

# THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

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

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



Memorial Day will continue to be the last Monday in May whether we are gathered together at a Memorial Service to honor our fallen brothers and sisters or not. Please take a moment to pray for those who gave their lives for our country and for those who have continued to serve!

## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

### The Jarhead Journal Published Monthly

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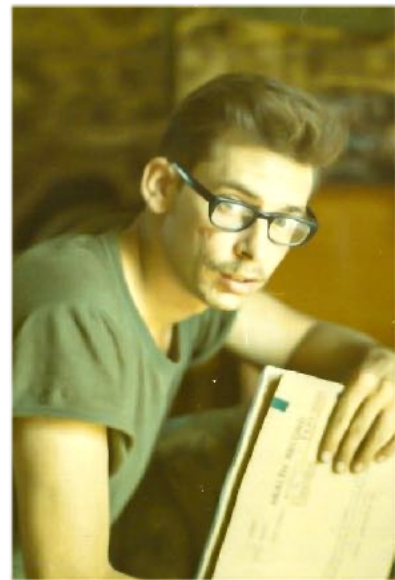
#### Detachment Officers

Commandant:	Gerald Pedrin
Senior Vice-Commandant:	Tom Koncan
Junior Vice-Commandant:	Charles Butrim
Judge Advocate:	Peter Karlovics
Paymaster:	Ed Mampe
Adjutant:	John Jezioro
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Asst. Sgt. at Arms:	
Chaplain:	Hank Landrau
Asst. Chaplin	MGSgt. Wayne Carle
Quartermaster:	Skip Holderbaum
Asst. Quartermaster:	
Librarian:	Richard Butler
Web Sgt.:	Mel Ellingsen

Our next meeting is not scheduled at  
this time.

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

Last Month's Mystery Marine was  
John Kotarba.



#### Where Stuff Is

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Who is this Mystery Marine?

**COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS**

Good morning quarantine shut-ins! I am hoping that all of you are doing well on this dreary day. The weather seems to be fitting in with the rest of the situation right now. Everything seems to be a little bleak at the moment. We know though that if you wait a little while the weather will change here in Illinois. So too, we hope, will this situation soon change.

I am hoping that most of you are following the guidelines put out by the State and the CDC on how to handle yourselves. I must say, I am not following those guidelines. I have been out and about for the past six weeks or so delivering food and other things to people who need help.

I have been working with Mission BBQ to feed our US Sailors at the Naval Base at least once weekly. Many of them finished Boot Camp or their service schools and cannot be transferred to their next duty station. This has led to a great increase in people aboard the station, and with social distancing; it is very difficult to get into the chow halls to eat. We have even gone to the Recruit side to feed the Company Commanders when they were recalled to the Base for quarantine until this is over. While I do not recommend this activity for any of you, I have been doing well with it and find it really rewarding. They have enough to deal with being separated from their families that they know a just a few miles away but can't see. Then they have to go about training the next generation of sailors. They are so thankful for us being there for them.

In a short while we are going to have some restrictions with the quarantine. I would like to caution you at this time to be very careful what you do the first few days of that relaxation of restrictions. I would hope that all of you would take actions cautiously when venturing out. Just because restrictions are lifted will not mean that it is truly safe to jump back into crowded areas and began mingling with groups of people. Once people began coming out of their homes there will be an upturn of infections once again if people are not careful. It will not mean that is totally safe to go where you want.

I would suggest that you be very careful what you do. If you go out to eat, try to find a place that isn't crowded. Try to eat outside if they have a space. Get your food and eat in a park someplace. You are still outside and still not close to people. Will people still get sick, Yes. Will people still die, Yes. There will still need to be a concern for your safety.

I believe this. If there is a problem and you know about it you have two choices or options. If you can do something about the problem, do it. If you can't do anything about it, don't worry about it. Worrying will not help the situation and will only make matters worse for you. Until we meet again I am hoping that you are able to handle all your problems. Stay safe and healthy. We will be together before you know it. Let's make sure that we all get there. See you soon. If you need anything just call or text and let me know. We will see if we can make it happen. Jerry - (847) 687-6663

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello Marines,

The battle against our common and invisible foe continued in April. We've had thousands of casualties, but also thousands of survivors! Each survivor makes us stronger in many ways.

