



Bunker News



**A MULTIPLE
AWARD WINNING
NEWSLETTER!**

MARCH 2024



OFFICERS

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Joe Filice
863-245-3540

Sr. Vice Commandant

David H. Matthews
941-323-1509

Jr. Vice Commandant

Dave Hildebrand
610-804-9299

Judge Advocate

Everett Whipple
678-634-7497

Pay Master

Ron Kosey
941-812-3426

Adjutant

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941-504-3693

Sergeant at Arms

Matt Richards
941-524-8690

Chaplain

Ron Schneider
941-749-5799

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John D'Alusio
941-209-8873

Jr. Past Commandant

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941-807-2490

Submit Bunker News input to

Bob Fields, Editor at
Jarhead@Brighthouse.com or
RMFields0117@gmail.com
On 941-504-3693

DESOTO DETACHMENT 588, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Website: MCL588.Org

Happy Saint Paddy's Day!

We are definitely in the party season! There has barely been time to recover from the Kansas Day celebration and now St. Patrick's Day is upon us. Our Italian Bar Manager will be shopping at a German grocery store (Aldi) for the St. Paddy's day festivities at the Bunker which will commence at 1300 on Sunday, 17 March. It should be an oddly international event with the above mentioned Italian Bar Manager promising to wear his favorite St. Paddy's Day Italian shirt (hopefully, more than just the shirt)! I have not heard if any of the beer will be green, whether intentionally or accidentally. Corned beef sandwiches will be available and members are encouraged to bring sides or desserts. Depending on how many St. Paddy's day traditions are observed, wearing something green is a good idea. Most of us can probably lay hands on something olive green without much trouble.



Unfortunately, we have lost another member. Cathie Martel passed away unexpectedly. Please keep Tom in your thoughts and prayers. Whip gave us a scare but he is home from the hospital. Hopefully, he will soon be back at the Bunker reminding us not to take ourselves too seriously.

The 2024 Department of Florida Spring Conference is coming up 11 through 14 April. The Conference will be held at the Best Western Grand Hotel & Conference Center, 4200 NW 97th Blvd, Gainesville, FL. Forms and details are on the MCL Department of Florida website (<https://mcl dof.org/>). One item of note is an effort to change the Commandant of the Year award to Detachment of the Year. The change will be voted on at 1400 on the first day of the conference. The website also has information on the Department of Florida Convention to be held 6-9 June at the Hilton Melbourne.

Continued to following page:

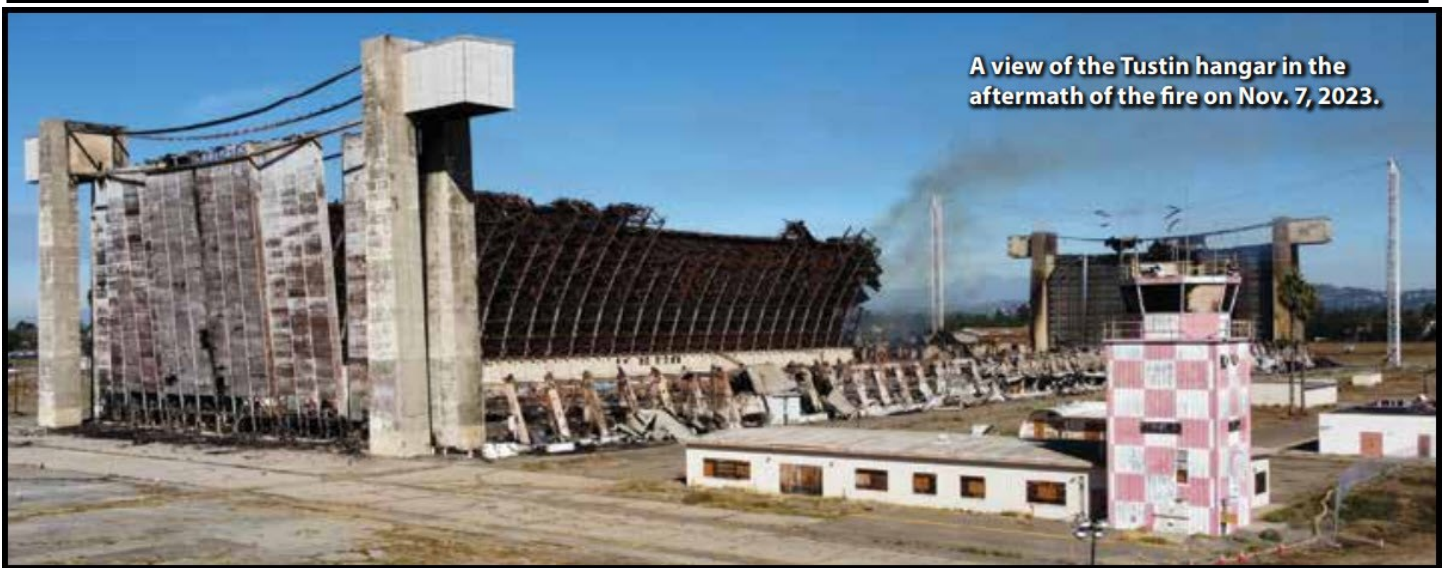
Many thanks to those few board members who were actually present rather than merely accounted for at the February meeting. Special thanks to Dave Matthews and John D'Alusio for donning multiple hats to save the day. Cindy and I had a great time in Savannah. Between surgery and sickness, I suspect that the other absent members had far less satisfying experiences. Hopefully, everyone will be healed or recovered for our next meeting. I look forward to meeting our many new members at the Bunker.

