



Marine Corp League

DEVIL DAWG MONTHLY

One Marine Way, P.O. Box 1831, Riverview, FL 33568

Detachment 1226

Volume 33

November 2011

League Officers:

Commandant: *Dennis Antle*
Sr. Vice Commandant: Debra Steele
Jr. Vice Commandant: Bernie Kotrady
Adjutant: Jack Skelding.
Paymaster: Rob Becker
Judge Advocate: Walt Raysick
Chaplain: Dave Blizzard
Sergeant-at-Arms: George Mc Master
Past Commandant: Jack Skelding
Web Sergeant: Bernie Kotrady
Historian: Stan Horman
Newsletter Editor: Debra Steele

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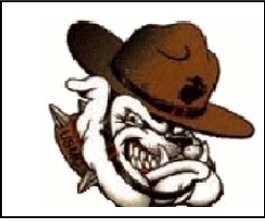
League Auxiliary

President: Pat Skelding
Sr. Vice: Cheryl Bain
Jr. Vice: Shanda Antle
Judge Advocate: Kamela Ryan
Chaplain: Barb Wolons
Guard: Mary Ann Raysick

Marine Corps League Detachment 1226

One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831
Riverview, Florida 33568

Mailing Label goes Here



DEVIL DOG MONTHLY

COMMANDANT'S CORNER:

A great time was had by all at the Marine Corps Birthday Detachment Celebration. Thank you to all that attended. Congrats to our Marine of the Year, Bernie Kotrady!! Keep up the good work!

Well we are almost at the end of the year and the holidays are vastly approaching. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season. We are gearing up for Toys for Tots and would request that everyone attending the December meeting bring one unwrapped toy. See you in December!!!!

Debra Steele
Sr. Vice Commandant for
Dennis Antle
Commandant

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

Happy Birthday Marines!!! Soon 2011 will come to a close. It's a cliché but where has 2011 gone. I would like to thank Deb Steele and the Legion Riders for a successful Poker Run. Deb works so hard for this. I don't know how she finds the time with a full time job and a family to take care of. Congrats on a job well done.

We attended the Toys for Tots kickoff at the Reserve Center on November 4th. Many of us attended the dedication of the Viet Nam Memorial, the "Last Patrol" and the Veterans Day ceremonies at the Veterans Park. What a turnout. I don't think I've seen that many people at the Park in a long time. I want to thank Kamela Ryan, Barbara Wolons and Cheryl Bain for participating in the Veterans Parade in Ruskin. The Auxiliary is now thinking about actually marching in the parade next year instead of riding. The League held their birthday celebration on November 12th. Everyone had a great time. Thanks to Lt. Col. June and Mrs. June for attending. Kamela Ryan was presented with the "Auxiliary Member of the Year". Congratulations to her. Congratulations

also go out to Bernie Kotrady for "Marine of the Year"

It was also my pleasure to present the President's Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Achievement to Kamela Ryan, Barbara Wolons, Cheryl Bain, Shanda Antle, Mary Ann Raysick, Judith White, Sheilah Blizzard and Nancy Horman.

We are still in need of workers for the Flea Market on Sundays at the Legion. Please think about working one of the Sundays. Please let Jack Skelding know if you can step up for this. We are looking for things to sell. You can drop off these items on any Sunday or give me a call and I will pick it up.

There will be a memorial for Ginger Hardin at the American Legion on November 26th at 4:00 pm. She was an associate member of the League and has always been a supporter of the Auxiliary so please try to attend this. Please bring a covered dish if you are able. Let's show Ginger's family how much she meant to us by attending.

Don't forget that our meeting times have changed to 7:00 pm. Please note this on your calendar. Please check the calendar in the newsletter for upcoming events. We have lots of T4T events going on in December. Also we are planning on holding a Chicken Dinner as a fundraiser on January 14th 2012 at the American Legion from 4-6 pm.

As usual if you have any questions please call me at 813-672-1778.

Semper Fi
Pat Skelding



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. Please email your ideas to mclriverview@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP CORNER:

Our great members such as you guys are the ones who help us achieve our membership goals. Please go forth and seek new members.