First and foremost, it showed us that this "enemy" can be vanquished. Secondly, it showed us that it's through prayer, good leadership, sacrifice and resiliency we will conquer this enemy and be the stronger for it!

Thirdly, it showed us the strength of the *human spirit*, when coupled with the *Holy Spirt!*

As of the end of April, we were still at war, but the light at the end of the tunnel was getting brighter.

***WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS.***

A great American once said "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself".

Working together, supporting each other, and above, all remembering that the God who created the universe is still in control will remove all fear.

Yes, this "storm" will pass, and as we assess the aftermath, we will put the lessons learned into practice. We will emerge stronger as individuals, and as a nation.

All around us we saw, and continue to see the unconquerable American spirit reflected in our front-line defenders, doctors, nurses, medical technicians, scientists, military, delivery people, and grocery clerks among others. We saw the cooperation between private enterprise and government. We saw our teachers thinking "outside the box" to continue our children's education.

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER (CONTINUED)**

We saw America at its best during the worst of time.  
No, it's not over yet, but the outcome is not in doubt.

We will pause to mourn our losses, shed our tears, pray to our God,  
and continue the fight.

We have to, we are Americans!

As we continue to “shelter in place” let’s not despair, isolation doesn’t  
mean we are alone. These days are still part of our journey through  
life. We have an obligation of using them wisely.

Our normally hectic lifestyles do not always allow the luxury of  
unstructured time. Let’s use this opportunity to get closer to our God,  
reconnect with family members, start and finish those home projects  
we been putting off because we’re too busy, read that novel, start that  
exercise program, to name a few things. Staying home does not mean  
shutting down our brains, in fact the exact opposite is true! It means  
doing “old” things in new and creative ways, thinking of new things to  
keep our brains engaged. Meeting via electronic or video conferencing  
(the “new” normal?) for example.

Again, though we are in quarantine, doesn’t mean we are alone.

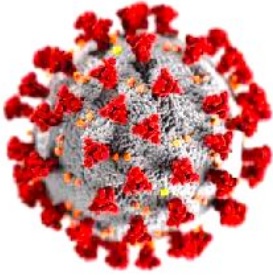
Now more than ever, we must dream fearlessly and live boldly!

God bless and stay safe

Semper Fi

Hank Landrau

Chaplain, det. 801



We all have heard that old saying about The best laid plans of mice and men. Well, we're assuming right now that we will remain at home throughout the month of May.

Are you wearing a mask outside?



## **Quick Summary of April 6th Virtual Staff Meeting**

- 1) There will not be a general meeting during April, we expect to be able to meet in May, but the Governor is setting that schedule.
- 2) The St Patrick's Day Celebration will be rescheduled for June or July. New sign-up will be required.
- 3) Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 20th for our 2nd Annual Memorial Day Picnic. We will be looking for volunteers to assist the chair, Al Seyler. Please call him to join the picnic committee. (847) 220-1525.
- 4) We need a new approach to welcoming new members. One of the staff will be assigned to mentor each new member for 90 days following their joining the detachment. An updated 'Welcome Packet' will be presented to each new member.
- 5) The staff will begin making 'wellness phone calls' to all our members. Don't be surprised when you get called.

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

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

**Pay Attention..this is IMPORTANT**

# **Dues**

**We have dropped all members who have not paid their 9/1/2018 dues.** There are a handful of you that did not pay your 9/1/2019 dues. If you do not pay those dues soon, both National and our detachment will be dropping you come September 1st.

Please bring \$35 cash or your credit card to our next meeting or click **DUES** to pay on-line. Why not consider extending your membership as a **LIFE** member? Here are the Life Membership Fees:

65 years and over	\$200
51 to 64 years	\$300
36 to 50 years	\$400
35 and younger	\$500

You can pay for a Life membership by clicking here **DUES**.

You can pay your 9/1/2020 dues **NOW**.

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.

## **DETACHMENT 801**

### **MEMORIAL CELEBRATION**

We will honor our Members, our Mentors, our Brothers, and those Marines who built Detachment 801, who are now “guarding the streets of Heaven”.

Marines, Corpsmen, and Associates:

We are stuck inside our homes and slowly going crazy awaiting the end of the Covid-19 virus pandemic. We do not know when we will be safe to meet again as a group. Our hopes of having our Memorial May 20<sup>th</sup> are not possible. My best guess is the earliest will be June 25<sup>th</sup>. But whenever we get the green light we will be ready.