The clock is ticking on our countdown to cash only on 1 April. Interestingly, we encountered some, cash only establishments in Savannah including the famous, Mrs. Wilkes Dining Room.

Have a safe March.

Semper Fi,

Joe



A view of the Tustin hangar in the aftermath of the fire on Nov. 7, 2023.

For those Marines who were ever stationed at MCAS(H) Tustin in California, you would remember the giant blimp hangers. In November the largest hanger caught fire and was totally destroyed. Entire squadrons of helicopters could be arranged in this hanger it was so big. With the demise of this hanger there is now very little left of the base. Some of you may recall that it was named Santa Ana, then changed to Tustin.

Editor's Note: Both my wife and I were stationed at Naval Air Station Lakehurst New Jersey where the even larger blimp hanger was, and it was so large, that sometimes a layer of stratus clouds would actually form in the hanger, and it would rain inside the hanger.



Marine Corps League

Desoto Detachment 588

Event Calendar for MARCH 2024

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



3/1	6:00 PM	KARAOKE @ THE BUNKER!
3/2	3:00 PM	BAR POKER @ THE BUNKER WITH HOT DAWGS!
3/3	3:00 PM	TRIVIA WARS WITH THE WHIP @ THE BUNKER!
3/6	12:00 PM	BURGER DAY @ THE BUNKER!
3/7	12:00 PM	GULOMPKI WITH CACIOE PEPE ROASTED POTATOS!
3/8	6:00 PM	KARAOKE @ THE BUNKER!
3/9	3:00 PM	BAR POKER @ THE BUNKER WITH HOT DAWGS!
3/10	3:00 PM	TRIVIA BATTLES WITH THE WHIP @ THE BUNKER!
03/11	6:15 PM	E BOARD MEETING @ THE BUNKER!
03/13	12:00 PM	BURGER DAY @ THE BUNKER!
03/13	12:00 PM	RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE FOR THE BULLPUP SHOTGUN!
03/15	6:00 PM	KARAOKE @ THE BUNKER!
03/16	3:00 PM	BAR POKER @ THE BUNKER WITH HOT DAWGS!
03/17	3:00 PM	ST PATRICKS DAY PARTY AT THE BUNKER! WEAR SOME GREEN!
03/18	6:30 PM	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING @ THE BUNKER!
03/20	12:00 PM	BURGER DAY @ THE BUNKER!
03/21	12:00 PM	CHICKEN N DUMPLINGS WITH HAWAIIAN ROLLS
03/22	6:00 PM	KARAOKE @ THE BUNKER!
03/23	3:00 PM	BAR POKER @ THE BUNKER WITH HOT DAWGS!
03/24	3:00 PM	TRIVIA CLASH WITH THE WHIP @ BUNKER!
03/27	12:00 PM	BURGER DAY @ THE BUNKER!
03/29	6:00 PM	KARAOKE @ THE BUNKER!
03/30	3:00 PM	BAR POKER @ THE BUNKER WITH HOT DAWGS!
03/31	3:00 PM	TRIVIA CLASH WITH THE WHIP @ BUNKER!

