

# THE **JARHEAD** JOURNAL

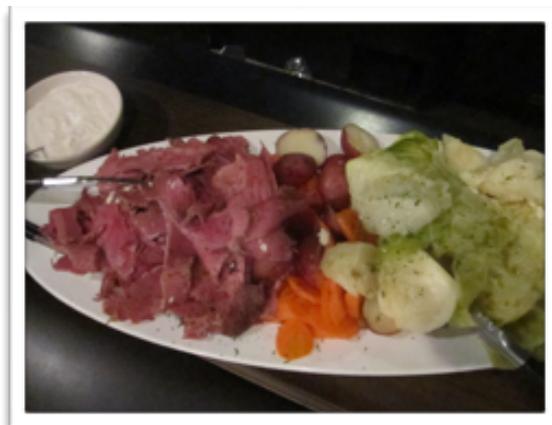
Jerry Pedrin, Commandant ([Commandant@lakecountymarines.com](mailto:Commandant@lakecountymarines.com))

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

## **ST. PATRICK'S DAY MEETING STARTS AT 6:30 PM 3/18/2019**



**Aye. Tis time for the wearing of the Green.**



**And Feasting**

**Note special start time of 1830 or 6:30 PM.  
Your significant other is also invited!**

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

### The Jarhead Journal Published Monthly

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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 March starting at  
1830 (6:30 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  
Barbara Briggs**



#### Where Stuff Is

1. Wearing the Green!
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**Who is this Mystery Marine?**

**COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS**

This is the second time I sit at the computer to write this article for the Jarhead Journal. I was on the last sentence of the last article when the screen went blank and I lost the entire article. I guess things like that happen when you are not paying attention to what you are doing. Maybe it was the cold. I can always blame it on that.

We have truly experienced a couple weeks of unusual weather. That coupled with the fact that there is less daylight, tends to cause us to remain in the safety of our homes during times like this. We have noticed that the attendance has dropped off at our monthly meetings and at some of the other events we have undertaken in the last couple months. We hope with the coming of warmer weather and the change in daylight savings time that people will once again venture out in to the world and hopefully to one of our events.

We have been to the Veterans Hospital over the past couple months and have seen a significant change in the people there. With the cold and unpredictable weather, a lot of the people that usually visit the patients are not coming. It is extremely important during these times that we are there for the Veterans. Some of them have relatives that must travel long distances to see them and are having a hard time with the weather. It really helps the Vets to heal when they feel that they are wanted and appreciated. We have learned a lot from the stories they tell while sitting in that bed. It is an event that all of our members should experience at least once. If you have an afternoon to spare on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, stop down and spend a couple hours with us. Contact any member of the staff and they can get you connected with a team member. You will truly enjoy yourself and you will be brightening the day of a Veteran.

I am going to remind each of you once again that we are going to have a Memorial service for our fallen members of Detachment 801. The date will be 29 May 2019 at 11AM. The site will be Foss Park in North Chicago right on the lakefront just north of the Naval Base. We will be having the event on Wednesday so as not to interfere with any plans you may have for the Memorial Day weekend. We will have a short ceremony and then will have a small luncheon for all that attend. It will be a great way to remember those that have passed on and an opportunity to meet their families. We are asking that if you know of a family member of someone who has passed on; get their name and other information so we can contact them and make them aware of the ceremony in case they wish to attend.

We have been doing a thing for the past couple of months where we research a battle in which the Marines were involved and then report that battle to the members at our meetings. The report is then posted on the website for all to see at their leisure in the future. We have had a couple interesting articles so far and look forward to more in the future. If you would like to report on a battle from ANY war feel free to let me know and we can schedule a time for you to report on it. It need not be a lengthy report, 5 10 minutes is more than enough. What every you need to get the battle reviewed is OK with us. We can all learn a lot by re-visiting the past.

There are a lot of things we have been doing in the past year or so but feel there is still more we need to be doing in the months to come. If you have any ideas on things we should do, feel free to let me know. We can try anything in reason. We can only get better if we expand. To remain constant is to stagnate and die. We can do better and with the help of all of us we will do better. Jerry Pedrin, Commandant (847) 687-6663

## **Jr. Vice Commandant's Comments on Membership**

**Hey Marines and Corpsmen!!!!**

**Pay Attention..this is IMPORTANT**

We still have over 15 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**

**CONVERSING WITH GOD**

By the end of February, two-thirds of winter was over, and we were beginning to turn our thoughts towards spring and summer! For some of us spring can't arrive soon enough, while others don't want to see winter end and can't wait for it to start again! Whatever our preference, all we have to do is wait patiently and we will be rewarded.

