

# THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Richard "Smedley" Butler, Commandant ([Commandant@lakecountymarines.com](mailto:Commandant@lakecountymarines.com))

[www.lakecountymarines.com](http://www.lakecountymarines.com)



*John Pickelman shared the following with us as he transferred command of the Honor and Color Guard to Al Seyler on July 17th.*

On July 13, 1865, Horace Greeley wrote an article in the New York Times which included the famous words. "Go west, young man and grow up with the country." Now I'm not a big fan of Horace, but he gave some sound advice to the people in the eastern states at the time. He wanted them to go west and experience the tremendous opportunities and sights of the American west.

I have decided to take his advice. My wife and I are moving west. We purchased a house in Huntley, Illinois and plan on making the senior citizen village there are new home.

I joined Detachment 801 on April 1, 2005. I have truly enjoyed the time I have been here with all of you. You have demonstrated what it means to be a family and allowed me to become one of you.

One of the great moments in my life was when I became in-charge of the color guard. We had a few rough spots along the way but we were all able to work things out to make the color guard a worthy representation of the detachment.

I cannot tell you what an honor it is to be able to stand next to the color guard members as we march in a parade, present Colors or stand an honor guard at a military funeral. You guys are the best around and I am grateful to be able to say that I was one of you in the color guard and honored to say that I led you.

I do not know what lies ahead for me but I will always look back at my time with all of you and remember those times as some of the best I have ever had. I wish all of you the best and hope that this detachment continues to grow and stays the "Best Damn Detachment

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

### The Jarhead Journal Published monthly

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#### Detachment Officers

Commandant:	Richard Butler
Senior Vice-Commandant:	Gerald Pedrin
Junior Vice-Commandant:	Randal Christopher
Judge Advocate:	Peter Karlovics
Paymaster:	Ed Mampe
Adjutant:	John Jezioro
Sgt. at Arms:	Art Castillo
Asst. Sgt. at Arms:	Clint Chia
Chaplain:	Hank Landrau
Quartermaster:	Al Blut
Asst. Quartermaster:	Scott Bastean
Historian:	(open)
Web Sgt.:	Mel Ellingsen

**Our next meeting in Monday  
19 June starting at  
1900 (7 PM).**

**Please come early and enjoy  
some fellowship downstairs  
at  
Primo Resturant  
720 Milwaukee Ave.  
Gurnee, IL**



Who is this mystery Marine of 801?



Last month's Mystery Marine  
was Mel Ellingsen.

#### Where Stuff Is

1. Cover page, recent highlights
2. Officers, this list
3. Commandants' and Chaplain's Chat
4. Senior Vice Comments
5. Welcome Aboard
6. VA Hospital Visitation
7. Color & Honor Guard
8. Boot Camp
9. Eagle Scout Report
10. A Scoutmaster's Thank You!
11. Foundation Board and Committee members
12. Links to other Veterans Web Sites

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801**

**COMMANDANT'S  
CORNER**

**CHAPLAIN'S  
CHAT**

To all Marines, FMF Corpsmen and FMF Chaplains of "The Best Damned Detachment in the Nation.

As we roll through July, we need to think of a very important event coming up with Detachment #801.

As members of the BDDitN, you will be called upon in a few months to determine how this Detachment carries on.

You may agree with the program over the last eight months, or you may not. Now is the opportunity to make your voices heard as to what direction Detachment #801 will follow for the following year beginning in November.

Yes, November is four months in the future when the new officers take over; but, you should begin now to determine which members you wish to nominate for the elective offices of the Detachment.

Those offices include:

Commandant,  
Senior Vice Commandant,  
Junior Vice Commandant,  
Adjutant, and  
Judge Advocate.

Your existing Detachment officers will assemble and recommend a slate of names they believe will carry this organization forward successfully into YR-2018, but you, as members, will have the opportunity to nominate and vote on your own choices.

I cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of attending the next upcoming meetings to address this issue.

At the August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, you will be presented with a recommended slate and will have the opportunity to add additional names for consideration.

Voting for the cumulative names will occur during the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with installation occurring at the Installation Dinner on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

We will continue to remind all of you at the next few meetings to think about names to present for the Detachment members' consideration as officers for the next year.

Please, take an active interest in this very important endeavor, and make your opinion known. Your contribution should keep you proud of belonging to the "Best Damned Detachment in the Nation!"

Semper Fidelis!

Smedley  
(c) 847/648-6859

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER  
How Time Flies**

JULY 2017

I don't know about you, but for me "time" is rushing by at light speed! Here we are in at July when it seems we just celebrated New Year's Day.

Perhaps its because as we get older we become more appreciative of time and how precious it really is. For that reason and many more, it's important that we not waste it.

Time with family, time with friends, time for us. Time to stop putting off all those things we dream of doing.

Most importantly, time to spend with our Lord and Savior. Time on this earth is finite; time with our Lord is eternal. We must take the time to prepare for "eternity".

