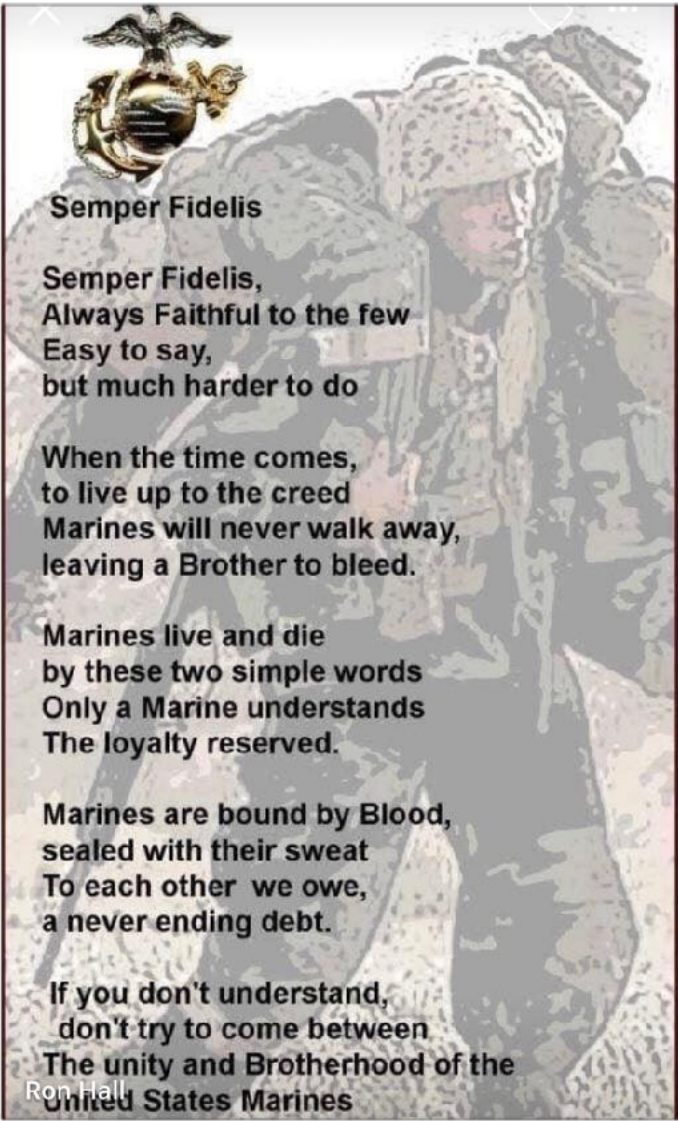


THE **JARHEAD** JOURNAL

Jerry Pedrin, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



Semper Fidelis

Semper Fidelis,
Always Faithful to the few
Easy to say,
but much harder to do

When the time comes,
to live up to the creed
Marines will never walk away,
leaving a Brother to bleed.

Marines live and die
by these two simple words
Only a Marine understands
The loyalty reserved.

Marines are bound by Blood,
sealed with their sweat
To each other we owe,
a never ending debt.

If you don't understand,
don't try to come between
The unity and Brotherhood of the
United States Marines

Ron Hall

MARINE'S RESUME



WORKS WELL UNDER PRESSURE

WORKS WELL WITH OTHERS

ALWAYS ON TIME

GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS

ALWAYS DRESSES APPROPRIATELY FOR WORK

ALWAYS FAITHFUL, LOYAL AND READY

SEMPER FI

Every regular and associate member must pay their annual dues by August 31st each year. You can now pay with a credit/debit card by clicking [here](#).

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal Published Monthly

Editor: Mel Ellingsen

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Detachment Officers

Commandant:	Gerald Pedrin
Senior Vice-Commandant:	Nada Sydow
Junior Vice-Commandant:	Charles Butrim
Judge Advocate:	Peter Karlovics
Paymaster:	Ed Mampe
Adjutant:	John Jezioro
Sgt. at Arms:	Larry Lingen
Asst. Sgt. at Arms:	Clint Chia
Chaplain:	Hank Landrau
Asst. Chaplin	MGSgt. Wayne Carle
Quartermaster:	Al Blut
Asst. Quartermaster:	Scott Bastean
Librarian:	Richard Butler
Web Sgt.:	Mel Ellingsen

Our next meeting is Monday
18 February starting at
1900 (7 PM)-fellowship earlier.

