

THE **JARHEAD** JOURNAL

Jerry Pedrin, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



STORIES OF SERVICE

THEY PROTECT AND SAVE US.

We admire them and aspire to be like them. In uniform, in our communities, in every branch of the military, our heroes give their all –and sometimes the ultimate sacrifice.

These are their stories. On the eleventh of every month, we celebrate these selfless men and women with profiles of their service. Reflecting on their accomplishments and respecting each challenge overcome. Take note. Take pride. Please join us in honoring them here.

THE MORE YOU HELP THE BETTER YOU'LL BE

"When the battle starts and somebody gets wounded it's my job to fix 'em and hopefully bring 'em back alive." That's Corpsman Jerry Pedrin describing his mission in Vietnam. Even after earning 5 Purple Hearts, enduring multiple shrapnel wounds, hand-to-hand combat scars and a gunshot to the chest, he's still committed to helping. We're proud to share his Story of Service.

[Click here to listen to Commandant Jerry Pedrin, Detachment 801 recall his Vietnam Purple Heart experiences.](#)

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal Published Monthly

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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
Walter Roth.



Where Stuff Is

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Who is this Mystery Marine?

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS

I begin this message to all of you today with a heavy heart. Our Country had been involved in a terrible situation that has not been heard of before in our lifetime. We are on the verge of a great pandemic that will have repercussions for many months and possibly years to come. We have not had a devastating disease sweep this Country like this since the great influenza epidemic in the 1917- 1918 era. During that time there were many thousands of people all across the Country that died and created a National panic.

Today we are dealing with a flu type virus similar to the one that killed so many people in the early 1900's but this crisis is a lot different than the prior one. This virus has no known cure at this time. This is causing many medical departments and the Country at large to question our actions for the next month. This is the reason for the tight domestic restrictions being placed on us at this time.

I am hoping and praying that none of us in the detachment, nor our relatives fall victim to this dreadful disease. I have seen the idiots on TV partying on the beaches and saying that they were not afraid of the virus. I then saw several days later that a large number of the same people were stricken with the same illness. I hope that none of you are as bold as some of the partiers seen on TV. We have been asked to shelter in place as much as possible and to keep 6 feet away from everyone when out and about. This is only a common sense approach to any illness that is spread by air-borne particles or human contact.

We were forced to cancel our last meeting and will probably cancel the April meeting as well so as to not put our people in harm's way. I trust that you will understand that this is only to protect our elderly members and members that have significant medical problems already without adding something else to their place.

We are working on a teleconferencing program to handle our staff meetings and anything of importance that comes up in the mean time. We are also looking for a way of contact all of you to see if you are doing well and if you require any assistance that we may be of help with. If there are any of you that need something feel free to contact one of the staff members or myself and we will do what we can to assist you. If that means bringing you food and medicine or some other aid we will do our best to accomplish that.

We feel this is a great time for all of us to get together as a detachment and reach out to all our members and check on them. Each of you know members and can call to ask how they are doing. You never know, they may have so many ideas on how to cope with this situation that you have never thought about. As terrible as this is, one day it will be over. God willing, we will be around to reflect on this in years to come and may even be able to laugh at some of the things we did while in isolation.

I have not been in isolation. I have been on the Naval Base with the people from Mission BBQ for several days per week this last month. We have been helping to feed the Sailors who have graduated boot camp or their other schools and can not ship out due to travel restrictions. The base has expanded quite a bit with personnel that can't leave. And feeding them has been a problem with the new orders to stay at least 6 feet away from everyone. So far none of us have gotten sick but we all need your prayers also for our safety.

We need to remember that only a small percentage of the people infected will actually get sick from this. A smaller percentage will die. Our goal is to practice proper precautions and try to deal with this virus in a sensible manner so that none of us will be a statistic. Remember, if you get sick with this virus you will be quarantined. No members of your family will be allowed visitation as long as you are in the hospital. If you pass away, only 10 people are allowed to come to your funeral. This does not allow for elderly people to attend. The Military WILL NOT give you Military honors at the funeral. If all the other reasons for trying to prevent this virus don't bother you, maybe these will.