Are you ready to stand before our Lord in judgment? For that matter, are you absolutely sure you are going to Heaven? You better find out now, before it's too late!

I urge you to sit down with your religious advisor, because time, like the sands in an hourglass, is running out.

GOD BLESS,  
SEMPER FI

Hank Landrau

**SR. VICE COMMANDANT'S CORNER**

Jerry Pedrin

It is again time for a hot summer greeting to "The Best Damn Detachment in the Nation." I am hoping that by this time you have finished all the graduation parties and the chore of bringing home all the things your college student has accumulated during the school year. Now is the time you should be able to sit back and enjoy the rest on the summer. That is after weeding the garden, cutting the grass, trimming the hedges, watering the plants and grass, painting the deck rails and a couple hundred more "Chores" your spouse has lined up for you to do. In my house it is always planting something in the garden until the first frost. I never knew plants moved around to show bare spots that just NEED to have something there to make it look good.

With all those things taken care of we can get down to the real reason for summers. Just the thought of sitting in the back yard under the trees reading a book or listening to music with a cool drink of some kind in my hand has gotten me through the winter and ready for this point. Then, along came the Senior Vice Commandant telling us that we need to get out and do some fundraising for the League. He always gets these gigs on a Saturday which is the worst day of the week and it seems to always conflict with something I have wanted to do all week. Not only that, he schedules on the hottest days and during the hottest part of that day. Now this wouldn't be so bad but he schedules seven or eight of these things in a row to totally mess up what little summer I have left.

I must say though, these trips are a lot better than standing in the cold, wind, and snow that he always seems to find for us when he schedules the Toys for Tots fundraisers in the fall. You would think this guy just plans such excursions for us to see if we are really as rough and tough as Marines are supposed to be. It would be nice if someday someone would come along and drop \$400 or \$500 dollars into his hand and then he could say take the rest of the day off. Wait a minute, that happened once and he still made us stay until 3PM.

The good thing about all this punishment is that we now have NO MORE TO DO. That's right folks. We did really well this year and have raised almost \$12,500. We have exceeded expectations at each and every event we have done. Let's hope we are as lucky in the fall when we do our Toys for Tots program. I will be putting that schedule out soon for all of you so you can plan on setting some time aside for that.

We need to remember that in order to have "The Best damn Detachment in the Nation" we need to remember the three things that make a successful detachment. Those three things are Members, Funding, and Entertainment. We need all three and should be striving to keep our detachment the best it can be. We each need to do our part when able and when time allows, to be sure that the detachment will continue to be blessed with the success we have had until now. Nothing is free. You need to work for everything you get. The more we work, the better we will get.

I leave you with this thought. Where would we be if each of us just sat back, did nothing, and complained that we can't do what is asked of us. It would not take too long for our membership to drop and the detachment to turn into something that no one wants to be associated with. I think I have a handle on the members of this detachment and I know this will not happen here.

Jerry Pedrin 847-687-6663

# WELCOME ABOARD



Gregory Cummings joined the detachment in June. He retired from the Marine Corps as a Staff Sergeant a few years ago. He started his military career at San Diego. He also spent time at Camp Lejeune, Paris Island and a few other places aside from his time on an I&I staff.

Greg has retired from the Lake County Sheriff's office and is married. He lives in Waukegan. Greg enjoys camping, scuba diving and working out.

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



### VA HOSPITAL VISITATION TEAM

As I was getting ready to write this month's article I came across an article in the newspaper. Chester Grzbowski turned 106 on Tuesday. Chester is an old friend to all of us doing hospital visits at the VA hospital every other Thursday.

Chester came to the hospital a few years ago in need of treatment. Until that time he had been living on his own and taking care of himself. He hit it off right away with all of us and we always looked forward to stories of his time spent in the Army during WW2. We all wish Chester many more birthdays to come and can't wait for his next story about WW2.

A couple of weeks ago we had a pizza and bingo party for the Vets at the VA Hospital. There were 34 vets there including Chester. A great time was had by all, but a greater time was had by one 6 year old.

He and his mother came at the request of Nada who is a regular at our hospital visits. Nada brought several people to help make the day a great one for the Vets. This little boy was celebrating his birthday and was having a blast. He called out bingo numbers, checked the Vet's cards, and handed out prizes to the winners.

There are a number of stories we can tell of our adventures with the Vets at the VA Hospital and we will tell them as time goes on. It would be better if you came with us to visit so you can experience these stories for yourself.

We visit the VA Hospital on the second and fourth Thursday of each month and would love to have any of you come along. It is only a couple of hours starting at 2PM. If interested call me. Jerry Pedrin 847-687-6663



# COLOR & HONOR GUARD



On August 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 10:00 am, the Color Guard will march in the Lake Forest Days parade. It ends in the park will a large carnival going on. Lots of rides, food and beverage booths. Your Color Guard will be at the American Legion BEER tent. It is a fun event. Come on out.

August 14<sup>th</sup> its back to Wrigley Field for a day game against the Reds. Got to help the Cubs catch Milwaukee.