The Celebration of Cathie Martel's life will be in the afternoon of Saturday March 16th. Time is fluid, based on when Tom and family members return from the National Cemetery.



The Bunker for many years was successfully run as an all cash organization. With the increase in operating costs and the fact we pay an average of 3% on every credit/debit card used, along with a fee for all cash backs, it has been decided as of April 1, 2024 we will revert back to being a cash only business. At that time credit / debit cards will no longer be accepted. This may initially be inconvenient for some, however we would prefer to cut overhead than be forced to raise prices. I'm certain we all share the same goal which is to see our organization succeed.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FEBRUARY 2024



Marines John Alexander and John Marcinkiewicz were sworn in as the newest regular members of Detachment 588. Shown receiving their pins of membership. Welcome aboard!



The following new Associate Members were inducted into the Desoto Detachment:

**Jill Augevich
Gina Colavolpe
Gale Ehrhorn
Jamie Gossett
Frederick Rosenlund
Luz Rosenlund
Jeanne Ruleau
Michael Sudderth
John Waradly
David Ware
James Warren
Rosie Rosado**

Since I was not there, photos were provided to me by various people in attendance. I will post several of those photos on the following page.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FEBRUARY 2024



This meeting was well attended. The Commandant and the Adjutant were both absent due to prior commitments, but the crew picked up the slack and carried on.

Let's everyone welcome all of our new members and Associate members to the Desoto Detachment.

I sincerely hope that someone schooled them on the need of a "Challenge Coin", since there is always someone (me) who just feels obligated to slap the bar top with a challenge coin.



Welcome Aboard!

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

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE:

Section 7050. Life Members. Effective 1 September 2021 the Life Membership fee shall be as established by the National Board of Trustees and shall be posted on the National Website.

The National Board of Trustees has the fiduciary responsibility for the operation and budget requirements of the Marine Corps League. The last time fees were adjusted was 19 years ago. The National Board of Trustees voted and approved the following:

Effective 1 July 2023, the Life Membership Fees will increase as per the following chart:

- \$1000.00 – 35 years of age and lower
- \$ 800.00 – 36-50 years of age
- \$ 600.00 – 51-64 years of age
- \$ 400.00 – 65-84 years of age
- \$ 100.00 – 85 years of age and higher

The above Fees are only available if the member's annual dues have been paid and the member is in good standing.

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 21st 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!

Goodwill
MANASOTA



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/>

[The+U.S.+National+Archives+%26+Records+Administration;](https://www.archives.gov/st-louis)

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



Bar Poker on Saturday, February 10th was literally a "Full House". Fortunes were won, fortunes were lost, everyone had a good time, except Kevin, he had a great time. Be sure to be at the Bunker on Saturdays for Bar Poker. It starts at 3:00 PM.

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.

BUNKER MEALS

THURSDAY MARCH 7TH

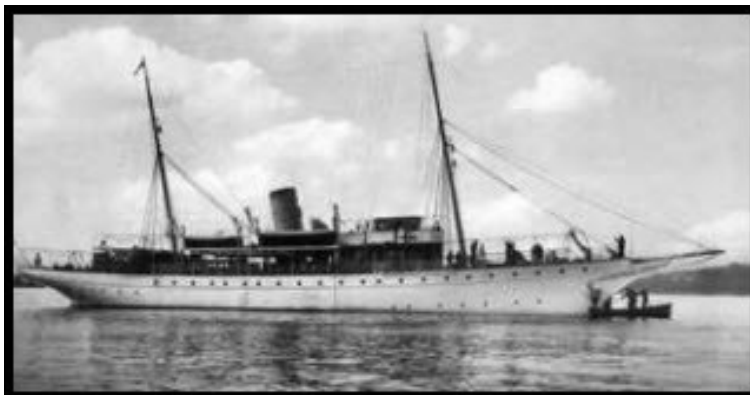
GOLUMPKI (STUFFED CABBAGE WRAPS)) WITH CACIOE PEPE ROASTED
POTATOS: \$6.00

THURSDAY MARCH 21ST

CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS WITH HAWAIIAN ROLLS: \$6.00

Prepared by Chef Jim Kaskey.

You can't get a better deal anywhere. Served until it runs out.



DID YOU KNOW? The luxury steam yacht “Nohab” formerly owned by Kaiser Wilhelm II lies just sixteen miles WNW of Ana Maria Island in 65 feet of water. Locally it is known as the “South Jack”. A great dive site.