I personally am looking forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting we have when we are allowed to gather again. I hope all of you are hoping for the same thing. Until we meet again stay safe, stay healthy, and do what you can for your friends, neighbors, and members of this detachment.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

This March, without a doubt, will go down in U.S. history as one of the most challenging since "9-11", not just for America, but for the whole planet!

The coronavirus or COVID-19, which invaded our country and the world beginning in February, was not created by our God to punish us. He will, however use it for our good.

Our Commander-in-Chief established his task force, and declared war on this invader. He marshaled his forces, created a plan, began to gather his resources and initiated his operation.

As in any war, you need to gather "intel" on your enemy. The more we learned about this adversary, the more we realize the magnitude of the challenge. Not only was it attacking our bodies, but our way of life!

Our counter attack and first line of defense started, and must always start, with reliance on our God. Prayer gives us hope and strength. Talking to God gives us a sense of calmness, which leads to more rational thinking and decision making.

With all these things in place, we readied ourselves for the long haul. This "invisible" enemy brought out the "good" and "bad" in us. With guidance from our leaders we learned how to stay safe through good hygiene. We "sheltered in place" and made sure our most vulnerable citizens were protected.

It revealed the "bad" in us. The self-interest, the greed and unwillingness to cooperate. Unfortunately, these traits were exhibited by some of our leaders, as well as "ordinary" citizens. In the Marine Corps we were taught to lead by example, we witnessed both good and bad ones.

The events that took place in March, taught us some valuable lessons. The most important ones being that we are *not* in control, and that we are in this together!

The question then is. If we are not in charge, who is?

I submit to you, that the creator of the universe, the one who made you and me is in control. He, will heal our grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters and the rest of the world.

He's waiting for you to ask Him! He will set everything right. Those who have succumbed to this silent invader already know that. It's up to the rest of us to recognize this and put our trust in Him. When we do that, our fear will disappear, we will do what needs to be done with confidence, honesty and for the good of our country.

All it takes is a little prayer.

Dream fearlessly and live boldly, and remember God is in charge.

Semper Fi

Hank Landrau, Chaplain

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

Effective immediately, if you didn't pay your dues for 2017 (due 9/1/2017) we will be dropping you from our mailing list. Those who didn't pay their 2018 dues (due 9/1/2018), you have until 9/1/2020 to pay up or you will be dropped as well.

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**.

If you didn't pay your 9/1/2019 dues, please do so now. 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.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

DETACHMENT 801

“THE BEST DAMN DETACHMENT IN THE NATION”

Commentary by Al Seyler Past Commandant

Well, here we are in March of 2020. Spring is still waiting to be sprung. March came in like a Lamb and is going out like a lion. Temperature is in the thirties and it is snowing. Good grief, we had snow for Halloween.

What is next ?? **LOCUST**

We are locked down in our homes --- bars, libraries, gyms, restaurants, theaters, shopping malls---everything is shut down.

The Marine Corps League Det. 801--- Meetings are canceled, Hospital visits are canceled, Eagle Scouts are canceled, Color Guard is canceled --- everything is canceled.

WHAT CAN WE DO ????????????????

Well my Mamma didn't raise no sissies ---

John Belushi asked "did we quit when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor" ---

My Drill Instructor said--- "Get your head out of your sorry ass-ed bung hole and get with the Program"

Improvise – Adapt – Overcome

Our Mission is to assist Veterans, grow our Detachment and have fun.

OK. Let's do it.

So --- What do we have left? We have phones. We have PC computers. Let's put them to work.

No. 1 – Brian Szempruch and Mel Ellingsen have done a super job of putting the Boat Load of Booze Raffle on Facebook for people to order tickets. Take a look at our Facebook site and our web site to see it.

