



# Dispatch

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Volume 3, Issue 1  
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## Member Spotlight

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### **SPECIAL STAFF:**

**JNROTC/Young Marines**  
**Coordinator**

Kelly Fisk

**Boy Scout Coordinator**

Dan Gillan

**Fallen Marine Coordinator**

Ernie Elmore

**Marine for Life Coordinator**

Roger Wood

**Newsletter Editor**

Bobbie Elmore

**Patriotism Committee**

Dave Aldrich

**Veterans Service Officer**

Nick Nicholson

**Quartermaster**

Tim McClelland

**Historian**

Kathy Fazekas

**Web Sergeant**

Ron Kirstatter

### **MGySgt Ken Cason (USMC Ret.)**



Detachment member Ken Cason was born 1 February 1936 in Liberty, South Carolina. Ken went to Liberty High School where he played basketball and at home he loved to cook. He made some money working as a cook in local restaurants. He had a great relationship with his uncle, a

Boy Scout Troop Leader which caused Ken to become a Boy Scout. At graduation, all his friends entered the Army or Air Force. He had been told that the Marine Corps would never take him. Well, as it happens, he went to the recruiting station in Greenville and was dazzled by what he thought was a "band leader" due to his outstanding uniform. Of course, Ken was staring at a Marine Corps Recruiter who encouraged him to join the Corps. So in Atlanta, he was sworn into the Marine Corps and sent to boot camp at Parris Island. He laughingly remembers his D.I. asking him if he was a black maggot or a white maggot. Recruits were integrated in those days, so he figured he was a maggot along with all the other black and white maggots. He graduated boot camp in 1956.

Following boot camp, he was sent to Montford Point to attend the Cooks and Steward's Course and obtained a 3600 MOS. He learned to steward for General officers, and you could say that he became a "gentleman's gentleman."

His first duty station then was Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii 1956-59. Much to his chagrin he was put to work as a "pot washer." One day he spied a publication called "What to Fly" which said you could write to the Commandant of the Marine Corps about it. This gave him an idea. So he sat down and wrote a letter directly to the CMC in which he stated he wasn't trained to wash pots. Of course, this correspondence got to his chain of command where he was "encouraged" not to ever write directly to the Commandant again! Well, it worked. He was taken out of the Pot Room and into the Kitchen which is what he wanted all along. In three years he went from Private to Meritorious Sgt E-4.

Then he had orders back to Montford Point to complete Advanced Steward Training and he was then assigned to the BOQ at PISC for two years.

Ken was then sent to SNCO Leadership School. General's Stewards were of SNCO ranks. A General was assigned Stewards according to their rank. For example, a BG was given one Steward (an "enlisted aide") and one Officer Aide. A Major General was given two Stewards (Enlisted Aide) and two Officer Aides and so forth. After graduating from SNCO School he was sent TAD to Culinary School and then on to Norfolk as a SSgt to work for Lt General R. J. Weed.

Following his tour at Norfolk, Ken was promoted to GySgt and was sent to DaNang Viet Nam in 1970 to serve with Gen. Mc Cutchson, III MEF.

After that tour of duty he was ordered to HQMC to serve with General Anderson, who was Asst. Commandant of the Marine Corps. General Anderson was with the air wing so at that time he was unable to be moved up to Commandant.

Ken went to Quantico after serving with General Anderson to head up the Bake Shop, Central Pastry Kitchen which served all mess halls and the Naval Hospital.

Around this time he married his lovely wife, Lone. He will tell you that HE owns Lone. Together they had five children.

Then Ken was off to Camp Hansen, Okinawa (III MEF) serving with BG K.L. Robinson. Within a citation given to Ken by the General were words speaking about, "his lending special talents and culinary skills to hospitality events. "He" added luster."

As a MSgt, Ken was sent to work for the CG at PISC. That was 1979-80, and then it was on to the Navy Yard, Washington D.C. to work for the General in charge of Manpower for the Marine Corps. During his career the Marine Corps also sent him twice to the Culinary Arts School in Connecticut.

Finally, he was transferred to Albany, GA to serve with Major General Schaeffer. In 1986, after 30 years of honorably serving our nation, MGySgt Ken Cason retired. He and Lone live here in Albany.

Of course, Ken isn't one to keep his hands still and he began competing with the Vocational Industrial Club of America. He competed in Culinary Art events in many technical schools, winning awards along the way. He also went to work for Phoebe Putney Hospital as a cook and in 1997 he was awarded the Phoebe "Caring Hands Award" for demonstrating "that your hands are truly different." He left Phoebe in 1998 and his wife, Lone retired from Phoebe after working there for 35 years. Ken continues keeping his hands busy by volunteering his skills at two local churches.

Ken is a wonderful man with a great sense of humor. Take time to get to know him.

## From the Commandant

Kris and I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

As we begin this new year, it is time again to elect officers for the Detachment. I want to tell all of you that it has been my privilege and honor to serve as your Commandant for the past two years. I have enjoyed representing you at the Department, Division, and National levels.

During the past two years, we have increased our membership from 77 to 96 members. I am hopeful that instituting the mentoring program and starting training classes this year will help us retain our new members and keep the interest of existing members.

Together, we have institutionalized the Patriotism or Flag Program, the Fallen Marine Program, the Young Marines Program, the Boy Scout Program, the JROTC Program, the Awards Program, the Rose Program, the annual yard sale, a monthly newsletter, and a Flag Folding Ceremony team. Discussing these programs at Department staff meetings has made our brother detachments ask how to start some of these programs.

Your community involvement in the River Walk

cleanups, Stash the Trash, National Trails Day, Make a Difference Day, Patriot Field of Flags, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day have made not only the community but other veterans organizations look to us for advice and support.

I could not have started or sustained these programs and events by myself. It is you, our members, who have seen a need and said, "I want to take the lead on that." I am very grateful to have had a supporting role in what the Detachment has become today.

Many of you know that I have been asked to assist the Department in developing new detachments in Southwest Georgia. I look forward to working on this challenge for the next year. I would like to point out that we are the oldest detachment in District 5. A part of my new duties includes making recommendations on how the Department can assist the existing detachments so you will hear that I am attending detachment and staff meetings for our detachment as well as Warner Robins and Waycross. You are all more than welcome to join me and will get a view of how other Detachments are coming along.

Now we all need to look to and support the new officers volunteering to lead us in the coming year.



Semper Fi,  
Tom Newton

## Chaplain's Corner

*"We went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance."*

*Psalms 66:12b*

"Have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New year." How many times has this been said to us? This is a New Year. Let's examine "prosperous." It is nice to hear that God desires to bring us into abundance. In fact, many a preacher has promoted the goodness of the Lord and His ability to prosper His children. Unfortunately, my experience is that this gospel of material abundance has little to do with the gospel of the Kingdom as our Lord works in the realm of the sanctified soul. The passage above tells us that God does in fact bring us into places of abundance. However, upon further study of the entire passage, we learn the route to this abundance.

God's economy of abundance often has little to do with material blessing. In God's

economy, abundance is often measured in wisdom and knowledge of Himself. It is then that we are truly blessed. Real wisdom comes from the kinds of experiences that come only through the deepest tests. Lessons of refinement, including burdens, leading us through the fire and water. This is the territory that must be traveled to reach that place of abundance. What we often fail to realize is that God's measuring stick is the character and likeness of Jesus Christ Himself in each of us. This cannot be gained through a life of ease and pleasure. Ease and pleasure fail to refine.

God may be putting you through a time of refinement right now. Take heart if this is the place you find yourself, and realize that if you are faithful through the tests, you will enter a place of abundance that few will ever attain. The darkest hour is just before daybreak.

Chaplain Ernie Elmore can be reached at 435-2283 or [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net) to report sickness, injury or for spiritual needs.

## **Get Involved!**

Every Wednesday 0900 Detachment breakfast at Roosters on Westover Blvd. Join us if you can.

## **Banquet Highlights**



We all celebrated our Detachment's 5th anniversary on December 13th with a spirited and delightful banquet at the River Pointe Golf Course Club House. Over 60 of us were in attendance. A very short monthly business was conducted during which time recognition was given to Silas Barnes on his 90th birthday. Silas is a local WWII Marine who, unfortunately, served in a Prisoner of War status for a time in the Philippines. It was a privilege to have him and his wife in attendance.

Chaplain Ernie Elmore conducted the sober ceremony recognizing the Fallen Marine and the POW tables and explaining the symbolism of each table's component.



The evening continued as Commandant Tom Newton, aided by Adjutant Roger Paulin, handed out certificates and medals recognizing the various outstanding contributions of many of our members to our Detachment.

## **Certificates of Appreciation to the Community for Support of the Detachment:**

\* River Pointe Golf Club

\* Raytheon Corporation

## **Certificates of Appreciation for Community Support:**

\* Bob Breton \* Al Fazekas \* Kathy Fazekas \* Kelly Fisk \* Greg Freed \* Jim Johnson \* Angela Kearby \* Jerry Wessels \* Carl Wilcox

## **Community Service Awards:**

Bob Adams \* Dave Aldrich \* Richard Chaffin \* Ernie Elmore \* J.J. Kraus \* Tim McClelland \* Ray Murphy \* Roger Paulin





## Marine of the Year:

Ron Kirstatter



## Detachment Recruiter Award:

Roger Paulin



## Individual Meritorious

### Awards:

Dan Gillan \* Bobbie Elmore



Sheila Kirstatter received the Marine of the Year Award for her husband Ron.

To continue the awards in a lighter manner, Associate members Andrea Gillan and Marilyn McClelland handed out certificates and DVD's to members of the Wednesday morning breakfast Women "auxiliary".



A delicious meal followed the awards.

To top off the evening, member Sgt. Mike Trevino (active duty recruiter in Tifton) brought along three of his recent enlistees.



Commandant Newton had the pleasure of swearing into our membership, William Jacob Cobb, one of the new recruits.



## Good of the League

### Important Meeting!

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 1830 at the River Pointe Golf Course Club House. All members are urged to attend as we will be installing our new officers for the coming year.

## Sea Stories

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*In 1982 my feet hit the yellow foot prints at MCRD San Diego. As with the other Marines that came before me, rushed from here to there and then back and you're on your face. And your new name is maggot, sweet pea, snowball, sunshine, gifted one, and etc. You will have many until you screw up and then the DI's will tag you with one. That makes me think of John Wilson.*

*John Wilson is my brothers best friend from high school and had joined the Marines as his brother, father, grandfather did before him. John served four years and got out. John had provided me with some great advice prior to shipping out to boot camp. John's own words "Don't let the DI's get your name in their mouth or your name will be coming out of their mouth each time they need to make an example". Wish I would have read into that before first phase drill competition.*

*Our boot camp was broken down into three phases. At the end of first phase each platoon competes for scores in PFT and Drill. From the first until the end of first phase you look like a dork. Trousers unbloused, sleeves down, and top button on blouse buttoned. I think it was a mental thing. If we were not running, we were drilling. If it was raining or dark we were drilling inside. By this time we were getting the idea we should take running and drilling seriously.*

*By now the platoon is arranged tallest at the front, then down to the shortest at the end. I was the end man. This information is a component in the nicknaming later. It was time for competition drill, first phase. We didn't look too bad, yet who did I have to compare us to. The Junior DI would drive us in phase one. The start of the drill, the Junior DI marches out on to the Parade Field, stops, draws sword and brings it to the carry position then calls out to the platoon who is off the Parade Field and to his back, "FALL IN". Now it is a no brainer. We have done this 50,000 times before. Everyone shuffles to their place. You know it, you know where the Junior DI is and you know how far you are from the DI. Lock your body up, head and eyes straight ahead. You see nothing, just the blank look awaiting the next command. The next command comes. You know it. The Junior DI calls out "AT CLOSE ENTRIVAL DRESS RIGHT DRESS." (I thought this was odd). At this command the DI marches to his left, toward the first squad leader, stopping in line with him, quick right face from the Junior DI and he is looking down the line of the first squad to call out to Marines out of alignment to adjust themselves. As the command is given we pop our heads smartly to the right as to look down the line and see the Junior DI and follow his adjustments. Of course, you must remember that I am the last*

*man in the squad. I am at the very end! In my mind we are looking good, snap - pop. As I snapped my head and popped my right arm into place, my world to the right of me looks different than I had expected. The next Marine to my right was about twenty feet away. I am now thinking the Junior DI's command was "CLOSE ENTRIVAL FALL IN". That leaves my mind when the DI makes his facing movement and looks down the line, his eyes bugged, at this point. I am sure he is looking at me. At this moment we both pause, then he calls out, "END MARINE, ADJUST YOURSELF". The Junior DI's eyes were still bugged out, what do I do? One of the last pointers the Senior DI had passed to was, "No points will be taken off drill score if you use short choppy steps to adjust." With my body at attention, head snapped to the right and the right arm at close interval, I made my descent to the next Marine. Heals of my boots pounding the deck at a cyclic rate of a M60 and about that loud, the Junior DI's eyes still bugged. Once I docked my right elbow against the Marine to my right, the Junior DI's eyes debugged. He faced off to the next squad. I had a feeling I would be digging in the rose garden tonight under the bugging eyes of the Junior DI. Next command from Junior DI, "READY FRONT," WOW! There is another sight I did not expect to see. As I am in the dead stare straight ahead, that's not good. The Senior and other*

*Junior DIs are at the back of the parade bleachers laughing so hard they are both bent over at the waist. Brain blackout, went on auto pilot.*

*The next moment I remember is the Senior DI talking to us in a school circle in the platoon squad bay. He said overall we did great (OK, great is not outstanding). I felt good until Senior DI said, "FISK, WHAT WERE YOU THINKING WHEN YOU ADJUSTED". I popped to my feet, felt some bugging eyes on me, yet I said, "SENIOR DI TOLD US TO ADJUST WITH SHORT CHOPPY STEPS" and I sat down. Senior DI says, "THAT IS WHY WE DID NOT LOSE ANY POINTS ON THAT ADJUSTMENT." Then he goes on to say, "FISK YOU LOOK LIKE A FIDDLER CRAB MOVING ACROSS THE PARADE FIELD, SO YOUR NEW NAME IS FIDDLER CRAB."*

*We are rewarded for doing a great job with, a little time on our racks reading knowledge. Then I hear the Senior DI shouting from the DI duty hut, "FIDDLER CRAB". I know that's me. I jump to my feet, run to the duty hut door, pound on the bulkhead three times then shout out "FIDDLER CRAB REPORTING AS ORDERED". Senior DI commands "FRONT AND CENTER". I quick center myself in front of the Senior DI's desk at attention. Then it comes. "RIGHT FACE, FIDDLER CRAB, FIDDLE OUT OF MY DUTY HUT." As I fiddled out of the duty*

*hut there was another DI, I did not make eye contact - but he was not one of our DIs. Senior never called me Fiddle Crab after that, but he did not forget my name as hoped.*

*Six years later I am walking down the stairwell at BSSG-1 K-Bay, HI. I pass a CWO3 and give the greeting of the day. He says, "STOP MARINE, COME HERE." He looks me square in the eyes and says, "FIDDLER CRAB." He was the other DI in the hut that fiddling day. Just another boot camp nickname. OORAH MARINES!*

*Kelly Fisk*

## **This Month in History**

**1 Jan 1804:** The tradition of the Marine Band serenading the Commandant was established.

**8 Jan 1815:** Marines, with Andrew Jackson's help, repulsed the British at New Orleans.

**16 Jan 1991:** Marines participated in the offensive air action against Iran as Operation Desert Storm began.

**24 Jan 1968:** The 26th Marine Regiment held the Khe Sahn Combat Base.

**27 Jan 1778:** Marines landed at New Providence, Bahamas; the American flag flew over foreign soil for the first time.

**29 Jan 1991:** Marines participated in the first major ground action of Desert Storm repulsing on Iraqi mechanized battalion.

## **Birthdays!**

### **JANUARY**

12th - Karolyn Sutherland

16th - Kevin McCutcheon

21st - James Reilly

25th - Dan Gillan

26th - Bobbie Elmore

27th - Dave Aldridge

You're not getting older,  
Marines, you're getting better!

\*\*\*\*\*


In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (artists know that arms and legs are more difficult to paint.)

\*\*\*\*\*



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- *Daily Happy Hour 4-6*
- *Thursday Night Grilling with Fellow Marines, 6:30PM*
- *Marine Blitz plays 8:00AM Sat & Sunday*

**801 River Pointe Drive, Albany GA 229-883-4885**



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# January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 • 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1373 Monthly Meeting in Warner Robbins, GA	3	4 • 6:00 am -8:00 am : Monthly Retiree Breakfast • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	5 • 5:00 pm -7:00 pm : 2013 Conference meeting	6	7 • Young Marines Drill Weekend
8	9 • 8:00 am -4:30 pm : MCLB TAP Class	10 • 8:00 am -4:30 pm : MCLB TAP Class	11 • 8:00 am -4:30 pm : MCLB TAP Class • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	12 • 8:00 am -4:30 pm : MCLB TAP Class	13	14
15	16	17 • 6:30 pm -7:30 pm : Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment #1260	18 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	19 • 8:00 am -12:00 pm : MCLB Welcome Aboard Brief • 6:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1333 Monthly Meeting in Waycross	20	21 • Young Marines Drill Weekend • 9:00 am -10:30 am : Breakfast with Tifton Marines
22	23	24	25 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	26	27	28 • 10:00 am -12:00 pm : Tifton Forming a Detachment Meeting
29	30	31				



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Volume 3, Issue 2  
February 2012

## Member Spotlight

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 Kelly Fisk  
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 Dan Gillan  
**Fallen Marine Coordinator**  
 Ernie Elmore  
**Marine for Life Coordinator**  
 Roger Wood  
**Newsletter Editor**  
 Bobbie Elmore  
**Patriotism Committee**  
 Dave Aldrich  
**Veterans Service Officer**  
 Nick Nicholson  
**Quartermaster**  
 Tim McClelland  
**Historian**  
 Kathy Fazekas  
**Web Sergeant**  
 Ron Kirstatter

### MSgt Ron Kirstatter (USMC Ret.)



Our new Commandant and most recent Detachment Marine of the Year, Ron Kirstatter, is in our member spotlight this month. Born in Denver, CO, Ron joined the Marine Corps upon graduating from Delta High School in June of 1978. Attending basic training at MCRD, San Diego, CA and MOS training in Millington, TN and Denver, CO as a Precision Measurement Equipment Specialist, Lance Corporal Kirstatter's first assignment was with MAG-13 in El Toro, CA. As it turns out, El Toro would become home for more than half of Ron's career. A short assignment with MAG-70 during the Iran hostage crisis, a pump in Iwakuni, Japan and an MOS change to Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment (TMDE) Repair put Sergeant Kirstatter right back at MCAS El Toro with MWCS-38. Exercising a deferred duty station option Ron was given the choice of Twentynine Palms, CA or MCLB Albany, GA. Never having been to the "Left Coast" Ron opted for the position in Albany as a Metrology Technician. In just 3 short years, Staff Sergeant Kirstatter was on his way back to ...you guessed it...El Toro. On his departure Ron was heard to say "I'll get out of the Marine Corps before I ever accept orders back to Albany, GA". Having completed his hardship tour in Albany, 2 years later Ron was placed in charge of a multi-million dollar mobile calibration complex

with BSSG-1 in Kaneohe, HI. Shortly thereafter Ron deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Ron served as the SNCOIC for the Maritime Prepositioning Ships Offload Preparation Party at the Port of Al Jubail then joined up with 1st FSSG Forward, ELMACO. Upon his return from the desert he was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant and for the final time returned to El Toro. PCA orders followed shortly thereafter assigning Ron as one of a limited number of enlisted Marine Corps Liaison Officers providing coordination between the Program Manager, TMDE and the FMF engineering support staff at the Naval Warfare Center in Corona, CA. Gunnery Sergeant Kirstatter was instrumental in the development, testing and fielding of the Department of Defense's first automated Test Equipment Calibration System. Transferring to MarCorSysCom in Quantico, VA Master Sergeant Kirstatter wrapped up a 22 year career, or as he puts it "A really long degree program" with his Bachelor degree in Computer Information Systems and as the calibration subject matter expert for PM-TMDE.

After his retirement, Ron worked as a consultant for Deloitte Consulting on projects involving the merger of Chevron-Texaco and data integration of law enforcement officers across Orange County, CA but the desire to teach took Ron back to school where, with the VA's assistance, he earned his Master of Science degree in Information Systems from Claremont Graduate University. It was at this point Ron made the most logical but unexpected decision to return to Albany, GA. He married Sheila (and her three children) and took a position as an adjunct instructor for Troy University's Albany satellite campus.

Missing the professional level work environment, Ron took a contractor position as a deployment

specialist for the Navy-Marine Corps Internet which transitioned into a civil service position at the Maintenance Center Albany. Ron now works again for MarCorSysCom as the METCAL Quality Manager and ISO 9001:2000 registered auditor maintaining the quality program for all the ground calibration facilities in the Marine Corps.

When he is not traveling for the Marine Corps or attending Marine Corps League events, Ron spends time hiking, hunting and helping Sheila look after their amazing (just ask him) 2 year old grandson Dallas.

### ***From the Commandant***

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Members, Sponsors and Friends, we are off and running in 2012. In the following year my goals and expectations are to build upon the tremendous success of the Detachment under the leadership of our Jr. Past Commandant Tom Newton. The Marine Corps League's mission to "join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps" will be our charge and focus. I expect the programs we support well to become ingrained in our ethos and with increased membership and member activity to test the veracity of a few more. Specifically, I would like to see a new MODD Pound formed here in Albany, support for a marksmanship team and increased coordination with the Albany area active duty Marines in support of the Marine Corps Ball and Toys for Tots. I challenge the elected and appointed officers to demonstrate their worthiness of the faith the members have placed in them and the remaining members, as the Sr. Vice Commandant states at the close of every meeting, "the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment 1260, requests you to secure new members, and further, that you favor us at every

future meeting with your presence so far as your circumstances will permit." This month along with our weekly breakfasts and monthly meeting, we have the decommissioning of Veteran's Bridge and a Department of Georgia Staff Meeting in Peachtree City. Marine Nicholson also announced there would be a Wounded Warrior hunt February 3rd-5th. Let's get out there and show everyone that "Once a Marine, Always a Marine" means you can count on the Marine Corps League. Thank you for your vote of confidence and let's have some fun!

