A private viewing for family only will precede this from 3:30 P.M.-5:00P.M.

January 4 Mass will be 11:00 A.M. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church 1220 15th St. W. Bradenton Florida followed by burial at Sarasota National Cemetery at 2:00P.M. located at 9810 SR72 Sarasota Florida 34241. The family has asked that no photos or videos be taken at both the viewing and the cemetery.

**Richard Tolman 95 years old  
Marine WWII veteran who  
Served in China visited the  
League**



**KANSAS DAY**

January 29th.....Party, Parades, Celebration

## ATTENTION MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

If you are not a life member or life associate member, then your annual membership dues were due no later than the General Membership Meeting, which was on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 1830. The dues amount is \$35.00.

Please remember that if your dues are not paid up, you will not be able to use the Bunker. So stop by the Bunker ASAP and pay your dues for the upcoming year. If you can't stop in, please mail your check to the Bunker with "Dues" in the memo line. The address is at the bottom of every page of this newsletter.

**Semper Fi!**



# VETERANS SERVICES

Goodwill was one of the first organizations to respond to the multitude of challenges faced by veterans, their families, and the families of those who serve on active duty.

Goodwill Manasota's Veterans Services Program focuses on providing comprehensive case management and vocational services that assist with employment and barriers to employment, while helping veterans navigate the wide array of available programs.

We are proud to have a wide variety of community partners and alliances with other local organizations committed to serving those who have served for us.



**Call TODAY for this FREE service!  
941.355.2721 x.451**

**DD 214s**

Marines who have been discharged, separated, or retired on or before 31 December 1998:  
 National Personnel Records Center  
 1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO  
 63138  
 (314) 801-0800; Fax: (314) 801-9195  
[https://nrd.gov/resource/detail/8432677/](https://nrd.gov/resource/detail/8432677)  
[The+U.S.+National+Archives+%26+Records+Administration; www.archives.gov/st-louis](https://www.archives.gov/st-louis)

Marines discharged/retired/separated on or after 1 January 1999:  
 Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMRP)-10  
 2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030  
 (800) 268-3710; [smb.manpower.mmrp-10@usmc.mil](mailto:smb.manpower.mmrp-10@usmc.mil)



Coco has the Christmas Spirit. Not only a volunteer bartender, but she orchestrated multiple Toys for Tots Events and ran a toy pickup route. OORRAHH!

**Come to the bunker and support your Marine Corps League Detachment. If you haven't noticed, the Bunker has been busier lately. Many of our members who haven't been in for quite awhile are coming back.**





Manatee County 2023

Sponsored by Marine Corps League

Desoto Detachment 588

### Toys for Tots – 2023 – by Bob Fields

The Manatee County 2023 Toys for Tots Campaign started off like a lit firecracker. As the fuze burned toward the firecracker, we had a Marine step up to volunteer as the Coordinator. He went to the training at Quantico and returned to Bradenton. After his return he became ill and removed himself as Coordinator.

At that point it began to look like the fuze might burn out before popping the firecracker. We even had a former Associate Member proclaim that 588 would fall on it's behind and that the 2023 Toys for Tots would be a disaster. Well, a Marine who led Toys for Tots for many years stepped up to the plate. He, being a Combat Engineer, was well versed with explosives, so he kept the fuze burning and volunteered to be the Coordinator. That was Mike McClain.

Mike, along with several key volunteers and a host of other volunteers not only made it happen, but with great success. Were there problems, heck yes. First we had no warehouse. A local businessman offered a building he was trying to sell, but it turned out to be just too small. Then the Humane Society of Manatee County offered a vacant building adjacent to their campus on 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Vacant may not have been the correct word, as it had piles and piles of building materials stacked and scattered throughout it. About a dozen volunteers quickly moved all of the materials into a consolidated area leaving the bulk of the building open. It was dirty, so we cleaned it. We set it up the best we could. Volunteer Toni Chase took charge of the warehouse. She spent over 300 hours organizing, orchestrating, and dealing with the non-stop phone calls and emails. Toni made it work. She didn't do it alone though, a platoon of volunteers, some who came daily, some who came when they could, received, counted, sorted, and blacked out merchandise skus for weeks. Then the order filling process began. Gerry Harrington and Jayson Gilliam did most of the order downloading.

While the warehouse was humming and occasionally stumbling as new issues would arise, we had a team of route drivers out there distributing drop boxes at local businesses, then going back to pick up the toys and deliver them to the warehouse. These route drivers did a fantastic job.