Likewise, our God tells us to pray and be patient! He will answer at the right time, not early, not late, but when we are ready for His answer. We must continue to pray earnestly, persistently, and faithfully, not because He doesn't hear us, but because he wants to hear from us. He wants to listen to our heart and soul, not just our lips! So, how do we do that? How do we pray effectively? There are probably as many answers to those questions as there are preachers in the world!

The answer is as simple as finding a quiet place and having a loving conversation with your Heavenly Father! No "special" formats or formulas, just acknowledge who He is (your Father in Heaven) and open up your heart.

Your Father in Heaven already knows what you need, but it's His pleasure to hear from you and talk with you, as any father would, and best of all we don't need special permission, or an appointment to go to Him, He's available 24/7! So what's preventing us from taking advantage of this privilege? Nothing, except our unwillingness to surrender to and accept His will. I encourage you to find a "prayer partner". Someone you respect and trust to guide you initially. It can be a family member. It can be a pastor, a rabbi, anyone who is filled with love for God, It can be you.

I further encourage you to go to your Father in Heaven and ask Him to send you a "prayer warrior". We Christians are fortunate in that the Lord Jesus Christ gave "The Lord's Prayer" as a guide.

In any walk of life, profession, vocation or avocation, "communication" is key to success. This is especially true in the military. Giving and receiving instructions and information clearly and concisely can make the difference between failure and success. The Marine Corps and its sister services spend a lot of training hours on communication between individuals, (privates through generals), units and branches of services to insure proper coordination, leading to mission success.

Communicating between our God and us is simple, secure, and private and always leads to success.

Spring and summer are drawing nearer with each passing hour; make sure that the distractions of the seasons do not distract you from your God. He's waiting to hear from you. They will be the most meaningful conversations you'll ever have!

**DREAM BIG! LIVE BOLDLY! SEMPER FI** Hank Landrau, Chaplain Det. 801

**WELCOME  
ABOARD**



Welcome aboard Dino Damalas of Mundelein. He joined the Marines in 1994 and was discharged as a Sergeant in 1998. His MOS was 3513, Motor T Body Repair Mechanic. He started at Parris Island and served on Okinawa and at El Toro CA. He now is COO of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

Dino is married with two kids. He is interested helping with the Eagle Scout Program, Toys for Tots and Veterans Assistance.

**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**



### **2/08- Friday night**

Stevenson High School held their Annual Hoops for Heroes basketball game. They Honor all Veterans before the tip off and the Army and Marine recruiters were there. They put on a very good show. Ed Mampe, Ron Engle, Tom Mann, Gerry Pedrin and Al Seyler formed a 5-man Color Guard and presented Colors for the National Anthem. They ran out of hotdogs so they made us eat pizza-----

### **2/15- Friday noon**

Lt. Col. Paul Hedich was arranging Military Honors for an Army Veteran who passed away. The Army would provide 2 flag folders and a "fake" (Tape Recorded Taps) Bugler.

He contacted local VFW'S and American Legions—no luck. He asked his friend, Ed Mrozinski, if he knew of any group that could fire a Volley. Ed said he knew the best Honor Guard in the State and he would see if they could do it. For those of you who do not know, Ed was our Sr. Vice Commandant for 5 years under 3 different Commandants.

We managed to assemble 7 men for a Volley squad--

Smedley Butler, Ed Mampe, Jerry Pedrin, Ron Engle, Tom Mann, Al Seyler and Mel Ellingsen.

Thank you, Mel, for joining us. Jim Reynolds agreed to be a "live" Bugler.

Friday at Fort Sheridan Cemetery, it was 13 degrees and we stood in the snow with our noses into a 25 mph wind or -7 wind chill. It was the coldest volley we have ever done. But our Marines stood tall.

After the Volley, sitting in the car trying to warm up, one of the gravedigger workmen came up and knocked on the window. He said "he has heard many volleys fired at the cemetery, but that was the best he has heard. You guys are really good."



