



Marine Corps League

Detachment 1226

Volume 3

April 2009

League Officers:

Commandant: Jack Skelding
Sr. Vice Commandant: Dennis Antle
Jr. Vice Commandant: Ken Zolna
Adjutant: Willie Little Jr.
Paymaster: Willie Little Jr.
Judge Advocate: Bob Gramprie
Chaplain: Dave Blizzard
Sergeant-at-Arms: George Mc Master
Past Commandant: John Bain
Web Sergeant: Jacob Bain
Newsletter Editor: Debra Steele

League Auxiliary

President: Pat Skelding
Sr. Vice: Mary Zolna
Jr. Vice: Shanda Antle
Judge Advocate: Kamela Ryan
Secretary: Peggy Grant

Marine Corps League Detachment 1226

One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831

Riverview, Florida 33568

Mailing Label goes Here



DEVIL DAWG MONTHLY

COMMANDANT'S CORNER:

I would like to thank everyone for their confidence in reelecting me for another term as your Commandant. I feel very humbled by this. Now that elections are over we must get ready for the installation of officers. It will take place at the Riverview American Legion, 7240 US Hwy 301, Riverview on Sunday May 3, 2009 at 1400. The installing officer is scheduled to be our National Sr. Vice Cmdt Vic Voltaggio. There will also be several of the Dept. of Florida Staff Officers in attendance. I hope as many of you that can attend this event will as it is a chance for our Detachment to shine.

I would like to welcome our two new members Rob Becker and John (JT) Doody to the Detachment. They were both sworn in at our last meeting. Welcome aboard Marines

I would like to thank everyone that participated in or attended the Field of Honor on April 11th. The Color Guard, Firing Detail and Bugler did an outstanding job and the Detachment has received several highly complimentary comments on their performance.

Our Young Marine Unit has finally found a place where they can meet. It is the Riverview Moose Lodge. They can now proceed with requesting their charter, start recruiting and start moving this project along. Anyone who is interested in helping can contact Michael Sherman at shermanmw@verizon.net or myself for further information.

The Rose Program that we conducted April 4th and 5th collected over \$1200.00. I want to personally thank all of the members that gave of their time to make it a successful fund raiser.

Due to the current water situation we will suspend our car washes until further notice. Lets all pray for rain so we can get this program back on line. We will also shut down the yard sale in May with the 17th being the last one. We expect that they will resume in Sept. The loss of these two programs will limit our fund raising events for the summer months.

I would like to thank our associate members for stepping up to the plate and taking charge of this years birthday celebration. They have several good ideas in the planning stages. I will provide more details as they become available.

Debra Steele and her committee are working hard on the poker run which will be held on the 19th of Sept. The main thing now is for us to be doing at this time is recruiting sponsors. This is not only the responsibility of those on the committee but it is something that we all should be involved in doing. If you need more information please contact Deb or one of her committee members.

We are still in need of someone to take charge of the annual picnic. If you are interested and willing to do this please let me know.

The Dept. Convention will be held in Kissimmee June 11 - 14. If you are interested in attending the information is available on the Dept. website www.mclfl.org or you can contact me.

Please keep recruiting members at every available opportunity. We should all have a application in our pocket at all times. There are three in each Semper Fi Magazine that you receive.

Remember that this Detachment belongs to you not to me. We can only be as good as you want us to be. We do not expect that you can do all of our projects but we do ask that you contribute what time you are able. Lets keep charging Marines.

Semper Fi

Jack Skelding
Commandant

Email: If you received this by regular mail and have an email address, please contact me via email so we may add you to the list.

Debthecandlelegal@tampabay.rr.com



We need your ideas. If there is other information you would like to see posted or certain topics you would like us to discuss, please let me know

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

Elections for MCLA were held on April 7th. New Officers elected were Mary Zolna- President, Peggy Grant-Sr. Vice, Sheilah Blizzard-Jr. Vice and Marce Strom-Judge Advocate. Appointed positions are Nancy Horman-Secretary, Elsie Amos-Chaplain, Cheryl Ferretti-Guard and Pat Skelding-Treasurer. Our Installation of Officers will be held on May 3rd @ 2:00 pm at the American Legion in Riverview. Like last year, it will be a joint ceremony with the MCL. All of our Department Officers will be attending and our installation will be conducted by Glenda Travis, National MCLA Assistant Chaplain. We will have serving food afterwards.