There were also special Toys for Tots events throughout the county, such as Colony Cove, Ringling Museum, Gettel Auto Dealerships, Various Country Clubs. All of which ended up with truckloads of toys, bikes and monetary contributions. Some of those monetary contributions absolutely blew me away when I went to receive them. Examples: Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club contributed an entire U-Haul load of toys and bikes, then topped it off with a check for over \$24,000.00. Gettel Automotive Dealerships filled multiple U-Hauls and provided a check for \$10,000.00; The Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc. provided toys and a check for \$1,375.00. Colony Cove overwhelmed us with Toys, Bikes and Cash. There were many other super contributors to the campaign as well.

The first distribution was successful yet disappointing. All of the recipient families who were to pick up their families toys were notified, but almost half did not show up. At that distribution we had bagged and tagged individual bags for each family. It made it difficult to find the bags as people drove up. So for subsequent distributions we changed tactics. We made bags that were generic based on age and gender. Three toys went into each bag. So when a car drove up and they were verified as having been approved, we would fill their order by pulling bags based on the registered children's age and gender. This tended to work much better than the previous method.



Manatee County 2023  
 Sponsored by Marine Corps League  
 Desoto Detachment 588

# VOLUNTEERS WERE ALL "ROCK STARS"

We also made toys available to the local Law Enforcement agencies, so they could distribute them on their Community nights. Numerous churches and schools also received massive amounts of toys for distribution.

Some folks like statistics, so here are a few numbers:

Total Toys collected – 51,500

Total Bikes collected – 450

Total cash and checks collected: \$51,301.21

Yes we hit a few speedbumps but overall it was a smashing success. All thanks to the dozens of volunteers who wanted to make sure every child had a couple of toys for Christmas. That is the very spirit of "Semper Fidelis".

The next few pages will show just a few of the photos taken while we were busting butt and yet having some fun.





# TOYS FOR TOTS

Manatee County 2023  
Sponsored by Marine Corps League  
Desoto Detachment 588



Gettel Toyota



Desoto Detachment #588, 5225 26th Street West, Bradenton, Florida 34207 (941) 301-4598  
MEETINGS ARE THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1830 Website: MCL588.Org



# TOYS FOR TOTS

Manatee County 2023  
Sponsored by Marine Corps League  
Desoto Detachment 588



Coldwell Banker Realty, Market St. Lakewood Ranch



Bradenton Police Department Toy Delivery

Desoto Detachment #588, 5225 26th Street West, Bradenton, Florida 34207 (941) 301-4598  
MEETINGS ARE THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1830 Website: MCL588.Org