Past due:

Bain, Jacob - January
 Bell, Jeanne – September 2010
 Bennett, Kristine - February
 Cox, Ronald - May
 Grant, John – July
 Martin, David - September 2010
 Miller, Everette G - January
 Ramos, George - September 2010
 Regretta, Leonard Jr - January
 Sepeda, Jason – October 2010
 Sirvent, Eric – December 2010
 Young, Steven - February

October and November 2011 Membership

Expirations:

Antle, Danny
 Antle, Jennifer
 John Berrios Jr
 Correll, Carl
 Horman, Thomas
 Larrow, Thomas
 Wren, Gene

If anyone keeps in contact with the above past due members, please call them and ask them to renew their membership and if they do not want to renew their membership, please ask them why so that we can determine the reason for non-renewal of memberships.

Welcome New Member: Ricky Dubien;
New Life Member: Walt Raysick

LIFE MEMBERSHIP BY AGE CATEGORY

61 AND OVER \$150.00
 51 TO 60 \$300.00
 36 TO 50 \$400.00

Should you have any questions regarding the membership please contact Rob Becker (813) 480-4281 or the league.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

There are plenty of activities to get involved in. Please do not feel that you have to be in all of them but please try to participate when you can. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do.



WE ARE IN NEED of donations to keep this going. We also need volunteers to help with this each Sunday. You can drop of any items during the sales on Sunday. Contact Jack or Dennis for further details.



Come out and join us on the last Saturday of every month from 1000 to 1400 hours. We look forward to your support whether it is washing cars with us or just bringing your car for a wash. Let's get washing!!!!!!

*Poker Run: This was a great success. We raised \$3500 for the Haley House. Thank you to all those that participated in our annual event.

Contact Willie Little for visits to the VA Hospital to show our support for our fellow soldiers. **There are several Marines who are currently at the VA hospital. If you are free to go by and visit any of them I know it would be greatly appreciated. Marines share a strong bond whether we know each other personally or not. Let's show this Marine that we have not forgotten that bond.



Our Detachment members at the VA Cake Cutting Ceremony in celebration of the Birthday of our beloved Corps.

*Rose Fund: For information regarding the Rose Fund please contact Willie Little.

*Honor Guard: If you are interested in participating in the Honor Guard please contact Walt Raysick. Dates for upcoming events are located in the Minutes section of this Newsletter and/or the monthly calendar.

Visit our Website at www.mclriverview.org for more information on meetings and other activities and items of interests.



Walt Raysick and Sal DiFonzo during the Great American Teach In at Shields Middle School



John Bain was the Guest Speaker at the Reserve Unit's Cake Cutting Ceremony for the Marine Corps Birthday.



Ladies Auxiliary President presenting Kamela Ryan with the Auxiliary Member of the Year.



Ladies' Auxiliary President (Presenter) of the President's Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Achievement to Kamela Ryan, Shanda Antle, Barbara Wolons, Mary Ann Raysick, and Judith White



Lt.Col June and his wife at our Birthday Celebration.



Cake Cutting presentation for Oldest Marine in attendance Tony Donofrio and Youngest Marine in attendance Rob Becker.

Advertising:

What a great way to advertise your product and/or services to our members!! Need attendees for a local event or cause? Please your information today.

The Riverview Detachment of the Marine Corps League has decided to add the ability for advertisements and announcements in the Newsletter. This monthly Newsletter is distributed to approximately 100 members in our community and surrounding areas.

Size:	Monthly Cost:	Yearly Cost:
Business Card	\$5	\$50
Quarter Page	\$8	\$80
Half Page	\$10	\$100
Full Page	\$15	\$150

*Yearly is discounted two months.

If you are interested in placing an ad and/or event or you would like more information regarding same, please do not hesitate to contact Debra Steele via email (Debra.Steele.0602@gmail.com).

Advertisers: Please remember those who support us and give them our support as well!!!



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Dave Braun
Finance / Administration
Charter Board Member

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Email: Prowler143@aol.com Brandon, FL 33509-0701
davebraun@haleyhousefund.org • www.haleyhousefund.org

Support our Troops & Families

Jack Skelding
District 7 Vice Commandant
Department of Florida
Ph 813-672-1778 Cell 813-830-1138
E:mail jskelding@tampabay.rr.com



As you are aware this organization works hard to get Marines overseas care packages and letters. Please visit their website below for more information. We salute you Dianne.

www.supportourmarinesinc.org



YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

No updates at this time. After the holidays we will meet to plan for our first meeting and requirements.

Debra Steele
Sr. Vice Commandant



MILITARY NEWS

***High Court to Rule on Stolen Valor Act
October 17, 2011
Associated Press/by Mark Sherman***

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court will decide whether a law making it a crime to lie about having received military medals is constitutional.