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”



**DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

SAVE THE DATE

**June 6--9
2024
DOF MCL
CONVENTION**



Hilton Melbourne Rialto

**Mark your calendars,
make your plans to attend the
Department of Florida MCL
2024 Convention**

**Convention Packet scheduled to
be distributed
FEBRUARY 2024**

Glenn Weik (L) of the Marine Corps League Post 588, "The Bunker" presents Jerry Ham (R) with his winning raffle prize a S&W SD9VE 4" 9mm w/Fiber Optic sights & a Crimson Trace LG-457 Laserguard red dot laser. This is amazingly the third firearms raffle that Jerry has won at the Bunker. The first raffle was a 5.56 AR-15, then came a 4" 357 mag revolver and now a 9mm semi auto pistol. He purchased 3 tickets at \$10 each for each raffle with only 100 tickets sold. He can't explain his luck of the draw and says this is his best way to support the activities of the Bunker since he can't attend meetings at night as his wife has Parkinson's and he can't leave her alone for any length of time. He likes to drop in at the Bunker on Thursday when he has a aide for his wife & can socialize with the members of the Post. He takes the boos and curses in stride when he walks in. He says he will probably have to wear a bullet proof and curse proof vest when he visits the Bunker after winning the latest raffle.



And while we are talking gun raffles, read on to the next page.

And the next raffle is.....



At noon on March 13th, Glenn brings us another opportunity to win a weapon raffle. This is a Tokarev TBP 12. It is a 12 gauge Bullpup Shotgun. This makes a great home defense weapon. There will only be 100 tickets sold at \$10.00 each. Make sure you are there to get your tickets as they will go fast.

Tokarev - TBP 12 - Semi-Auto Bullpup Shotgun - 18.5" Barrel - 12 Gauge - 5 Round Magazine - Folding Sights - SDS - TBP12.

All profit from these raffles go towards operating funds for the Detachment.



Editors Note: If Jerry wins this one too, then I am hog tying him and taking him to WAWA and have him buy me some lotto tickets.

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

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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.

USMC Sniper Chuck Mawhinney

By John D'Alusio, Historian – MCL 588 Detachment

When Vietnam era Marine snipers are discussed, the name everyone remembers is Carlos Hathcock. But Chuck Mawhinney is the Marine who holds the Corps' record for the most confirmed sniper kills, having recorded 103 kills and 216 probable kills in 16 months during the Vietnam War.

Charles B. Mawhinney, the son of a World War II Marine Corps veteran, was born on February 23, 1949, in Lakeview, Oregon, and was a consummate hunter in his youth. He graduated from high school in June 1967 and joined the USMC later that year (after deer season concluded).

Following his enlistment, Mawhinney went to boot camp at MRDSD. After graduation, he attended Scout Sniper School at Camp Pendleton and graduated in April 1968.

Mawhinney received orders to South Vietnam where upon he was assigned as a rifleman to Lima Company 1/5, 1st Marine Division. He remained in this unit for three months until he was re-assigned to 5th Marine Regiment HQ Scout Sniper Platoon. There he worked as a scout sniper for different companies with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions. He also worked with the South Korean Marines, Force Recon, but the majority of his time was with Delta Company, 1/5 Marines. He used an M40 Bolt-Action scoped sniper rifle chambered in .308. During this tour he is credited with 103 confirmed North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Viet Cong (VC) kills and 216 probable kills. He spent 16 months in Vietnam, starting in May 1968.

In his most famous battle with the enemy on Valentine's Day 1969, Mawhinney encountered an NVA platoon and killed 16 soldiers, a third of the entire force, all with head shots.

"It was the ultimate hunting trip: a man hunting another man who was hunting me," Mawhinney told the *Los Angeles Times*. "Don't talk to me about hunting lions or elephants; they don't fight back with rifles and scopes. But I just loved it."

Mawhinney sought to change the public perception about snipers, who he maintained saved lives by sapping the enemy's will to fight. "My rules of engagement were simple: If they had a weapon, they were going down. Except for an unarmed NVA paymaster I hit at 900 yards, everyone I killed had a weapon."

Mawhinney's primary regret was the one that got away. After a leave from Vietnam, he returned and retrieved his weapon from the armorer, who assured Mawhinney that he had not altered the rifle in any way. But when Mawhinney spotted an enemy combatant at only 300 yards, a range at which he was always a deadly shot, he missed several times, and the man got away.