## ***Chaplain's Corner***

---

*"I will never leave you or forsake you."* Hebrews 13:5

*The year was 1939-1940 and Great Britain was going through struggling times. Their army was being defeated by the Germans and they were at a place called Dunkirk and they needed to extract their army and bring them back to Great Britain. This was done by hundred of civilian boats and various water craft crossing the English Channel.*

*The fear throughout the country was that the Germans were going to invade Great Britain.*

*Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister, encouraged the people to pray. And did they ever pray! Photographs taken at the time of outside churches and on main thoroughfares throughout Britain shows tens of thousands of people on their knees praying and asking God to save their country.*

*And what happened? **Hitler Blinked** and elected not to invade with soldiers but instead bomb London and other cities. The British were able to turn that tide with their brave pilots.*

### **PRAYER WORKS!**

*Today, here in the United States, we are enduring some very serious conditions. I encourage all of you to seek God's face and pray for our Country, our men and women in uniform*

*and our leadership. For II Chronicles 7:14 says, **If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.**"*

*Chaplain Ernie Elmore can be reached at 435-2283 or [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net) to report sickness, injury or for spiritual needs.*

## ***Get Involved!***

---

*Every Wednesday 0900 Detachment breakfast at Roosters on Westover Blvd. Join us if you can.*

## ***Muster Highlights***

---

**17 January 2012**

### **I. Call to Order**

Commandant Newton called the regular Detachment meeting to order at 1830 on 17 January, 2012 at the River Pointe Golf Club in Albany, GA.

### **II. Roll Call**

Adjutant Roger Paulin conducted a roll call of officers. The following officers were present: Commandant Newton, Sr. Vice Kirstatter, Judge Advocate Sanders, Paymaster Adams, Sgt at Arms Rodgers, and Chaplain Elmore. Absent were: Jr. Vice Braden. There were a total of 32 members in attendance.

### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting.**

Minutes from the previous meeting were posted to the Detachment webpage; accordingly, said minutes were not read at this meeting. No objections to the minutes were made. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Marine Wilcox, and seconded by Marine Nicholson. However, Judge Advocate Sanders later reminded the



Detachment that it was not necessary to make such a motion.

**IV. Application for Membership.** None

**V. Visitors/Guests.**

Guests in attendance included: Marine Billy Campbell who is part of a group of Marines desiring to form a MCL Detachment in Tifton, Jane Wilcox, and Jim Daughtry of the Peachtree City, MCL Detachment.

**VI. Correspondence received.**

Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful will be hosting its annual appreciation lunch at the Albany Civic Center on January 26, 2012. Lowe Electric thanked the Detachment for replacing its flag and sent in a \$25 donation. Marine Al Fazekas and his wife Kathy also made a flag donation of \$50.00.

**VII. Paymaster's Report.**

Report delivered by Paymaster Adams. The Albany Chapter of the Marine Officers Association is disbanding, and has given the Detachment \$870.00 of its left over funds. Motion to approve report made by Marine Wilcox, and seconded by Marine Fazekas. Motion approved unanimously.

**VIII. Chaplain's Report.**

Report given by Chaplain Elmore. Since November 2011, the Detachment has made presentations to the next of kin of the following five Fallen Marines: Joe Wayne Harrell, MSgt Eugene Quinn, Sr. USMC (ret.), Virgil F. Halte, Edgar Willis Pritchett, and Donald Holt. There were no sick or fallen Detachment Marines to report.

**IX. Report of the Officers.**

- a). Commandant. No report.
- b). Sr. Vice. No report

c). Jr. Vice. Absent

d). Judge Advocate: No report

**X. Standing Committee Reports.**

a) River Walk Committee:

Commandant Newton announced the next cleanup effort will take place during March 2012.

**XI. Special Committee Reports.**

a) Flag Committee: Marine Aldrich announced 53 Flags were replaced during 2010, and another 33 in 2011. So far this year 3 flags have been replaced. Donations are basically covering the cost of the flags.

**XII. Old/Unfinished Business.**

Officer elections

The following Marines were nominated for detachment elective offices and were unanimously elected in uncontested races:

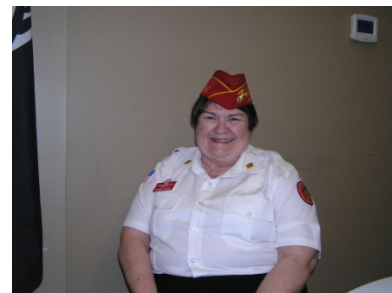
Commandant

Ron Kirstatter



Sr. Vice Commandant

Bobbie Elmore



Jr. Vice Commandant  
Roger Paulin



Chaplain  
Ernie Elmore (re-appointed)



Judge Advocate  
Bill Hammack



Sgt. at Arms  
Jim Rodgers (re-appointed)



All newly elected detachment officers were administered the oath of office, along with the following appointed officers:

Adjutant  
Alex Hart (newly appointed)



Paymaster  
Bob Adams (re-appointed)



### **XIII. New Business.**

a) Commandant Kirstatter thanked Jr. Past Commandant Newton for his two years of faithful service to the Detachment. Commandant Newton received a standing ovation.

b) Marine Jim Daughtry from the Peachtree City Detachment gave a presentation on the 2012 Department of Georgia Convention his Detachment is hosting from May 18-20, 2012. The Convention will be headquartered at the Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center. The rate for Marines with spouse is \$91.00/night. Single Marines will pay \$84.00/night. The banquet price per person will be \$42.00. Challenge coins will be sold for \$10.00 before the Convention, but will be \$11.00 at the Convention. The Guest of Honor is National MCL Commandant Vic Voltaggio. The Convention will

feature "Tun Tavern South." Spouses will have the opportunity to shop in Peachtree City and visit various attractions in Historic Senoia. Marine Daughtry encouraged the Detachment's members to support the Peachtree City Detachment by attending the Convention.

#### **XIV. Good of the League.**

Marine Nicholson announced there would be a Wounded Warrior Hunt at LtCol Hammack's family plantation on February 3-5. For further details please contact Marine Nicholson at 435-5450 or 395-3258.

Marine Wilcox announced Steve Owen of Scout Troop 115 invites Detachment members to attend the Troop's annual spaghetti dinner on Feb 18 at American Legion Post 30.

#### **XV Announcements.** None.

**XVI Adjourned.** After the colors were retired by the Sgt at Arms, Commandant Kirstatter announced the meeting was adjourned at 1915.

### ***Sea Stories***

---

From your new Judge Advocate - **Bill Hammack**

#### **KEEPER OF THE BELL**

During my last tour at MCRD, PI in the middle eighties, my very unpredictable troops made me the recipient of the Ceremonial Ships Bell. It's normally located in front of the General's building.

Arriving at work, was I ever surprised to find this large bell sitting in the middle of my desk. Before I could get my coat off and sit down to start my morning routine, the phone rang and the voice on the other end was not very friendly. Without a good morning or any other pleasantries, I was

informed that the voice belonged to the Chief of Staff and that I had just a few minutes to get his bell back in place for morning colors. I replied that I was alone in the office, and that I, under any circumstances, could not lift the bell to move it anywhere. The threats made to me would have made a seasoned DI blush. After the threats, the phone went dead and in less than ten seconds the PMO called and directed me to get my troops down to the Provost Marshal's office immediately.

By now the troops were coming in, and of course, everyone had to get a look at the bell and enjoy a good laugh at my expense. Just so happens that the shop was running military payroll and there was no way I was going to allow the payroll to be late. I decided to not send any troops to PMO, and reported to the young Major (PMO) and admitted to taking the bell myself. Of course, he didn't buy into that, but had no solution to the situation.

By now, word had spread pretty much base-wide, and my friends were starting to get in their two-bits. Trying to assist the PMO in making a decision, I called some friends that might be able to assist me in my dilemma. My Regimental Commander, (who, just happened to have five days in grade on the Chief of Staff) thought that the whole situation was funny as all get out, and he assured me that he would take care of everything.

About an hour after this all happened, four military policemen showed up and retrieved the bell which was welded (so I'm told) to the cradle.

It didn't take me long to find the culprits who took the bell. The three of them received their discipline - polishing that bell three times daily, for a whole month. The CG said that his bell had never looked so good.

I received mail and messages addressed to "The Keeper of the Bell" for months after this little incident. Of all the fond memories of a thirty year, very rewarding career, this ranks right up there with the best. Back in the day, most Marines had a sense of humor and enjoyed a good prank now and then.

Semper Fi.

## ***Boy Scouts***

---

*Steve Owen of Scout Troop 115 has invited our Detachment to attend the Troop's annual spaghetti dinner on 18 Feb at the American Legion Post 30.*

*Our Detachment Boy Scout Coordinator, Dan Gillan reports the following: "For Scouts it's been a busy several months in terms of Eagle Scout projects being conducted. Projects have supported Graceway, Willson Hospice House, St. Teresa's School and the Marine Corps Logistics Base. The young men who led these service projects are currently awaiting their Boards of Review so they can be approved for their Eagle Scout award. We're looking at an upcoming Court of Honor where we will recognize each Scout by name and also present them with recognition from the Marine Corps League. Each new Eagle Scout will be identified along with their specific project in upcoming Dispatches."*

## ***This Month in History***

---

2 Feb 1968: Operation Hue City, Tet Offensive began in Vietnam.

7 Feb 1832: 250 Marines defeated Malay pirates in Sumatra, Indonesia.

9 Feb 1904: Capt A.W. Catlin's 49 Marines established the first permanent Marine garrison in Honolulu.

13 Feb 1943: The U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve was formed.

14 Feb 1885: Marines were authorized to retire after 30 years of service.

19 Feb 1945: The 4th and 5th Marine Divisions stormed ashore at Iwo Jima.

23 Feb 1945: Five Marines and a Navy Corpsman raised the American Flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima.

24 Feb 1991: The 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions breached Iraqi minefields and spearheaded the Desert Storm ground offensive.

25 Feb 1861: The Confederate Marine Corps was organized in Richmond, VA.

27 Feb 1991: Desert Storm offensive operations ceased. Marines captured, destroyed or damaged 1,060 tanks, 608 APC's, 432 artillery pieces and two Scud launchers during 100 hours of combat.

28 Feb 1991: Operation Desert Storm ended. 23 Marines were killed in action or died of wounds.

## ***Birthdays!***

### **FEBRUARY**

1st Bill Kicklighter  
Ken Cason  
2nd Jim Rodgers  
7th Burt Sutherland  
4th Carl Wilcox  
15th Marilyn McClelland  
18th Bob Breton  
19th Bill Hamby  
21st Ken Harper  
22nd Tom Newton  
Happy Birthday to all!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*



As incredible as it sounds, "back in the day" men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October). Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term "big wig." Today we often use the term "here comes the Big Wig" because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

\*\*\*\*\*


## DETACHMENT HISTORIAN



Associate Member **Kathie Fasekas** has graciously accepted the position of Detachment Historian. She needs all hands to help her do her job by contributing photos and memorabilia from time to time that can be inserted in the Historian's Book. So let's give her a hand. You can be sure she will do a great job.

## *Our sponsors deserve your business!*

John I. Waldrop, M.D.



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### **River Pointe Golf Club**

*....always more fun at River Pointe*

- *Everyone is Welcome*
- *Sunday Lunch Buffet 11-2*
- *Daily Happy Hour 4-6*
- *Thursday Night Grilling with Fellow Marines, 6:30PM*
- *Marine Blitz plays 8:00AM Sat & Sunday*

**801 River Pointe Drive, Albany GA 229-883-4885**



For more information on sponsorship please visit [www.mclalbanyga.org](http://www.mclalbanyga.org), click on Publications and download the Program Sponsorship Form.

To reserve your copy of the Dispatch in electronic format please notify [semperfi@mclalbanyga.org](mailto:semperfi@mclalbanyga.org).

The Dispatch is the official publication of the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment 1260 of the Marine Corps League, Albany GA. The newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of Detachment members and guests. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official views of the Marine Corps League or the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment. Send all articles and comments to the editor Bobbie Elmore at [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net).



# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> • 6:00 am -8:00 am : Monthly Retiree Breakfast • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> • Wounded Warrior Hunt	<b>4</b> • Wounded Warrior Hunt • Young Marines Drill Weekend
<b>5</b> • Wounded Warrior Hunt	<b>6</b> • 8:30 am -4:30 pm : MCLB TAP Class • 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1373 Monthly Meeting in Warner Robbins, GA	<b>7</b> • 8:30 am -4:30 pm : MCLB TAP Class	<b>8</b> • 8:30 am -4:30 pm : MCLB TAP Class • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>9</b> • 8:30 am -4:30 pm : MCLB TAP Class	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> • 11:00 am : Veteran's Bridge decommissioning ceremony
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>16</b> • 8:00 am -12:00 pm : MCLB Welcome Aboard Brief • 6:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1333 Monthly Meeting in Waycross	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> • Young Marines Drill Weekend
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> • 6:30 pm -7:30 pm : Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment #1260	<b>22</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast			



# Dispatch

---

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<b>Sr. Vice Commandant:</b>	Bobbie Elmore	(229) 435-2283	<a href="mailto:ernieelmore@att.net">ernieelmore@att.net</a>
<b>Jr. Vice Commandant:</b>	Roger Paulin	(229) 669-6957	<a href="mailto:paulinr@bellsouth.net">paulinr@bellsouth.net</a>
<b>Judge Advocate:</b>	Bill Hammack	(229) 888-0561	<a href="mailto:bghammack@bellsouth.net">bghammack@bellsouth.net</a>
<b>Jr. Past Commandant:</b>	Tom Newton	(229) 446-2209	<a href="mailto:newt1644@live.com">newt1644@live.com</a>
<b>Adjutant:</b>	Roger Paulin	(229) 669-6957	<a href="mailto:rgrpaulin@gmail.com">rgrpaulin@gmail.com</a>
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Ernie Elmore	(229) 435-2283	<a href="mailto:ernieelmore@att.net">ernieelmore@att.net</a>
<b>Paymaster:</b>	Bob Adams	(229) 344-5660	<a href="mailto:usmc.adams@mchsi.com">usmc.adams@mchsi.com</a>
<b>Sgt-At-Arms:</b>	Jim Rodgers	(229) 446-4528	<a href="mailto:rodgers72oki@gmail.com">rodgers72oki@gmail.com</a>

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Volume 3, Issue 3  
March 2012

## Member Spotlight

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**Major Lawrence DesJardines**  
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**GySgt BILLY STEWART (USMC ret.)**

### SPECIAL STAFF:

**JNROTC/Young Marines  
Coordinator**

Kelly Fisk

**Boy Scout Coordinator**

Dan Gillan

**Fallen Marine Coordinator**

Ernie Elmore

**Marine for Life Coordinator**

Roger Wood

**Newsletter Editor**

Bobbie Elmore

**Patriotism Committee**

Dave Aldrich

**Veterans Service Officer**

Nick Nicholson

**Quartermaster**

Tim McClelland

**Historian**

Kathy Fazekas

**Web Sergeant**

Ron Kirstatter

Billy Stewart was born in Oakland, Maryland in 1934. He grew up in West Virginia. Being a patriot, he joined the Marine Corps in February of 1954 and was sent to MCRD Parris Island for boot camp. From there he was sent to Camp Pendleton and then on to 1st Marine Division in Korea. From there he was transferred to the 3rd Marine Division in Japan and then moved with the Division in 1955 to Okinawa.

In December 1955 he was transferred to Camp Lejeune and spent 9 years there. He re-enlisted in 1957 and went into the engineering field as a 1345 dozer operator. Billy was and is quite a shooter. While at Camp Lejeune, he broke the range record by firing a 242 out of a possible 250. For his efforts he was awarded a m-70 rifle and \$30 in cash, all of which was presented to him by General Walt.

In 1967 he was sent to Viet Nam. While there his job was to clear all the roads, like all engineers do, for truck traffic by sweeping for mines - all the



way from Phu Bai to Dong Ha, Gio Lin, Camp Carroll to Khe Sahn. He told this editor that he drove a lot of miles on that dozer. For his efforts Billy was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V among his other medals.

In 1968 he was transferred to the Philadelphia Supply Activity and upon arrival was promoted to GySgt. In 1971 GySgt Stewart was transferred to Cherry Point, N.C. from where he retired. About six months later he accepted a job with the Marine Corps Supply Activity, Albany, GA as a GS9 and retired in 1989 as a GS12. He has been married to his wife Cherry for 32 years. Cherry also retired from MCSA Albany after 32 years.

Billy is a member of VFW Post 2785 and was their Commander from 1983 through 1984. While Commander he was recognized as the National All-American Post Commander and the Post he commanded here in Albany was named the Most Outstanding Post in the entire United States.

It is a great privilege to have Billy and Cherry as part of our Detachment.

### ***From the Commandant***

---

*Marines and Corpsmen,  
By the time this hits the street, several of us will be attending the Southeast Division Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. We will be presenting our bid for the 2013 Conference likely competing with the Griffin Detachment and possibly a Detachment in Nashville, TN. Our advantage is, of course, MCLB. Word will be passed as soon as a decision is made.*

*Several of us attended the Department of Georgia staff meeting on the 25th. We have a new Department Veteran's Service Officer, Kelly Johnson. Governor Deal has signed a*

*proclamation which will be read on the steps of the Capitol at 1000 on March 30th, proclaiming the day Vietnam Veteran's Day. A similar ceremony will be held at the Dublin VA Hospital auditorium for the residents at 1000 on March 29th. A tour of the Wyndham Peachtree City Conference Center showcased what is sure to be a great Department of Georgia convention in May. If you can spare Saturday, May 19th, get your registration in as soon as possible. All the events and information are available at <http://www.mcldeptofga.org/activities.htm>. Department Chaplain Ernie Elmore and Judge Advocate Bonita Johnson provided Professional Development Program training and new Welcome Aboard booklet developed by Hal Gosnell and the Jake Puryear Detachment was previewed. Finally, a presentation was given by Haven's Heroes of Fairburn, GA describing the Haven Hills Therapeutic Riding Center's Veteran's Program asking simply that we help put any veterans in need of physical, social, cognitive or emotional healing in touch with them (email [scarter1031@gmail.com](mailto:scarter1031@gmail.com) or phone 678-296-9693.*

*The Grits Bowl coins are in! They are available for \$10 each and \$2.50 of that goes directly to our Detachment. Contact me or pick one up at the March meeting.*



*Here is a picture of the coin.*

*Make sure to move the March meeting on your calendar to March 13th at 1830 and don't forget to bring your Marine and Navy Corpsmen friends!*

## Chaplain's Corner

---

*Marines and Corpsmen,  
You can talk to God because God  
listens. Your voice matters in  
heaven. He takes you very seriously.  
When you enter His presence, the  
attendants turn to you to hear your  
voice. No need to fear that you will  
be ignored. Even if you stammer or  
stumble, even if what you have to  
say impresses no one, it impresses  
God - and He listens. He listens to  
the painful pleas of the elderly in  
the rest home. He listens to the  
gruff confession of the death-row  
inmate. When the alcoholic begs for  
mercy, when the spouse seeks  
guidance, when the Marine steps into  
the Chapel, God listens.*

*Prayers are honored as precious  
jewels. Purified and empowered, the  
words rise and do not stop until  
they reach the very throne of God.  
One call and heaven's fleet appears.  
Your prayer on earth activates God's  
power in heaven, and "god's will is  
done on earth as it is in heaven."  
You are the someone of God's  
kingdom. You have access to God.  
Your prayers move God to change the  
world. You may not understand the  
mystery of prayer. You don't need  
to. But this much is clear: Actions  
in heaven begin when someone prays  
on earth. What an amazing thought!  
When you speak, Jesus hears.  
And when Jesus hears, thunder falls.  
And when thunder falls, the world is  
changed. All because someone prayed.*

Chaplain Ernie Elmore can be reached at 435-2283 or  
erneielmore@att.net to report sickness, injury or for spiritual needs.

## Get Involved!

---

Jimmy Cross was our guest at the February meeting. Jimmy is the Construction Manager for the Flint River Habitat for Humanity. They are currently building three homes for disabled veterans here in Albany and could use our help. Several of our men are interested. From February 20th until April 6th, they could use your help at the 1605-1609 Block of Sunnylane (Veteran's Homes) near the airport. Their work hours are Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm and Friday 8 am-12pm. Contact Tom Newton 446-2209 or Dave Aldrich 854-6914. They can tell you how to help.

Those who want to be a recipient of a Habitat for Humanity home must donate 500 hours to help build it but can get family and friends to participate in those hours if they are incapacitated. The homes have a no interest mortgage and they must finance their own home. They are charged 85% of the appraised value. The owner pays \$320 each month. Many companies donate equipment toward the building of these homes.

Right now Georgia is leading the pack in building these homes and is also #10 in the world for building the most number of homes per year. Flint River group is currently building three homes using student labor from Augusta. Each student pays \$140 to work there. They are currently working on the foundations. The deadline for building these three homes is 1 July. You do not need to make a full commitment to help on these homes. Come and give whatever time you may have. Call Jimmy Cross at (cell) 229-344-1206 and let him know you are coming. You probably won't need to bring any tools.

Every Wednesday 0900 Detachment breakfast at Roosters on Westover Blvd. Join us if you can.

## ***Muster Highlights***

---

### **MEETING OF 21 FEBRUARY 2012**

#### **I. Call to Order:**

Commandant Kirstatter called the regular Detachment meeting to order at 1835 on 21 February 2012 at the Riverpointe Golf club in Albany, GA.

#### **II. Roll Call:**

Adjutant Alex Hart conducted a roll call of officers. The following officers were present. Commandant Kirstatter, Sr. Vice Bobbie Elmore, Judge Advocate Bill Hammack, Paymaster Adams, Sgt at Arms Rodgers, and Chaplain Ernie Elmore. Absent due to illness was Jr. Vice Roger Paulin. There were a total of 24 members present.

#### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting:**

Minutes from the previous meeting were posted to the Detachment webpage; accordingly, said minutes were not read at this meeting. No objections to the minutes were made, and the minutes were approved as posted.

#### **IV. Applications for Membership:**

Two applications for new membership were received from Dawaine Lake and Tom Voth, who were not present at the meeting. Commandant Kirstatter explained that the By-Laws actually require polling existing members outside of the presence of membership applicants, to determine if the applicants are acceptable to existing members. The members were polled on both new applicants and no objections were made to their becoming League Members.

#### **V. Visitors/Guests:**

Guest in attendance was Jimmy Cross from Flint River Habitat for Humanity, Inc. Jimmy delivered an informative presentation about Flint river Habitat, including its goals, the types of housing it builds for qualified applicants, the "sweat equity" requirement, on-going buildings and other volunteer opportunities. He requested our members to come out to the two construction sites at 1605 and 1609 Sunny Lane in Albany to speak with the college-age volunteers about what it means to be a veteran. Jim's phone number 229-344-1206 or he can be reached by e-mail at [jimmy@flintriverhabitat.org](mailto:jimmy@flintriverhabitat.org).



Speaker Jimmy Cross and Marine Ken Berggren

#### **VI. Correspondence received:**

The family of Marine Donald Luckey wrote to thank the Detachment for honoring Donald's life and service, and for presenting the family with a Certificate of Service.

#### **VII. Paymaster's Report:**

Paymaster Bob Adams delivered the report. The motion to approve the report was made by Marine Fazekas and seconded by Marine Aldrich. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **VIII. Chaplain's Report:**

Given by Chaplain Elmore. Three Fallen Marines were reported: Donald Luckey, MSgt Raymond Redmon (USMC ret.) and Charles



Gleaton, Sr. The following Marines were reported as ill or in distress: Billy Stewart, Felix DeMuth and Roger Paulin.

**IX. Report of the Officers:**

a). Commandant: Commandant Kirstatter mentioned that all or most of the elected Detachment officers would be absent for the March and August Detachment meetings due to MCL Conventions. No decision has been made on whether to cancel or reschedule those meetings. Commandant Kirstatter also mentioned the Detachment has supported the families of seven Fallen Marines since November 2011.

b). Adjutant: Adjutant Hart gave a short summary of what transpired at the Detachment officers meeting. First, the Detachment is going to be purchasing a ceremonial brass bell; the price is under \$90.00. Second, the Detachment will be holding its annual yard sale and picnic on April 21, 2012 at Marine Newton's house. The yard sale will go from 0800 to 1200 with the picnic to follow at 1330.

**X. Standing Committee Reports:**

a). River Walk Committee: Jr. Past Commandant Newton announced the next cleanup effort will take place during March 2012.

**XI. Special Committee Reports:**

a). 2013 Southeast Division Conference Update - Marine Newton described the planned spouse activities for the convention, including tours of the Bridge House, Flint RiverQuarium, Radium Springs Botanical Gardens, and shopping at Lancaster Village and a trip to Mint Julep Day Spa. Due to the stand-down of the Albany Marine Band, the Base will have one less bus; possible transportation alternatives include Ford Explorers, which Ford Town of Albany has agreed to provide. The Merry Acres renovation is nearly complete. Menu options have been downgraded to lower the cost for attendees and

spouses. The Division has not yet made the decision on the host Detachment for the 2013 Division Convention.

b). River Walk Clean-Up Committee: Next Clean-up scheduled for April 12 and 14, 2012.

c). Flag committee: Marine Aldrich announced 94 flags were replaced since last year. Command Kirstatter suggested placing signs in yard in front of businesses and homes in appreciation of people who properly display the American flag, as a way to promote the Detachment. The idea was debated. Marines Aldrich and Adams felt the existing post cards served the same purpose, No decision was made to adopt Commandant Kirstatter's idea.

**XII. Old/Unfinished Business:** None.

**XIII. New Business:** None

**XIV. Good of the League:**

Commandant Kirstatter presented Marine Charles Bushnell with a lifetime membership certificate and pin and Jr. Past Commandant Newton with a plaque in appreciation for his two years of faithful service as Detachment Commandant.





## **XV. Announcements:**

The following events were announced:  
The Department Staff meeting will take place on February 25, 2012 in Peachtree City; the SE Division Conference will go from March 1 to 3, 2012 in Myrtle Beach, SC; the Department convention begins May 18, 2012 in Peachtree City; and the National Convention begins on August 12, 2012 in Mobile, Al Friday, February 24, 2012, at 10 pm on MSNBC is a program on the Camp Lejeune water contamination problem entitled "Semper Fi - Always Faithful".

Marine Newton announced the Detachment is possibly in the running for the Burkhart Award for the most new members in a single year.

## **XIX. Adjourned**

After the colors were retired by Sgt at Arms Rodgers, Commandant Kirstatter announced the meeting was adjourned at 1940.

## **Short Rounds**

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*"The people of the United States are the rightful masters of both Congress and the Courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution."*

*Abraham Lincoln*

CONGRATULATIONS TO **CHUCK BUSHNELL**  
for receiving his Life Membership  
and Membership Pin!

## **Good of the League**

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Mark April 12th and 14th for the next River Walk clean-up

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE AND  
PICNIC

**APRIL 21**

**0800 - 1200**

**PICNIC BEGINS AT 1330**

**These two events will be held at Tom Newton's house like last year (1656 Maryland Dr., Albany) and Ron Kirstatter will be receiving items for the garage sale at his house (206 W Doublegate Dr., Albany) after April 3rd. No clothing or shoes accepted. This is always a great time for fun and recruiting! More info in next Dispatch or call Bobbie Elmore 435-2283.**

## **Boy Scouts**

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From our Boy Scout Coordinator, Dan Gillan:

Our Scouts have been very busy this month! The Scouts of Troop 3 and Troop 1 of Albany conducted two Eagle Scout service projects. On 4 February Jared Gillan led the clearing, cleaning and blazing of the MCLB Albany Nature Trail. He planned and led the effort which consisted of over 40 Scouts and Scouters from Troop 3 and Troop 1. On 25 February Trey Hardison led a similar group of Scouts and Scouters as they scraped, sanded, primed and painted the four soccer goals for St. Teresa's School in Albany.

Jared and Trey wanted to do something that our community, our Marines and Civilian Marines of MCLB Albany as well as the students at St. Teresa's will enjoy for years to come. Mission accomplished! Both Jared and Trey are now in the final stages of finishing up their Eagle Scout packages and hope to earn their Eagle rank at an upcoming Eagle Court of Honor.



Detachment Members Dan and Andrea Gillan with son Jared and daughter between them.

## ***This Month in History***

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1 March 1952: Marine Corps Logistics Base activated as Marine Corps Depot of Supplies, Albany, GA.

5 March 1947: The 7th Marine Regiment disbanded at Camp Pendleton following their return from China. Personnel and equipment were transferred to the 3rd Marine Brigade.

7 March 1951: The 1st, 7th and 11th Marine Regiments commenced operations against enemy at Hongchon, Korea.

17 March 1918: The 5th Marine Regiment was the first Marine unit to move into WWI frontline trenches.

20 March 2003: 1730 ZI MEF launched the "Opening Gambit" phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom 91/2 hours earlier than planned with RCT-5 attacking in the Ar Rumaylah oilfields on the road to Baghdad.

22 March 1952: Six new Marine battalions and Marine air groups were activated on the West Coast giving the Corps the full authorized limit of three divisions and three wings.

25 March 1863: Marines with Farragut's squadron engaged Confederates at the Battle of Vicksburg in Mississippi.

27 March 1948: Key West Agreement gives USMC primary amphibious warfare role

## ***In the News***

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*From Military.com.....*

### **Navy Names Two Ships After Marine Heros**

Two of the Navy's newest Arleigh Burke-class missile destroyers will bear the name of two Viet Nam and Iraqi Marine heroes.

Marine SSgt Raphael Peralta was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for covering a grenade with his body to save his fellow Marines from the blast in the Battle of Fallujah in Iraq in Nov 15, 2004. Fellow Marines said they saw the short and stocky Marine pull an enemy grenade to his body after he had been wounded in an Iraqi

house. He was with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment out of Kaneohe Bay.

Marine PFC Ralph Henry Johnson was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for shouting a warning to his fellow Marines and hurling himself on an explosive device, saving the life of one Marine and preventing the enemy from penetrating his sector of the patrol's perimeter during the Vietnam War.

*from the Marine Corps Times...*

### **AMOS: MARINES WILL FEEL DRAWDOWN'S SQUEEZE**

The Commandant of the Marine Corps told a congressional panel that as the service begins to draw down by 20,000 Marines, he intends to honor existing enlistments while providing ample opportunity for others to leave voluntarily.

"For those Marines who finish their first enlistment after four years, it's going to be more competitive to be able to stay in the Marine Corps" said Amos, who added that Marines wishing to re-enlist for a second term may also find the environment more competitive. "We're looking now at reducing what we call the second-term alignment program, which are those that are finishing their second enlistment and making that a little bit more competitive." He reiterated his intention to honor existing enlistments among Marines from those on a four-year contract to those who are reaching the 20-year retirement point. There are indications, however, that existing force-shaping tools in use for the officer corps will intensify. One such area is the Career Designation Program, which weeds out hundreds of active-duty first lieutenants annually before they can compete for promotion to captain.

### **Birthdays!**


March 1	Robert Askey
March 12	James Taylor
March 13	Joseph Caldeira
March 19	Edward Pender
March 21	Angela Kearbey

Have a very Happy Birthday. Make it one for the books!

Shortly after joining the Marine Corps, Joe was in line with some other Marines when the sergeant stepped forward with that day's assignments. After handling over various tasks, he asked, "Does anyone here have experience with radio communications?" A longtime ham operator, Joe shouted "I do." "Good" said the sergeant, "you can dig the hole for the new telephone pole."

## *Our sponsors deserve your business!*

John I. Waldrop, M.D.



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### **River Pointe Golf Club**

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- *Daily Happy Hour 4-6*
- *Thursday Night Grilling with Fellow Marines, 6:30PM*
- *Marine Blitz plays 8:00AM Sat & Sunday*

**801 River Pointe Drive, Albany GA 229-883-4885**



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To reserve your copy of the Dispatch in electronic format please notify [semperfi@mclalbanyga.org](mailto:semperfi@mclalbanyga.org).

The Dispatch is the official publication of the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment 1260 of the Marine Corps League, Albany GA. The newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of Detachment members and guests. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official views of the Marine Corps League or the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment. Send all articles and comments to the editor Bobbie Elmore at [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net).





# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 • SE Division Conference	3 • SE Division Conference • Young Marines Drill Weekend
4 • SE Division Conference	5 • 1:30 pm -2:00 pm : MCLB TAP Class	6 • 1:30 pm -2:00 pm : MCLB TAP Class	7 • 1:30 pm -2:00 pm : MCLB TAP Class • 6:00 am -8:00 am : Monthly Retiree Breakfast • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	8 • 1:30 pm -2:00 pm : MCLB TAP Class	9	10
11	12	13 • 6:30 pm -7:30 pm : RESCHEDULED Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment	14 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	15 • 8:00 am -12:00 pm : MCLB Welcome Aboard Brief • 6:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1333 Monthly Meeting in Waycross	16	17 • Young Marines Drill Weekend
18	19	20	21 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	22 • 5:00 pm -7:00 pm : Pound 322 Growl • 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1373 Monthly Meeting in Warner Robbins, GA	23	24
25	26	27	28 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	29	30	31



# Dispatch

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*Volume 3, Issue 4  
April 2012*

## Member Spotlight

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**Detachment #1260**  
**Marine Corps League**  
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**Albany, GA 31708-0971**  
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**SPECIAL STAFF:**  
**JNROTC/Young Marines**  
**Coordinator**

Kelly Fisk

**Boy Scout Coordinator**

Dan Gillan

**Fallen Marine Coordinator**

Ernie Elmore

**Marine for Life Coordinator**

Roger Wood

**Newsletter Editor**

Bobbie Elmore

**Patriotism Committee**

Dave Aldrich

**Veterans Service Officer**

Nick Nicholson

**Quartermaster**

Tim McClelland

**Historian**

Kathy Fazekas

**Web Sergeant**

Ron Kirstatter

**Chaplain Ernie Elmore**




---

Born 1935 in Tacoma, WA, Ernie joined the Marine Corps in 1953 and went to boot camp at MCRD San Diego. Following boot camp he saw duty in Korea and then later was assigned to Twentynine Palms. After that, Ernie left the Corps and for a while he played pitcher in minor league baseball in Portland, OR and also attended Portland State University. Missing the Corps, Ernie re-enlisted and was sent to be part of the troops deployed to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Following that he spent 21 months in the 1st Marine Division on different floats. In 1964 he went to the Drill Field at MCRD San Diego. He made meritorious Sgt and SSgt and produced three Outstanding Platoons in a row. The Viet Nam war had begun and he was selected, along with other SNCO's, to 2nd Lt. In 1966 he met his future wife, Bobbie, who was also stationed at MCRD San Diego and they became engaged. He had orders and left for Viet Nam in 1967 and served as a Platoon Commander and a Company Commander fighting in such places as along the DMZ and Khe Sanh.

After receiving three Purple Hearts for sustaining three separate wounds, he was medivaced back to the States for recovery. He was then assigned to LFTC Coronado, CA and then to Junior School, Quantico, VA. Ernie and Bobbie were married in the Chapel at Quantico. Due to his injuries, the Marine Corps retrained him from an Infantry Officer to Communications Officer and given orders to be the CommO and Legal Officer at the Philadelphia Supply Activity in 1969 where he picked up the rank of Captain.

In 1971 he was reverted back to 1st Sgt and sent to 2nd Division, Camp Lejeune. He then pulled duty at 3rd FSR Okinawa without dependents. Returning to the states he had orders back to 2nd Division, Camp Lejeune and was promoted to Sgt Major. He was assigned Sgt Major of 3rd Service Battalion.

In 1976 he was sent to I&I Staff, Portland, Oregon and was then medically transferred to be Sgt Major at Marine Barracks, Bremerton, WA and in 1977 was medically retired as a Captain after 24 years of service.

The Lord put a calling on his life and he answered the call. He and Bobbie were licensed as Missionaries with Cadence International (formerly known as Overseas Christian Servicemen Centers) and sent to minister to the Marines and Navy at Camp Hansen, Okinawa. After a rich ministry there, they came home and Ernie was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel with the Baptist General Conference. He was sent to minister as Senior Pastor in an eastern Washington church and later he was sent to be senior minister at a church in western Washington. During this time he and Bobbie became active in the Marine Corps League and in 1999 he organized the detachment in Olympia, WA and served as its first

Commandant. He also served as the Department of Washington Judge Advocate.

After retiring from ministry due to a stroke that left him blind in his left eye, he and Bobbie moved to Leesburg, GA and are enjoying their work in the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment of Albany. Ernie is currently serving triple duty as Chaplain of our Detachment, Chaplain of the Department of Georgia and Chaplain of the SE Division. Ernie and Bobbie have 3 children and 10 grandchildren.

### ***From the Commandant***

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*Most of you know that I have been out of the pocket this month. Attending the Southeast Division Conference in Myrtle Beach beginning March 1st was very enlightening. Most of our National officers were in attendance and their briefs help shed light on the health of our League and how strong we are in the Southeast Division. As you know, we did not win the bid for the 2013 conference but a great brief by Tom Newton and the effort of all those that helped get us to that point hasn't gone unnoticed. Also while I've been gone, several members of our Detachment were successful in supporting the Habitat Project for Disabled Veterans by delivering lunch and camaraderie to the students and staff. I echo Tom's thanks to Bob Adams, Dave Aldrich, Bob and Ruthie Breton, Ken and Lisa Berggren, Ernie Elmore, Greg Freed, Tim McClelland, Roger Paulin and Jerry Wessals for their efforts.*

*Since it appears we are going to get an early start on summer this year, I want to encourage all of you to check your schedules and make some time to join us this month for one or all the great activities we have coming up before it gets too hot. We will once again be taking a few minutes to introduce ourselves to those Marines transitioning from active duty at the TAP class*

*aboard MCLB. Our District Vice Commandant will be holding a training session in Tifton on the 7th and along with some hopefuls for new detachments. I hope many of our members can attend. The Rivers Alive cleanup will take place on the 12 and 14th. Please pitch in to pitch a little trash where it belongs and enjoy some of the beauty that a walk along the river can bring. All throughout the first three weeks I hope everyone is getting that spring cleaning done so come the 21st we can top last year's take at the 3rd Annual Yard Sale and Picnic. We will be setting up on Friday and if you need to drop off donations before the morning of the 21st please contact me. This is a perfect opportunity to invite some of those Marine and Navy Corpsmen friends of yours to come have a burger and get to know us and maybe take home some great stuff.*

*Lastly, I encourage all of you to take a moment, even if it is in your thoughts and do what you can to support our brothers in distress. The thing that makes Marines Marines is we take care of our own.*

*Semper Fi,  
Ron Kirstatter*

## ***Chaplain's Corner***

---

***"Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle."***

*Psalm 144:1*

David was a man skilled in war. From his days as a shepherd boy to the days of serving in Saul's army to leading his own army, David learned to be a skillful warrior. How does one become a skillful warrior?

The only way one can become a skillful warrior is to be trained and placed in the middle of the battle. It is only when we are placed in the

furnace of battle that we truly learn to fight the real battles. Practice doesn't make you battle ready. War Games won't prepare you for facing your real enemy in the battlefield. The stark reality of being in the midst of the battle makes us effective warriors.

Simply reading your Bible will not make you a warrior for the Kingdom. Knowledge without experience is mere folly. Only when you are placed in situations where there is nothing or no one who can save you but God will you learn the lessons of warrior faith. This is the training ground of God, which will make you into a soldier for Christ. Consider it to be suicidal faith - faith that says I want to be dead to anything that keeps me from fulfilling God's purposes for my life. It is when your efforts can do nothing to change your circumstance and you are at the mercy of God. These are the real training grounds of God. Do not shrink back from the battle that God may be leading you to today. It may be a training ground that is necessary for the calling He has on your life.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Al Fazekas gave me the story of a badly wounded Marine under heavy fire. As the Lt. prepared to go to him, the Corpsman said you won't make it sir, you will get killed. The Lt. took off anyway and picked up the wounded Marine and carried him to safety. As he did this, he was badly wounded himself. As he reached the compound, the wounded Marine had died and the Lt. laid there in desperate condition. The Corpsman said, sir you are so badly hurt, was it worth it? Yes, the Lt. said, the last words that Marine said to me were "I knew you would come, Sir."*

*Does anything state our ethos better than this story? We will come and get you.*



*We have been privileged to be part of our own Corps. Tradition. No man forgotten, no man left behind.*

*Semper Fi*

*Chaplain Ernie Elmore can be reached at 435-2283 or ernieelmore@att.net to report sickness, injury or for spiritual needs.*

## ***Get Involved!***

---

*All hands are encouraged to attend the River Walk Clean-up on 14 April at 0830 and meet at Cox Landing.*

*Every Wednesday 0900 Detachment breakfast at Roosters on Westover Blvd. Join us if you can.*

## ***Muster Highlights***

---

### **13 March 2012**

#### **I. Call to Order:**

Sr. Vice Elmore called the regular Detachment meeting to order at 1830 on 13 March 2012 at the River Pointe Golf Club in Albany, Georgia.

#### **II. Roll Call:**

Adjutant Alex Hart conducted a roll call of officers. The following officers were present: Sr. Vice Bobbie Elmore, Jr. Vice Roger Paulin, Judge Advocate Bill Hammack, Paymaster Adams and Chaplain Ernie Elmore. Absent were Commandant Ron Kirstatter and Sgt at Arms Rodgers. Marine Chaffin stood in for Sgt at Arms Rodgers. There were a total of 21 members and 2 associate members.

#### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting:**

Minutes from the previous meeting were posted to the Detachment webpage: accordingly said minutes were not read at this meeting. Sr. Vice Elmore did have one change in the previous

minutes: Under Standing committees, the River Walk Committee's next scheduled cleanup date will be April 20, 2012 (the March date was incorrect). No objections to the corrected minutes were made and the minutes were approved as corrected.

#### **IV. Applications for Membership:**

One application for new membership was received from CWO4 Bobby Sesai USMC (Ret), who was present at the meeting. Marine Sesai left the room, and the members were polled on his application for membership. No objections were made to Marine Sesai becoming a League Member.



Swearing in CWO4 Bobby Sesai

#### **V. Visitors/Guests: None**

#### **VI. Correspondence received:**

The Detachment received letters from Sally Hairston and Debra Britton thanking the Detachment for replacing their flags. Ms Britton lives in California.

The Unicoi Detachment will be hosting a sporting clays competition on April 14, 2012 (members interested in attending can read the brochure); 1st Lt Clem McClary, USMC (ret) who was wounded in action in Vietnam will be speaking at

the 1st Baptist Church in Americus on 15 March at 1800. MCLB Albany will be holding a virtual veteran's job fair during the first half of March 2012; the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame will be holding its annual enshrinement banquet on April 21, 2012.

VII. Paymaster's Report:

Report delivered by Paymaster Adams. Motion to approve report made by Chaplain Elmore and seconded by several Marines. Motion approved unanimously.

VII. Chaplain's Report:

Report given by Chaplain Elmore. One Fallen Marine was reported, GySgt Jack Amund USMC (ret.). The following Marines were reported as ill or in distress: Billy Stewart and Felix DeMuth. Chaplain Elmore also announced that there will be a ceremony honoring Viet Nam Vets in the auditorium at Dublin VA Hospital on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 10 a.m. Additionally, Gov. Deal will be signing a proclamation at the State Capitol Building on Friday, March 30, at 10 a.m. declaring that day Viet Nam Veteran's Day. Five Detachment Marines attended this year's S.E. Division conference. The Department of Alabama will be holding its convention on June 8-10, 2012.