We need a few good Marines to join the group. With an average age of 78, younger sure would help. We practice at the Warren Center in Gurnee the second and fourth Thursdays of the month starting at 6 PM. Immediately after practice we go to Stevens for "Choir practice". Our delicate vocal cords must be bathed in cool liquid.

## Do you Remember Boot Camp?



Detachment member Dan Miller shared with us last week that his son is now in boot camp at MCRD San Diego. Dan sends his son plenty of mail but he learned that there are more than a few recruits who never get any mail. Dan asked us to send some letters to those recruits. Here is their address:

Any Marine Recruit  
3rd RTB Lima Company  
Plt 3242  
39000 Midway Ave  
San Diego, CA 92140-3242







**EAGLE  
SCOUTS**



## **Scheduled Eagle Scout Presentations**

### **July-August**

- Jul 8 Justin D. Shamberg, Troop 671, 3:00 PM, Joy Lutheran Church, 749 S. Hunt Club Rd., Gurnee, IL. (Landrau)
- Jul 30 Michael J. Finnegan and Connor S. Lewis, Troop 46, 3:00 PM, Church of St. Mary 175 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest (Barclay)
- Aug 12 James Robert Forbis and Nicholas James Silk, Troop 1987, 11:00 am, Lakeland Church 440 Hunt Club Rd. Gurnee (Ellingsen)
- Aug 12 Ryan M. Kaczmarek, Troop 12, 3:00 PM, St. Andrew Lutheran Church 10 S. Lake St., Mundelein (Ellingsen)
- Aug 13 Alexander T. Abarca, Troop 609, noon, Bonnie Brook Golf Club, 2800 N. Lewis Ave., Waukegan (Barclay)
- Aug 13 Christopher Fazio, Troop 78, 3:00 PM, Community Christian Church 1970 Riverwoods Rd., Lincolnshire (Barclay)
- Aug 20 Edward Nikolai Ortiz, Troop 48, 12:30 PM, American Legion 801 N. McKinley Rd, Lake Forest, (Butler)

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

Editor's Note:

Each year we get a few 'thank you' notes from Eagle Scouts for our Ka-Bar presentations. Many are read at our monthly meetings. I thought this note deserved to be shared here. \_Mel

From: Pat Klemens  
Subject: Thanks to MCL  
Date: July 21, 2017 at 11:13:50 AM CDT  
To: Mel Ellingsen <Mel-Ellingsen@comcast.net>

Mel

I've wanted to write this note for some time.

As you know, I stepped down as Scoutmaster for Troop 96 in Grayslake after 17 years. During that time, we were fortunate to have almost 80 young men become Eagle Scouts. In my early years as Scoutmaster, there was no program hosted by the Marine Corps League that presented the coveted Ka-bar Knife to a new Eagle.

Later, beginning with the late George Everett, the MCL partnered with Scouting to attend our Eagle Courts of Honor.

I can tell you that, without a doubt, the Marine Corps League has made a difference. Scouts and families really enjoy your presentations, commentaries and cake ceremonies. The highlight is the presentation of the Ka-bar. I am sure that the Ka-bar is another motivator for a young man to complete his journey to Eagle.

Thank you and all the members of the MCL, past and present. On those days when you'd rather not go to *another* Eagle Court of Honor, please remember that there is a young man who can hardly wait for your participation.

In cheerful service,

Pat Klemens  
Scoutmaster Emeritus, Tr 96

## **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801**

### **Lake County Detachment Marine Corps League Foundation, Inc Officers**

President-	Al Seyler
Treasurer-	Mel Ellingsen
Secretary-	Jerry Pedrin

#### **Directors**

Jim Sroka, Randy Christopher, Ed Mampe, Warren Blacklock and Joe Wallace

The Foundation's mission is to aid Veterans of any branch of the military, their spouses and children. With that in mind, the Foundation was pleased to make donations that totaled \$7,500.00 to the following organizations:

Al Lynch Foundation  
Veterans Assistance Commission  
Veterans Closet  
Navy Marine Relief  
Fisher House Milwaukee

Al Lynch ( Lynch Foundation ), Mary Carmody ( Veterans Closet ), and Andrew Tangen ( VAC ) attended our last General meeting. They each gave us some background on their organization and what they can do to help Veterans. We gave them our donation check. It was nice to hear and see where we use our funds to help.

Purpose of the Foundation as a 501 3 (c) tax exempt organization is to provide comfort, support, financial assistance and educational aid to improve the quality of life for military personnel in all branches of the United States Armed Forces and veterans who have served and their families.

If you know or hear of any Veteran or Family that could use some assistance, contact us.

Semper Fi

Al Seyler  
President  
847-220-1525

***Related Military Links***

**US Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs**

(Updated 2/28/17)

**Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission**

(Updated 2/28/17)

**VFW Action Corps Weekly**

**Honor Flight McHenry County**

**Honor Flight Lake County**

**Veterans R & R**

**Marine Corps League Hdqrs**

**Illinois Marine**

**Sgt Grit**