Plans are underway for our Memorial Celebration. To date I have 12 people signed up to attend.

Don Bahe will head up the Equipment set up and take down crew. Chuck Butrim and Bruce Barkley will help him.

Walter Roth will head up the Raffle ticket crew.

Need people to head up “Valet service, Cold Drinks, Grilling and Food Service. Need people to help out each of the Volunteer groups.

Also please call or email me to let me know you will be attending and what kind of dish to pass you would like to bring. 847-220-1525  
[porknpoop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:porknpoop@sbcglobal.net)

Here are the highlights of our day----

#### **WHEN-**

Wednesday – (TBA) , 2020 - 11:00am

#### **WHERE-**

Foss Park in North Chicago - Pavilion #2



**MEMORIAL CELEBRATION (countinued)**

**PROGRAM-**

Presentation of Colors - Color Guard  
Opening Remarks - Commandant Pedrin  
Reading of Names with striking of Bell  
Fire Volley- Honor Guard  
Taps- Detachment Bugler Jim Reynolds

**SOCIAL TIME-**

Hamburger - Hot Dogs  
Wonderful dishes to pass  
World Class Desserts  
Beverages (soft and hard)  
Spouses invited - Bring a Dish to Pass & a Bag Chair  
Free Mystery Raffle Drawing from Al's grab bag  
Make your own Smores Fireside  
No rush to leave- We will keep food and drinks available  
Relax, enjoy the conversations and have FUN!!!!!!

# Marine Corps League



LAKE COUNTY MARINES DET.801

HELP VETERANS, THEIR WIDOWS, AND THEIR KIDS  
ZERO SALARIES-100% TO VETS

## RAFFLE

# BOAT LOAD of BOOZE

WHAT A DEAL!!

BOAT

Bass Pro Shop

7ft. x 4ft.

600 lbs. Capacity

Oars and Pump



Jack Daniel's  
Capt. Morgan  
Smirnoff  
Patron  
Barcardi  
OVER 50  
BOTTLES

2nd PRIZE -- 25 BOTTLES !!

3rd Thru 10th PRIZE -5- BOTTLES or CASE OF WINE!!

1 TICKET---- \$10.00

3 TICKETS---- \$25.00

DRAWING June 15, 2020

STEVENS RESTAURANT

GURNEE, IL.

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN



## **BOAT LOAD OF BOOZE**

The Covid-19 Flu has us all hunkered down in our homes. **Everything** is closed !!!

Restaurants, Bars, Schools, Churches, Group Meetings---- **Everything !!!**

**How are we supposed to collect donated bottles of booze? Where can we sell raffle tickets?**

**We can't.** The only thing we can do is postpone our Booze drawing. The drawing is set to be at Steven's, at our meeting on June 15th. Since we don't know when places will again be open for business, we can not set a new date.

**Our Goal is \$15,000.** To date we have collected \$3,833.50.

**Need 120 bottles of Booze.** To date we have 73

This is what I have turned into me. I sure hope that more people have sold some tickets.

This fundraiser is the only one the Foundation does to acquire the money we need to help Veterans, their Widows and kids. 100% of the money is used in Lake County. If you can't sell 1 book- 12 tickets - then buy it. We need your help!!!

Jerry Martin sent me an E-Mail asking for 5 books of tickets for he and Sue and Steve Llewellyn to sell at % 5-Star shooting range. Yes—They are open!!!

I will meet you anywhere to give you tickets.

Call me at 847-220-1525.

The Toadstool owner, Tommy Garrity, called me to say he had Booze to donate to our Raffle. I took a ride down to Highwood and collected 22 bottles. Thank you Toadstool!!!

There are no requests for assistance at this time.

Stay safe and Semper Fi.

Al Seyler

Foundation President



## COLOR & HONOR GUARD



We recently lost long time detachment member Joe Pudlo. We will perform Honors for Joe after the shutdown as desired by his family.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Tom Mann on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Warren Center will remain closed thru the month of May.

Tommy Garrity, owner of the Toadstool in Highwood, said he would donate 10 bottles for our Raffle when we were there for the Irish parade that was canceled. He called me and I went down and he donated 22 bottles. Thank you, Toadstool,!!!!