It can also be used to take Credit cards for any Donations. Anyone can take a Credit Card at Jewel or selling raffle tickets. Learn how to use it.

No. 2 – Let's help our own Veterans. Call or E-Mail Members you know and ask if they need any Help. Some of our more seasoned Members may need someone to get some groceries, Meds or whatever. Do they need a ride?

Phone calls from Brothers always make you feel better. Reach out.

No.3 – Call the newer Members and talk with them. No meeting to do it so--- use the phone. Need a phone list, we will send you one. Enough watching reruns of the Cubs winning the World Series.

No. 4 – Planning. We can start planning now for some of our events and assign a date to hold it later.

What Events?

No. 1 – Our own Memorial Day outing. The Ladies did a super job of preparing wonderful goodies we all enjoyed at Foss Park last year. We can assign Committees for food, drinks ,equipment, setup, take down, etc. and get to work. We can do it with phone and E-Mail.

No.2 – St. Pats Day

No. 3 – Election

No.4 – Installation Dinner and Ceremony

No.5 – New Events

Pig Roast ???

Go Swimming

Joke line **Let's have some FUN.**

Heard any good jokes? Seen some humorous cartoons? Remember any funny stories about family and friends? Recall any incidents with other Members. Send them to Mel and he can send them out to the Members.

Keep in touch!!!

We did not ask China for this flu----- but it will not stop us !!!!

FOUNDATION

I sent the following E-Mail to all the Members the 19th of March. Nothing has changed. We are still battling the Covid-19 but a few new things have happened that I will mention at the bottom.

BOAT LOAD of BOOZE

The Covid-19 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 cannot set a new date.

Our Goal is \$15,000. To date we have collected \$3,418.50. The top sellers are as follows:

Seyler -----	1,303.50
Sroka -----	785.00
Koncan -----	500.00
Blacklock -----	465.00
Pantaleo -----	450.00
Swab -----	300.00
Ellingsen -----	100.00
Gulbrandsen ---	100.00

8 people - 5.4% - have sold 100% of the tickets.

This is what I have turned into me. I sure hope that more people have sold some tickets. The other disappointing fact is only 28 of 165 - 17% of our Members have picked up 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!!!

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

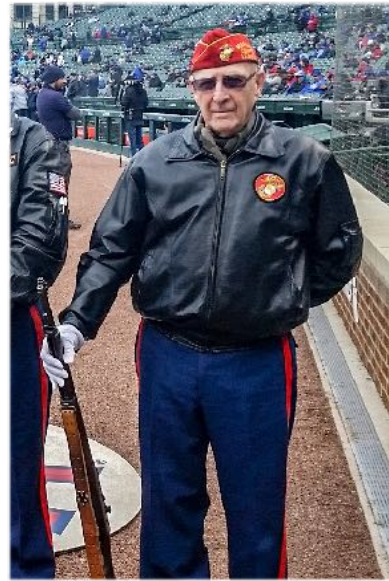
STEVENS RESTAURANT

GURNEE, IL.

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN



COLOR & HONOR GUARD



The Honor Guard, along with the Highwood firemen, stood Casket Guard and rendered our final salute to our "forever left rifle" and fellow Marine Tom Mann. We also were graveside for the flag folding and fired a volley.

A Celebration of Life will be held June 20th.

St. Pat's Day Parade – Toadstool Pub in Highwood

The Parade was canceled by the Mayor of Highwood but the festivities continued.

I wore my Color guard uniform and Jim Sroka went with me. Lots of folks there were at Tommy's wake and we received loads of compliments for standing Casket Guard and our ritual. Laurra, Tom's daughter, Janice, Tom's granddaughter and Dianna were there also.

Jim and I were forced to drink (all free) to help celebrate St. Pats Day. Everyone was having a wonderful time. Great place to sell tickets for our Booze Raffle. I took in \$558.50.

Tommy, the owner, promised to donate 10 bottles.

It was a super day. (I poured Jim home.)