Steven's Restaurant
401 N. Riverside Dr.
NE corner Rt 21 and Washington St.
Gurnee, IL

Last Month's Mystery Marine was
Mel Ellingsen



Where Stuff Is

1. Marines
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6. VA Hospital Visitation
7. Color & Honor Guard
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12. Internet Links

Who is this Mystery Marine?

COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS

As I begin this message to the detachment I am reminded that I am well into my second and final year as your Commandant. It seemed like yesterday that I was sworn in for the first time. I have often heard it said that once you reach a certain point, time seems to pick up and go faster. I know that is not true, but it does seem to add a little urgency to your actions as you go about your daily activities. A lot of this is aided by the fact that, at this time of year, days are shorter and with the disappearance of the sun comes that sense of urgency to get things done quicker.

Try as I might, I seem to be always completing my tasks just quick enough to get done in time. I have been told that I need to cut down on my activities or get my rear in gear quicker. That seems like another New Year's Eve promise for next year. In reality though, I have come to realize that we have done a lot of things in the past year and have constantly been trying to improve on the operations and the way we handle them.

I would like to take this time to thank all the people who have stepped up and volunteered for the things they have done this past year. We have said we are trying to improve our detachment and I think we have done a great job of doing that. We have raised more money than we have in years past and we have done a lot more activities than we have in years past. We have taken on new adventures and have shown the detachment that we can do more each year. Our Toys for Tots Program had increased and we are now giving out more toys than ever before to the children of the County. We have given to more places this year than we have ever given and were lucky enough to have the abundance of toys to do that.

We are looking to have a ceremony to honor all the fallen members of our detachment on May 29th. That ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Foss Park on the lakefront in North Chicago. We are planning on inviting the families of our fallen and making a day of it with a picnic after the ceremony. If you know of a family member that should be invited I encourage you to get the name, address, and phone number so they can be contacted.

We are also looking to expand our color guard and enter our unit into more of the County activities this year. If you are interested in becoming a member of the color guard contact Al Seyler. If you know of an event in the County that you think we should be a part of let us know and we will see if we can do that. We will be taking on a greater roll in activities at nursing homes and community centers this year also. Such activities make a great impact on the residents and let them know that we have not forgotten them.

We are also looking for people to help us at the VA visiting our Veterans. All you have to do is walk a couple wards and talk to people for a couple hours every other week. What could be easier than doing that. The Veterans love to see us and you would be raising their spirits.

While you are thinking about it, go to your closets and bag up some of those clothes that you can't or don't wear anymore. Bring it to the meeting and we will take it to the Veteran's Closet for the needy Vets. They can use any clothing they can get. If you have been blessed, help some of those in need.

I would also like to ask that each of us look around the detachment for someone who has not been attending. We should reach out to that person and inquire as to why they have been absent. Every one of them has a reason they have not attended. If we can figure out what the reason is, maybe we can help them with that so they will want to come back to the group. We have also had some members that have had medical problems and not told us. They need to know that we care about them and are willing to help them if able. Sooner or later we all may be in the same circumstances and need some assistance.

Jr. Vice Commandant's Comments on Membership

Hey Marines and Corpsmen!!!!

Pay Attention..this is IMPORTANT

We still have over 17 members who have not paid their dues for this year. There will be a list at the meeting check-in table showing everyone who has not paid their dues this year. If you see your name on that list, PLEASE PAY UP! You can pay your dues with a credit card. Ask the Sergeant-at-Arms. Everyone who is not a Life member MUST pay their dues by August 31st each year.