IX. Report of the Officers:

a) Commandant: absent

b) Sr. Vice: No report. However, Sr. Vice Elmore thanked Past Commandant Newton for his hard work in the Detachment's failed bid to host the 2013 S.E. Division Conference.

c) Jr. Vice: Jr. Vice Paulin reported he had contacted six prospective members.

d) Judge Advocate: No Report

e) Adjutant: No report

X. Standing Committees Reports:

a) River Walk Committee: Jr. Past Commandant Newton announced the next cleanup effort will take place on Saturday, April 14 beginning at 8:30 at Cox Landing (Golfers will meet at the same time on Thursday, April 12 at Veteran's Park).

(b) Finance Committee: No report given.

XI. Special Committee Reports

a) 2013 Southeast Division Conference Update: Jr. Past Commandant Newton announced that the Detachment lost in its bid to host that event, and that the Griffin Detachment was selected to host it. Griffin received 78 votes to Albany's 15. Tennessee got just one vote.

b) Flag Committee: Marine Aldrich announced 103 Flags were replaced in the last year and a half. 13 flags remain in stock and another 21 are on order. The program is in the "black" by \$100.00

c) Recipe Book Committee: Sr. Vice Bobbie Elmore announced that the Detachment will be creating a cookbook which will be sold to raise money for our Detachment programs. Andrea Gillan will collect recipes. The publication deadline is September 1, 2012. The recipe books should be ready for sale during the Holiday season. The Detachment hopes the sales will generate up to \$6000 in profits. Marine Fisk offered to approach Dick French about offering the cookbooks for sale in the Base Exchange.

d) Detachment Scrapbook: Historian Kathy Fasekas announced that she is creating a scrapbook and asks members and others to contribute photos and articles relating to detachment events.

XII. Old/Unfinished Business:

Chaplain Elmore announced the Detachment had purchased the ceremonial bell

and displayed that item for the members to view. He said Judge Advocate Hammack will make a wood stand/bracket for the bell.

XIII. New Business: None

XIV. Good of the League:

Jr. Past Commandant Newton announced the Detachment will contribute \$75 toward sponsoring a girls' softball team coached by two Marines. He encouraged Detachment Marines to make individual contributions. The Detachment name will appear on the girl's uniform shirts.

Marine Aldrich announced there will be a meeting on March 21st at Rooster's to plan for cooking lunch for Habitat volunteers at noon on March 26th. Marine Aldrich and Paymaster Adams related their experiences visiting with student volunteers at habitat construction sites. Marine Freed also visited with the students. The Students appreciated hearing from veterans since the houses they are building are for veterans. Habitat's Jimmy Cross said Detachment members don't need to put in a full day's work at the construction site. Rather, they simply need to come out and speak with the kids.

Sr. Vice Elmore reminded members of the Georgia Department Convention on May 18th in Peachtree City, and the National Convention on August 12th in Mobile, Alabama.



Sr. Vice Elmore presented Marine McClelland with a lifetime membership certificate and pin.

XII. Announcements:

a) Jr. Past Commandant Newton announced the Department of Georgia won this year's Grits Bowl, beating out Alabama for the second year in a row. Georgia won for the most new members.

b) Sr. Vice Elmore announced the Detachment Annual Yard Sale and Picnic will take place at the Newton's house on April 12th. The Yard Sale will go from 8-12 noon with the picnic to follow at 1:30. On April 3rd Commandant Kirstatter will begin accepting items for the sale which he will store at his house. No shoes or clothes will be accepted.

XIII. Adjourned: After the Bible was closed and the colors retired, Sr. Vice Commandant announced the meeting was adjourned at 1943.

## *Good of the League*

*On 26 March, several of our members gave a lift to the young men and women who were building two homes for veterans with Habitat for Humanity, by treating them to bar-b-que hamburgers and hot dogs. A special salute to Jimmy Cross, construction supervisor, and Marine Ken Berggren for bringing this project to*



*our attention. The weather was great and all enjoyed the chow.*



*Cook Dave Aldrich helps cook Tom Newton tie his apron.*



*Ernie puts on the hot dogs while Dave, Tom, Bob and Roger supervise.*



*Bob Breton, Ernie Elmore, Tom Newton, Tim McClelland and Bob Adams check the progress.*



*Getting the picnic set up.*



*Tim supervises as Dave and Tom get busy. Ruthie Breton puts in her two cents.*



*Roger Paulin and Ruthie Breton help serve the chow to the young builders.*

*special thanks to Ken Berggren for the pics*



## Short Rounds

---

### *Senility Prayer*

*Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.*

*(thanks Al Fasekas)*

The Marine Corps is now 12% of the DOD budget.

*"This was the first time that the Marines of the two nations had fought side by side since the defense of the Peking Legations in 1900. Let it be said that the admiration of all ranks of 41 Commando for their brothers in arms was and is unbounded. They fought like tigers and their morale and esprit de corps is second to none."*

*Lt.Col. D.B. Drysdale, Commanding: 41 commando, Chosin Reservoir, on the 1st Marine Division.*

*Death smiles at everyone - Marines smile back!*

## Boy Scouts

---

Two more scouts in Troop 3 made Eagle Scout since the last newsletter:

Jared Gillan cleared a 1.5 mile nature trail near the Headquarters building aboard MCLB Albany. Troop 1 assisted in the project. Jared is trying to draw other Troops to the base for Eagle Projects.

Trey Hardison stripped the paint and rust off of 4 large soccer goals and then treated the metal and repainted them. The goals belong to St. Teresa's School.

There will be a Court of Honor on May 19 in which all of the scouts listed below will be recognized for making Eagle Scout:

Andrew Bode - Nick Meier - Trey Hardison  
- Jared Gillan - Matthew Groarke - Eli Jackson -

Sean Tangwall and hopefully, TJ Owens who is in the middle of his project now.

In addition to all the Eagle activity, Troop 3 has launched its Religious Emblems Program. There was a 7 year hiatus, but they are back on track. Leading the effort are Detachment members Dan and Andrea Gillan, also Joe Najaar, and Larry Davis. Three scouts have earned the lifetime award of Ad Altari Dei, the highest religious award in Boy Scouts for the Catholic Religion. They will be honored in church after Lent. They are: Jared Gillan, Nick Meier and Trey Hardison.



Jared Gillan leading his Eagle project at the opening to the nature trail.

## Our Detachment History

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Did you know that our Detachment is over a half century old? Some friends of our Detachment have recently given us some photos taken way back in 1954 when our Detachment was called The Clyde Thomason Detachment. Here is a photo taken at their 1954 Marine Corps Birthday celebration. Left to right is Merl Burnfin (who gave us this photo), Arthur Benn (then 73 years old, born in 1903), John Beek (cutting the cake) and MSgt Harold Allen. Our

Historian, Kathy Fasekas will have the photos in the Detachment Scrapbook for those who would like to see them.



### ***Birthdays!***

#### **APRIL**

**4 - Richard Knapp**

**5 - Ken White**

**7 - Charlie Plunkett**

**8 - Gale Rodgers**

**12 - Bobby Sanders**

**20 - Dennis Lawing**

**23 - Michael Brown**


**25 - Robert McCarty**

**26 - Kevin Stanley**

**29 - J.J. Kraus**

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The Dispatch is the official publication of the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment 1260 of the Marine Corps League, Albany GA. The newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of Detachment members and guests. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official views of the Marine Corps League or the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment. Send all articles and comments to the editor Bobbie Elmore at [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net).



# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> • 1:30 pm -2:00 pm : MCLB TAP Class	<b>3</b> • 1:30 pm -2:00 pm : MCLB TAP Class	<b>4</b> • 1:30 pm -2:00 pm : MCLB TAP Class • 6:00 am -8:00 am : Monthly Retiree Breakfast • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>5</b> • 1:30 pm -2:00 pm : MCLB TAP Class	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> • Young Marines Drill Weekend • 10:00 am -12:00 pm : District 5 Annual Meeting
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>12</b> • 8:00 am -10:00 am : Riverwalk Cleanup	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> • 8:30 am -10:30 am : Riverwalk Cleanup
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> • 6:30 pm -7:30 pm : Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment #1260	<b>18</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>19</b> • 8:00 am -12:00 pm : MCLB Welcome Aboard Brief • 6:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1333 Monthly Meeting in Waycross	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> • Young Marines Drill Weekend • 8:00 am -12:00 pm : Annual Detachment Yard Sale • 1:30 pm -5:30 pm : Annual Detachment Picnic
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>26</b> • 5:00 pm -7:00 pm : Pound 322 Growl • 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1373 Monthly Meeting in Warner Robbins, GA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					



**Major Lawrence DesJardines  
Detachment #1260  
Marine Corps League  
P.O. Box 70971  
Albany, GA 31708-0971**



# Dispatch

---

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<b>Sr. Vice Commandant:</b>	Bobbie Elmore	(229) 435-2283	<a href="mailto:ernieelmore@att.net">ernieelmore@att.net</a>
<b>Jr. Vice Commandant:</b>	Roger Paulin	(229) 669-6957	<a href="mailto:paulinr@bellsouth.net">paulinr@bellsouth.net</a>
<b>Judge Advocate:</b>	Bill Hammack	(229) 888-0561	<a href="mailto:bghammack@bellsouth.net">bghammack@bellsouth.net</a>
<b>Jr. Past Commandant:</b>	Tom Newton	(229) 446-2209	<a href="mailto:newt1644@live.com">newt1644@live.com</a>
<b>Adjutant:</b>	Roger Paulin	(229) 669-6957	<a href="mailto:rgrpaulin@gmail.com">rgrpaulin@gmail.com</a>
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Ernie Elmore	(229) 435-2283	<a href="mailto:ernieelmore@att.net">ernieelmore@att.net</a>
<b>Paymaster:</b>	Bob Adams	(229) 344-5660	<a href="mailto:usmc.adams@mchsi.com">usmc.adams@mchsi.com</a>
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Volume 3, Issue 5  
May 2012

## Member Spotlight

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**Major Lawrence DesJardines**  
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### SPECIAL STAFF:

**JNROTC/Young Marines Coordinator**  
Kelly Fisk

**Boy Scout Coordinator**  
Dan Gillan

**Fallen Marine Coordinator**  
Ernie Elmore

**Marine for Life Coordinator**  
Roger Wood

**Newsletter Editor**  
Bobbie Elmore

**Patriotism Committee**  
Dave Aldrich

**Veterans Service Officer**  
Nick Nicholson

**Quartermaster**  
Tim McClelland

**Historian**  
Kathy Fazekas

**Web Sergeant**  
Ron Kirstatter



### *BILL HAMMACK - DETACHMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE*

Bill was born in Tennessee, graduated from high school in May 1954 and joined the Marine corps in July. After boot camp and ITR he was stationed at MCAS, Cherry Point and then to the 3rd MarDiv. From there he was transferred to MCRD, Parris Island. During this time-frame, Bill went through the cycle of Sgt E4, Acting Sgt and Sgt E5. He was promoted to SSgt while at PI and received orders to Philadelphia as part of the USMC MUMMS supply initiative. He was promoted to GySgt and MSgt while there. He received orders to MCLB, Albany, GA. Bill was selected for the rank of MGySgt and short-toured for one year and departed for Okinawa. The unaccompanied tour turned into accompanied tour and lasted for five years.

Bill received orders to HQMC and was assigned to C4 Division and the data processing inspection team. From HQMC he was assigned to his favorite duty station, MCRD PISC. His final active duty station was MCLB, Albany, GA.

Bill is married and has three daughters and two step-sons. After retirement he accepted a position at Albany Technical College and spent twenty-two years in the Economic Development Department and retired from ATC as Director of Continuing Education. Bill is a deacon in his church and spends his spare time doing hobby woodworking, in which he is very skilled.

### ***From the Commandant***

---

*Once more we are reminded what little precious time we have to accomplish all of our goals in life. To our fallen brothers Nick Retza and Billy Stewart, may you have eternity to walk with those that give us our legacy and share with them what you so graciously shared with all of us. You will be missed!*

*The rest of us now, pick up your packs! Summer is coming and we have some great opportunities to advance our goals.*

*The annual yard sale and picnic were again a huge success. We netted over \$700. My thanks to Kathy Fazekas, Cam Paulin, Ann Aldrich, Ruthie Breton and storage manager Sheila Kirstatter for preparing all the donations and to the members that cleaned their closets, garages and sheds to make it all possible. Tom and Kris Newton, our hosts, once again made the entire event seem like it was catered. Setup, teardown, cooking and manning the cash box all took input from Tom Newton, Roger Paulin, Dave Aldrich, Tim McClelland, Burt Sutherland, Bill Hamby, Carl Wilcox, Al Fazekas and more.*

*We have our first Professional Development Program training session for District 5 on May 12th in Tifton. Feeling uneasy about accepting a nomination for a position because you don't know what the responsibilities are? This is your chance to know what's required before jumping in with both feet. I urge all to attend.*

*Want to be a part of the "Fun and Honor Society?" Yip and bark and have a great time? Pound 317 will be hosting a growl on May 7th at 1900 in LaGrange and Pound 322 on May 24th at 1700 in Macon. In order for us to get a Pound started in Albany we need just a few more to join in the fun.*

*Thanks to those that have volunteered to take donations at our upcoming Rose Sale at Sam's on May 12th. These events really advance all of our programs.*

*We will be making presentations to honor graduates of all the JROTC units and several Eagle Scouts this month. Recognition of these great young men and women for their dedication and contributions is one of our key programs.*

*Lastly, you won't want to miss the Department convention in Peachtree City, May 18th-22nd. New Department officers will be elected and several changes to the Department bylaws will be discussed. It won't all be business!*

*Semper Fi!  
Commandant Kirstatter*

## Chaplain's Corner

---

### Understanding the Source of Anger.

*"A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control." (Proverbs 29:11)*

*The workplace, or often your home, can be a pressure-packed world. The demands that are often put on us can bring out things that we never knew were there. Sometimes we begin to think that the source of that pressure is to blame for our response to the pressure. It could be an event, a spouse, a boss, a client, a child, or even a driver who cuts us off in traffic.*

*"The circumstances of life, the events of life, and the people around me in life, do not make me the way I am, but reveal the way I am." (Dr. Sam Pepples).*

*This simple quote has had a profound impact on how I view my anger now. Anger only reveals what is inside of me. I can't blame anyone but me for my response to a situation. I have learned that anger is only the symptom of something else that is going on inside of me.*

*It has been said that anger is like the warning panel on the dash of your car. It is the light that tells us something is going on under the hood and we need to find out what is the source of the problem. I discovered that the source of anger is often unmet expectations or personal rights. We believe we are entitled to a particular outcome to a situation. When this doesn't happen, it triggers something in us. At the core of this is fear, often a fear of failure or rejection, fear of what others think, fear of the unknown.*

*If you struggle with anger, ask God to reveal the source of that anger. Ask Him to heal you of any*

*fears that may be the root of your anger. Ask God to help you take responsibility for your response to difficult situations.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*As I write this we are confronted with several of our members in distress. Keep the following in your prayers:*

*Marilyn McClelland*

*Bill Hammack*

*Jim Rodgers*

*Chaplain Ernie Elmore can be reached at 435-2283 or [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net) to report sickness, injury or for spiritual needs.*

## Get Involved!

---

*These are the activities that need volunteers and who to contact.*

*Every Wednesday 0900 Detachment breakfast at Roosters on Westover Blvd. join us if you can.*

*Sometimes a few have breakfast there on Monday and Fridays as well. See below.*



## Muster Highlights

---

### MEETING MINUTES

**17 APRIL 2012**

#### I. Call to Order:

Commandant Kirstatter called the regular Detachment meeting to order at 1831 on 17 April 2012 at the River Pointe Golf Course Club House in Albany, Georgia.



## II. Roll Call:

Adjutant Alex Hart conducted a roll call of officers. The following officers were present; Commandant Kirstatter, Sr. Vice Bobbie Elmore, Jr. Vice Roger Paulin, Judge Advocate Bill Hammack, Paymaster Adams, and Chaplain Ernie Elmore. Absent was Sgt at Arms Rodgers (excused). Marine Kelly Fisk stood in for Sgt at Arms Rodgers. There were a total of 18 members and 2 associate members in attendance.

## III. Approval of minutes from last meeting:

Minutes from the previous meeting were posted to the Detachment webpage; accordingly, said minutes were not read at this meeting. No objections to the minutes were made, and the minutes were approved as posted.

IV. Application for Membership: One application for new membership was received from John E. Belk, who was not present at the meeting. The members were polled on his application for membership. No objections were made to Marine Belk becoming a League Member and he was voted into membership.

## V. Visitors/Guests: None

VI. Correspondence received: The Detachment received thank you letters from the families of Fallen Marines Swanson and Unruh.

The MCL Auxiliary is selling tickets for their Headquarters Project – Spring Fundraiser. Drawing will be held at the National Convention in Mobile, AL. August 12 to 18.

Warner Robins Air Show is April 28 and 29.

Wounded Warriors Family Support has 100 Marine Corps Marathon slots, which it is trying to sell as a fundraiser.

MCLB MWR is hosting a Family Fun Day on May 12 from 1000 to 1300.

VII. Paymaster's Report: Report delivered by Paymaster Adams. The Detachment Savings account has an ending balance of \$4,068.82. The Checking account ending balance stands at \$2,359.93. Motion to approve report made by Marine Fazekas, and seconded by several Marines. Motion approved unanimously.

VIII. Chaplain's Report: Report given by Chaplain Elmore. Four Fallen Marines were reported: Raymond Hepner, Sr., David Lamar Hill, Larry R. Scarborough, and Detachment member, Nick Retza. The following Marine, Associate Members or Marine Family members were reported as ill or in distress: Bill Hammack, Billy Stewart, Marilyn McClelland, Jim Rodgers, and Maureen Morrison (Kent Morrison's step-mother).

## IX. Report of the Officers:

a) Commandant: The Department of Georgia will hold its convention just after the Detachment holds its next meeting. Several of the top level officers are not seeking reelection.

b) Sr. Vice: No report. However, she did mention that Chaplain Elmore has been extremely busy seeing to the needs of distressed Marines and the families of Fallen Marines.

c) Jr. Vice: Jr. Vice Paulin reported he had received six applications for new membership.

d) Judge Advocate: No report

X. Standing Committee Reports:

a) River Walk Committee: Past Commandant Newton announced the most recent cleanup sessions on Thursday, April 12 and Saturday, April 14, 2012 were well attended. The next cleanup days will take place in June.

b) Finance Committee: No report given.

XI. Special Committee Reports:

a) Fallen Marines. Chaplain Elmore announced Nick Retza passed away shortly after 1000 this morning, after suffering from a heart attack last Friday. His wife, Marilyn, is doing as well as can be expected. Family members are arriving. Nick will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

b) Flag committee: Marine Aldrich, announced 106 Flags have been replaced since the program began. Stock levels are good.

c) Cookbook committee: Sr. Vice Elmore announced that the Detachment has decided to put the Cookbook on hold for the immediate future. Several of the participants have had to withdraw from the project. Commandant Kirstatter said the project is still a great fundraiser idea, and hopes the Detachment can complete the cookbook at a later date.

d) Detachment scrapbook: No report.

e) Yard Sale/Detachment Picnic: Past Commandant Newton suggested rescheduling the event scheduled for this Saturday to another date so as not to conflict with Nick's memorial service in case that happens Saturday. After discussion, a motion was made to reschedule the event for Saturday, April 28 (same location and times). Motion seconded and approved unanimously.

f) Softball Team sponsorship: Marine Fisk announced he still needs to follow up on that project.

XII. Old/Unfinished Business: None

XIII. New Business:

Marine Nicholson announced he and others are trying to raise money to erect a WWII Memorial in Veteran's Park in Albany. Cost estimates put the project between \$20,000 and \$30,000. A private donor has agreed to contribute the bulk of the funds. The City of Albany's approval is being sought. The goal is to have memorial completed by this Veteran's Day (or by Memorial Day 2013 at the the latest).

Marine Fisk asked the Detachment to consider sponsoring two Young Marines desiring to attend NCO School in Tennessee. Last year the Detachment sponsored one Young Marine and that cost is already programmed into the Detachment's budget.

Commandant Kirstatter announced Pound 317 is hosting a Growl on May 7 in LaGrange.

Chaplain Elmore announced Pound 322 in Macon is holding a Growl on April 26. He also asked the Detachment to consider doing another fundraiser at Sam's Club. He also announced the Boy Scouts will hold a court of Honor on May 19th.

Marine Fazekas asked about the Detachment generating a roster with names and contact information for all Detachment members. Commandant Kirstatter said a roster already exists. Marine Fazekas also announced if any Detachment members know of any kids interested in attending the United States Naval Academy he would be happy to tell them what he knows.

Past Commandant Newton announced the luncheon for the Habitat Students was hugely

successful, and had a high-level of participation from Detachment members. Habitat was really thankful. He also announced that two Lee County JROTC Cadets will be receiving awards from the Detachment.

Commandant Kirstatter reminded Detachment members to submit photos to the Webmaster for inclusion on the Detachment's webpage.

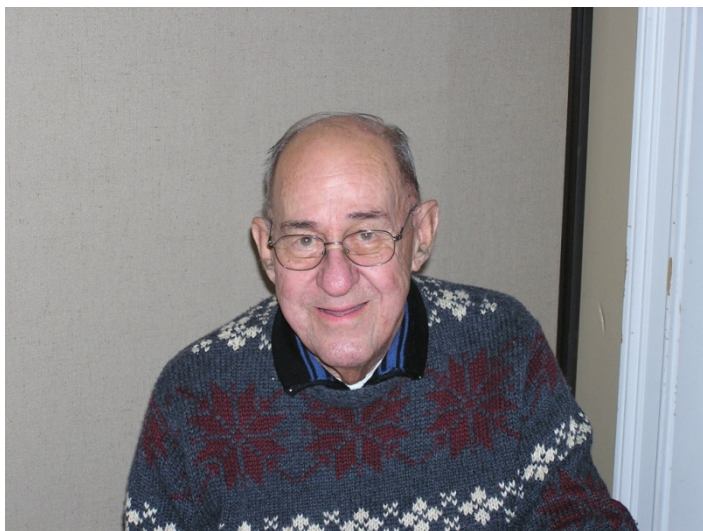
XIV. Good of the League: No announcements.