The justices said Monday they will consider the validity of the Stolen Valor Act, which passed Congress with overwhelming support in 2006. The federal appeals court in California struck down the law on free speech grounds and appeals courts in Colorado, Georgia and Missouri are considering similar cases. The Obama administration is arguing that the law is reasonable because it only applies to instances in which the speaker intends to portray himself as a medal recipient. Previous high court rulings also have limited First Amendment protection for false statements.

The court almost always reviews lower court rulings that hold federal laws unconstitutional.

The case concerns the government's prosecution of Xavier Alvarez of Pomona, Calif. A member of the local water district board, Alvarez said at a public meeting in 2007 that he was a retired Marine who received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest

military decoration. In fact, he had never served in the military.

He was indicted and pleaded guilty with the understanding that he would challenge the law's constitutionality in his appeal. He was sentenced under the Stolen Valor Act to more than 400 hours of community service at a veteran's hospital and fined \$5,000.

A panel of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals voted 2-1 to strike down the law. The majority said there is no evidence that lies such as the one told by Alvarez harm anybody and no compelling reason to make a crime out of them. In a dissent, Judge Jay Bybee said his colleagues should have followed previous Supreme Court rulings holding that false statements are not entitled to First Amendment protection.

The appeals court refused the government's request to have the case heard again by a larger group of judges. Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, agreeing with the majority, said people often tell lies about themselves in day-to-day social interactions. He said it would be "terrifying" if people could be prosecuted for merely telling lies.

But seven appellate judges said they would have heard the case, suggesting that Alvarez's conviction should have been upheld. The law had been the latest congressional effort to try to keep people from wearing medals they did not earn. But it was the first time that lawmakers made it a crime for someone to claim falsely that he had been awarded a medal.

The law has led to dozens of arrests at a time when veterans coming home from wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are being embraced as heroes. Many of the cases involve men who were not accused of trying to profit from their claims. Almost everyone convicted under the law has been ordered to perform community service.

Arguments will take place early next year. The case is U.S. v. Alvarez, 11-210

Washington Post
Suit alleges banks and mortgage companies cheated veterans and U.S. taxpayers
By Steve Vogel, Published: October 4

Some of the nation's biggest banks and mortgage companies have defrauded veterans and taxpayers out of hundreds of millions of dollars by disguising illegal fees in veterans' home refinancing loans, according to a whistleblower suit unsealed in federal court in Atlanta.

The suit accuses the companies, including Wells Fargo, Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase and GMAC Mortgage, of engaging in "a brazen scheme to defraud both our nation's veterans and the United States treasury" of millions of dollars in connection with home loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"This is a massive fraud on the American taxpayers and American veterans," James E. Butler Jr., one of the lawyers bringing the suit, said Tuesday. Tens of thousands of the VA loans have gone into default or resulted in foreclosures, resulting in "massive damages" to the U.S. government, the suit alleges. The faulty loans will cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, with the costs rising as more VA loans go into default, according to the suit. The two mortgage brokers who brought the suit said in an interview that they were instructed by the lenders not to show attorney's fees on their estimates, but to add them to the title examination fee. Under VA rules, lenders can charge veterans for recording fees and taxes, credit reports and other customary fees, but they are not allowed to charge attorney's fees or settlement closing fees. "It was gut-wrenching to us, seeing the brazenness" of the lenders, broker Victor E. Bibby said.

The case involves refinanced loans that are available to retired or active-duty veterans on homes they already own. The program is aimed at giving veterans the opportunity to lower their interest rates or shorten the terms of existing home mortgages.

The whistleblower suit, which was unsealed Monday, seeks to recover damages and civil penalties on behalf

of the U.S. government. The Justice Department has notified the U.S. District Court that it is not taking over the case but is reserving the right to intervene at a later date, according to court papers.

"The government has not yet made a decision about whether to intervene in this case," Sally Quillian Yates, United States attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, said Tuesday. "As the case develops, we will continue to evaluate the merits of the case, and we will consider intervening . . . if it becomes appropriate to do so."

"This is a very significant case," Patrick Burns, spokesman for the nonprofit Taxpayers Against Fraud, said Tuesday. "It deals with widespread fraud from veterans who were personally pickpocketed for hundreds if not thousands of dollars, and the liability has been shoved on the federal government." During the past decade, more than 1.2 million of the refinanced loans have been made to veterans and their families, and up to 90 percent may have been affected by the alleged fraud, according to attorneys for the plaintiffs.