We have no events scheduled.

We are shut down until the Covid-19 Flu lets up.

Al Seyler

Commander

# EAGLE SCOUTS



## CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL FHCC VISITS



## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



and

then

**“SMED”**

said ....

Hey! Great to see you stopped for a visit. Under the circumstances, I’m not going to give you a warm hug, or even shake your hand. Never imagined it would ever come to this, but I am glad for your visit. That damned COVID-19!!

Lately, I’ve had a lot of time to do some reminiscing, and thought I would share some of my recollections with ya.

I remember a Friday evening when my lady and I were out to a local restaurant and as we were walking to our table spotted two couples we knew. My lady continued following the waiter to the table while I stopped to say, “Hello”. The one asked me why I was not a member of the Marine Corps League, and I replied I didn’t know anything about it. He started to tell me, and I said, “Not now, another time. She is waiting at our table”. The following Sunday afternoon, who should come around the corner of the house with an MCL application in hand but Will and after a very lengthy and impressive presentation, I signed it.

Not long after I first joined, the Detachment was just beginning the annual Toys for Tots Drive. The Commandant called me and said to get my sorry a— out of the house. He was stopping by to pick me up and we were going to deliver some toy boxes to several charities. Okay, whatever! We drove to the Children's Advocacy Center in Gurnee where we proceeded to carry in several boxes of toys.

As we continued carrying armloads of fuzzy animals and other kids’ stuff, the workers there had tears in their eyes as we unloaded box after box for them. I was hooked!

The next week, he called again and told me he was sending me out with the Quartermaster to load boxes on the trailer. I didn’t know the QM. Hell, I didn’t even know we had one, but showed up. Tried to carry on a conversation with the Marine driving the car to no avail. If I made a statement, all I heard was silence. If I asked a question, all I got back was a grunt. Could not figure out why he was mad at me. He wasn’t, I found out later. After several hours in that car we became more conversant and I had a new friendship that endures to this day. Such was my introduction to Toy.

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

Several months later while leaving a meeting at In-Laws, I was passing the patio area when I heard a voice, “Hey, Rookie, you’d be a great candidate for the Color Guard if you would shave that fuzz off your face”. I replied, “That’ll be a cold day in Hell”. He laughed and said, “Come on in here and I’ll buy you a beer!”

That was my introduction to Russ, and many hours of sitting at his table listening to more stories.

I also listened to a Captain explain how in his first duty assignment, as a young Lieutenant he picked the tallest Marine he could find as his radioman because he knew a tall one would dig a deeper fox hole for them. That was Jim.

One week-end while “shaking the can” for Toys for Tots, I was writing names of those attending. One of them asked me why I was doing that, and I told him it was to prepare one of the participation certificates for those who came out. He said, “Forget the certificate, they have never spelled my name correctly on one”. I said it would be correct this time, and it was. I knew that a persons’ name is a very personal possession and as such is very important. That was my introduction to Ed.

I listened as two Marines discovered they were in the very same place in Viet Nam only a month or so apart. They laughed and talked excitedly about being in the same places. The rest of us shared their experiences as they shared with each other around the table.

The reason I mentioned all these, and there are more, believe me, is those occurrences happened at Detachment events. I learned more about our Detachment and the members by attending these functions. After a nearly 60 year hiatus, I was re-introduced to the Marine Corps.

What better way to spend an evening then sitting at a table with your favorite beverage/snack and swapping lies with good friends that have shared similar experiences. Every one of us is uniquely different, but every one of us are also in many instances the same. “Every Marine a Rifleman! Once a Marine, Always a Marine”.

Thank God, Will buttonholed me all those years ago. Think of all the good times and great people I have met. Priceless!!! Thanks Will!

We cannot now sit and visit safely at a table, but we can visit over the phone. Why not give it a try and introduce another Marine to the Marine Corps League?

**SEMPER FIDELIS BROTHERS/SISTERS**

See ya next month?

Smed

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801**

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

Officers and Directors

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 additional requests for assistance at this time.

We will continue to apply for Grants.

The Boat Load of Booze raffle is under way. Our **GOAL is \$15,000.**

Al Seyler

President  
847-220-1525



***Related Military Links***

**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**