I would like to take this time to thank all my Officers and our members for all their help in the past two years with successfully building our Auxiliary and for their continued support of our new Officers. I have enjoyed my past 2 terms as your President and enjoyed getting to know all of you. Thank again.

Pat Skelding

Thank you Pat for all you have done as President.

New Members:

J.T. Doody
Rob Becker
Roger Dunn – Associate Member

Ill Members

Dennis Antle
Debra Steele's son Keith

YARD SALE:

Need donations to keep this going. Contact Jack or Ken for further details. This has been a moneymaker for the league.

CAR WASH

Car washes have been suspended until the water restrictions are lifted.



Check out the men from the MCL working. Hank, Jack and John lent a hand at the benefit for J.T. Way to go guys.

Thanks to the Ladies Auxillary for stepping up as well.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

*Contact Willie Little for visits to the VA Hospital to show our support for our fellow soldiers.
*Poker Run Update: Registration will be at the Harley Davidson in Brandon starting at 0900 on September 19, 2009. More details to follow. If you have any ideas for sponsors, please let us know.

Field of Honor Pictures from April



Looking Sharp Marines!



YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE - - *We need to step up for this cause*

They now have a location to meet (Riverview Moose Lodge) and just need some volunteers to step up to help with the program. Please contact Mike Sherman for details.

Mike and his wife welcome their new addition. Hey Mike way to keep the Young Marines going!


Visit our Website at

www.mclriverview.org

MILITARY NEWS

Topic: Social Security Benefits.

The following links go to useful information about Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits.

- [Disability Benefits For Wounded Warriors](#)  (Publication No. 05-10030),
- [Disability Benefits](#) (Publication No. 05-10029),
- Social Security [Disability Planner](#),
- [Expediting Disability Applications for Wounded Warriors](#) (Publication No. 05-10131) and
- [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#) (Publication No. 05-11000)

The following links go to United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) web pages with links to useful information.

- [Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom \(OEF/OIF\) Home](#),
- [Survivors Benefits, New!](#)
- [Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes, New!](#)
- [Veterans Benefits Administration \(VBA\) benefits fact sheets](#) and
- [Veterans ON-line APPLICATION Website \(VONAPP\)](#) (*New browser*)

The following links go to United States Department of Defense (DOD) web pages which explain the relationship between Medicare and TRICARE and include links to other useful information. *New!:*

- [Medicare and TRICARE Entitlements](#) fact sheet (*new browser*) and
- [Wounded, Ill and Injured Toolkit](#) (*new browser*)

HERO OF THE MONTH

John W. Thomason



“On 10 November 1775 a few good men got together, and they were called Marines. ‘Be it resolved that two battalions of Marines be raised . . . that they be enlisted and commissioned for and during the present war between Great Britain and the colonies. That they be distinguished by the names of the first and second battalions of American Marines.

“These were the men. One whose words you’ll hear was John W. Thomason. The time 1918. The place France. But what John Thomason wrote about his Marine comrades speaks for every man or woman who has worn the uniform from 1775 to today.”

‘THERE WERE NORTHWESTERNERS WITH STRAW COLORED HAIR, AND DELICATELY SPOKEN CHAPS WITH THE STAMP OF EASTERN UNIVERSITIES ON THEM. THERE WERE LARGE BONED FELLOWS FROM PACIFIC COAST LUMBER CAMPS, AND TALL, LEAN SOUTHERNERS WHO SWORE AMAZINGLY IN GENTLE DRAWLING VOICES. THERE WERE HUSKY FARMERS FROM THE CORN BELT, AND YOUNGSTERS WHO HAD SPRUNG TO ARMS FROM THE NECKTIE COUNTIES, AND THERE WERE ALSO A NUMBER OF DIVERSE PEOPLE WHO RAN CURIOUSLY TO TYPE. WITH DRILLED SHOULDERS AND A BONE DEEP SUNBURN, AND A TOLERANT SCORN OF NEARLY EVERYTHING ON EARTH.