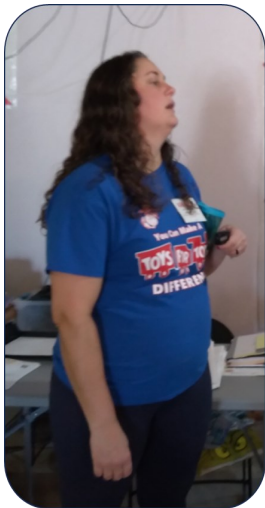


# TOYS FOR TOTS

Manatee County 2023

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Desoto Detachment 588

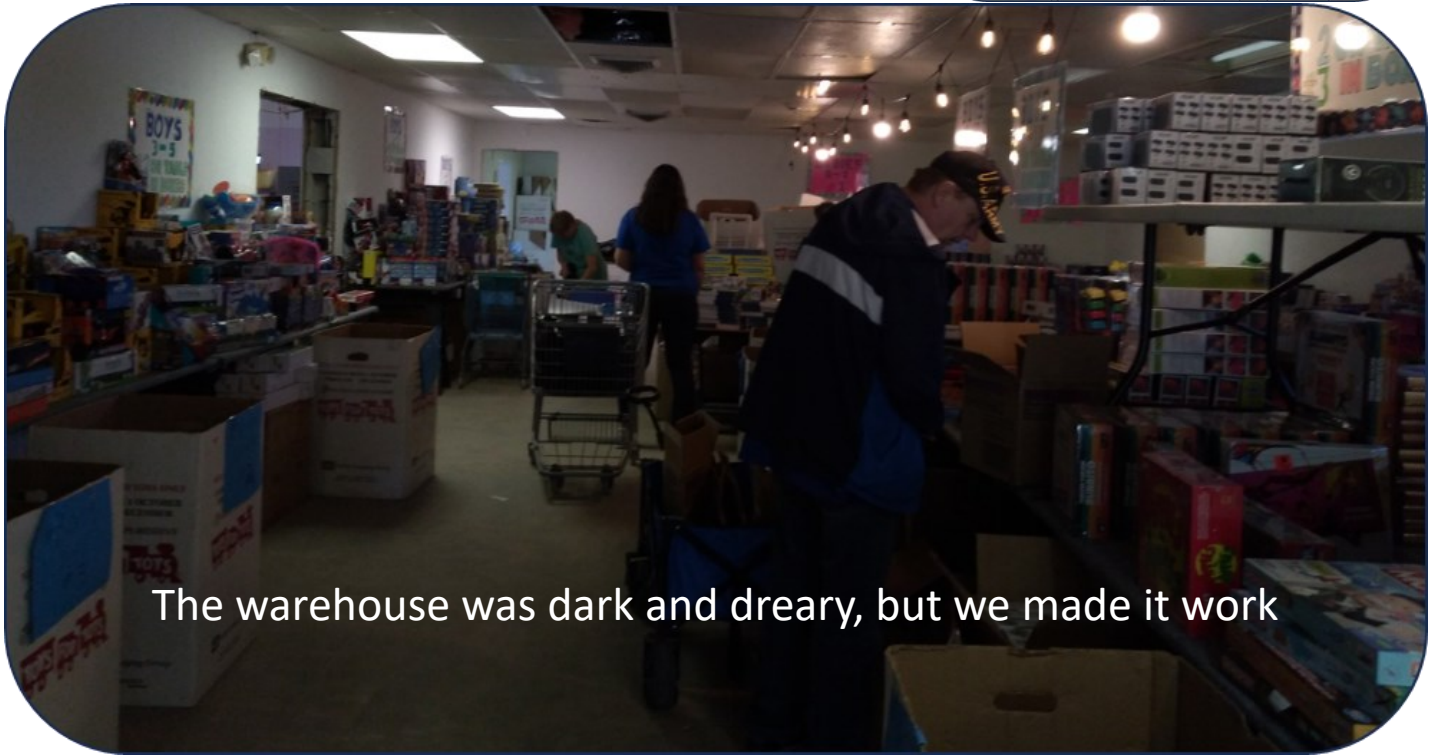


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# TOYS FOR TOTS

Manatee County 2023  
Sponsored by Marine Corps League  
Desoto Detachment 588



The warehouse was dark and dreary, but we made it work





# A Short History of Marine Recruit Depot Parris Island

By John D'Alusio – Historian, MCL Detachment 588

Parris Island, the “Sand Flea Capital” of the USMC has a long history that dates back to the Civil War. As every Marine who has endured boot camp on this South Carolina coastal island knows, in the summer the place is swampy, hot, humid, sweat inducing, fetid, and largely unendurable. In the winter, it is cold, windy, still humid (which makes it feel colder), with mostly gray sky (but the sand fleas hibernate). For those who have forgotten (or never learned), the history of how this area became MRDPI is quite interesting.

On 2 November, 1861 the first Marines in the area of Parris Island sailed into Port Royal Harbor, S.C., as members of detachments aboard various ships with the Union Navy Atlantic Blockading Squadron. Commanding officer, Navy Captain Samuel Du Pont, seized the area and it was used as an important base for the Union Navy throughout the balance of the Civil War.

After the Civil War concluded, the area remained a backwater until an act of Congress authorized the establishment and construction of a coaling dock and naval storehouse at Port Royal Harbor. A select group of naval officers (Marines would have definitely passed on this selection by the Navy) chose Parris Island as the site on 7 August, 1882.

On 26 June, 1891, to help protect the interests of the government during construction, a Marine guard of 13 men (comprising one sergeant, two corporals, and 10 privates) was assigned to Port Royal, thus establishing the first Marine post on the island. Proper housing for the guard was beyond slow in materializing, with the Marines finally moving into barracks almost two years after the post was created.

1st Lt. Clarence Ingate was the first officer assigned to command the Marine detachment at Port Royal. On 15 September, 1896, with the succession of command to 1st Lt. Henry C. Haines, the detachment became Marine Barracks, U.S. Naval Station, Port Royal, S.C.