# **EAGLE SCOUT'S**



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

## **Here Are Our Future Presentations**

- Mar 16 Mark A. Hardy, Jr., Troop 78, 1:00 PM., Community Christian Church 1970 Riverwoods Rd., Lincolnshire. (Ellingsen)
- Mar 17 Ryan Joseph Bobber & Martin Thomas McMurray, Troop 195, 12:30 pm, Brandsma Chapel at Carmel High School 1 Carmel Parkway Mundelein, (Ellingsen)
- Mar 17 Andrew D. Merrill, Troop 71, 3:00 PM, First Presbyterian Church 219 W. Maple Ave., Libertyville, (Seyler)
- Mar 31 Matthew J. Mangoni, Troop 273, 3 PM, Christ Lutheran Church 595 N. Deerpath Dr. Vernon Hills.(Butler)

***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



and

then

**“SMED”**

said ....

**THE SALUTING MARINE (onpointmag.com)**

As he has done every year since 2002, the Marine stood ramrod straight in full Marine Dress Blues, his right arm cocked in an unbroken salute in the middle of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in Washington, D.C. for three hours during the annual Rolling Thunder Memorial Day ride from the Pentagon to the Lincoln Memorial.

In 2001, he was at the Korean War Veterans Memorial (in Dress Blues) thanking veterans for their service during “the forgotten war” and consoling families who had lost loved ones, when he saw and heard the roar of hundreds of motorcycles parading down Pennsylvania Avenue. In the past, he had attended the funerals of veterans as they were rendered a “final salute” as they were bid farewell to their “final duty station” which seemed to him an honor delivered too late. “Why not do it now,” he thought while they are alive and well. “I wanted to show them my respect and compassion so I jumped off the curb and popped a salute.” Immediately, he could see the emotional expressions on the veterans as they passed, and again after the parade as they mobbed him with hugs and handshakes. The bikers felt a “welcome home” they had never received after the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. The next year (2002) he began his salute at the beginning of the parade, and has been on duty ever since.

Respect and honor runs both ways. “The bikers are always very emotional. Some of them have tears in their eyes as they pass. In some ways, I feel I am touching them,” said the 43 year old California resident. “I am not only saluting the veterans that ride, but also the citizens I consider patriots that get off their butts and show they care about fellow citizens in need.”

Though in later years he was transferred to other parts of the country, he always arranged to get leave to attend the Rolling Thunder event. In 2008, President George Bush invited him to the Memorial Day Breakfast. At the 2016 Rolling Thunder ceremony, he married his bride there in the middle of the road among the rolling motorcycles.

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



and

then

**“SMED”**

said ....

### THE SALUTING MARINE ([onpointmag.com](http://onpointmag.com)) (continued)

I had the honor of meeting and speaking with Sgt. Tim Chambers while attending the 2006 and again during the 2007 Rolling Thunder Rally. In 2006, I was able to carry a Gold Star Wife (Mrs. Donald (Debra) May) in the parade and passed the “Saluting Marine,” and again had contact with him in 2007. (She gave me a miniature set of Sgt. May’s dog tags. I have carried them in my saddle bags every mile since.)

Chambers grew up in Oregon, the eldest of six children, and was the only one who stayed on the farm, where his grandfather taught him to treat others with respect. At Silverton High School, Chambers became the school mascot. In 1994 (right after graduation), he joined the Marine Corps.

From Parris Island, he served as protocol chief to a general in Japan before returning to Washington D.C. as assistant to the chief defense council. Chambers and ten other Marines were presented the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for their rescue efforts from Flight #77 crashing into the Pentagon on 9/11. The experience was a “gut check” that reminded him why the Marine Corps exists – “we are trained to react.”

“I don’t need to be active duty to make a difference,” says Chambers whose public profile as The Saluting Marine has given him many opportunities to do things for other people throughout the country.

Staff Sgt. Chambers says, “This salute is a direct reflection of the love and compassion displayed by the ones that paid the ultimate sacrifice. My efforts are to ensure our nation does not forget. I have been told my standing there is a reminder.”

Smedley Richard Butler (847) 648-6859

## **Why the 'Frozen Chosin' is the defining battle of the modern Marine Corps**

The Korean War was a massive success for America and democracy, though the numbers may say different. The Battle of the Chosin Reservoir was one of the defining battles of the war and of the Marine Corps. Today, the events of that battle serve as a major history lesson for young Marines. Throughout boot camp, recruit will hear all about the heroics of this battle, instilling that "never-give-up" mentality that defines a Marine.

From this battle comes some of the Corps' greatest Chesty Puller quotes. Sayings such as, "We're surrounded. Good, that simplifies the problem" and, "we're not retreating, we're attacking in a different direction."

Even against overwhelming odds, Marines fought till their last breath.