XV. Announcements: No announcements.

XVI. Adjourned: After the colors were retired by acting Sgt at Arms Fisk, Commandant Kirstatter announced the meeting was adjourned at 1928.

### **Good of the League**

---



**NICK RETZA - 1927-2012**

*As a detachment and Corps, we are all deeply saddened by the loss of our Marine Corps brother, Nick Retza - a well-respected, dedicated, and most beloved friend. We extend our heartfelt sorrow and deepest condolences to Marilyn, his wife of 60 years, and to his entire loving family. Friends who knew Nick know that his devotion to Marilyn and his family as a*

*husband, father and grandfather was always foremost.*

*Nick proudly served his beloved Marine Corps both in World War II and in Korea where he became a part of the famous "Chosen Few". He was an amazing man and spent hours telling, whoever would listen, about his time in Korea. He could take a joke and be quick to joke back. He always had a twinkle in his eye and everyone would perk up when he walked into the room because we all knew that someone very special had just arrived.*

*Nick will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on 6 June, 2012 at 3 p.m.*

*He will be dearly missed by the many friends whose lives he touched over the years.*



**BILLY STEWART - 1934-2012**

*Another wonderful Detachment friend and Marine Corps warrior also left us this month, Billy Stewart. Billy was a Life Member of the Marine Corps League and could be counted on to make every Detachment meeting. We will miss him and we extend our love and prayers to his wife of 32 years, Cherry on her loss of her dear husband. He fought a good fight.*

*He was a veteran of the Korean and Viet Nam Wars. He was known for being a great shooter and while at Camp Lejeune, he broke the range record by firing a 242 out of a possible 250. General Walt presented him with an M-70 rifle for his achievement. Among his many medals, Billy wore the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V for his heroism in Viet Nam.*

*Under his command in 1983-84, Albany VFW Post 2785, he was recognized as the National All-American Post Commander and the post he commanded was named the Most Outstanding Post in the entire United States.*

*Billy will be laid to rest Wednesday, May 2nd, 2012.*

*In memoriam, we dedicate this poem to MGySgt Nick Retza, USMC Ret. and GySgt Billy Stewart, USMC, Ret.*

### *Sonnet: The Corps*

*Two hundred years and more we've formed a wall*

*Of living flesh against an evil world  
And sanctified the places where we fall  
With blood and bone, for Freedom's flag  
unfurled.*

*'Tis not our part to choose the clime or place;  
'Tis not our way the summons to reject.  
To let people down would bring disgrace,  
But duty done has earned the world's respect.*

*We know, who serve in Freedom's cherished cause,*

*That there are horrors far, far worse than war.*

*And so, obedient to ancient laws,  
We formed a band of brothers called The Corps.*

*For it we give all there is to give,  
And we will claim the title where we live.*

*By: Robert A. Hall, 2001; printed in Leatherneck Magazine*

## **Short Rounds**

---

Local baseball fans are cheering Darton pitcher, Matt Aldrich. He is the grandson of Detachment member Dave Aldrich and wife Ann. Matt is Darton's ace pitcher in the Cavs rotation and leading the nation in strikeouts. He joined us for breakfast at Roosters in April. He will leave Darton at the end of the year and transfer to Columbus State. Go Matt!

Our Detachment will again be presenting awards this year to local JROTC Honor Graduates. The honors this year will be presented to:

### **Lee County High School**

Honor Cadet: Lt. JG Kamara Boddon

Community Service Cadet: Lt. JG Jarrod Savage

### **Westover High School**

Honor Cadet: Captain Keyonna Pinkins

Community Service Cadet: Major Daulton Luttrell

### **Dougherty High School**

Honor Cadet: TBA

Community Service Cadet: TBA

## **Sea Stories**

---

**From Carl W. Wilcox Jr., GySgt USMC Ret.**

As a Marine in Viet Nam with 3rd Battalion 7th Marines, during August 1969, I was on Hill 37 when one evening we caught incoming. I was on the top of a 50 foot tower, manning my 106 recoilless rifle. I had it loaded and ready to use. Another Marine and I were checking out the area, and as we looked down into an intersection



of roads, a sniper began shooting at us. Green tracers began flying over our heads and we could not do anything except hug the top of the tower. The rounds were so close that I could not raise my hand to fire the 106. A Marine that was inside of the tower had our M-16, so we did not have them available to us. The Marine inside could not move either. We figured since all of the hills were hit that evening, Mama-san was angry because we had just changed over the MPC (military payment currency). It was during this time when I first learned we had landed on the moon, and I received a letter from my wife with a newspaper clipping saying I had received the Combat Action Ribbon so that was a very interesting period of time.

## **Boy Scouts**

---

Troop 3 will have eight young men receiving their Eagle Scout rank on 19 May at St. Teresa's School at 1930. These boys are: Andrew Bode, Nick Meier, Trey Hardison, Jared Gillan, Matthew Groarke, Eli Jackson, Sean Tangwall and T.J. Owens. Also on that date, Jacob Bacon, Troop 7, Leesburg will be awarded his Eagle rank. Stephen Nathaniel Souther of Troop 23 Albany will receive his on 21 July. Sebastian Millerd, also of Troop 23 will also receive his Eagle rank at a date to be announced later. This is an exciting time of year as many boys realize their goal of achieving their Eagle rank. It signifies not only a milestone in their lives but also a significant accomplishment that could not be achieved without the love and encouragement of family, fellow Scouts and adult leaders. We have also worked with our local recruiter SSgt Christopher Pilgrim in order to arrange for US Marine Corps recognition as well. These Scouts have exhibited the Scout Motto of "Be Prepared" and the Scout slogan of "Do a good turn Daily" and I look forward to helping to recognize their determined and dedicated efforts.

Dan Gillan, MCL Det Eagle Scout Coordinator

## **This Month in History**

---

4 May 1942: Marines participated in the Battle of the Coral Sea during WWII

**8 MAY 1945: V-E DAY**

11 May 1920: The 16th Marine Regiment organized at Philadelphia for duty in Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

14 May 1917: The first Marine detachment transferred from Annapolis to a new Marine post at Quantico.

**15 MAY PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY - ALL AMERICAN FLAGS AT HALF MAST.**

15 May 1862: Cpl John Mackie became the first Marine awarded the Medal of Honor.

**19 MAY - ARMED FORCES DAY - FLY THE FLAG.**

20 May 1803: Marines participated in the raid on Tripoli.

22 May 1912: Lt Alfred A. Cunningham became the first Marine officer assigned aviation duty.

25 May 1775: Eight Marines escorted payroll; this was the first recorded action of the continental Marines.

**28 MAY - MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED - FLY YOUR FLAG AT HALF MAST**



29 May 1945: WWII 0730, 5th Marines assault Shuri Ridge, Okinawa, despite heavy mortar fire, take the crest and later Shuri Castle.

30 May 1949: 3rd Marines were the last Marines to leave Shanghai, China, during May, arriving in San Diego, CA.

## ***In the News***

---

Take a look at the latest Marine Corps poster:



## ***Birthdays!***

### ***MAY***

16 - Kathy Fazekas

25 - Mike Trevino

28 - David Lee

30 - John Richard

30 - Bill Hammack


*Bet you didn't know this.*

*In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the*

*cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you).*

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The Dispatch is the official publication of the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment 1260 of the Marine Corps League, Albany GA. The newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of Detachment members and guests. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official views of the Marine Corps League or the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment. Send all articles and comments to the editor Bobbie Elmore at [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net).



# May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	3	4	5
6	7 • 1:30 pm -2:00 pm : MCLB TAP Class	8 • 1:30 pm -2:00 pm : MCLB TAP Class	9 • 1:30 pm -2:00 pm : MCLB TAP Class • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	10 • 1:30 pm -2:00 pm : MCLB TAP Class	11	12
13	14	15 • 6:30 pm -7:30 pm : Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment #1260	16 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	17 • 8:00 am -12:00 pm : MCLB Welcome Aboard Brief • 6:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1333 Monthly Meeting in Waycross	18 • 8:00 am -7:00 pm : Annual Department Convention	19 • 8:00 am -7:00 pm : Annual Department Convention
20 • 8:00 am -7:00 pm : Annual Department Convention	21	22	23 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	24 • 5:00 pm -7:00 pm : Pound 322 Growl • 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1373 Monthly Meeting in Warner Robbins, GA	25	26
27	28	29	30 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	31		





# Dispatch

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Volume 3, Issue 6  
June 2012

## Member Spotlight

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### SPECIAL STAFF:

**JNROTC/Young Marines**  
**Coordinator**

Kelly Fisk

**Boy Scout Coordinator**

Dan Gillan

**Fallen Marine Coordinator**

Ernie Elmore

**Marine for Life Coordinator**

Roger Wood

**Newsletter Editor**

Bobbie Elmore

**Patriotism Committee**

Dave Aldrich

**Veterans Service Officer**

Nick Nicholson

**Quartermaster**

Tim McClelland

**Historian**

Kathy Fazekas

**Web Sergeant**

Ron Kirstatter



*Captain Alex Hart - Detachment Adjutant*

Alex was born and raised in the southeast to parents from opposite ends of New York State. He says he wasn't especially good at sports growing up, although he played basketball and wrestled. His passion was hunting and fishing with his father. When it came time to choosing where he would attend college and a major course of study, he looked to his favorite past times for inspiration. He chose Auburn University and a major in Wildlife Biology Pre-Veterinary Medicine.

Meanwhile, one of his high school buddies back home in Roswell, GA, joined the Marine Corps and went to Parris Island. When Alex saw him for the first time after he graduated, an idea began germinating in his head. Later on, at Auburn, he saw the Marine ROTC midshipmen getting it done on the PT field, and he knew he couldn't deny that becoming a Marine was something he had

to do. His good friend, Jim Johnson, a Marine reservist, also helped Alex recognize the signs leading him toward his future path.

After the first year and a half at Auburn, he decided Vet School wasn't going to happen, and started thinking for the first time about a career in law. Later, he met a Marine Officer recruiter, Captain Kirk Skinner, who told him he could become a Marine and a Lawyer. He signed up to go to OCS a short time later. Then a weird thing happened. He got cold feet, and changed his mind about OCS (he thinks he thought he couldn't compete physically with the ROTC guys). He graduated from Auburn in June of 1990 without any law school invitations, but I never really got the Marine Corps out of my head.

During one of the best summers of his life, he decided to visit the enlisted recruiters. He was instantly impressed with SSgt Anthony Morrisette and GySgt Darryl Haynes, and signed a delayed entry contract. He shipped to Parris Island in October 1990, and graduated in late January 1991. After MCT, he shipped off to Pendleton for legal admin school and later PCS'd to Quantico to begin his first tour of duty as a legal specialist working for four Marine Judge Advocates. Serving as an enlisted man with a college degree was a great, but humbling experience. He had a tough time understanding why he had to clean the heads at the office when the lawyers went home for the evening. He had a special person in his corner, GySgt Rhonda Chism, who helped him see past his disappointment and made him understand how he could be a better Marine. She eventually helped him to apply for OCS under the Enlisted Commissioning Program. It was Gunny Chism who first gave him the news that he was accepted into the ECP Program. She conveyed the message in a simple, four word telephone call "On your face, candidate!"

He finished OCS after ten weeks, then completed six months of training at Basic School, and another six months at the Field Artillery Officer's Basic Course in Ft. Sill, OK (the Funded Law Education Program was not an option open to him at that time). At the end of all that, he was assigned to permanent duty as a Forward Observer with Fox Battery, 2/11, 1st Marine Division. He made some lifelong friends in that unit. He completed one West Pac Deployment in 1994 as a forward observer for Bravo Company, BLT 1/4 of the 15th MEU. He was never sent into harm's way, but came close a couple of times during that deployment. He returned from the deployment as a first Lieutenant. After briefly serving as the Battery Motor-T Officer, he completed a one year assignment as Protocol Officer to the First Marine Division CG (a great assignment, which he really enjoyed). Following that assignment, Alex served a short stint as Battery XO for Echo Battery, 2/11. Then he was assigned as assistant operations officer for First Supply Battalion, First FSSG (another great assignment). During that assignment, he was promoted to Captain and augmented to the regular Marine Corps. But there was a condition. He had to pick another primary MOS. He begged and pleaded for the Marine Corps to send him to law school, but he was told, again, he was not eligible for the law program. So he picked Admin School instead, and became an adjutant.

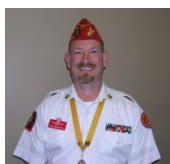
MCLB Albany was his first permanent assignment after Admin School. He was prophesied, during his welcome aboard "Hail" that he would meet a beautiful, South Georgia girl and marry within his first six months. Six months later, he met Dawn and fell in love. They married a year later. In May of 1999, two years after he checked in, he left the Marine Corps. Since the Marine Corps never gave him a shot at being a lawyer, he decided to do it on his own dime.

Dawn and Alex moved to Tulsa, OK where he began law school in the fall of 1999. At the beginning of his last year of law school, Dawn, gave birth to their daughter, Autumn Elise. She has been the world to them ever since. Although lawyering is now his day job, the thing that matters most to him is his family.

If you are in need of a good lawyer, you might get in touch with Alex (see his card on our Sponsor's page), as many of us have in the Detachment.

## *From the Commandant*

---



Summer has arrived! Just check the mercury. Please be safe out there not only as the temperatures rise but schools are out and many of us will be enjoying fun but accident packed outdoor activities. May graduations along with our JROTC presentations, the Department of Georgia Convention (see photos inside) and the remembrance of all those that gave the supreme sacrifice during our Memorial Day activities are all complete until next year. Unfortunately just two days prior to our salute, we lost Leesburg's own **LCpl Steven Sutton**. Check the "In The News" section for service information. I want to salute our very own Junior Vice Commandant **Roger Paulin** for exemplifying the position responsibilities to which he was elected. Roger's contribution and that of so many others not only helped the Department grow by 11% this year but once again Georgia has successfully beaten Alabama for the rights to the Grits Bowl. I will be attending the Department of Alabama's convention June 8th-10th to get the inside scoop on their plans to win it back next year and of course to boast a little. The Rose program in May put almost \$800 in our account to support the Detachment. Thanks to Ernie and Bobbie Elmore, Carl Wilcox, Bob Breton, Al and Kathy

Fasekas, Gale Rodgers and Tim McClelland for their time.



We have a River walk cleanup to kick off our June activities. Hope to see you there. In our meeting in June I will cover many of the activities from Our Department Convention. There is also a Staff Meeting on June 12th at Cafe 230 in Leesburg. Staff meetings are open to all members.

Semper Fi,  
Ron

## *Chaplain's Corner*

---

*David just showed up this morning. He clocked out of sheep watching to deliver bread and cheese to his brothers on the battle-front. That's where David hears Goliath defying God.*

*These are the first words in spoke, not just in the battle, but in the Bible: "David asked the men standing near him, 'What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?'" (1 Samuel 17:26).*

*David shows up discussing God. The soldiers mentioned nothing about him, the brothers never spoke His name, but David takes one step onto the stage and raises the subject of the living God...*

*No one else discusses God. David discusses no one else but God.*

*David sees what others don't and refuses to see what others do. All eyes, except David's fall on the brutal, hate-breathing hulk...The people know his taunts, demands, size, and strut. They have majored in Goliath.*

*David majors in God. He sees the giant, mind you; he just sees God more so. Look carefully at David's battle cry: "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel." (1 Sam 17:24).*

*May our first thought in the morning and our last thought at night be centered on the God of Heaven.*

Chaplain Ernie Elmore can be reached at 435-2283 or [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net) to report sickness, injury or for spiritual needs.

## ***Get Involved!***

---

The River Walk Clean-up will take place 2 June. Meet at the 3rd Avenue entrance at 0900. The Clean-up will be from 3rd to the Nature Trail. That will be all for clean-ups in June.

**STAFF MEETING:** 12 June 1800 at the new Cafe 230 on Hwy 19 next to Winn Dixie in Leesburg, \$10 each for dinner (or less if you just get soup, sandwich or salad). Back room is reserved for us.

Detachment staff is highly encouraged to be there and all members are welcome. Cafe 230 is our new Detachment Sponsor and we want to support them.

*Every Wednesday 0900 Detachment breakfast at Roosters on Westover Blvd. Join us if you can.*

## ***Muster Highlights***

---

*Starting with this issue, the minutes from our meetings will be condensed. The complete minutes can be found on our website.- ed*

MAY 15, 2012

*The meeting was called to order and roll call taken. All officers were present with the exception of Commandant Kirstatter, Paymaster Adams and Sgt at Arms Rodgers. There were a total of 16 members and 2 associate members present.*

*Minutes of previous meeting were approved and there were no new applications for membership. Sr. Vice Commandant Elmore swore Marine Eugene F. Coutu in as a new member.*

*The Chaplain reported three Fallen Marines, Larry Braun, Joe Smith and member Billy Stewart. Bill Hammack and Felix DeMuth were reported in distress.*

*Under New Business, Sr. Vice Commandant Elmore announced that the Albany Detachment of Young Marines had asked the Detachment to assist in the cost of sending four Young Marines and two adult chaperones to NCO School in Smyrna, TN. the total cost is \$840.00. The American Legion Post 30 offered to cover half the cost at \$420.00. Sr. Vice Commandant Elmore asked the Detachment to consider*



*picking up the other \$420.00. A motion was made and approved unanimously.*

*Under announcements, Marine Carl Wilcox, as our representative to the Georgia Veterans Coalition, discussed the proposed funding for the upcoming WWII Memorial planned by local veteran's organizations. He also discussed the idea of Memorial Day crosses being sold as a fundraiser at \$25 each. Each cross will have the name of a fallen U.S. military veteran on it from Dougherty County and will be erected as part of the 2013 Memorial Day observance.*

*Meeting was adjourned at 1900 (a new Detachment record).*

## ***Good of the League***

---

*Jr. District Vice Commandant and Detachment Commandant were presenters of Marine Corps League certificates to outstanding JROTC cadets at three local schools in May.*



***District Vice Commandant Tom Newton gives Westover High School JROTC cadets their MCL Awards. Cadet Major Keyonna Pinkkin was the Honor Graduate. Cadet Major Daulton Luttre was the Community Service Award recipient.***

---



***Commandant Ron Kirstatter awards Cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade Kamara Bodden a copy of the NCO Handbook and Honor Graduate Certificate (above) and Cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade Jarrod Savage a Community Service ribbon with Certificate (below) at Lee County High School.***

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***Commandant Kirstatter was also present at the Colquitt County High Honors Night where he and member Sgt Michael Trevino handed out awards for scholastic, musical and physical fitness excellence.***

## ***Short Rounds***

---

*A large number of our Detachment members were up before daylight to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony and Breakfast at the American Legion Post 30. We also had members attend ceremonies at Leesburg Park and up at Andersonville.*

*Chaplain Ernie and Bobbie Elmore and Denzil Harrell took part in a Memorial Day service on Sunday May 27th at Friendship Baptist Church, Leesburg, where Chaplain Elmore gave the sermon.*

## ***Sea Stories***

---

### ***BEIRUT REVISITED***

*by Ray Murphy*



It was a Sunday morning, 23 October 1983 and I was the Division Supply Officer (DSO) for the Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune. I was scheduled to play golf with Col. Don Stoner and one other representative (It may have been LtCol Dave Purvis) from MCLB Albany who came up for a liaison visit. My son Tim, who was attending Coastal Community



***NJROTC Marine Option Cadet Albert Jones drew gasps from fellow students and the audience when he was presented with a full scholarship to Penn State.***

College in Jacksonville, was going to be the fourth in our group.

I came downstairs about 0700 and Tim had CNN on and told me that there were reports of Marine deaths in some sort of a bombing in Beirut. At the time it did not sound anything like a full blown crises, however while watching CNN over a bowl of cheerios, the reports were getting more and more ominous. As we were about to leave the house to go to Paradise Point, the phone rang and it was one of the duty officers advising that Major General Gray, our CG had ordered a staff recall. Needless to say that ended the golf match.

The DSO offices were in the old industrial area of Camp Lejeune but I went to our headquarters in Building 2 to see what exactly was going on. Details were sketchy as well as the number of casualties. By midmorning it was apparent that we had a major tragedy on our hands. It appeared that most of the Headquarters Company and Part of a rifle company were killed in a truck bombing incident at the headquarters of the First Battalion Eighth Marines.

By noon some national media had arrived. Gen Gray already made a decision to send out a Headquarters Company and a rifle company from the Sixth Marines who were already standing by as the 30 day alert force. By 1500 they were on their way.

Then came the difficult part of trying to figure out exactly who was killed and what equipment was lost. From a logistics standpoint I simply recommended that we just send out a complete T/E for a Headquarters Company and a rifle company rather than burden people over there with trying to figure out how much of this or that was recoverable. If we ended up with excesses over there, so be it. I think I

scored a few points with Gen Gray on that one. All of these type decisions were made during meetings throughout Sunday afternoon and evening.

I'm getting to the story for this article in a few minutes, but I have to interject here, that on Monday 24 October, I was inundated with phone calls from MCLB Albany, HQMC, Defense Supply Agency (now DLA) and the local Sassy Management Unit then headed up by the late LtCol Jim Rattigan. I think I could have stolen the barn because people were just overwhelming in providing the help and support we needed. This includes some LtCol by the name of Adams (our Detachment Paymaster) who worked for Col. Stoner.

By Tuesday we pretty well knew what was going on and the logistics wheels were in high gear. From a personal standpoint it was extremely heartwarming and I don't think I ever felt prouder in my career. Having just left Albany about 4 months earlier, I was getting unimaginable help from that command. As a side note, the Battalion Supply Officer was a Lt. John Boyette who was killed in the bombing but had been stationed at MCLB prior to his transfer to the 2nd Mar Div. MCLB subsequently dedicated the Marine housing (in which I spent 4 glorious years) at Turner/Old Navy Base to him.

Now to the rest of the story... Sometime on Tuesday, I received a call from Gen Gray advising me that the battalion colors had been destroyed and that "a battalion without its colors was not really a battalion". The message was get colors ASAP. In those days colors often took 3 months to receive because they were hand made by "little old ladies in tennis shoes at DSA in Philadelphia". In all due respect to the ladies, the colors were hand sewn with all of that intricate and meticulous detail.