The Warren Center will remain closed thru the month of April.
We have no events scheduled.

We are shut down until the Flu lets up.

Al Seyler

WE ARE MARINES

The Covid-19 virus currently has all of our League activities shut down. But it will be over at some point in the hopefully near future. We will resume the activities and Events that make Det. 801 "the Best Damn Detachment in the League". So , now is the time to do our planning and be ready to go when we get the word. All we will need to do is set the date.

Our Honor Guard has performed at many funerals, standing casket guard, rendering a final salute, folding and presenting the flag, firing a volley and playing taps. We feel it is a Duty to send a Brother or Sister Marine off to "guard the streets of heaven" with full military Honors.

We are planning to hold our 2nd Annual Memorial Service to remember and Honor those Marines that started and built Det. 801. Those Marines that nurtured and mentored many of us. To not forget those who have gone before us.

We will have a short Program and Striking of the Bell Ceremony followed by a Celebration with food and beverage.

We are inviting all of our Members and their spouses, relatives of our deceased Members, and any Veteran, Active Duty or Reserve Marine to join us in this Remembrance and Celebration. We will will have a sign-up sheet so we can get a count of people planning to attend. We want 100% attendance at this event.

We will need your help in making this event a success. Volunteers are needed for equipment set-up and take down, cooking, food service, "valet" parking for our disabled, clean-up and other tasks as they become identified. We will have sign-up sheets for you to volunteer your help.

We will keep you informed as we move forward in implementing our plans.

We can make this happen.

WE ARE MARINES !!!

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



and

then

“SMED”

said

To all members of TBDDiTN, I sincerely hope you are faring well during this horribly contagious virus, COVID-19.

Using the January Issue of THE ILLINOIS MARINE as an indicator, our Detachment had 97 paid members as of September 2019. During the last two weeks, I have checked in on about a dozen of you to talk and check on your well being. It ain't fun being cooped up in the house for several weeks, and especially when as Marines, it is someone else making that decision. It is for the best, and if we all abide, we will win this war. (And it is a war!)

The thought struck me over the week-end while engaging in a new discovery made possible by the internet and our own WebMaster (Mel Ellingsen), how those of us with either smart phones or computers could better keep in touch with other Detachment members.

Mel asked Staff Members to download a free APP named ZOOM. Following his instructions, we were able to carry on a video conference call with all participants seen and heard on screen for about a half hour. This was experimental in nature, and successful enough that I am positive we will be repeating this exercise. My lady observed what we were doing and has since set up the same APP to converse with her group of far flung High School classmates just this week-end.

All it takes is an e-mail with instructions on downloading the APP and determining a time for the meeting. If a digitally challenged mope like me can do this, anybody can. What a great way to get together while we are not allowed to get together. I strongly suggest you try it. Perhaps an e-mail to Mel, or a phone call will get you what is needed to organize a group chat.

On another note. For nearly three years I have had the pleasure of serving as Detachment Librarian. During that time, I have had the opportunity to read nearly three dozen wonderfully written books, fiction and non-fiction. Most have dealt with Marine Corps history.

Also, despite my encouragement, only about a dozen books have been requested to read by our members during that time frame. Apparently, reading has gone out of favor.

All of these books have been donated by past and present members. I hate to see them go to waste. The Veterans Hospital does not want any more, and most libraries are selling their older copies for a quarter, and do not want ours.

I would propose that any member interested in any of the titles in our library be allowed to be given them at no charge. If a member would like his/her book returned, of course they would have first choice. After several months, any books remaining would be donated to the War Museum out on Route #41 (through Ed Mrozinski). They are willing to give them a home.

Presently, they are only taking up room and not being used. Due to the inability to hold meetings in the future, let me know your thoughts on this. I can be reached at 847/648-6859 or RMButler57@comcast.net

May God bless you and keep you safe during these difficult times.

Stay healthy, stay away from others and keep washing those hands!

SEMPER FIDELIS!

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