On 1 January, 1909 the designated Marine Barracks became Marine Officers' School, U.S. Naval Station, Port Royal, S.C., with the purpose of indoctrinating newly commissioned officers.

On 1 June, 1911 a recruit depot began operation at Port Royal on a three-company basis as a secondary function of the Marine Officers' School, after it had been postponed from its original startup date of November 1910. This marked the beginning of Parris Island as a recruit training depot.

Between 1911 and 1915 the Marine Officers' School and two recruit companies transferred to Norfolk, Va., after the Department of the Navy decided to use Port Royal for a disciplinary installation.

On 25 October, 1915 the recruit depot separated from the officers' school and returned to Port Royal. It was established as Marine Barracks, Port Royal, S.C., with the principal mission of training enlisted Marine recruits. Three days later, the Navy transferred the land and buildings to the Marine Corps.

The US entered WW I in April of 1917. That spurred a massive expansion of Parris Island Marine Recruit Depot installations, the number of Marines trained, and the type of instruction recruits received in order to meet the demands of training for combat in World War I. It was also during this time that Marine Barracks, Port Royal, was re-designated as Marine Barracks, Paris Island, and the government took possession of the remaining private land on Parris Island. Marine Corps Order No. 32 officially changed the name "Paris" to "Parris" on 3 May, 1919.

From November 1918 until December 1941 Parris Island continued to thrive as a Marine recruit depot in the early years between World War I and World War II, as well as having an advanced training seagoing depot, field music school and aviation elements. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the number of recruits trained drastically fell and other operations on the island also plummeted, reflecting the overall parlous state of America's military. Increasing global hostilities in late 1939 brought a revival to the recruit depot and in the two years prior to the United States' entrance into World War II, Parris Island underwent a massive construction phase that resulted in new barracks and training facilities.

During World War II, Parris Island staggered under the weight of a massive number of incoming recruits until shortened training periods were implemented to relieve the congestion and meet demands for trained Marines for the Pacific Theater. Later, as the influx of recruits slowed slightly and deficiencies in the shortened program were noticeable, training was once again increased to better prepare Marines for combat. Approximately 200,000 recruits were trained at Parris Island during the war, including Women Marine Reservists.

In February 1949, female recruits began arriving at Parris Island to form the first platoon of “Women Marine” regulars after the Marine Corps began accepting women into the service following the passage of The Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. Parris Island remained the only recruit depot to train enlisted female Marines until just several years ago when female recruits began training at Marine Recruiting Depot San Diego. Segregated African-American recruits who had previously trained at Montford Point near Camp Lejeune, N.C., also began training at Parris Island in 1949, as the US Armed Forces became desegregated at this time.

The Korean War began in June 1950. Parris Island once again witnessed an increase in the number of recruits to meet the demand for combat troops for the Korean War. The number of recruits overwhelmed the number of available experienced drill instructors, leading to the re-establishment of the Drill Instructors' School during this time. Approximately, 138,000 Marines graduated from Parris Island during the three years of war.

On 8 April, 1956 tragedy struck Parris Island when six recruits drowned during a late night march after SSgt. Matt McKeon led his recruit platoon into Ribbon Creek, one of the tidal streams on Parris Island. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Randolph Pate, ordered better supervision of the drill instructors and enhanced training in general to assure that there would never be a repeat of the “Ribbon Creek Death March” incident.

From 1962 to 1973 more than 200,000 recruits trained at Parris Island during the Vietnam War. As in WW II, training was cut from 12 to 10 weeks to accommodate the number of recruits, and the insatiable demand for Marines in Vietnam.

On 1 April, 1976 Parris Island Recruit Depot was re-designated as Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Eastern Recruiting Region, Parris Island, S.C.

In December of 1996, recruit training revamped for inclusion of more values-based training and “The Crucible,” a 54-hour culminating event. Training schedules for both male and female recruits “enjoyed” a 12-week boot camp training schedule.

In November 2022, 4th Recruit Training Battalion graduated their last all female company.

In March 2023, 4th Recruit Training Battalion deactivated, marking “gender integration.”

Those who have stood on the yellow footsteps at Parris Island will never forget their time there. Marine recruits today stand on the shoulders of all those who have come before them to serve their Corps and country.