THEY WERE THE LEATHERNECKS. THE OLD BREED OF AMERICAN REGULARS REGARDING THE SERVICE AS HOME. AND THEY TRANSMITTED THEIR TEMPER AND CHARACTER AND VIEWPOINT TO THE HIGH-HEARTED MASS WHICH FILLED THE RANKS OF THE MARINE BRIGADE. THERE IS NOTHING PARTICULARLY GLORIOUS ABOUT SWEATY FELLOWS GOING ALONG TO FIGHT, AND YET THEY REPRESENT A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN INDIVIDUALS MUSTERED INTO A DIVISION. THERE IS ALSO WHAT IS BEHIND THOSE MEN. THE OLD BATTLES LONG FORGOTTEN THAT SECURED OUR NATION. TRADITIONS OF THINGS ENDURED AND THINGS ACCOMPLISHED . . . SUCH AS REGIMENTS HAND DOWN FOREVER. AND THAT ABSTRACT THING CALLED PATRIOTISM, WHICH I HAVE NEVER HEARD COMBAT SOLDIERS MENTION. ALL THIS PASSES INTO THE FORWARD ZONE, TO THE POINT OF CONTACT, WHERE WAR IS GRIT WITH HORRORS, AND COMMON MEN ENDURE THESE HORRORS AND OVERCOME THEM ALONG WITH THE INSISTENT YEARNING OF THE BELLY AND THE REASONABLE PROMPTING OF FEAR. AND IN THIS, I THINK IS GLORY.’

“They came from the east and the west. The north and the south. The cities and the farms. All drawn together by a common challenge, and a privileged right to be called Marine. To share the traditions of an elite Corps. And so it is today as it was in the past, the Marines, still willing to fight against what seems to be insurmountable odds. Still able to conquer the fear that hides in every man. The Marines, still able to move forward into the heat of conflict with grit and determination and spirit. Welded together with a comradeship and loyalty that’s different from other men. All the valor and glory that Marine’s have accomplished on the battlefields of American history is a heritage that is still very much alive today. That fiery spirit and pride still burns through in the minds and hearts of a few good men called . . . Marines.”

The verbiage is from the USMC recruiting film “Such As Regiments Hand Down Forever” circa 1972. The quote is from Captain John W. Thomason, USMC, who was often referred to as “the Kipling of the Corps.” He was a career

Marine for 27 years and recipient of both the Navy Cross and Silver Star for heroism in WWI. He was also a prolific artist and his renderings of Marines stands as the definitive artwork for the Marine Corps in the first four decades of this century.

The son of a physician and the grandson of Confederate General James Longstreet's chief of staff Major T.J. Goree, John W. Thomason enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1917 and served until his death in 1944. During World War I Thomason served as the executive officer of the 49th Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment where he was awarded the Navy Cross. Thomason served with distinction in Cuba, Haiti, and Nicaragua. He led the Horse Marines at the Legation in Peking, commanded the 38th Company in China, commanded the Marine Detachment on the USS Rochester (CA-2), and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel commanding the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment at San Diego. He was then assigned to the Office of Naval Intelligence prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. At the beginning of American involvement in World War II Thomason was assigned to Admiral Chester Nimitz's staff as an inspector of Marine installations and visited Guadalcanal during the fighting. The U.S. Navy destroyer USS John W. Thomason (DD-760) was named after him.

MARINE TIDBITS:

"NO MAN IS WANTED WHO DOES NOT COME VOLUNTARILY TO THE STANDARD OF HIS COUNTRY."

These were the first words to appear on the United States Marine Corps recruiting regulations, issued in 1847 by Commandant Archibald Henderson.

Semper Fi. . .Sid

INITIATIVES FROM LAST MEETING:

Total in attendance: 46

Voted On:

\$500 for sponsorship of Debra Steele's daughter Michelle for the People to People Program.

Discussion:-

New Officers:

Commandant- Jack Skelding

Sr Vice- Dennis Antle

Jr Vice-Ken Zolna

Judge Advocate- Sid Atwater

Thanks:

- Debra Steele would like to thank the league in the sponsorship of her daughter and hope you will all show for the spaghetti dinner on April 25, 2009



May 2009

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 One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Installation of Officers 1400	4	5 League Mtg 1930 MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1930	6	7	8	9
10 Yard Sale 0700-1200	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Yard Sale 0700-1200	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Yard Sale 0700-1200	Look Ahead: June 11th through 14th, 2009 – Department Convention September 19, 2009 at 0900 hrs 3rd Annual Poker Run for the Haley House November 7, 2009 Marine Corps Ball November 14, 2009 Marine Corps Birthday Celebration					