America and its U.N. allies dealt a huge blow to the North Korean and Chinese militaries — and Communist expansion. But it came at a great cost. U.N. forces, led by the United States, almost captured the entirety of North Korea — until China entered the war.

The terrain was mountainous, but worst of all, it was cold. Freezing cold. By this time in the war, the winter had arrived in force, freezing over the landscape and creating many problems for troops, including disabling bouts of frostbite. The piercing cold was so unbearable, Marines at the reservoir said, "it would sink right to your bones."

At the beginning, the Chinese People's Volunteer Army pushed the 7<sup>th</sup> Army Infantry Division back, allowing the PVA to encircle the Marines on the mountain. The mentality of the Marines continues to inspire, more than 60 years later: "Never retreat, die where I stand or lay, but never retreat."

A Chinese invasion was not expected, especially in the dead of the winter storm, but it came all the same. A three-pronged attack hit the unprepared men of the X Corps, consisting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, 7<sup>th</sup> Army Infantry Division, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) Army. Chairman Mao sent 10 Chinese divisions across the border with orders to destroy X Corps.

The fighting lasted 17 days. By the battle's end, the fighting was hand-to-hand. Men were using their teeth, rifle butts, and anything else they could get their hands on to fight the Chinese onslaught.

Chinese units attacked countless times and countless times the PVA was forced back. With each attack, the PVA gained some ground, but at a great cost. With the ground frozen and foxholes impossible to dig, Marines used the bodies of the Chinese attackers as sandbags to help protect them from incoming fire.

## 'Frozen Chosin' (continued)

The men in the battle had seen the fiercest fighting of the entire Korean War. With the ever-growing presence of the PVA, Marines were forced to start fighting back towards South Korea.

Still surrounded and with elements of the PVA in the way, Marines had to fight their way out against a 360-degree front as they moved south. They were heading to the port of Hungnam, where the men of X Corps could be evacuated.

By the end of the battle, U.S. Marines suffered 836 dead and around 10,000 wounded. The Army had 2,000 dead and 1,000 wounded. The Chinese had the most catastrophic losses. Intelligence reported the Chinese as saying American forces could beat any Chinese effort, no matter the size.

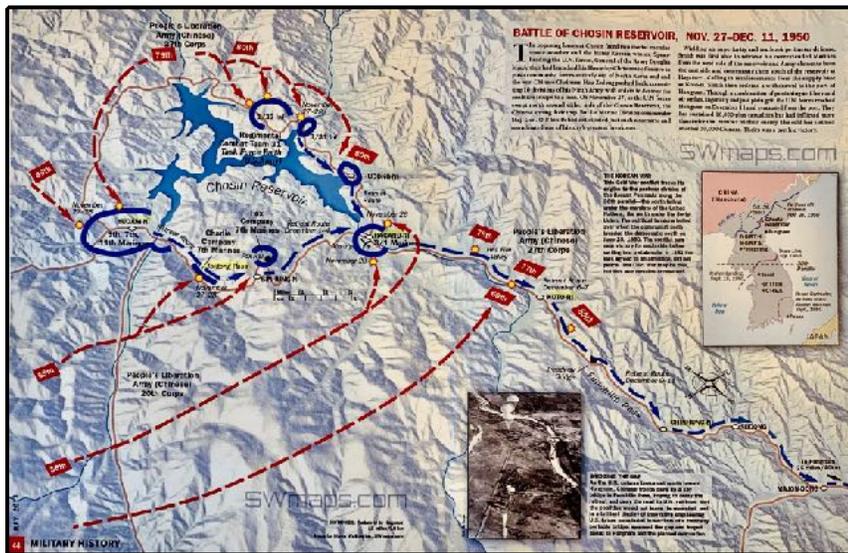
Six Chinese divisions were completely wiped out. Of the ten that attacked, only one would ever see action again. Though the exact numbers are not clear, historians estimate Chinese losses anywhere from 30,000 to 80,000 killed. The numbers of Chinese wounded may never be known.

Chosin was technically a loss for the Marines. But it was a Pyrrhic victory at best for the Communists. Despite the loss, this battle instills in every Marine the ability to find strength.

You never give up, did those men give up?

This statement is made by almost every Marine who has ever served since. When faced with overwhelming odds, we use the thoughts of the Frozen Chosin to remind us to never retreat, never surrender, and raise hell.

(Peter Karlovics shared this article with us during the February meeting.)



***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**