The easiest way to pay your dues is to either mail us a check for \$35 to:

Lake County Det 801 Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 7732, Gurnee IL 60031

or

Put your mouse cursor on the word **DUES**, click and use your credit card.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"LEAN ON ME"

Well, the first month of the New Year is part of history. It wasn't long ago when we were celebrating the end of the "old" year and wondering what the New Year will bring.

Whatever the New Year brings lets be thankful because it's all a gift from our God. He blesses us for our good deeds and like a good parent, corrects us for our transgressions.

January, reminded us that it's still winter! The mild temperatures and weather were a nice distraction, but towards the end of the month, REALITY SET IN!

This was not just true of the weather, but its true of life as well. When things are going well, we tend to forget our God and His blessings. When circumstances take a turn for the worst, we blame our God. We ask questions like "God why are you doing this? Or why are you allowing this to happen?"

We forget that our Father in Heaven is a loving God, and wants nothing but the best for us, as any parent would! When we go astray, or unpleasant things happen, He wants us to lean on Him. HE IS THE ROCK.

When "winter" returns to our lives, not just in the form of cold weather, but perhaps in failing health, financial crisis, in the loss of a dear one, we can't see beyond our immediate circumstances. We are so focused on our problems that the realization that "spring and summer" will arrive does not enter our consciousness. That's when we must lean on Him, He will provide the comfort and courage we need to carry on. When we go to Him in humble and earnest prayer, He will show us the way. He always has and always will.

As I'm writing this, I'm experiencing a very difficult time in life with my mother. I'm watching her health deteriorate and undergoing excruciating and debilitating pain with very little I can do. I'm leaning very heavily on my God! Through His mercy and grace, He has placed caring and compassionate caregivers at her disposal. He has given me a companion who is strong, wise, caring and compassionate without whom I would have crumbled long ago. THANK YOU, LORD!

Winter doesn't last forever, our God's love does!

Remember we can't do it alone, LEAN ON HIM, He won't let you down, I guarantee it.

DREAM BIG, LIVE BOLDLY! SEMPER FI
Hank Landrau, CHAPLAIN

CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL FHCC VISITS



VA HOSPITAL VISITATION TEAM

Hospital visits are going good. We would still like to get some new people out there with us. The visits are the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. So if anyone would like to come out, they can call me for more information at my home number (847) 599 9466 or my cell number (847) 212 5454.

Greg Cummings



COLOR & HONOR GUARD



The New Year is underway and practice has resumed. We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the Month at 1830 at WARREN TOWNSHIP CENTER.

Our first scheduled event will be “Heroes for Hoops” night at Stevenson High School on Feb. 8th.

Please see me about joining “the Best Damn Detachment in the Nation’s” Color Guard.

Al Seyler
Commander
(847) 220-1525



EAGLE SCOUTS



We continue to look for new members for our presentation team.

Here Are Our Future Presentations

- Feb 3 Dante M. Komater and Maximillian R. Gambony, Troop 73, 1:00 PM, Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church 285 E. Washington St. Grayslake. (Carle)
- Feb 3 Thomas Martin McGormley, Troop 72, 1:00 PM, American Legion 715 Milwaukee Ave-Unit #1, Libertyville, (Stack)
- Feb 24 Stevan Pastar, Troop 273. 3:00 PM, Christ Lutheran Church 595 N. Deerpath Dr. Vernon Hills, (Ellingsen)
- Mar 2 Andrew D. Merrill, Troop 71, 12:30 PM, First Presbyterian Church 219 W. Maple Ave., Libertyville, ()
- Mar 2 Drake A. Pierce-Demski, Troop 451, United Protestant Church of Grayslake 54 S. Whitney Grayslake ()
- Mar 3 William Manzer and Marcus Ulrich, Troop 48, 3:00 PM, Amer Legion Hall 801 N. McKinley Rd. Lake Forest Forest (Stack)

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, Richard Butler, Ed Mampe, Warren Blacklock, Col. Jim Swab and Joe Wallace.

There are no new Veteran needs that we are aware of at this time.

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.