"I can't help thinking about how many people that he may have killed later, how many of my friends, how many Marines he may have killed or wounded. He deserved to die, but he got away. That still bothers me."

After a chaplain declared him to be suffering from combat fatigue, Mawhinney returned to the United States and served briefly as a marksmanship instructor at Camp Pendleton. His awards included a Bronze Star Medal with Combat Valor, Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat Valor and two Purple Hearts.

After mustering out of the Marine Corps in 1970, Mawhinney returned home to Lakeview, Oregon, married, sired a daughter, divorced, and then married again, fathering three boys with his second wife. He secured a job with the U.S. Forest Service for 27 years until his retirement in the late 1990s.

Like many combat veterans, Mawhinney was closed mouth and told no one about his service as a sniper, not even his wife. For more than twenty years, his signal accomplishments as a sniper were almost entirely unknown. Even Mawhinney himself did not know how his record compared to his peers.

In 1991, Mawhinney was suddenly thrust into the limelight when his exploits were recounted by fellow Marine sniper and author Joseph Ward in his book, *Dear Mom: A Sniper's Vietnam*.

In his book, Ward credited Mawhinney with 101 confirmed kills. This was controversial at the time, as it was generally believed that the 93 confirmed kills by the legendary Carlos Hathcock was more than any other American sniper. However, subsequent research showed that U.S. Army sniper Adelbert Waldron actually held the record, with 109 confirmed kills.

Mawhinney's documented total was found to be 103 confirmed kills, with an additional 216 "probable kills". A third Marine Corps sniper, Eric R. England, had 98 confirmed kills. Mawhinney was then recognized as the USMC sniper with the most confirmed kills, and the second most of any US service member behind Waldron.

The notoriety troubled Mawhinney at first, but then he accepted the fame and used the opportunity to train service men and lawmen in the art of long-distance shooting. Following the revelation of his extraordinary record as a sniper, Mawhinney slowly increased his public profile. Following his retirement from the Forest Service, he began speaking at conventions and public events and attending national sniper shooting competitions. Mawhinney's old friend, Jim Lindsay, eventually wrote a book about Mawhinney's exploits. Lindsay met Mawhinney in 1980 and, despite many hours spent together, only discovered his good friend's record while watching a documentary about snipers on the History Channel. Lindsay's book, "The Sniper: The Untold Story of the Marine Corps' Greatest Marksman of All Time," was published in March 2023 to Mawhinney's great satisfaction.

Mawhinney also became a spokesman for Strider Knives, which produces a knife bearing his signature on the blade. One of these knives is awarded to the top graduate of each class from the USMC Sniper School in Camp Pendleton, CA. Mawhinney continued to speak to classes of professional snipers in training until last year.

One of the M40 rifles he used in Vietnam is displayed in the Vietnam Gallery of the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA, where it has been shown since the Museum's opening in 2006.

Chuck Mawhinney recently passed away on 12 February, 2024, (just eleven days short of his 75th birthday) in Baker City, Oregon, where he lived.



Mawhinney with his M40 rifle.

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 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.



WHEN YOU BRING HOME THOSE DISCOUNT EGGS YOU BOUGHT AT A FARMER'S MARKET IN FLORIDA



Marine Corps Rule # 43

**“If you find yourself in a
fair fight,**

**You didn’t plan your
mission properly.”**

The Desoto Detachment
Honor Guard practice has
been moved to the last
WEDNESDAY 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.

Reunions

• **East Coast Drill Instructors Association**, April 11-14, MCRD Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller, USMC (Ret), (828) 499-0224, usmcpidi@charter.net.

• **Embassy Guard Association**, May 16-19, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Bob Lighty, (717) 433-1105, bob.lighty@embassymarine.org.

• **Marine Corps Weather Service**, June 16-21, Billings, Mont. Contact Kathy Donham, (252) 342-8459, kathy.donham@hotmail.com, or Dave Englert, (812) 630-2099, englertd@psci.net.

• **Mike Co 3/7 (1965-1970)**, July 31-Aug. 4, Minneapolis, Minn. Contact David Ray, (612) 860-8932, davidrayray49@gmail.com.

• **1st Bn, 5th Marines, 1985-1992**, Sept. 5-8, Macomb, Ill. Contact Scott Hainline, (309) 351-2050, ptimfi@yahoo.com.