"The banks collected hundreds of millions of dollars in hidden fees from veterans, and they obtained hundreds of millions of dollars in loan guarantees they otherwise wouldn't have received," said Mary Louise Cohen, a Washington attorney who is also representing the whistleblowers.

The case has been brought under the False Claims Act by two mortgage brokers in Georgia, and has been under federal seal since it was filed in 2006 in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Cases brought under the act often remain under seal for years while they are investigated.

Three of the companies named in the suit — Wells Fargo, Bank of America and SunTrust Mortgage — declined to comment.

Speaking on background, representatives of two banks said the government's decision to not intervene yet means the Justice Department does not think it's a strong case. But Burns, whose organization monitors

whistleblower cases, said the government's decision to allow private law firms to take the lead was not unusual given limited resources for investigating alleged fraud.

"God help any bank that takes this case to trial," Burns said. "A jury's only question is going to be 'How much do they have?'"

The suit includes as an exhibit a loan document in which Wells Fargo reported a \$950 title examination rather than "a reasonable and customary fee" of between \$125 and \$200. Banks collected anywhere from \$300 to \$1,000 per loan in hidden fees by adding the prohibited charges to the allowable fees, according to the suit.

Bibby, one of the plaintiffs, is president and chief executive of U.S. Financial Services, a Georgia-based corporation that provides mortgage services in seven states. As brokers, Bibby and the company's vice president of operations, Brian J. Donnelly, helped veterans choose lenders and complete the application forms. Since 2001, their company has helped set up thousands of the veterans' refinancing loans, according to the suit.

In 2005, Donnelly said he read the rules in a VA handbook governing the fees that could be charged for the transactions, which are known as Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loans, or IRRRL loans. Donnelly, who served three years in the Army, did further research and said, became convinced that the charges were fraudulent. "We knew it was wrong," he said.

"We started putting two and two together," Bibby said. "It was kind of like a coconut hitting us on the head. They're hiding it intentionally." Bibby and Donnelly said they approached the lenders, who insisted they were doing nothing wrong. The brokers reported their allegations to the U.S. government, providing copies of hundreds of "fraudulent transactions." Upon filing the whistleblower lawsuit, the court ordered the case sealed.

Earlier this year, Wells Fargo agreed to a \$10 million settlement in a separate class-action lawsuit that alleged it improperly added attorney's fees to about 60,000 refinancing loans for veterans.

Other companies named as defendants include CitiMortgage, Washington Mutual Bank, PNC Bank (which acquired National City Mortgage), Countrywide Home Loans, Mortgage Investors, First Tennessee Bank (which acquired First Horizon Home Loan), Irwin Mortgage and New Freedom Mortgage. Staff writer Lisa Rein contributed to this report.

News from the League

VA Support Program Expanding to More Veterans, Spouses/ Spouse Telephone Support Program Demonstrates Improved Quality of Life
WASHINGTON (Nov. 18, 2011) –

The Department of Veterans Affairs is implementing a telephone support program to help the spouses of returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans, after a pilot telephone support program showed significant reduction in stress for spouses.

"Returning to civilian life after living in constant combat readiness can be a shocking transition, and it is the immediate family, the spouses and children, who bear that brunt of that transition with those who served," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "The more support we can provide to the family, the better the outcome will be for our Veterans."

The spouse telephone support program, which is part of VA's Caregiver Support Program, builds spouses' ability to cope with the challenges that reintegration to civilian society can bring, helps them serve as a pillar of support for returning Veterans, and eases the transition for families after deployments. Spouses in the pilot program reported decreased symptoms of depression and anxiety, with an increase in social support.

Spouses participate in 12 telephone support groups over six months. The focus is on problem-solving and

communication, relationships, mental health and resilience. A trained, nationwide team of VA medical center staff members, including many caregiver support coordinators, will lead the support groups. Typical issues spouses and Veterans face after deployment include communication difficulties, the need to renegotiate family roles and responsibilities and the added stress of combat related injury. Spouses of Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have reported feeling overwhelmed, depressed, anxious and frustrated.

“Providing support to family caregivers is the right thing for VA to do,” said Dr. Robert Petzel, VA’s under secretary for health. “A simple series of phone calls can do so much good. Certainly, those who fought for our nation and the spouses who allowed them to make that sacrifice deserve this support.” The program is based on research by VA researchers Dr. Linda Nichols and Dr. Jennifer Martindale-Adams, of the Memphis VA Medical Center and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Both researchers developed and studied interventions for family members of Veterans and military personnel. Their work with spouses of post-deployed and deployed military personnel is funded through the Defense Health Program, managed by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. Local caregiver support coordinators are available to assist Veterans and their caregivers in understanding and applying for VA’s many caregiver benefits. VA also has a Web page, www.caregiver.va.gov, with general information on spouse telephone support and other caregiver support programs available through VA and the community.