Al Seyler

President
Lake County Marine Corps League Foundation
847-220-1525

More on the Battle of Belleau Wood

This letter was written by Nina Staben, (Young Marines Master Sergeant) as a school assignment. It fit in nicely with the Battle of Belleau Wood presentation given by Mel Ellingsen at our last meeting.

Dear Beloved Momma,

If you get this letter, that means I'm alive. I served with 5th Marine Regiment and Captain Williams was our Commander of the 51st Company. We were accompanied by the French XXI Corps. We were about 30 miles South from Chateau-Thierry. The uniforms that the Marine Corps issued us were hot and thick like I was working in a factory without any windows for ventilation. I was in the 4th squad, led by squad leader Sgt Lilly. He always had something to say when no one was talking. The French Army wanted to turn back. Our Division was known for Marine snipers, so we were okay. We already made our first checkpoint at Lucy-le Bocage. Captain Williams said, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here!" The officers were talking 'bout how the Germans are taking their position North of Belleau. Heading North to Belleau, we crossed through a wheat field flooded by German positions. Marines were dropping left and right like flies. Eight hundred yards doesn't seem far, but when you're being shot at, it's much harder.

After the fight, the field looked like a slaughterhouse. A pool full of blood. Our men were everywhere on the field, dead. Praying that I wouldn't die, I hid in a German hole in the ground next to a dead soldier. I lost my helmet trying to find safety. I found one; it wasn't mine, but it kept me safe. I've never ran so fast in my life. It was already June 6th and we were running on fumes with no chow or water for two days. I met a good buddy of mine named Cpl Locke. He always motivated us, but it wasn't until another German position broke fire on us that we lost our motivation. In another sense, we lost a good friend too. I watched my best friend die that day as he was shot in the chest. I held him in my arms as he took his last breath. We had a failure in our position, so the Germans got as close as 50 miles to Paris. Pvt Heisel shook me awake as I heard the sound of German mortars firing about 500 yards away. As Marines plunged forward, 1st Sgt Dan Daly from 6th Marines yelled out, "Come on ya sons of bitches, ya want to live forever?" We ran low of ammunition so, our squad leader said until you see the whites of their eyes, don't shoot.

The night of June 8th seemed terrifying to hear nothing, but the sound of insects chirping. We finally got to eat our rations that night after two days of nothing. And then, I thought of your homemade fried chicken. It made me think of how good peach cobbler sounded right then. I closed my eyes and remembered hearing the laughter of soldiers. It was so sad that they don't know their lives are going to be taken the next day.

More on the Battle of Belleau Wood (continued)

June 9th, we finally reached Belleau Wood at 0430. I look down realizing my boots are drenched in blood. I walked through my brothers flesh for which they have given up their lives for others.

June 13th at 2100 finally felt normal when the boys and I were sitting in a trench playing cards. I closed my eyes and pictured grandpappy and big brother playing cards on a summer night. I snapped to reality and heard Germans in the woods. By the time we tried to get out of our trench, more than half of my squad was gone. I was surrounded by German Soldiers. Fighting was really hard because of how dark it was. I was pinned down by a soldier, trying to fight with everything I had. I manage to get him off me, only to see Sgt Lilly shot in the thigh. Running towards him, the Germans start to spray the woods with gas. I pulled off a mask from a dead soldier and held it over Lilly as he slowly took his last breaths of clean air.

Days go by of fighting and yelling and other days filled with dead, lifeless silence. We finally cleared the woods; I walked out into an empty field and the first thing I did was to drop down and cry. Tears of joy, sadness, fear and anger just poured out.

The Germans have pinned the title "Devil Dogs" on us, for our ferocious fighting. This battle may not have won the war, but it prevented us from losing it. We may have exterminated the Germans, but they took my brothers. Now, I'm ready to head home with hopes that they go home peacefully too.

I'm coming home Momma, I'm coming home.

Sincerely,

Pvt Charles Freeman
United States Marine Corps
Belleau, Aisne- France

Related Military Links

Lake County Marines

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

Marine Corps League Headquarters

Honor Flight Lake County

Illinois Marine

VFW Action Corps Weekly

American Legion

Sgt Grit