• **USMC A-4 Skyhawkers**, Nov. 11-13, Pensacola Beach, Fla. All drivers, maintainers and aficionados welcome. Contact Mark Williams, (702) 778-5010, rogerwilcol4@gmail.com.

All Vote by Mail requests expired in 2022. Will you get your ballot in 2024?

Hello, I'm Mike Bennett, the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections with some important information I'd like to share about the 2024 election year.

Florida law passed in 2021 now requires voters to renew their vote by mail request after each general election. Any mail ballot requests made before November 2022 have expired.

Requesting a mail ballot is a simple and safe process that requires only your name, date of birth and the last four digits of your social security number or a valid Florida driver's license or ID card.

You can make your mail ballot request by visiting www.votemanatee.gov/VBM or by calling our office at (941) 741-3823 and pressing 1. Finally, you are always welcome to visit my office at 600 301 Blvd. W., Suite 108 in Bradenton.

Thank you,




Mike Bennett
Manatee County
Supervisor of Elections
www.VoteManatee.gov/VBM
(941) 741-3823, Ext. 1

Request your
mail ballot here.



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

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

The above notice was mailed out to Manatee County Voters who participate in vote by mail. I almost threw it away. After I finally did read it, I went to the website and renewed my vote by mail status. Took only about two minutes and was very easy to do.

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
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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. 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, 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

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,
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.

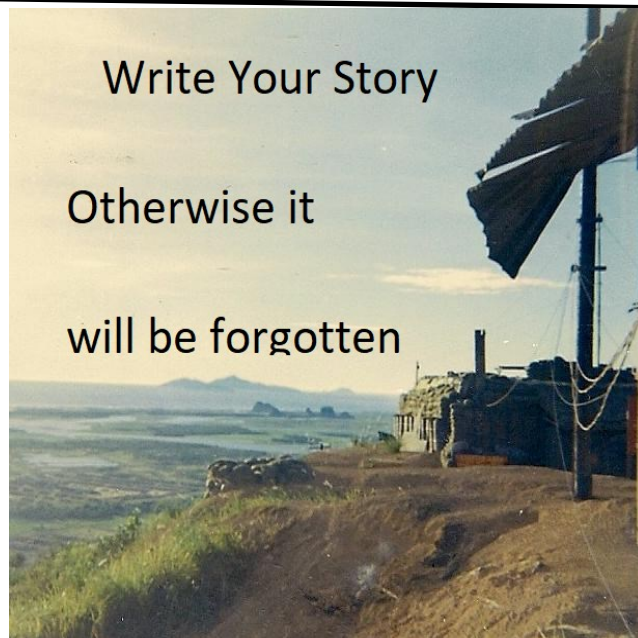
If you would like to have your story published email your story to Craig Hullinger at:

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.



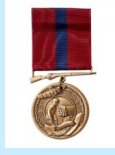
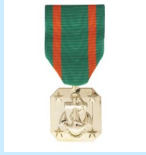
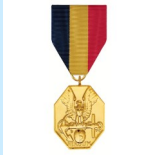
Write Your Story

Otherwise it

will be forgotten

**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. The website will host announcements, photos, archived newsletters, etc. So go right now and put MCL588.Org into your browser.

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

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

- **Leatherneck Magazine**
(888) 237-7683; Fax: (703) 640-0823
leatherneck@mca-marines.org
- **Marine Corps Gazette**
(800) 336-0291, ext. 144; Fax: (703) 630-9147
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 RMFields0117@gmail.com by the 25th of the month.
- ⇒ The Bunker is now open on Sundays 1100-1800 & Friday's until 2100.
- ⇒ HONOR GUARD PRACTICE COME JOIN IN, NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WELCOME. See Glenn Weik fo details

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 MARCH

2 March 1867: Jacob Zeilin, Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps from 30 June 1864, was this date promoted to the rank of Brigadier General Commandant, the first time Congress authorized this rank for the Marine Corps. The statute, however, was repealed in June 1874 so that the rank of Commandant would again revert to colonel upon Zeilin's retirement.

8 March 1965: The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at DaNang, Republic of Vietnam as the first U.S. ground combat troops to be committed to that conflict. The 3,500 men arrived both across the beach with Battalion Landing Team 3/9, and at DaNang Airfield with Battalion Landing Team 1/3.