*The young men and women of Clearwater Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol are asking for your generous support. Our squadron has been invited to participate in and provide an Honor Guard for the official commemoration events for the 80th anniversary of D-Day in various locations throughout the Normandy region of France.*

*Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is the all-volunteer auxiliary to the United States Air Force. The Clearwater Composite Squadron was chartered on December 24, 1984, and since that date it has supported Pinellas County and surrounding areas with aerospace education, emergency services, and youth development programs.*

*The host organization for the commemoration events, Historic Programs, has invited our squadron to be its uniformed representatives in all official activities during the commemoration, including its parade and wreath laying events at area military cemeteries. Clearwater Composite Squadron members, color guard, and marching element will be the only official representatives of the host organization, and the only Civil Air Patrol squadron from the United States participating in the events.*

*Your generous support will help us make this once-in-a-lifetime experience possible. We will be taking sixty of our highly trained volunteers (approximately 40 youth and 20 adult squadron members) on this historic 7-day journey at an average cost of \$4,458.00 per member. Our squadron draws its membership from across Pinellas, southern Pasco, and western Hillsborough counties. In order to offer this opportunity to the most deserving members of the squadron regardless of ability to pay, we are depending on the generosity of individual, corporate, and foundation sponsors like you.*

*In appreciation for your support, sponsors will be recognized across all our marketing and public relations channels, including team apparel, as well as local and state-wide social media, print, and various other platforms detailed below.*

TO DONATE:

<https://givebutter.com/CAP447>

If you choose to donate, please mention my granddaughter, Ava Bernhard, if possible, who is a Squadron member.

Thanks, Amity Edwards



Editors Note:

*I know this is Air Force related, but when young folks are involved in a volunteer civic activity we should support them.*

# BUNKER MEALS

TUESDAY JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

HOME MADE GUMBO W/RICE & FRENCH BREAD: \$5.00

TUESDAY JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>

SMOKED SAUSAGE, GRILLED ONIONS & PERIOGIES: \$6.00

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>

SPAGHETTI MEAT BALLS, SALAD, GARLIC BREAD: \$5.00

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>

TACO TUESDAY SOFT OR HARD: 2 FOR \$5.00

TUESDAY MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>

GOLUMPKI (STUFFED CABBAGE) W/HARD ROLLS: \$6.00

TUESDAY MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>

CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS W/MASHED POTATOES: \$6.00

**Prepared by a Chef .**

**You can't get a better deal anywhere.**

**Served until it runs out.**





## Free Entrance to National Parks

Explore the outdoors. You can use your [Veteran ID Card \(VIC\)](#) to gain free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including [national parks](#), wildlife refuges, and forests. Gold Star Families and Veterans can [enjoy a variety of activities like camping, hiking, biking, and much more.](#)

### Bunker Announcements :

- **NO CHILDREN are allowed to sit at the bar.** (For legal purposes, this means anyone under the age of 18, though the label may also apply to a few unnamed grunts). Minors must sit at tables or high tops only.
- **Guests are permitted 3 visits to The Bunker.** Upon the 3rd visit, they will be required to submit a membership application before returning.
- Non-members will be assessed an additional **\$.50 surcharge** on drinks.
- When playing the dice, **3 of a kind gets a free drink** of the kind already purchased, **4 of a kind gets 2 free drinks** of the kind already purchased. Five of a kind receives the monetary amount based on the roll sequence.
- When you are going to use free drink chips to pay for your drinks, **let the bartender know before they tally your “cash out” on the computer.** If you produce the chips after they produce the “cash out” total, it causes issues. Be considerate of your volunteer bartenders and **TIP THEM WELL.**
- If you can, **pay your bar tab with cash.** We do accept credit cards, however the Bunker is charged a fee. You are welcome to use your credit card, but if you have the cash please use it.
- **FINALLY, THE BUNKER IS OPEN TILL 2100 ON FRIDAY NIGHTS AGAIN!**

# Support your Detachment.

# TIME TO PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!

Dues were due August 21st. Please pay them promptly in order to continue your membership and to be able to enjoy the benefits of the Bunker. Maybe it is time to think about a Life Membership.

If you have service connected disabilities and hold a VA Card indicating that, you can go to the Myakka State Park Rangers Office, off of State Road 72, and be issued a pass.



## MISSION AND PURPOSE

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines and FMF Navy Personnel who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

Dedicated to supporting our local veterans and enriching our community, DeSoto Detachment #588 is the local arm of the Marine Corps League, serving the greater Bradenton/Sarasota area. Annual initiatives include Honor Guard and honors services for fallen service members, Toys for Tots drive, charity golf tournament, USMC Ball, scholarships and support for Young Marines, and other community initiatives that support or honor US Marines and their families.