Phone calls to MCLB, HQMC and DSA headquarters soon had me directly in touch with the head seamstress. From there it was very heartwarming. The ladies who do this "hum drum" work every day, knew that they had a job to do that probably would get them as close to feeling like they had a direct contribution to a combat situation than any time in their career. From late Tuesday to late Wednesday it was strictly between me and a supervisor and yes, "one of the little old ladies."

As best I can remember, I got a call about 1900 on Wednesday, DSA in Philadelphia, informing me that they had finished the flag and turned it over to a FEDEX driver with explicit instructions not to lose it and make sure it got to their distribution facility on time. Subsequently, it was processed through FEDEX Memphis bound for the FEDEX distribution point in Wilmington NC. I went home Wednesday night feeling comfortable that I could deliver the colors to Gen Gray by 1000 the next morning.

We were at work by 0600 the next morning (Thursday) and FEDEX was calling me. They only knew that they were on the lookout for a very special package for a LtCol Murphy at Camp Lejeune. They were in their Wilmington, NC facility sorting packages for the local runs. I later found out that they held all trucks leaving the Wilmington hub until they knew this package to LTC Murphy was on the right truck. About 0700 I got a call from FEDEX, Wilmington, telling me that the package was on the right truck and should arrive at our office in the industrial area by 0800.

We knew it was coming, and knew that FEDEX knew it was special so we were all assembled when the FEDEX truck arrived. The poor driver didn't know what he had but he did say that every truck leaving

Wilmington was held up until they knew they had the right package to DSO, CLNC.

He did ask what was so special that got all of the expedited handling from Philadelphia to Camp Lejeune. We told him about the history of the colors and the meaning to the unit. He was overcome that something as simple as a flag (his words) meant so much to us Marines. We opened the package, and showed him the colors. He then seemed a little overwhelmed. He asked if we had a camera so that he could have his picture taken with the colors as a remembrance. We took his picture with the duty Polaroid camera we had at the time and gave it to him. I regret that I do not have a picture of that event.

It turned out to be a marvelous, sentimental and heartwarming story that just sits there in the background of our wonderful Corps history but it is one that I cherish to this day.

## ***Boy Scouts***

---

*The Eagles were soaring on 19 May! Troop 3 of St. Teresa's in Albany recognized eight young men as Eagle Scouts. They are Andrew Bode, Nick Meier, Trey Hardison, Jared Gillan, Matthew Groarke, Eli Jackson, Sean Tangwall and TJ Owens. Troop 007 of Leesburg recognized Jacob Bacon as their newest Eagle Scout that night as well. Ed Rella, congressman Bishop's representative was also on-hand to present the boys with a certificate from the congressman. Dan and Andrea Gillan along with Al and Kathy Fazekas were on-hand to represent the Marine Corps League. The new Eagle scouts were a little overwhelmed by all the attention and we were able to add to the ceremony by emphasizing the similarities between the meaning of the Scout Oath and Law and what the Core Values of our Corps stands for.*

*Dan Gillan  
Scout Coordinator*



## ***This Month in History***

---

1 June 1942 - Recruiting of black Marines began.

6 June 1944 - WWII, D-Day, Allies land at Normandy, France for invasion of Europe.

8 June 1880 - Capt W. B. Remey was the first Marine appointed Judge Advocate of the Navy.

15 June 1944 - The 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions made an assault landing on Saipan.

17 June 1979 - Col Valerie Hilgart became the first Woman Marine to assume duty as chief of staff of a major command (Albany, GA).

20 June 1866 - 50 Marines and sailors landed at Chwang, China, to assure punishment for those who attacked an American official.

25 June 1918 - The 4th Marine Brigade secured Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, France.

26 June 1891 - The Corps established its first post at Port Royal, SC, later known as Parris Island.

## ***In the News***

---

*We've lost another one of our finest. LCpl Steven Sutton, was killed in Afghanistan May 25th. LCpl Sutton graduated from Leesburg High School three years ago. As of this writing his service will be at 1st Baptist Church, Leesburg and it will be a private service. He will be interred locally. His parents, Gene and Bonnie Sutton, his young wife Toni Sutton and their 7-year-old daughter Aubrey, requested that the Patriot Guard Riders take part in celebrating this Marine's life with them in Albany and Leesburg, GA. Next week.*

## ***Birthdays!***

### ***JUNE***

4 - Patrick O'Lear

7 - Gregory Maine

8 - Harold Hart

10 - Alex Fazekas

13 - Bob Cerney

17 - Willie Peters

17 - Amanda Wood

20 - Bobby Sisai

23 - Eugene Coutu

Happy Birthday Leathernecks!!!

### **GA DEPT CONVENTION**



Ron and Sheila Kirstatter and Ernie Elmore take a break.



National Jr. Vice Commandant John Kovalcek was in attendance



Our Jr. Vice Commandant Roger Paulin is awarded Department Recruiter of the Year



Commandant Ron Kirstatter received the Meritorious Commendation – Individual from Department Commandant Michael Clark



Chaplain Ernie Elmore awarded Distinguished Service Medal - Bronze



District Vice Commandant Tom Newton at the Commandant's Council.



New Department Officers Sworn in (Chaplain Ernie Elmore second from left)





District Vice Commandant Tom Newton receives the Distinguished Service Medal - Silver




Georgia wins the Grits Bowl as the Department of Alabama Commandant Johnny Baker hands the Bowl over to Commandant Clark



**Commandant Clark is the Department of Georgia Marine of the Year!**

## Our sponsors deserve your business!

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# June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 • Young Marines Drill Weekend • National Trails Day • 9:00 am -11:00 am : National Trails Day
3	4 • 8:00 am -4:00 pm : MCLB TAMP	5 • 8:00 am -4:00 pm : MCLB TAMP	6 • 8:00 am -4:00 pm : MCLB TAMP • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	7 • 8:00 am -4:00 pm : MCLB TAMP	8 • Department of Alabama 2012 Convention	9 • Department of Alabama 2012 Convention
10 • Department of Alabama 2012 Convention	11	12 • 6:00 pm -7:30 pm : Detachment Staff Meeting	13 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	14	15	16 • Young Marines Drill Weekeend
17	18 • 7:00 pm -8:00 pm : Pound 317	19 • 6:30 pm -7:30 pm : Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment #1260	20 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	21 • 8:00 am -12:00 pm : MCLB Welcome Aboard Brief • 6:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1333 Monthly Meeting in Waycross	22	23 • 10:00 am -12:00 pm : Department Special Staff Meeting
24	25	26	27 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	28 • 5:00 pm -7:00 pm : Pound 322 Growl • 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1373 Monthly Meeting in Warner Robbins, GA	29	30



# Dispatch

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Volume 3, Issue 7  
July 2012

## Member Spotlight

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**Major Lawrence DesJardines**  
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Marine Corps League  
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*TOM NEWTON - Department DISTRICT VICE COMMANDANT*  
(receiving the Department Distinguish Service Medal from  
Department Commandant Michael Clark)

**SPECIAL STAFF:**  
**JNROTC/Young Marines**  
**Coordinator**  
Kelly Fisk  
**Boy Scout Coordinator**  
Dan Gillan  
**Fallen Marine Coordinator**  
Ernie Elmore  
**Newsletter Editor**  
Bobbie Elmore  
**Patriotism Committee**  
Dave Aldrich  
**Veterans Service Officer**  
Nick Nicholson  
**Quartermaster**  
Tim McClelland  
**Historian**  
Kathy Fazekas  
**Web Sergeant**  
Ron Kirstatter

Tom was born in Hamilton Ohio in 1952 and attended Catholic schools up to the 10th grade. He switched to a public school to get vocational training in electronics as he couldn't see making a go of college at that time. Just prior to graduating from Garfield Sr. High in 1971, he and two of his close friends joined the Marine Corps on the delayed entry program. He was offered a Ground Electronics guarantee when he joined. As the war in Vietnam was still raging on, he didn't see much chance of the Marine Corps honoring that guarantee. He went off to Parris Island in August 1971 and graduated in October. He was given 10 days leave and then had orders to Camp Geiger for Infantry training. About 45 days into training, he and both of his friends and a few others in the Company were sent to different schools. He and one of his friends were sent to 29 Palms, CA for Basic Electronics School. This was in November of 1971. He was able to get Christmas leave to return home and marry his high

school sweetheart, Kris. Kris joined him in 29 Palms in January 1972. Their first little girl, Jennifer was born there. He completed Basic Electronics, Fundamentals of Digital Logic, and Ground Radar School in 29 Palms. In October of 1972, he was sent to MCSC Albany, GA to attend Test Instrument Repairmen School. Upon graduation in December of 1972, he received the 2871 MOS and had orders back to 29 Palms as a member of Provisional Maintenance Company.

While serving at Provisional Maintenance Company, he was sent to Lowry Air force Base in Denver, CO to attend Advanced Electrical/Electronic and Microwave Measurements School. In April 1974, he was promoted to Corporal and reenlisted, taking two years off of his original enlistment and received a \$10,000 bonus. Their second daughter, Casey, was born at this time. He was sent back to Lowry AFB for Precision Physical and Precision Dimensional Optical Measurements School from May to July 1974. Upon graduating, he was promoted to Sergeant and given the 2873 MOS. He was one of only three Marines with that MOS at the time. He returned to 29 Palms and was given unaccompanied orders to Camp Foster Okinawa in August 1975. He was assigned to the Electronics Maintenance Company, as a mechanical instrument repairman and calibrator and an electronic test instrument repairman. He returned to the US in October 1976 with orders to MCLB Albany, GA. After 30 days leave, he reported to Repair Division, MCLB Albany. He worked in the Mechanical Calibration lab there until 1977. He was promoted to SSgt and went back to Lowry AFB for more school. Completing the schools in June 1977, he was given the 2874 MOS. My second enlistment was up in August of 1979. He tried to get back to the Fleet with this enlistment and told he could not get back to the Fleet in the foreseeable future. He accepted his honorable discharge after serving our Corps for 8 years and 89 days.

Upon his discharge he went back to Ohio where he got a job as a remote site optical character reader maintainer for the Lundy Farrington Corporation. They moved to Springfield Ohio in October 1979. After 18 months of being on call to support the message centers at Wright Patterson AFB and DCSC Columbus, Ohio, he was hired at Wright Patterson AFB in their remote PME (Test

Instrument Calibration/repair) lab. While working the lab, one of the quality assurance techs asked what he knew about the Marine Base in Albany, GA. He found out that the Repair Division was looking for Electronics Technicians. He contacted some friends there and sent them a SF 171 (Government resume) and was hired in April 1982.

He started as a GS-856-09 electronics technician, working in Metrology Special Projects. His duties were electronic and mechanical instrument quality control and learning to program an instrument controller (a fancy name for a computer). In 1985, he advanced to the GS 10 pay grade as an instrument programmer, writing test programs for test instruments and weapons systems. In 1988, he became a Project Coordinator and was responsible for fielding a test set to support the LAV-25. The test set actually supported the gun control LRU (line replaceable unit) and seven other circuit cards in the LAV-25. 24 systems were fielded.

In 1993, he became the technical project coordinator for a field transportable automatic test system called the Third Echelon Test System (TETS). He picked up the project just after the proof of concept was completed. This project would cover the next nine years of his career. The team he worked with demonstrated the proof of concept, built two prototype systems, survived several reviews from both the Army and Navy Automate Test Equipment Programs, and successfully withstood a Congressional IG investigation of the program. It was during this time that his team demonstrated the prototypes to the other branches of the service and commercial contractors, both individually and at the annual DoD and industry Automatic Test Conference. His team along with the PM-TMDE program office, legal counsel, and an acquisition team developed the procurement specifications and evaluation criteria for procuring 185 of the systems. The acquisition process involved reviewing both paper proposals and bid sample testing. They also survived converting most of their MIL Spec requirements to commercial specifications. The contract was finally awarded in 1997. Full scale production began in 1998 with initial fielding in 2000. He stayed with this project up through fielding the systems to the fleet. They fielded the system with several test programs sets to

support the LAV-25, a ground radar system, and several radios.

As the fielding of TETS was being completed, he accepted the position of supervisor of the systems analysis and acquisition section. He stayed in this position until 2006. In late 2006, he realized that retirement was coming up soon. He requested a within grade transfer to head up the Fleet Support team. As the leader of this team, they established a schedule for fielding new equipment and system retraining to the ELMACO's, cal labs, and TMDE schools. He also assisted his replacement in getting a handle on the different types of systems undergoing analysis and what phase several of our acquisitions were in.

In 2007, He and Kris came to the conclusion that he could retire and they could still maintain their life style so he retired in July. Soon after his retirement, he was heavily involved in both the Marine Corps League and the Culinary Arts Classes at Albany Technical College. As his classes started gearing toward opening and running a restaurant, he quit attending. This was December of 2008. He is now a personal chef to Kris, who wishes he would do more cooking than he currently does. He has held the elected offices of Judge Advocate, Sr. Vice Commandant, and Commandant in our Detachment as well as chairman of the Riverwalk Cleanup and 2009 Department Convention Committees. He was elected as the Department Judge Advocate and he is currently in his second term as Department District Vice Commandant for District 6.

Now that Kris is also looking at retirement in the very near future, they are setting their sights on moving to the adult Disney World of the Villages in Florida. Kris will be retiring in January of 2014 and they hope to have a home ready for them to move into as close to that time as possible, if not sooner.

(Editors note: this article was humbly written by Tom, but if you have been with our Detachment for any length of time, you know by now that Tom is the grease that keeps us going and growing. He has a long line of achievements in the Marine Corps League. He is tireless in his pursuit of developing our Detachment as well as the Department of Georgia and everything he does is done in outstanding

fashion. We can be proud that he is a member of our fine Detachment here in Albany.)

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!!

The 4th of July is a time to commemorate America's declaration of separation from Great Britain that was made on July 4, 1776. Our freedom, and our democracy that we have been blessed with is a direct product of the sheer determination from our forefathers who worked to establish the United States of America as a free country.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag and to the country for which it stands. One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people."

Abraham Lincoln



## *From the Commandant*

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**Ron Kirstatter**

Independence Day is here and like so many of you I look forward to celebrating all the things our revolutionary brothers envisioned for this country. I hope everyone comes out for the festivities and fireworks aboard MCLB. If you missed June's meeting, several new ideas were discussed. I'm looking forward to some of these new activities and hope that members will find something that peaks their interest.

I want to thank our Marine neighbors in Alabama for the hospitality and the opportunity to learn a few things at their recent Department Convention. It seems many of the challenges we face are not unique but some of the solutions are. There is one more gathering this year and that is the National convention in Mobile, AL. This could turn out to be the grandest of them all. Both planned hotels have booked full so they have added another nearby. If you are thinking about attending, check out the accommodations and activities at [www.mclconvention.com](http://www.mclconvention.com). You can register online but the official delegate form needs to have your name and must be submitted by July 26th.

I recently attended the Department Board of Trustees meeting in Macon. Commandant Clark swore in the new District Vice Commandants and a

new Paymaster. Georgia didn't charter any new Detachments last year but we still grew so there have been some additions to the District breakdown. We are now in District 6 but District Vice Commandant Tom Newton is still at the helm. July 14th there will be a District training session in Tifton. It's a great opportunity to gain knowledge about the bylaws and mission without having to download and read them. You're invited to go early for breakfast with the Marines forming the new Tifton Detachment. Lastly, Tom Newton has spearheaded the creation of a Detachment MCL rifle & pistol shooting team. The program is very easy to participate in and whether or not you have fired that old side iron or musket since you left the Corps, I'm willing to bet it will all come back to you once the first rounds go down the range. Give it a shot!

Semper Fi,  
Ron

## *Chaplain's Corner*

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### *Being a Person Under Authority*

*..."I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith." (Matthew 8:10)*

The centurion came to Jesus and told Him of his servant who was paralyzed and in terrible suffering. He came to Jesus because he believed He could heal him. He told Jesus of the matter, and Jesus was willing to come with the centurion. But the centurion would not have it. He knew that Jesus, being under the authority of Heaven itself, did not have to see the servant to help him. The centurion understood authority. He understood that he himself had certain rights that his position granted him to have power over situations and people. He also was a man under authority. The centurion understood Jesus' position and what power that position held in Heaven - the

power to heal his servant if He chose to exercise that authority.

When Jesus saw that the centurion understood this principle of authority and that He did not have to visit the servant to heal him, He acknowledged the centurion's faith. Jesus knew it took great faith to understand authority and whether He had the authority to do what was being asked.

God has placed a system of authority in our world that requires faith to operate under its boundaries; fathers over sons and daughters, employers over employees, officers over enlisted, government leaders over the people, church leaders over the church members. These are authority structures God has placed on our lives to protect and guide us to His will. Some confuse position with worthiness or qualifications of that position. It is the position that God works through. The fact that an authority may not be a Christian or Jew may have no bearing on whether God can work through him as your authority. It is only when that authority counsels against a biblical mandate that we should not follow that person's guidance. The hand of the king is in the hand of God.

Today, we find few who understand this system of authority God has ordained. It requires great faith to operate in this realm. Yet Jesus said that when we understand this, we demonstrate the kind of faith that He rarely sees. Be a person of rare faith. See the authorities placed in your life as those God is using to protect you.

*"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)*

*Chaplain Ernie Elmore can be reached at 435-2283 or [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net) to report sickness, injury or for spiritual needs.*

## ***Get Involved!***

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*Roosters will be closed July 4<sup>th</sup>.  
Every Wednesday 0900 Detachment breakfast at Roosters on Westover Blvd. Join us if you can.*

Detachment Rifle and Pistol shooting Team

We are forming our own MCL Rifle and Pistol Shooting Team

Those interested should attend the July Monthly Detachment meeting on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 1830 or call Tom Newton at 446-2209

*Our Detachment Recipe Book endeavor is still on! You are encouraged to send your recipes to Assoc. Member Ruthie Breton at [Ruthie.breton@yahoo.com](mailto:Ruthie.breton@yahoo.com). Without your recipes we can't print a cookbook! This is expected to be a big fundraiser for us, and even if you can't get out to our meetings, this is something you can do to be involved. Any questions, call Bobbie Elmore at 435-2283.*

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## ***Muster Highlights***

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**Condensed Minutes of Detachment Meeting 19 June 2012. Entire minutes posted on website.**

Meeting was called to order at 1830. Officers present were Commandant Kirstatter, Jr. Vice Commandant Roger Paulin Adjutant Alex Hart and Sgt at Arms Rodgers.

Minutes of May 15th posted to the website were accepted without correction.

New member **JEFF LARK** was sworn in by Commandant Kirstatter.

Department Jr. Vice Commandant Chad Long was introduced and presented Jr. Vice Commandant

## **ROGER PAULIN WITH HIS DEPARTMENT RECRUITER OF THE YEAR MEDAL AND CERTIFICATE!**

Correspondence included thank you letters from Cherry Stewart (along with a generous donation), and Marilyn Retza, and also from two flag recipients.

Three Fallen Marines were reported: LCpl Steve Sutton (KIA Afghanistan), Capt. Paul Baker, and Joseph Thomas (J.T.) Smith. The following members were reported as ill or in distress: Judge Advocate Bill Hammack undergoing cancer treatment, Assoc. Member Denzil Harrell undergoing cancer treatment, Marine John Belk is unable to walk due to painful bone spurs, and Jr. Vice Paulin is set to begin cancer treatments shortly.

Commandant Kirstatter announced the annual MCLB 4th of July festivities will take place on June 29th, volunteers are sought to help man the Detachment tent.

The Detachment has received a request to support the Reserve Corporals Course and funds donated to the Young Marines will be carried over to next year due to a cancellation in attendance this year.

Commandant Kirstatter displayed a proposed ad proof for the National convention, and Marine Aldrich pointed out it would be appropriate to include a picture of the Detachment's namesake, Larry DesJardines.

Marine Newton announced the desire to form a Detachment MCL rifle and Pistol Team.

A motion was made and seconded for the Detachment to purchase \$80.00 worth of tickets for the National Headquarters Spring Raffle conducted by the MCL Auxiliary.

Department Jr. Vice Long emphasized Commandant Clark's wish that Detachments continue to support both the Boy Scouts and JROTC. He also emphasized the importance of members paying their annual dues one quarter in advance of the annual due date. Jr. Vice Long also spoke about the 2013 SE Division conference in Atlanta, GA emphasizing the need to reserve rooms early.

Marines interested in taking part in a bus tour of significant Marine points of interest in the Washington D.C. area, including the Viet Nam Wall, 8th and I, and the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico departing on August 23rd contact John Newport at [MCLWOODSTOCK@aol.com](mailto:MCLWOODSTOCK@aol.com).

Marine Carl Wilcox announced he attended the recent Field of Flags meeting. Volunteers are needed to set up the flags on Saturday, September 8, 2012

Marine Newton announced the Detachment has placed free, 17 public service announcement ads on Cumulus and Clear Channel radio stations which will provide information on the Detachment and how to join.

Marine Sgt Mike Trevino thanked the Detachment for its support in the form of JROTC awards handed out at the recent Colquitt H.S. awards ceremony.

Commandant Kirstatter announced the meeting was adjourned at 1810.

## **JULY BIRTHDAYS !!**

**July 1 - Ray Murphy**

**July 20 - Sherman Braden**

**July 29 - Fred Miller**

**Here's to you, Marines!**

## *Good of the League*

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*Associate Member Marilyn Retza receives flag during the Funeral for her husband, our brother, MGySgt Nick Retza USMC at Arlington National Cemetery where full military honors were rendered.*

## *Short Rounds*

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My Viet Nam Veteran Baseball Cap  
Yesterday I wore it when I went to Wal-Mart. There was nothing in particular that I needed at the world's largest retailer; but, since I retired, trips to Wally world to look at the Walmartians is always good for some comic relief. Besides, I always feel pretty normal after seeing some of the people that frequent the establishment. But, I digress...enough of my psychological fixations.

While standing in line to check out, the guy in front of me, probably in his early thirties, asked, "Are you a Viet Nam Vet?"

"No", I replied.

"Then why are you wearing that cap?"

"Because I couldn't find the one from the War of 1812."