11 March 1778: Marines participated the action when the Continental Navy frigate BOSTON, enroute to France, sighted, engaged, and captured the British merchant ship MARTHA. As the drum of the BOSTON beat to arms, John Adams seized a musket and joined the Marines on deck until the frigate's captain, Samuel Tucker, sent him below for safety.

13 March 1943: The first group of 71 Women Marine officer candidates arrived at the U.S. Midshipmen School (Women's Reserve) at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The Navy's willingness to share training facilities enabled the Marine Corps to begin training Marine Corps Women's Reserve officers just one month after the creation of the MCWR was announced.

17 March 1967: The first woman Marine to report to Vietnam for duty, Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky, began her 18-hour flight to Bien Hoa, 30 miles north of Saigon. MSgt Dulinsky and the other officer and enlisted Women Marines that followed were assigned to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) based in Saigon. Most worked with the Marine Corps Personnel Section providing administrative support to Marines assigned as far north as the DMZ, but two Lieutenant Colonels, Ruth Reinholz and Ruth O'Holleran, served as historians with the Military History Branch, Secretary Joint Staff, MACV.

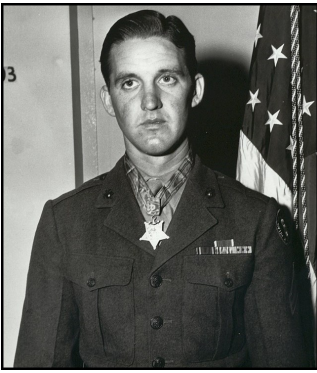
25 March 1945: After 35 days of bitter fighting, the amphibious assault on the rocky fortress of Iwo Jima finally appeared over. On the night of 25 March, however, a 300-man Japanese force launched a vicious final counterattack in the vicinity of Airfield Number 2. Army pilots, Seabees and Marines of the 5th Pioneer Battalion and 28th Marines fought the fanatical Japanese force till morning but suffered heavy casualties --more than 100 killed and another 200 American wounded. Nearly all of the Japanese force was killed in the battle.

27 March 1953: The 5th Marines, supported by the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, in the first full day of fighting after the Chinese assault the previous evening of Outpost Vegas on Korea's western front, counterattacked to regain enemy-held positions. Companies E and F of 2/7, down to only three platoons between them, managed to regain partial control of Outpost Vegas that day.

31 March 1801: On this date, LtCol Commandant William W. Burrows rode with president Thomas Jefferson to look for "a proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on." President Jefferson was a personal friend of the Commandant, and deeply interested in the welfare of the Corps and accompanied Burrows on horseback on the morning of 31 March. They chose a square in Southeast Washington, bounded by 8th and 9th streets, and A & I streets, because it lay near the Navy Yard and was within easy marching distance of the Capitol.

"A young man who does not have what it takes to perform military service is not likely to have what it takes to make a living."

John F. Kennedy



**CORPORAL
RICHARD E. BUSH**

Born: DECEMBER 23, 1924

Died: JANUARY 7, 2004

Hometown: WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS



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

CORPORAL RICHARD E. BUSH
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

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 as Squad Leader serving with the First Battalion, Fourth Marines, Sixth Marine Division, in action against Japanese forces during the final assault against Mt. Yaetake on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, April 16, 1945. Rallying his men forward with indomitable determination, Corporal Bush boldly defied the slashing fury of concentrated Japanese artillery fire pouring down from the gun-studded mountain fortress to lead his squad up the face of the rocky precipice, sweep over the ridge and drive the defending troops from their deeply entrenched position. With his unit, the first to break through to the inner defense of Mt. Yaetake, he fought relentlessly in the forefront of the action until seriously wounded and evacuated with others under protecting rocks. Although prostrate under medical treatment when a Japanese hand grenade landed in the midst of the group, Corporal Bush, alert and courageous in extremity as in battle, unhesitatingly pulled the deadly missile to himself and absorbed the shattering violence of the exploding charge in his own body, thereby saving his fellow Marines from severe injury or death despite the certain peril to his own life. By his valiant leadership and aggressive tactics in the face of savage opposition, Corporal Bush contributed materially to the success of the sustained drive toward the conquest of this fiercely defended outpost of the Japanese Empire and his constant concern for the welfare of his men, his resolute spirit of self-sacrifice and his unwavering devotion to duty throughout the bitter conflict enhance and sustain the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

/S/HARRY S. TRUMAN