**AWARDS:**

Marines who have been discharged, separated or retired on or before 1 January 2001 should submit their inquiry to:

National Personnel Record Center  
Military Personnel Records  
1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO 63138  
Phone: (314) 801-0800

**Members and Associate Members, male or female, consider joining our Honor Guard.**

**We can teach you everything you need to know.**

### Marine Corps Rule # 14

***Marines will protect their assigned FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains at all costs, as many of those Corpsmen and Chaplains will and have died protecting their Marines.***

**The Desoto Detachment Honor Guard practice has been moved to the last Monday of each month at 1730.**

**YOU can become a member of the Honor Guard, both Members and Associate Members are welcome. No experience necessary.**

**For more Information, contact Matt Richardson at the Bunker.**

**How may I get copies or information from my official military records or for those of a family member or military person I am researching?**

Write:

National Personnel Records Center  
Military Personnel Records  
9700 Page Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

The fax request number is (314) 801-9195. The Center will respond in writing by U.S. Mail. Or visit the National Personnel Records Center online at:<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>.

Or you may also call at: 314-801-0800.

**How do I find out what medals and awards for which I am eligible?**

Write:

Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps  
Military Awards Branch (Code MMMA)  
2008 Elliot Road  
Quantico, VA 22134-5030

**Members and Associate Members, male or female, consider  
joining our Honor Guard.**

**We can teach you everything you need to know.**

**LOCAL AGENCY THAT CAN HELP VETERANS IN NEED**

**Supportive Service for Veteran Families (SSVF)**. *Administered by  
Turning Points in Bradenton. Contact them at 941-747-1509. They are  
located at 701 17th Avenue West, Bradenton Florida 34205. Services  
available include: Outreach Services, Case Management Services,  
Assistance Obtaining VA benefits, Assistance obtaining other Public  
Benefits, Rental Assistance, Utility-Fee Payment Assistance, Child Care  
and other Qualifying Services, and Transportation.*





If you, or someone you know needs help, support is available 24/7. Service members and their families can call Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647, or chat at [militaryonesource.mil](https://militaryonesource.mil). Service members, veterans, and their loved ones can also call the Military and Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat at [veteranscrisisline.net](https://veteranscrisisline.net), or text to 838255.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available to anyone at **1-800-273-8255**.

**STOLEN VALOR.....**Don't imposters know it is very easy to verify valorous claims in these days of Google and other search engines? There are a lot of fakers out there claiming to be something that they are not.

It is very easy to ascertain heroic status, both in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Don't be a faker. If you earned it, wear it with pride,  
if you didn't earn it go crawl back in your hole with the other worms.

For more information about these worms,

Go to:

<http://www.stolenvalor.com/index.cfm>

Or

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Victoria\\_Cross\\_recipients\\_by\\_campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Victoria_Cross_recipients_by_campaign)

**IT'S OUR DUTY TO EXPOSE IMPOSTERS,**  
**BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.**

If you need help with benefits claims, contact the  
Manatee County Veteran's Service Office at

**(941) 745-3795**

## VETERANS SERVICES

Here in Manatee County, we appreciate our Veterans for their service and sacrifice and are happy to assist. You will always be treated with respect, courtesy, and compassion while at our office. Again, thank you for your service and we hope to hear from you in the near future.

Our office is committed to providing you professional assistance and guidance throughout your entire VA claim process. There is absolutely **no fee or cost** for our services or for the submission of a claim for VA benefits.

**These have been paid in full  
by your service.**

**Please keep Bonnie Grote,  
Rex Williams, Paul Turner,  
John Olexa, and Frank  
Hartman in your thoughts  
and prayers. They are all  
experiencing significant  
health issues.**

**If you know of members  
who are sick or in distress,  
please call our Chaplain,  
Ron Schneider  
941-749-5799**



### Military Stories

We are collecting stories by and about military personnel. The stories will be posted on: [www.militarystories.us](http://www.militarystories.us)