I thought it was a snappy retort.

"The War of 1812, huh?" the Walmartian queried,  
"When was that?"

God forgive me, but I couldn't pass up such an opportunity.

"1936," I answered as straight-faced as possible.

He pondered my response for a moment and responded, "Why do they call it the War of 1812 if it was in 1936?"

"It was a Black Op. No one is supposed to know about it."

This was beginning to be way fun!

"Listen man," I said in a very serious tone, "You can't tell anyone about this. It's still 'top secret' and I shouldn't have said anything."

"Oh yeah?" he gave me the 'don't threaten me look.'

"Like, what's going to happen if I do?"

With a really hard look I said, "You have a family don't you? We wouldn't want anything to happen to them, would we?"

The guy gulped, left his basket where it was and fled through the door. By this time the lady behind me was about to have a heart attack she was laughing so hard. I just grinned at her.

After checking out and going to the parking lot I saw Dimwit leaning in a car window talking to a young woman. Upon catching sight of me he started pointing excitedly in my direction. Giving him another 'deadly' serious look, I made the 'I see you' gesture. He turned kind of pale, jumped in the car and sped out of the parking lot.

What a great time!

Tomorrow I'm going to wear my Home Land Security cap.

Whoever said retirement is boring just needs the right kind of cap.

*-anon.*

## *Sea Stories*

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*"In 1970 I received orders to Kaneohe Air Station in Hawaii. Upon arriving there I noticed that all trash cans were labeled (mahalo).*



*After looking about a bit and making several purchases to which the female clerks said (mahalo). Well, I had to wonder just why I was being called trash and quite sure that if a male were to mahalo me, we were going to dance. Thankfully, before that happened, I learned mahalo was Hawaiian for THANK YOU. so works the mind of a young Marine ten foot tall, and bulletproof. Now I am an old Marine, five foot two, and bruise easy."*

Marine Kenn Berggren

## ***This Month in History***

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4 July 1800 - The Marine Band played at Tun Tavern, Philadelphia, in its first public appearance.

10 July 1919 - A submarine chaser was turned over to the Corps with the first all-Marine crew.

13 July 1954 - The 3dMarDiv was placed on 48-hour alert in preparation to move in support of the French in Indochina. The alert was later cancelled.

19 July 1779 - 300Continental Marines attacked the British at Fort George, Penobscot Bay.

21 July 2011 - Shuttle pilot, LtCol Doug Hurley, USMC was among the 4 crew on the final flight of Atlantis and NASA's shuttle program.

27 July 1953 - Korean War ended.

30 June 1918 - The 1st Marine Aviation Force arrived in France.

## ***In the News***

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*....from the Marine Times by Andrew Tilghman, 28 June 2012*

*Military fakers scored a major victory at the U.S. Supreme Court when the justices struck down the Stolen Valor Act, the 2006 law that made it a federal crime to lie about receiving military medals.*

*The Court's 6-3 majority ruled June 28 that the broadly written law making false claims of military honors illegal under any circumstances violated the First Amendment right to free speech.*


*Nevertheless, all of the justices acknowledged the legitimate intent of the law to protect the integrity of honors bestowed on war heroes. Two justices suggested Congress could rewrite the law in a more narrow form, prompting lawmakers on Capitol Hill to immediately call for replacing the now-defunct law.*

*.....from admin, MCL Headquarters 29 June 2012*

*The first African Americans to join the Corps during World War II, the Montford Point Marines, received the Congressional Gold Medal during a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C., June 27. Nearly 400 surviving Montford Point Marines attended the medal presentation, and Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, hosted a parade in their honor at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C> June 28. "They answered our nation's call despite our society being deeply divided along racial lines," said Amos. "To me, they were heroic for two reasons: they fought against the enemy during World War II while they also fought for their civil rights and the respect of their fellow Americans."*

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John I. Waldrop, M.D.



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The Dispatch is the official publication of the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment 1260 of the Marine Corps League, Albany GA. The newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of Detachment members and guests. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official views of the Marine Corps League or the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment. Send all articles and comments to the editor Bobbie Elmore at [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net).



# July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	5	6	7 • Young Marines Drill Weekend
8	9	10	11 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	12	13	14
15	16	17 • 6:30 pm -7:30 pm : Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment #1260	18 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	19 • 8:00 am -12:00 pm : MCLB Welcome Aboard Brief • 6:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1333 Monthly Meeting in Waycross	20	21 • Young Marines Drill Weekend
22	23	24	25 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	26 • 5:00 pm -7:00 pm : Pound 322 Growl • 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1373 Monthly Meeting in Warner Robbins, GA	27	28
29	30	31				



# Dispatch

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<b>Jr. Vice Commandant:</b>	Roger Paulin	(229) 669-6957	<a href="mailto:rgrpaulin@gmail.com">rgrpaulin@gmail.com</a>
<b>Judge Advocate:</b>	Bill Hammack	(229) 888-0561	<a href="mailto:bghammack@bellsouth.net">bghammack@bellsouth.net</a>
<b>Jr. Past Commandant:</b>	Tom Newton	(229) 446-2209	<a href="mailto:newt1644@live.com">newt1644@live.com</a>
<b>Adjutant:</b>	Alex Hart	(229) 669-6957	<a href="mailto:alex@hallwilliamsonhart.com">alex@hallwilliamsonhart.com</a>
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Ernie Elmore	(229) 435-2283	<a href="mailto:ernieelmore@att.net">ernieelmore@att.net</a>
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Volume 3, Issue 8  
August 2012

## Member Spotlight

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**Major Lawrence DesJardines**  
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### GySGT BOB BRETON (USMC RET.)

**SPECIAL STAFF:**  
**JNROTC/Young Marines**  
**Coordinator**  
Kelly Fisk  
**Boy Scout Coordinator**  
Dan Gillan  
**Fallen Marine Coordinator**  
Ernie Elmore  
**Newsletter Editor**  
Bobbie Elmore  
**Patriotism Committee**  
Dave Aldrich  
**Veterans Service Officer**  
Nick Nicholson  
**Quartermaster**  
Tim McClelland  
**Historian**  
Kathy Fazekas  
**Web Sergeant**  
Ron Kirstatter

Born in Holyoke, Mass on 18 February 1940, Bob's parents moved to Auburn, NY soon after his birth where his Dad was a Diesel Service Engineer for the American Locomotive Company. In July of 1949 his Dad was transferred to Philadelphia, PA, where Bob attended several area schools finally graduating high school from Msgr Bonner H.S., Upper Darby, PA in June 1958. (editor's note: during this time he was found dancing on the famous Bandstand).



Bob joined the Marine Corps Reserve on July 1, 1957 and was transferred to Parris Island on July 2, 1958, completing boot camp in the middle of October 1958. Being in the reserve, Bob re-enlisted for 4 during his stay at P.I.

October and November 1958 he completed ITR at Camp Geiger, NC. There upon receiving orders to the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL for Basics Electronic School, completing BES in June of 1960. During his tour at Great Lakes he married his High School sweetheart Ruthie Leinhauser on May 9, 1959. Ruthie is an Associate Member of our Detachment. Completion of BES found Bob and Ruthie on orders to Ft. Bliss, TX for training as a HAWK Missiles Systems Launcher Technician. He was promoted to Lance Corporal in April in 1960. Upon completion of school he was transferred to Twentynine Palms, CA Marine Base for duty with the 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Missile (LAAM) Battalion where he stayed until January 1963. During that tour he was promoted to Corporal, when he was again ordered to school at U.S. Army Redstone

Arsenal, AL for training as a Continuous Wave Acquisition Radar Repairman graduating in August 1963. From there he was shipped to the repair facility shop 733, Albany, GA for a short stay and again promoted to Sergeant, then on to the I&I staff in Fresno, CA with "D" Btry of the 4th LAAM Battalion.

Having been promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant he was shipped in January 1967 to the 2nd LAAM Bn in Chu Lai, Viet Nam. Completing his tour in March of 1968 he was transferred to the HAWK Maintenance Shop at Barstow, CA again for a short stay and further transferred back to Redstone Arsenal for school as a HAWK Missile Maintenance Supervisor. Completion of school found them on their way to the Marine Corps Supply Activity in Philadelphia, PA arriving there in December 1972. Upon checking in to the Activity he received his backdated (1971) promotion to Gunnery Sergeant. At the Activity he worked for the Code 844 shop provisioning parts for the HAWK Missile Systems and at the time the new Dragon Anti-Tank Weapon System. In November of 1975 he was assigned to

forward detachment for the move to Marine Corps Supply Center, Albany, GA. He retired from Active duty on 30 September 1978.

Having five children during his active tour and needing a job to support his family, and not being able to apply for GS for a year after retiring, Bob took a job with McDonnell Douglas Aircraft, St Louis, MO where he remained until 1984. In June 1984 he was offered a job with a consulting firm on Long Island, NY. Being #1 on the Layoff list he went to work for Norden Systems, Inc. in Melville, NY, where he stayed until June 1989 when he returned to MCLB Albany, GA as a Equipment Specialist again for the HAWK Missile Systems, Dragon Weapon System and several other Systems. HAWK was retired from the Marine Corps inventory in Dec 1998 and he was placed on the GS excess list. Bob was then recruited by the then Packaging Handling, Storage and Transportation (PHS&T) Subject Matter Expert (SME) as a GS9 Packaging Specialist. Within 7 months the SME was promoted to a Systems Analyst and Bob became the PHY&T SME for the Marine

Corps. Upon his retirement from Civil Service on December 31, 2010, Bob was the only 2032 Packaging Specialist in the Marine Corps. He had the extreme pleasure of serving with and for the Corps for 42 years and 9 months. OOHRAH!

### ***From the Commandant***

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*I trust everyone had a very enjoyable 4th of July. While it proved rather sweltering, many of us kicked it off the Friday before visiting with Marines and guests at MCLB's annual celebration. Congratulations to Dick Stevens on winning the jersey in our raffle.*

*I've spent most of the month traveling, spending time with Marines in Twentynine Palms and Miramar, CA. There is a tremendous change underway and I get the feeling that our Marine Corps is going to need all the help we can muster to keep it alive. The projected cuts in manpower have hardly begun but some locations are mere ghost towns of what they once were. Last November the Deputy Commandant for Combat Development & Integration released the 2010 Force Structure Review. If you haven't read*

*it, it reads like a who's who of units being deactivated and subsequent new units being activated. The guidon many of us served under is likely to be retired between now and 2015 if it hasn't already. I'll be the first to admit I don't have all the evidence and there are much more knowledgeable people planning the future of our Marine Corps but overall it gave me the unsettled feeling that change is afoot simply to show that we can change. Time will tell but it doesn't mean we should stand by and see what happens. Our role will be what our mission states, "rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen and former Marines and FMF Corpsmen and to their widows and orphans."*

*The National Convention is just around the corner. One of the true highlights of my short tenure in the Marine Corps League has been to attend the conferences. Some of it is work, some of it is party, but all of it is social. I always knew I would have a select group of close friends that I made in my 22 years on active duty and some of them I'm happy to say are right here in Albany. What I didn't know is that there would be a few thousand more scattered all around the country. I'm willing to bet they are your friends too! If you are not planning on attending this year, try to plan on attending the SE Division, Department or National Convention next year. You'll be glad you did.*

*If you have been ignoring all the hoopla lately about the shooting team, I'm hoping you'll come join us as we attempt to focus on that front sight tip and blast some black paper. Even if you don't shoot, I'm sure we could use some coaches or a cheering section.*

*Semper Fi,  
Ron Kirstatter*

## **Chaplain's Corner**

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*Do you want to snatch a day from the grip of boredom? Do overly generous deeds. Acts beyond reimbursement. Kindness without compensation. Here's another idea...Get over yourself!*

*Sound too harsh?*

*Well, Moses did. Numbers 12:3 says, he was a "very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth."*

*Mary did. When Jesus made her womb His home, she did not boast, she simply confessed: "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me according to thy word." (Luke 1:38)*

*Most of all - Jesus did. Jesus washed the feet of his friends. (John 13:5) Can't we?*

*We're important but not essential, valuable but not indispensable. We have a song to sing, but we're not the featured act. God is!*

*He did well before our births; He'll do fine after our deaths. He started it all, sustains it all, and will bring it all to a glorious climax!*

Chaplain Ernie Elmore can be reached at 435-2283 or [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net) to report sickness, injury or for spiritual needs.

## **Get Involved!**

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[Every Wednesday 0900 Detachment breakfast at Roosters on Westover Blvd. Join us if you can.](#)

[Join the Shooting Team. Call Tom Newton.](#)

[Visit or send cards to Detachment members in distress. Call the Chaplain Ernie 435-2283 for names and numbers.](#)

[Attend Conventions: National Convention August 13-17 in Mobile, AL.](#)

## ***Muster Highlights***

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***(Full minutes can be read on the Detachment Website)***

17 July 2012

Sr. Vice Commandant Elmore opened the meeting at 1830 at Riverpointe Gold Course Club House.

Roll Call of Officers showed all present with exception of Commandant Kirstatter and Judge Advocate Bill Hammack.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved. Three new applications for regular membership were received and approved by the membership. They were: Nathaniel Lowman, James R. Edwards and Joseph T. Smith. Marilyn Retza submitted an application for Assoc. Member. She was voted upon and approved.

Chaplain Elmore reported three Fallen Marines: MGySgt Donald r. Zirkelbach, Hubert Clines and GySgt James W. Bramble. Reported ill were JA Bill Hammack, Jr Vice Paulin, Marine Felix DeMuth and Assoc. Member Denzil Harrell.

Jr. Vice Paulin reported he recruited one new member and one new prospective member.

Marine Aldrich of the Patriotism Committee announced a total of 125 flags have been replaced since the program began. The program continues to operate "in the black", and inventory levels are mainly good, however, 5-10 4x6 flags need to be ordered.

Sr. Vice Elmore reminded the members that the Cookbook fundraiser is still alive and encouraged members to submit at least 4 or more recipes.

Marine Fisk shared his ideas on supporting Wounded Warrior Regiment and the Marine 4 Life Program.

Veteran's Coalition Committee representative Carl Wilcox announced the world War II Memorial concept was approved by the City Manager, however he objected to the planned inclusion of guns in the monument due to safety concerns. Volunteers are still needed to set up flags for the Field of Flags on September 8.

Jr. Past Commandant Tom Newton representing our new Detachment Shooting Team, announced that the first shooting event is planned for August 11th at the Base Pistol range. So far, seven Detachment members have expressed interest in joining the Team.

The SE Division Conference program ads are for sale. The Detachment Board of Directors will consider whether to purchase an ad and what page size.

Sr. Vice Elmore, in the good of the League, reminded Members that the Department of GA is inviting interested Marines to take part in a bus tour of significant Marine points of interest in the Washington DC area. Bus leaves from Woodstock on August 23rd. Cost is \$105.25 per person.

Quartermaster McClelland announced coin display racks and other items for sale after the meeting.

Sr. Vice Elmore said that the National Marine Corps League is reminding League Members that our organization by-laws and policy forbids any Marine Corps League Member from participating in any political event while in uniform.



Next Staff Meeting will be 1800, Tuesday, Aug 7th at Hong Kong Restaurant.

The meeting was adjourned at 1950.

## ***Good of the League***

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*\* The following have their membership dues come due in September:*

*Karolyn Sutherland*

*Ruthie Breton*

*Kathy Fazekas*

*Frederick Miller*

*John Padden*

*Jim Reilly*

***STAFF MEETING*** will be held 7 August 1830 at the Hong Kong Restaurant on Dawson Road. All Staff Officers and interested members are urged to attend. There is follow-up business to discuss and decide as a result of July's monthly meeting.

*National Headquarters reminds us that we are not to wear any Marine Corps League uniform when attending any political meeting.*

## ***Short Rounds***

---



Sr Vice Elmore swears in Marilyn Retza as an Associate Member at the weekly breakfast July 18, 2012

### **DETACHMENT SHOOTING TEAM**

Members and Assoc Members are invited to join our Detachment Shooting Team. We will meet from 1200-1400 on August 11th at the MCLB Shooting Range. Call Tom Newton 446-2209 for details. You must have eye and ear protection. Shooting for Score will be the 2nd Saturday in October. We will have a Range and a Safety Officer present at all times. M9 pistols can be rented for \$3, ammo \$20 for 50 rounds). Pistols only on the 11th. We'll shoot rifles and pistols in September. Registration is \$5.

### **MISSION OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen and former Marines and FMF Corpsmen and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

"Peace is that brief glorious moment in history when everybody stands around reloading."

Thomas Jefferson

**NEW OWNERS AT ROOSTERS STAND IN FRONT OF THE "CONGRATULATIONS" FLOWER BOUQUET FROM OUR DETACHMENT. JULY 18, 2012.**

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## ***Sea Stories***

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*Relax, Marines, kick off your shoes, light'em if you've got 'em and learn a sea-going tale from Member Kent Morrison.*

### **The Life of a Sea-Going Marine**

Detachments of Marines have served aboard American Naval vessels since the beginning of the Continental Marine Corps in 1775. Sadly, that stretch of more than 2 centuries ended in 1998 when the Marine Corps opted to scuttle the detachments to free more Marines for Fleet Marine Force duty. I had the great opportunity and honor to serve as a "soldier of the Sea" from December 1974 to December 1976 aboard the USS John F. Kennedy CV-67.

My journey to sea duty began right before graduation from Parris Island when the Senior Drill Instructor (SSgt Stewart) was letting us know what our MOS would be. I was an open contract Marine and had no idea or any promises or contracts of what the Corps would do with me. He stated that I was going to be 0311 (Infantry) and that I had orders after Infantry Training School to go to Sea Duty. I had no idea what he

was talking about and was surely not going to ask any questions (as I am sure he would have trashed me profusely and said unkind things about my kin folks). After I graduated from boot camp, I went to Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, CA and then headed to Sea School, Marine Barracks, and Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA. The month long course taught us all about naval terminology, shipboard life, interior guard, fire-fighting, etc. It was here that we were also issued our Dress Blues. At the end of the course, we all anxiously awaited word of what ship we would get. Detachments went aboard Cruisers,, Battleships, Carriers and Sub-Tenders. There were no more active Cruisers or Battleships at this time and no one wanted a Sub-Tender, for we heard they never went anywhere. Two of us from the class were assigned to the Kennedy and it just happened to be home-ported right next door at the Norfolk Naval Base. So with sea-bag in tow, I head down Pier 12 to my new home and the biggest ship I had ever seen in my life - I was an 18 year old Private First Class.

The Detachment was made up of approximately 68 Marines. The Marine leadership consisted of a Captain CO, 1st Lt XO, 1st Sgt and Detachment Gunnery Sergeant. There were approximately 5000 Sailors assigned to the ship (when the Air Wing was embarked). As stated in Navy regulations; "A Marine Detachment detailed to duty aboard a ship of the Navy shall form a separate division thereof. Its function shall be: (1) To provide the nucleus of a landing party ashore for limited operations. (2) To provide gun crews. (3) To provide internal security of a ship (4) To provide for the proper rendering of military honors. Marines also provided the ship's Captain an orderly, they ran the brigs and guarded the special weapons (nuclear)." Unlike Marines that are embarked aboard amphibious ships of the Navy, Marine Detachments were part of the ship's company

and belonged to the ship's T/F. As a matter of fact, both my Lance Corporal and corporal promotion warrants were signed by the CO of the ship, a Navy Captain.

Life was good aboard the ship. As stated above we had a guard section (guarding nuclear weapons) a brig section (yes we ran the brigs in those days...and it was a tad bit fun to do so), orderlies for the ship's Captain and a small admin section. We also provided Color guards, ceremonial platoons for visiting dignitaries in foreign countries and burial details for burials at sea (we did two while I was onboard). We cleaned, polished and scrubbed everything...every day. We buffed the floors, scrubbed the ladder wells and were in charge of keeping the Admiral's' passageway clean. Our compartments were always spotless. Chow was good, even though the lines were extremely long most of the time. At sea, when not on duty, we played cards, shined shoes, watched TV (there wasn't much on in those days) and waited for the most beautiful words that ever came across the loudspeaker..."Mail Call, Mail Call". These were the days before email, cell phones and all other electronic communication devices. A letter or package from home meant so much to all of us. I had the opportunity to work as a Brig Sentry for approximately 6 months, I worked in the guard section for the nuclear weapons for approximately 6 months and I was chosen to be the Captain's orderly for almost a year of my tour. There were 2 orderlies, myself and a Marine Sergeant. In port we had day-on and day off duty, but at sea, one of us was with the Captain at all times when he was awake, mostly on the bridge right behind him or outside of his sea cabin. The days were extremely long with me getting him up on the morning and staying with him part of the day and Sergeant Carrick coming aboard in the afternoon and staying with until he hit the rack. I have the utmost respect for these ships' commanding Officers. Their days were

long and the responsibilities were enormous. The first CO I worked for was a very strict and demanding individual. He ran a very tight ship, mainly out of fear. The second CO was a great skipper. He still ran a tight ship, but did so with a bit more respect and dignity. I enjoyed working for him. I would drive for him when we were in port. One time, coming back from being out at sea, I got to fly off the carrier in the mail plane. I had to pick up the sedan and have it waiting for him on the pier as soon as the ship came into port.

In the two years aboard the ship, we made a Caribbean Cruise to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Montego Bay, Jamaica and then a seven month Mediterranean Cruise and got to visit many ports in Spain, Italy and Sicily. We also made a four month North Atlantic Cruise and visited Germany, Scotland, France and England. We had some great liberty in all of these ports. Sadly, in the Med, in Nov of 1975, while conducting night operations, we had a major collision with the USS Belknap. We pretty much lost her super structure off. Nine sailors were killed that night and we remained at General Quarters for 12 hours as the Navy courageously fought fires on both ships. Life on an Aircraft Carrier is exciting, but very dangerous. There is always something happening, especially with flight ops going on continuously. I also have the utmost respect for our Navy brethren as they are some of the hardest working people I have ever seen. The life of a Sailor at sea is hard and dirty, the hours are extremely long and the family separations are frequent. It takes a special person to endure this life at sea, and throughout my career, even though we made jokes in good spirit about the "swabbies", I have always appreciated their dedication and service to this great nation.