***Current Information Regarding DD-214's
Please pass on to other vets. It's official: DD-214
discharge papers are NOW ONLINE.***

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has Provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his/her DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.

Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents.

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MARINE TIDBITS:

1 November 1983: 300 Marines of the 22d Marine Amphibious Unit staged an amphibious and helicopter landing on the island of Carriacou, 15 miles northeast of Grenada, in a search for Cuban military installations or personnel. 17 Grenadian soldiers were captured, and arms, ammunition, and training sites were found. The next day the 22d MAU left the Caribbean area and proceeded to Beirut, Lebanon to replace the 24th MAU.

8 November 1990: President Bush announced that he planned to add more than 200,000 U.S. troops to those already deployed in Operation Desert Shield in the Persian Gulf area. The number of Marines in the area would be doubled by the addition of II MEF units from the Corps' east coast bases, and the 5th MEB from California. Within the next two months, Marine strength in the objective area would increase to nearly 90,000 Marines.

10 November 1921: This date marked the first formal commemoration of the birthday of the Marine Corps as 10 November. On 21 October 1921, Maj Edwin McClellan, OIC of the Historical Section, HQMC, sent a memo to MajGen Commandant John A. Lejeune, suggesting that the original birthday of 10 November 1775 be declared a Marine Corps holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps. Accordingly, on 1 Nov 1921, Gen Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47 summarizing the history, mission, and tradition of the Corps, and directed that it be read to every command each 10 November.

13 November 1982: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of more than 13,000 Marines who lost their lives in Vietnam, was dedicated this date at the Memorial site in Washington, D.C. The dedication and parade that preceded it were part of a week-long National Salute to Vietnam Veterans.

17 November 1918: The 4th Marine Brigade, as part of the 2d Division, American Expeditionary Force, began its march to the Rhine River, passing through Belgium and Luxembourg, as part of the American forces occupying a defeated Germany.

20 November 1943: The 2d Marine Division, commanded by Major General Julian C. Smith, landed on Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands. After seventy-six hours of bitter fighting during which almost 1,000 Marines died, and more than 2,000 were wounded, MajGen Smith declared the island secure.

24 November 1992: Marines lowered the flag at Subic Bay, U.S. Naval Facility, Republic of the

Philippines, for the last time during ceremonies to turn over the facility to the government of the Philippines. The withdrawal ended almost a century of U.S. presence in that nation.

25 November 1968: The conclusion of Operation Lancaster II ended 10 months of action against the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army troops in the west-central sector of the demilitarized zone region. Over 1,800 enemy were killed, 42 captured, and 913 weapons seized during the operation.

27 November 1950: In a carefully planned assault, eight Chinese Communist divisions in Korea launched a massive attack which had as its expressed purpose, the destruction of the 1st Marine Division. This action led to the successful southward Marine Corps attack out of the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir to the coastal port of Hungnam

Initiatives from Monthly Meeting

Applications for Membership:

Located in Membership Corner

Members Sick or in Distress:

Nancy Hormon, Wife of Stan Hormon

Houston Tucked will have heart surgery on Nov. 16th

Report of Standing Committees:

Toys for Tots: Herb Donica reported things moving along well. He showed the membership the flyer that will be sent out for letter carriers day on December 3, 2011.

He firmed up Volunteers for the three post offices that the detachment will cover.

Sun City, Tony, Dick and Hank

Valrico, Walt and Ken

Riverview, George, Bernie and Dave

The two hockey game collections are tentatively scheduled for December 3rd and 15th. We need volunteers for these events.

Herb's Toys for Tots party is scheduled for December 10th.

The football game collection is scheduled for December 17th.

Rose Fund: Willie Little announced the next event will be Nov. 19th at Wal-Mart. He has volunteers set up. Next collection will be sometime in January.

More to come after the first of the year.

Poker Run: Debra Steele reported that the rough total made was \$3500.00. Final tally will be given at next meeting. Thank you letters and certificates to donors still need to be done. She also thanked all those who showed to help on the day of the run.

Birthday: Walt Raysick reported that there are 48 members signed up to attend the celebration. Asked for volunteers from the honor guard to post colors.