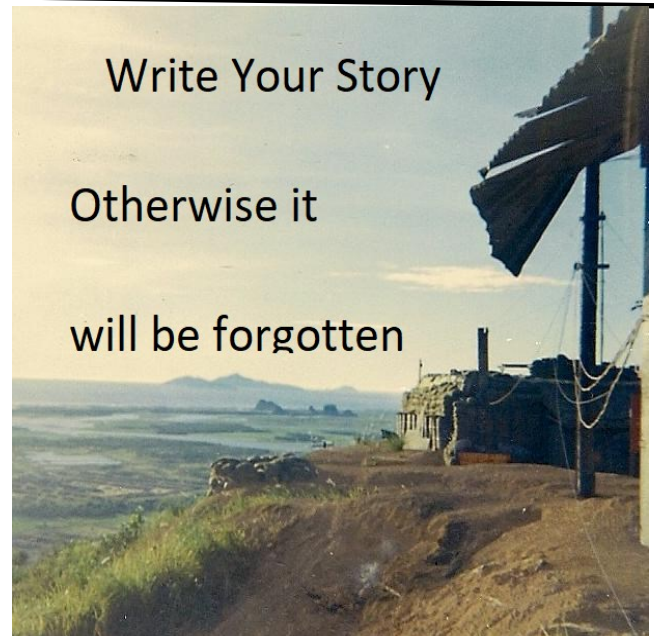
If you would like to have your story published email your story to Craig Hullinger at:

[craighullinger@gmail.com](mailto:craighullinger@gmail.com)

Your story can be long or short. The story can cover an interesting event or your entire life. You can write about yourself or a friend or relative that you would like to honor.

Pictures are worth a thousand words. You can write the story for a relative, friend, or ancestor. You can add to your story. We look forward to publishing your story on the blog.

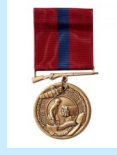
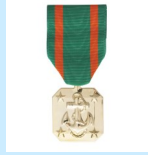
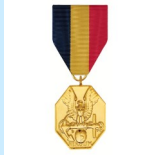
Thank you for your stories.





**Where to write for your medals  
(no cost to you):**

**Navy Personnel Command  
Liaison Office Room 5409  
9700 Page Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100**



**BAR POKER**

**EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

**3:00 –5:00 PM**

**AT THE BUNKER**

**Our Detachment has a new website that is now up and running.**

**Please visit it at: [MCL588.org](http://MCL588.org). The website will host announcements, photos, archived newsletters, etc. So go right now and put [MCL588.Org](http://MCL588.Org) into your browser.**

**Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1**

BUNKER MEALS

TUESDAY JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

HOME MADE GUMBO W/RICE & FRENCH BREAD: \$5.00

TUESDAY JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>

SMOKED SAUSAGE, GRILLED ONIONS & PERIOGIES: \$6.00

**MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION**  
715 Broadway St., Quantico, VA 22134  
(866) 622-1775, ext. 100, Fax: (703) 640-0162  
[mca@mca-marines.org](mailto:mca@mca-marines.org)

- **Leatherneck Magazine**  
(888) 237-7683; Fax: (703) 640-0823  
[leatherneck@mca-marines.org](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org)
- **Marine Corps Gazette**  
(800) 336-0291, ext. 144; Fax: (703) 630-9147  
[gazette@mca-marines.org](mailto:gazette@mca-marines.org)





# SCUTTLEBUTT

## The Word



- ⇒ When is the last time you invited a potential member to the Bunker or to a MCL Meeting? Invite that guy or gal down the street that has the USMC decal on their car.
- ⇒ See JOE INTOPPA to become a celebrity poker dealer for Bar Poker. Little to no experience required.
- ⇒ Send your photos, articles or announcements to Editor Bob Fields for inclusion in the Bunker News. Send to Jarhead@BrightHouse.com by the 25th of the month.
- ⇒ The Bunker is now open on Sundays 1100-1800 & Friday's until 2100.
- ⇒ HONOR GUARD PRACTICE LAST MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 1700. COME JOIN IN, NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WELCOME.

*Remember to always tip your*

**VOLUNTEER BARTENDERS**

*at the Bunker very generously.*

**They are unpaid and giving up their**

**time to keep**

**the Bunker Running.**

**Bar Manners:** It certainly isn't mandatory, but when a member wins a large pot on dice, the stamps or pull tab cards, it is generally an accepted practice to **tip the bartender very generously, and to buy the bar a round of drinks.**

**People who win big money and just leave a drink chip or small tip are frowned upon by all and called names that I can't put in print.**



# MARINE CORPS HISTORY IN JANUARY

**10 January 1995:** The Pentagon announced that 2,600 U.S. Marines would be deployed to Somalia for Operation United Shield to assist in the final withdrawal of UN peacekeeping troops from Somalia. The decision came in response to a UN request for American protection of its peacekeeping forces serving in the war-torn African nation.

**11 January 1945:** The first elements of Marine Aircraft Group 24, commanded by Colonel Lyle H. Meyer, landed at Lingayen, Luzon, Philippine Islands, to provide close air support for Army forces. Over the next three months, MAG-24 and MAG-32 would fly a total of 8,842 combat sorties and drop more than 19,000 bombs as part of the Fifth Air Force in support of the Sixth Army.

**16 January 1991:** Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm as forces of the allied coalition launched an all-out air campaign against targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait in an effort to liberate Kuwait and enforce the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. Overall, in the theater of operations, the coalition forces included more than 415,000 U.S. troops.

**18 January 1951:** Marines of the 1st Marine Division began mopping-up operations against guerrillas in the Pohang area, South Korea, following the Division's return from its epic battle with Communist Chinese troops at the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir.

**20 January 1968:** The second battle for Khe Sanh began when Marines from the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines attacked a North Vietnamese battalion between Hill 881 South and Hill 881 North. More than 100 of the enemy were killed.

**21 January 1918:** The 1st Aeronautical Company arrived at Ponta Delgada, Azores, for anti-submarine duty. That unit was one of the first completely equipped American aviation units to serve overseas in World War I.

**22 January 1969:** Operation Dewey Canyon, perhaps the most successful high-mobility regimental-size action of the Vietnam War, began in the A Shau/Da Krong Valleys when the 9th Marines, commanded by Colonel Robert H. Barrow, and supporting artillery were lifted from Quang Tri. By 18 March the enemy's base area had been cleared out, 1617 enemy dead had been counted, and more than 500 tons of weapons and ammunition unearthed.

**25 January 1856:** Marines and seamen from the U.S. sloop DECATUR went ashore at the village of Seattle, Washington, to protect settlers from Indian raids. The Indians launched a seven-hour attack but were driven off later that day after suffering severe losses. Incredibly, only two civilian volunteers were killed and no Marines or sailors were lost.

**27 January 1988:** About 400 Marines and sailors from the 2d Marine Division, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, and 2d Force Service Support Group deployed for the Persian Gulf. The Contingency Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) CM 2-88 would relieve Contingency MAGTF 1-88 in the volatile Persian Gulf and provide the effective landing force capability to Joint Task Force Middle East.

**29 January 1991:** The first serious ground fighting of Operation Desert Storm broke out when Iraqi troops mounted an attack into Saudi Arabia along a 40-mile front. Iraqi units centered their efforts on Khafji, a port city six miles south of the border. Saudi and Qatari troops, supported by artillery from the 1st Marine Division and attack helicopters and other allied coalition aircraft, recaptured the town two days later.



**FIRST LIEUTENANT  
WESLEY L. FOX**

**Born: SEPTEMBER 30, 1931**

**Died: NOVEMBER 24, 2017**

**Hometown: HERNDON VIRGINIA**



The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to

**FIRST LIEUTENANT  
WESLEY L. FOX  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as commanding officer of Company A, in action against the enemy in the northern A Shau Valley. Capt. (then 1st Lt.) Fox's company came under intense fire from a large well concealed enemy force. Capt. Fox maneuvered to a position from which he could assess the situation and confer with his platoon leaders. As they departed to execute the plan he had devised, the enemy attacked and Capt. Fox was wounded along with all of the other members of the command group, except the executive officer. Capt. Fox continued to direct the activity of his company. Advancing through heavy enemy fire, he personally neutralized 1 enemy position and calmly ordered an assault against the hostile emplacements. He then moved through the hazardous area coordinating aircraft support with the activities of his men. When his executive officer was mortally wounded, Capt. Fox reorganized the company and directed the fire of his men as they hurled grenades against the enemy and drove the hostile forces into retreat. Wounded again in the final assault, Capt. Fox refused medical attention, established a defensive posture, and supervised the preparation of casualties for medical evacuation. His indomitable courage, inspiring initiative, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of grave personal danger inspired his Marines to such aggressive action that they overcame all enemy resistance and destroyed a large bunker complex. Capt. Fox's heroic actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Marine Corps, and uphold the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

/S/ Richard M. Nixon



EDITORS NOTE: *In addition to all of his awards, please note the four stars on the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal. Mustang Officer.*