Honor Guard: Walt Raysick said that November will be a busy month with commitments on the 11th, 12th, 19th and 26th. And there are also two in December on the 7th and 10th.

Young Marines: Debra Steele said there was nothing new to report this month.

Report of Special Committees:

Conference Planning: Peter White reported that we have been given the final approval by the department and we are good to go. He will have a list of areas where help will be needed at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Willie Little updated the members on the questions that he asked at the department conference. The department would like each MCL member to buy \$5.00 in raffle tickets so that they can reach their goal for next year.

We have two options. We can contribute to the depart scholarship fund or not contribute and support our detachments applicants only.

This would be in addition to the Scholarship that we award to the East Bay High school.

New Business:

Houston Tucker proposed renaming the detachment in honor of GySgt Aaron M. Kenefick. After much spirited discussion Tommy Reichard made a motion to table it for a quarter to give all the members a chance to research to see if there is another choice they would recommend. Motion will be brought up again in February.

Willie Little made a motion to give a \$150.00 gas card to Cpl Berry who is a patient at the VA Hospital to help him with his moving expense back home. Motion passed.

Ken Zolna made a motion to give an additional \$600.00 to Cpl Berry. Motion did not pass.

Rob Becker addressed the need to raise more funds for the general account. He brought forth the idea of selling hot dogs at the Legions bingo night. After some discussion Hank Wolons made a motion to table it until next month which was seconded and passed.

Good of the League: John Berrios gave a presentation under the we are Marines segment telling the membership some interesting details about his 4 year tour at Marine Barracks 8th & I.

John Bain asked for in the form of a motion that the detachment to donate 11 \$25.00 gift cards to be put into Christmas stockings that he and his wife are making for the Marine patients at the VA Hospital. Motion passed.

Announcements: Bernie thanked all that called or emailed him while he was in the hospital having a kidney stone removed.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Peter White

In 1952 my friend Nick Castronuovo and I were dying to go into the Marine Corps but his parents would not sign for him so we had to wait until he turned 17.

To help kill time, I decided to hitchhike to California to see my sister who had moved there after her marriage to a Sailor. What an adventure! I think God had me take this trip to help prepare me for the Marines.

After my return home and Nick's birthday we enlisted and on May 26, 1953 I became Private Peter James White, 1366777, a U.S. Marine recruit.

Halfway through Boot Camp the truce was signed and so we were not sent to Korea to battle as so many others were. Instead, the training schools were opened and activated. Upon graduation in the First Battalion, Platoon 175 at Parris Island, I was selected to go to Camp Lejeune and report to Headquarters Co, 2nd Battalion Engineers where I was given my MDS#1364 Road Grader. I thought "what is a road grader?" but didn't get much more explanation. As we were assembled in formation a Sgt. With a loud voice asked if there was anyone who did not know how to drive...he repeated it in an even louder voice. I slowly raised my hand (I remember thinking I've never heard an accent like that-it was Southern) and the Sarge called me forward. As I stood there he told

the rest of the group that he was personally going to teach Private White how to drive because he doesn't have any bad driving habits.(see picture)

After graduation and three weeks leave I reported to Camp Pendleton CA for reassignment. I received orders to report to Camp Okubo, Japan with Headquarters Company 3rd Engineer Battalion. I was put in charge of my Road Grader and had to maintain her and all the moving parts and be at the ready at all times.

One TDY job we were asked to do was at a local Convent. They wanted us to grade a school recreation field for soccer. We were told to report any live Ammo if we saw it.

That winter we were put on alert to be ready to move the base, lock, stock and barrel, to the Port of Yokohama for deployment to the China Sea. (Scuttlebutt had it we were off to help the French at Dien Bien Phu.) After three months the orders were to stand down, as the French had surrendered.

Later we were told to pack up to move to Okinawa. Our mission was to build enough bases so the Marines in Japan could withdraw (allegedly as agreed on at the end of the war).The Engineers worked day and night to reach our goal. In 3 months time we built 3 ½ bases. Feeling good about our accomplishments we were in the beer hall and a Marine in another group yelled,"Hey White, You are supposed to pullout with the next group but I think I'm going to lose your orders". After I set him straight I discovered I had a broken wrist and in fact shipped out a month after my company.

As our Strato-cruiser was landing in California we received a 30 day leave and assignment to Camp Lejeune,N.C., 1st Marine Division, Headquarters Company,1st Engineer Battalion.

I was discharged on May 25, 1956.

I used the GI Bill to attend SRT School of Radio and Television in New York. Upon graduation I headed south looking for a position is a broadcast station. I landed in Tampa and stopped at WFLA-TV to talk to the station manager. He gave me the job on the spot,

February 25, 1958. I retired in 1983 as a Producer-Director.

Since then I have worked in various other communication settings and finally retired in 1990. My family and I have lived in Riverview since 1967 and we have watched it grow from a quiet rural setting to the bustling area it is today.



Peter White on the right while getting to interview President Reagan and First Lady Reagan.

HERO OF THE MONTH



The Marine Corps helped shape the life of Daniel M. Angus and turned him into a man. He survived two tours of duty in Iraq, but now his family is planning his funeral after he was killed in an explosion in war-torn Afghanistan.

Angus, 28, of Thonotosassa, died Sunday while on foot patrol in the Helmand province when an improvised explosive device detonated, said his mother, Kathy Angus. Two other Marines also were killed.

"He died doing what he loved," his mother said of the 2000 Armwood High School graduate. "He loved the Marine Corps and he gave his life for it."

Angus was working construction and living in Thonotosassa with little direction a few years back. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 2003, hoping "to accomplish something in his life," Kathy Angus said. He succeeded and rose to the rank of sergeant. He knew he had found his calling and was planning to make the Marine Corps a career.

"He found himself," Kathy Angus said. "He was well-liked. He did whatever was asked of him and then some."

A childhood friend, Carroll Hanson of Thonotosassa, said Angus grew as a person in the Marines.

"The Marine Corps made him a man," said Hanson, 28. "It made him blossom. It brought out all the best in him. It made him shine."

Angus served in Iraq from July 2004 to February 2005 and again from December 2005 to March 2006.

He was promoted to the rank of sergeant on May 1, 2007. Along the way, he was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, two Good Conduct Medals, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and a number of service decorations.

"He was an excellent Marine," Kathy Angus said from Dover, Del., where she awaited the return of her son's remains. "The structure was good for him. He was an excellent leader."

Also killed in the operation were Lance Cpl. Timothy J. Poole, 22, of Bowling Green, Ky., and Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith, 19, of Hornell, N.Y.

Angus and Smith, both riflemen, were assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7, and 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade based in Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Poole was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

The Marines were a part of the first wave of the 30,000 military personnel surge sent to Afghanistan in hopes of defeating al-Qaida and the Taliban. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion were expecting to face a bloody fight, according to a Chinese television station report in December.

Angus was interviewed for the December story.

"It's a jump-and-run kind of thing," Angus told the television reporter. "You never know when you are going to go. It is not my first Christmas away from home. It is not going to be my last."

The veteran Marine had no way of knowing that it would be.

Now he leaves behind a wife, Bonnie, whom he married just days before he left for Afghanistan on Dec. 17. The couple has a daughter, Kaitlyn, who will turn 2 in March. Bonnie Angus and their daughter live in Kingston, Tenn., Kathy Angus said.

"They thought they were going to get old and fat together," Kathy Angus said. "Obviously, that's not going to happen."

Born in New York State, Daniel Angus and his family moved to the Thonotosassa area when he was 2. After graduating from Armwood, he began working a construction job in the area, but there was little opportunity for him, his mother said.

"He wanted more for his life," Kathy Angus said.

Outside of military life, Angus loved the outdoors, especially going to the mud hole. He had a big four wheeler that he drove in the woods and through the mud. He also owned a huge pickup that he used to cruise the town and to also go mudding, Kathy Angus said.

He liked to fish and hunt, too.

"He was my only son," Kathy Angus said. "I have a daughter, but he was my only son."

Along with his wife, daughter and mother, he is survived by his father, William "Skip" Angus, and a sister, Tracy Maizille, both of Thonotosassa.

Tentative funeral arrangements are planned for Feb. 6 at Serenity Meadows Memorial Park in Riverview. A military funeral will be held at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Kathy Angus said.

Story taken from TBO.com

Please help support the local businesses that help sponsor our Poker Run this year.

Name	Address	City	Phone #
American Legion Riders #148	Hwy 301	Riverview	
MCL Detachment #1226	Hwy 301	Riverview	
Swamp Gators Pound #258	34304 Lodge Dr.	Zephyrhills	813-545-7526
American Legion Post #148	Hwy 301	Riverview	
Alloy Boltz, Inc.	21 7th Ave. N.E.	Ruskin	813-546-3185
American Legion #389	1714 Alhambra Dr.	Ruskin	
American Legion Auxiliary #148	7240 U.S. Hwy 301 S	Riverview	813-677-6529
Barney's Yamaha	9820 Adamo Dr.	Tampa	
Beef O' Brady/Sun City	723 Cypress Village Blvd.	Ruskin	813-633-2333
Donica Mediation Solutions	106 S. Tampania Ave. Ste.250	Tampa	813-878-9790
Finish Line	5402 U.S. Hwy 92	Plant City	
Fox & Hounds Pub	229 E. Brandon Blvd.	Brandon	
Memorial Cemetary	Hwy 60	Brandon	
Pinch-A-Penny	6347 US Hwy 301S	Riverview	813-672-7723
Raccoon's Restaurant & Pub	3240 Lithia PineCrest Rd.	Valrico	
Rehability Consulting Serv.	748 Kingston Ct.	Apollo Beach	813-298-2617
Riverview Moose Lodge	9000 Honeywell Rd.	Gibsonton	813-677-7921
Riverview Tire & Auto Service	7839 U.S. Hwy 301 S.	Riverview	813-677-4318
St. Jude's Circle	705 E. Brandon Blvd.	Brandon	
VFW 6287	U.S. Hwy 41	Ruskin	
VFW 8108 Men's Auxiliary		Gibsonton	
Uncle Mike's Smokehouse Grill	9847 E. Adamo Der.	Tampa	813-644-6888
Alley	10221 Big Bend Rd.	Riverview	813-672-8353
America's Car Wash	728 Cypress Village	SunCity Ctr	
Beanies	2002 U.S Hwy 41	Ruskin	813-649-1700
Beef O' Brady/Summerfield	13326 Lincoln Rd.	Riverview	813-672-4411
Biker's Bay	9520 E. MLK Blvd.	Tampa	813-740-2453
Brandon Auto Tire	2514 Hwy 60 E.	Valrico	813-685-6344
Coyote's Western Wear	7815 Commerce St.	Riverview	
Harriet's Flowers			800-449-3337

Lightening			
McDonalds Corporation Tampa			
O'Briens of Brandon	701 W. Lunsden Rd.	Brandon	813-661-9668
Ozzie's			
Recipe Box Family Diner	147 E. Bloomingdale Ave		813-655-2686
Tampa Bay Bucs	One Buc Place	Tampa	
Tampa Bay Rays	One Tropicana Dr.	St. Pete	727-825-3137
Tire Kingdom	1527 Brandon Blvd.	Brandon	
Ybor Grill	105 E. Shell Point Rd.	Ruskin	813-641-7300

I would also like to thank everyone that helped make this event possible. We had some individual sponsorships as well by the JAB Bain Boys, Walt and Mary Ann Raysick and Patricia Veld. Thank you again to all.



December 2011

Marine Corps League Detachment 1226
 One Marine Way P.O.Box 1831
 Riverview, Florida 33568

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs.	3 Toys 4 Tots Ltr Carrier's Day Hockey Game Night
4 Flea Market 0700 to 1200 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hrs	5 Legion Riders Mtg @ Legion 1830 hrs	6 League Mtg @ Legion @ 1900/ MCLA Mtg @ VFW 1900	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance @ the Pier at Little Harbor (Shell Point Rd) at 0900	8 SAL Mtg 1900	9 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs.	10 Wreaths Across America *Details Below
11 Flea Market 0700 to 1200 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hrs	12 Legion Mtg E- board 1730 hrs and general 1900 hrs	13 Legion Taco Tuesday 1600 to 1900 hrs.	14 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs	15 Toys 4 Tots Hockey Game Collection Night	16 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	17 Toys 4 Tots Football Game Collection.
18 Flea Market 0700 to 1200 Legion Breakfast @ 0900 to 1100 hrs	19	20 Legion Taco Tuesday 1600 to 1900 hrs.	21 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs	22	23 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs Adult Christmas Party 7 to 12 am	24 Christmas Eve Legion Lounge Closes at 1800
25 Christmas Day Legion Lounge 12pm to 6 pm	26	27 Legion Taco Tuesday 1600 to 1900 hrs.	28 Legion Bingo @ 1830 hrs	29	30 Legion Fish Fry @ 1700 to 1900 hrs	31 New Year's Eve @ Legion Cocktails 6-7 pm Dinner 7-8 pm
		Look Ahead: 12/10/11: Wreaths Across America, American Legion Post 5, Tampa, FL (Kennedy Blvd and Dale Mabry) at 1200 February 16-18 Mid-Winter National Conference in Vienna, Virginia				