The Marines I served with aboard ship were great Marines. We became very close to each other as we lived in cramped compartments

together for our tours. We didn't have problems with stealing as that would have been taken care of very quickly and swiftly. I had three very close friends that I hung around with most of the time - Cpl Marty Mocniak and Cpl Don Cannon from Pennsylvania and Cpl Russ Goodwin from West "By God" Virginia. After our tours were complete, we all headed back to Infantry Battalions at Camp Lejeune. As I stated earlier, our Marine CO on Sea Duty was a Captain, Infantry Officer with extensive combat experience in Vietnam. He earned the Bronze Star w/"V" and a Purple Heart. He was a very strict man, who demanded a lot of us. He assured the Navy didn't mess with us. We had a very squared away Detachment and he was swift with ferocious "butt chewings", but he kept our foolishness out of our record books (and believe me there was plenty of foolishness, especially in those wonderful foreign ports). An example was one time I got into a fight with a sailor on the mess deck. He said something smart about Marines and he and I "went to town." This was during the time that I was the Captain of the ship's personal orderly. We knocked over a few tables and the Ship's Master at Arms broke up the fight and threatened to throw us both in the brig. My SNCO came and got me and took me back to the Detachment area, where I had a "heart-to-heart" chat with the Marine Captain (actually I didn't do much talking at all). After some good old Marine Corps guidance and leadership, he sent me on my way.. Nothing else was ever said and nothing went in my record book. That Marine Captain was named John J. Kispert and he went on to become a USMC Colonel. I still think about him and the leadership and discipline he taught us and it helped me in my career as a Marine Officer. One last Marine I need to mention was our first Sergeant - a giant of a man. His name was 1st Sgt Frederick B. Douglass. He was also a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. He went on to become the Sergeant Major of the

22nd MAU that went into Beirut. He tragically lost his life during the terrorist attack on the Marine Headquarters on that fateful day in October of 1983.

Well, that is just a taste of a Sea-Going Marine. I could write volumes on just those 2 short years-- the good old days, the fun, the duties, the liberty (oh, the liberty) and especially the people and memories. I could not have been more fortunate than to have been chosen to this duty. In closing, we were proud (some call it cocky) as we went about our business in our Dress blues aboard a Naval Vessel carrying out a tradition as old as the Corps itself.

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## ***Boy Scouts***

*Our Boy Scout Coordinator Dan Gillan reports the 2012 Boy Scout camps are completed as is the Youth Leadership training. Eagle Scout projects are starting to pick up so lots of growth and training has been accomplished. Liaison meetings between the church and the Troops will be coming up soon.*

---

## ***This Month in History***

3 August 1950 - Eight VMF-214 Corsairs led by squadron executive officer, Major Robert P. Keller, catapulted from the deck of USS Sicily to launch the first blow of the Korean War for the Marine Corps.

4 August 1937 - **The Marine Corps League received its charter from the United States Congress. HAPPY BIRTHDAY MCL!**

5 August 1864 - Marines participated in the Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama.

6 August 1847 - LtCol S.E. Watson's Marines commenced their march on the "Halls of Montezuma" in Mexico.



9 August 1876 - SecNav declared that the Corps would have the place of honor, "First on foot and right of the line," in any naval formation.

14 August 1945 - V-J Day! President Harry Truman announced the unconditional surrender of the Japanese.

18 August 1965 - Operation Starlite (Vietnam) began. 964 Viet Cong were killed in action.

19 August 1919 - "The Marines Hymn" was registered with the US Copyright Office.

21 August 1814 - Marines defended Washington DC at Bladensburg, MD, against the British.

23 August 1798 - The first Headquarters of the Marine Corps was established at Philadelphia.

27 August 1893 - A giant tidal wave swept across Parris Island, Port Royal, SC.

29 August 1916 - The Marine Corps Reserve was founded.

## ***In the News***

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***Associated Press, July 22, 2012, Julie Watson (cond.)***  
*Camp Pendleton, AA - The Marine corps has created its first law enforcement battalions-a lean, specialized force of military police officers that it hopes can quickly deploy worldwide to help investigate crimes from terrorism to drug trafficking and train fledgling security forces in allied nations.*

*The Corps activated three such battalions last month. Each is made up of roughly 500 military police officers and dozens of dogs. The Marine Corps has had police battalions off and on since World War II but they were primarily focused on providing security, such as accompanying fuel*

*convoys or guarding generals on visits to dangerous areas, said Maj. Jan Durham, commander of the 1st Law Enforcement Battalion at Camp Pendleton.*

*The idea behind the law enforcement battalions is to consolidate the military police and capitalize on their investigative skills and police training, he said. The new additions come as every branch in the military is trying to show its flexibility and resourcefulness and amid defense cuts.*

*The battalions will be capable of helping control civil disturbances, handling detainees, carrying out forensic work, and using biometrics to identify suspects. Durham said they could assist local authorities in allied countries in securing crime scenes and building cases so criminals end up behind bars and not back out on the streets because of mistakes.*


*Durham said the Marine Corps plans to show off its new battalions in Miami late in July at a conference put on by the Southern Command and this expected to be attended by government officials from Central American countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Belize.*

## ***Birthdays!***

Roger Paulin - 6  
Deanna Nicholson - 9  
Richard Chaffin - 11  
Tina Lee - 12  
Kenneth Berggren - 14  
Alex Hart - 18  
Kent Morrison - 20  
Joseph Bernardoni - 20  
Ron Kirstatter - 21  
Cynthia Sacca-Goodman - 21  
John Padden - 31

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# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> • Young Marines Drill Weekend
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> • 6:30 pm : Detachment Staff Meeting	<b>8</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> • 12:00 pm -2:00 pm : Shooting Team Practice
<b>12</b> • 8:00 am -7:00 pm : MCL National Convention	<b>13</b> • 8:00 am -7:00 pm : MCL National Convention	<b>14</b> • 8:00 am -7:00 pm : MCL National Convention	<b>15</b> • 8:00 am -7:00 pm : MCL National Convention • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>16</b> • 8:00 am -7:00 pm : MCL National Convention • 8:00 am -12:00 pm : MCLB Welcome Aboard Brief • 6:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1333 Monthly Meeting in Waycross	<b>17</b> • 8:00 am -7:00 pm : MCL National Convention	<b>18</b> • 8:00 am -7:00 pm : MCL National Convention • Young Marines Drill Weekend
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> • 6:30 pm -7:30 pm : Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment #1260	<b>22</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>23</b> • 5:00 pm -7:00 pm : Pound 322 Growl • 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1373 Monthly Meeting in Warner Robbins, GA	<b>24</b> • 5:00 pm : Meet & Greet for Department Staff Meeting	<b>25</b> • 10:00 am -1:15 pm : Department Staff Meeting
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

RECIPE TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recommended Abbreviations:

[illegible][illegible]

Submitted by:\_\_\_\_\_

RECIPE TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recommended Abbreviations:

[illegible][illegible]

Submitted by:\_\_\_\_\_



## DETACHMENT COOKBOOK

Cookbooks are a proven and tried, successful way of making the fundraising dollars we need for our organization.

Cookbooks are used often and rarely ever thrown away-plus, everyone loves a good recipe! With this in mind, our Detachment is going to produce its own Detachment Cookbook.

**Before we can do anything we must obtain recipes!!!!** And that is where **you** come in. If everyone in the Detachment submitted four or more recipes we will be doing great, however, logic says that all of you won't do that. Our goal is 200 recipes by October 1, 2012.

So please send your recipes to **Ruthie Breton** who will be collecting and categorizing them. You can send them three different ways:

1. Use the above form (make all the copies you need). If your recipe is too long for the form do not go onto the back of the page. Continue onto another form.

2. Email your recipes to Ruthie at: [Ruthie.breton@yahoo.com](mailto:Ruthie.breton@yahoo.com).

3. Snail mail them to Ruthie at:  
Ruthie Breton, 397 Northampton Rd.,  
Leesburg, GA 31763.

4. Physically hand them to Ruthie, or her husband Bob, or to Bobbie Elmore.

## **DO SUBMIT**

\* Legibly handwritten or typed recipes

\* Donor information can be up to 35 characters (ex: John Smith, Camp Lejeune, NC) (ex: Jerod Gillan, Dan and Andrea's son) (ex: Mary Kilburn, Bobbie Elmore's mother) (ex: Tom Newton) (ex: B.J. Fletcher, Restaurant Owner).

\* If you know any well-know cooks/chefs in the local areas have them submit recipes. This is advertising for them.

REMEMBER: NAMES, NOT RECIPES SELL THE BOOK.

## **DO NOT SUBMIT**

\* Illegible recipes

\* Photocopies of recipe cards

\* Photocopies of recipes from a copyrighted book

\* Recipes from copyrighted websites

\* Recipes on napkins, scraps of paper etc.

\* Recipes cut out of newspapers or magazines

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT RECIPES IS OCTOBER 1, 2012. THIS IS A DETACHMENT EFFORT!**



# Dispatch

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<b>Judge Advocate:</b>	Carl Wilcox	(229) 435-1086	<a href="mailto:carlwilcox@ymail.com">carlwilcox@ymail.com</a>
<b>Jr. Past Commandant:</b>	Tom Newton	(229) 446-2209	<a href="mailto:newt1644@live.com">newt1644@live.com</a>
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<b>Chaplain:</b>	Ernie Elmore	(229) 435-2283	<a href="mailto:ernieelmore@att.net">ernieelmore@att.net</a>
<b>Paymaster:</b>	Bob Adams	(229) 344-5660	<a href="mailto:usmc.adams@mchsi.com">usmc.adams@mchsi.com</a>
<b>Sgt-At-Arms:</b>	Jim Rodgers	(229) 446-4528	<a href="mailto:rodgers72oki@gmail.com">rodgers72oki@gmail.com</a>

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Volume 3, Issue 9  
Sept 2012

## Member Spotlight

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**Major Lawrence DesJardines**  
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**JOHN BELK**

*First Commandant of the Department of Georgia*

"I met my pretty and loveable wife Maxine while stationed at Camp LeJeune in 1942. We were married in Penn's Grove, New Jersey in 1947 and finally moved to Albany which is my home. Here we raised two girls and a son. After 65 years I think she has decided to try me for a few more, I hope.

I enlisted in the Marine Corps on July 1942. I was greeted by a nightmare, who insisted we call him "Sir." He was to be our Drill Sergeant. After my tour of duty at Parris Island, I was enlisted to be a Marine. We shipped out to Quantico, VA for more training. I spent time in demolition learning how to cut down trees with primer cord, blow stumps out of the ground with dynamite, and getting a terrible headache. Then, of course, there was mess duty. We had tents and this gave us quite a bit of privacy. From Quantico, I ended up in Camp LeJeune where we formed the 4th Marine Division which included the

### SPECIAL STAFF:

**JNROTC/Young Marines**

**Coordinator**

Kelly Fisk

**Boy Scout Coordinator**

Dan Gillan

**Fallen Marine Coordinator**

Ernie Elmore

**Newsletter Editor**

Bobbie Elmore

**Patriotism Committee**

Dave Aldrich

**Veterans Service Officer**

Nick Nicholson

**Quartermaster**

Tim McClelland

**Historian**

Kathy Fazekas

**Web Sergeant**

Ron Kirstatter

20th, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 14th artillery - JACO-Headquarters. There were others, but I cannot remember. All 15,000 of them were my friends.

We left for Camp Pendleton, CA. Some of us left by way of Panama Canal and the rest by train. I was lucky, I got the train. After stopping for any reason that came to mind, we arrived in Oceanside, CA ready for Hollywood. It turned out we got to see a little of Hollywood, but most of our time was spent looking at San Clemente Island and various other areas. We made landings on San Clemente, practicing for the day we would be called on.

We headed for San Diego, went aboard ship and found out what they meant when they said the "head was stopped up." By the time we got underway, I was a sea sick Marine. I was sea sick for four days. I did not eat, talk, just wanted to die. Then about the fourth night, I went topside it was cool and balmy. Someone gave me a Baby Ruth candy bar, I ate it and it stayed down. We were making history; the first to go into combat straight from the States.

We did not know where we were going or what the occasion was. But a few days later we were told it would be the Marshall Islands, Kwajalein Atoll. Our job would be Roi-Namur where the airfield was located. The Japs put up one hell of a fight. It was here, I saw my first body become lifeless, a close buddy. I can still see his lifeless body lying there with five rivulets of plasma running out of him trickling down the sandy beach. Mortar fire and machine guns were having a field day on everyone. We were successful in securing the island and meeting a few of the natives who were fond of our K-rations.

We sailed from the Marshall Islands and headed for Maui which was to be our home base and replaced our casualties. We trained and enjoyed Maui's great weather. Our camp was sort of on the side of a hill, not far from Mt Haleakala.

We were the 4th Division again. We did the usual train, train, train. When it came time to board ship we set sail for Saipan. We had chow (breakfast) at about 0400 on the morning before we landed - steak! All hell broke loose as we climbed down into the boats. We were going to make a landing. Those rope ladders are for the birds. While we circled in the boats waiting for the signal to head inland, the waves, gas fumes, from all the boats, along with a sailor smoking a big fat cigar - I lost my steak I had earlier. This time I was able to walk ashore. Not much opposition in the first few minutes, but it then came like rain. I thought I was in a deep hole but shrapnel was coming in and making me to hunt a deeper hole. As I rolled into a deeper shell hole, I witnessed a sergeant thrown up his left arm to ward off a Jap with a samurai sword. He drew his pistol and was able to fire. His shot was accurate. Shrapnel from mortar fire, rifle fire surrounded like bees buzzing past my ears. Found out later a soldier was up in the smokestack directing fire on the beach. He got his later on. The good Lord looks out for the common man after all, I can attest to that.

One night we were on the edge of a cane field, Japs were on the other side, or so we thought. I was told to man the point with two other Marines. You have a triangle with one man dug in at each point. I had the forward point, on the one facing the Japs. After listening to babies crying (the Japs. were using babies as shields) and wondering when they were going to make their banzai charge. I really got a charge. A scorpion had crawled over my knapsack and stung me on my earlobe. It was all I could do to keep from crying. I thought I would die, my head was swelling and my left eye was beginning to close. If I was to get out of my foxhole I might be shot by the Japs or I could be shot by my own men. I know I must have been acting like I had lost my mind. Somehow, I was able to wait until sunrise then I high-tailed it and was looking for a corpsman. He said he could do

nothing since my head was getting bigger and I ought to be grateful that I could still wear my helmet.

While we were on patrol (mopping up) we ran into an unusual incident. I nearly stepped on a Jap's face. He was lying in the coral rocks, only his eyes exposed. He was covered by seaweed and grass, naked except for a rag to cover his man parts. We made him get out of the mess he was in and talk. He was suffering from dysentery and dehydration. He begged me to shoot him or give him my rifle so he could do it. You can see I didn't. While we were debating with him we heard a baby crying. We were standing near a large Banyan tree. The roots grow up from the ground like a teepee and they form a perfect enclosure at the base of their large roots. Inside we found six women and one had just given birth. We tossed a coin to see who would carry the new mother. We had a good laugh (won't give his name) crawling over the rocks with her on his back. It was here that natives were jumping off the cliff at Marpi Point. The Japs were committing hari-kari with grenades, knives and jumping off the cliff. Thank God we were just about finished with this place.

Then there was Tinian. About three miles across the inlet was Tinian and that was supposed to be mostly for Jap officers, so we were told, living the good life. We really out-foxed the Japs on this one. We came ashore by the back door. We were expected to come in at Tinian Town but we landed on a small portion of the island, about 100 yards wide. Try unloading 9,000 troops and supplies in a space of this size. There were two landings, the other one was smaller. We only witnessed very light artillery and mortar fire to begin with. I didn't go very far before we were ordered to dig in. It seemed as if the Japs had gone on vacation. The whole division was ashore by this time. I slept top side the night before we landed, nice cool night. We got the call about day break. I couldn't function properly. I was suffering from Dengue Fever that I had picked up on Saipan.

When we headed for the beach I felt like I was dreaming. I don't remember much. It was calm compared to the other landings. We were coming from one direction and they were looking the other way. Calm was not to be for long. They fought in small groups, but they fought well.

We used loud speakers to urge them to surrender. They had been told we (Marines) were hired killers. We were using men and women as interpreters on the loud speakers and covering the island. Tinian was smaller than Saipan by about twenty miles. We were told to prepare for a counter attack or Bonsai charge. They tried everything and everyway with everything they had to win this charge and we still whipped them.

We made our usual trip back to Maui. I was tired, sick of the smell of the rotting flesh of the Japs and cows. They had been busy digging holes and pushing bodies of the Japanese in, hundreds and hundreds at a time I am glad I was not on that detail.

Maui is a beautiful and wonderful place. But what a contrast, fighting for survival one second in a hell hole where the devil would not live and the next the beauty and wonder of Maui. The 4th was in the process of replacing the wounded, dead and the missing. I was beginning to feel a bit apprehensive about these trips or visitations to a Jap held island without being invited. So in February we saw Iwo Jima for the first time. We had been briefed about the black sand, Mt. Suribachi, scrub brush, caves, ravines and such, not to mention the Japs. The night before we landed I could not sleep. The compartments down in the holes in the ship were so hot so I took a blanket and went topside. I figured to find me a place to sleep. I crawled under a gun turret. At daybreak I thought the end had come. A loud noise, the loudest I have ever heard, right in my face. The ship had opened fire on the island. Believe me; I came out from under the turret faster than I went in.



What a way to wake up! I had to unscramble my brain.

I think we were to go in on the third wave. When we landed it was not a pretty sight that greeted us. The first and second waves were still on the beach and scrambling for every inch of sand. It was not an easy job, not like Saipan with cane fields, grass and trees. There was black volcanic ash instead of sand. Every time you dug a hole it filled up with sand. It was like digging in uncooked rice. Looking back on the small amount of beach we had secured it looked like the world's largest junk yard. Tanks, trucks, bulldozers, jeeps and other equipment along with bodies were strewn everywhere.

It took all the courage and grip for us to stay as far advanced as we were. Mortar fire and the bees were humming again all around us. Machine guns and shrapnel from mortars were taking their toll on us. I was talking to the guy on my left and I turned to see the guy on my right with whom I had finished a discussion of something with him only to see a large hole about the size of a half dollar appeared in his helmet. It was as if he had gone to sleep.

About dark you could expect the appearance of the buzz bomb, but we laughed at it. It came at Mt. Suribachi. They fired it but did not have enough experience in firing it. I remember one night being in a shell hole with three buddies and we were catching it right and left from the Japs. One was having trouble coping with the situation. One guy kept saying "I gotta get out of here." It was all we could do to keep him from crawling out of the hole. One of the guys said "you are the Sergeant, hit him over the head." I said I didn't know how hard to hit him and didn't have anything to hit him with. We finally got him to calm down. (That is just one of the strange things that we faced.)

I prayed about as much as the average guy would do in the same situation. I know God saved me for something. (It could have been golf).



Iwo Jima was the worst, awful, sinful, destructful, ugliest place I have ever witnessed. Men were dying every minute for a piece of rock that you could not grow sandspurs on. A piece of rock in the middle of nowhere, you could not find it even if you were lost. Among islands, it was nondescript.

The Japs tried to counter attack and was repulsed. Then it was almost man to man. They were hiding in their caves. We literally had to dig them out and had to turn to flame throwers. They had dug underground and there was room after room filled with equipment. While waiting for relief I had a sudden desire for watermelon. I could see them red and green, everywhere. (Already sliced, I thought I could taste them. What crazy things and thought occur when you are having a good time).

No need to tell you I am proud to have served with the 4th Division, USMC. No one has ever given more than the men of the 4th (Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima).

Well, it is back to Maui again. This will be my last trip to Maui. A short time later and I was transferred to the 5th Amphibious Corps. I had oodles of points, that is the way they rated your chances of going home. The only difference was I was in the regulars not the reserves. So it was off to Japan (as occupation troops) where I stayed for about five months.

I remember going ashore in Sasebo Japan. The looks we were given on that first day. You could see the Japs pulling back a corner of the curtains, peeping at us. I was riding in a jeep, sitting high in the back seat. It made the hair stand up on the back on my

neck. After all the times of having a Jap in my rifle sight, it was spooky. My time was nearly up. So I was called in to see the C.O. and asked if I was ready to re-enlist. I told him - NO. So I got ready to sail. Wound up again in Camp Pendleton, then to Parris Island and then home."

## ***From the Commandant***

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**Mardi Gras Ball King & Queen share the limelight**

Another successful National Convention is in the history books. Mobile, AL put on a great show for all that attended. The hotels selected in downtown Mobile were right on Mobile Bay across the street from the convention center. There were even a couple of Navy ships under construction by Austal within view. While the Mardi Gras parade was rained out, the ball was a fantastic lavish affair. You will all be pleasantly surprised to know that the guest of honor was none other than LtGen Willie Williams.

There was of course some very important business taken care of also. Our new National officers are:

- Commandant Jim Tuohy
- Sr. Vice Commandant John Kovalcik
- Jr. Vice Commandant Richard Gore
- Judge Advocate Benjamin Cero

Recommended changes to the *National Bylaws & Administrative Procedures* resulted in:

- Bylaws: 6 approved, 5 rejected, 1 withdrawn
- Administrative Procedures: 6 approved, 7 rejected
- Enclosures: 2 approved, 4 rejected, 2 withdrawn

Several of the changes will impact the Detachment specifically at the position of Paymaster.

The dedication ceremony for the Chesty Puller statue at the Marine Corps Museum will take place on November 12, 2012. Invitations will be mailed out to all of the Sponsorship Brick holders. If you haven't purchased your brick yet there is still time to purchase and receive an invitation.

Several pieces of legislation of interest to the membership were presented and members are encouraged to read and respond to your representatives in Congress with your position. HR 1775 Stolen Valor Act struck down by the Supreme Court is being rewritten. HR 1627 passed and was signed into law but is unfunded. Several others are listed in the "Legislative Issues Report" of the *Semper Fi* magazine.

The site for the 2014 National Convention will be Charleston, WV, home of Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams who along with Mayor Danny Jones were on hand to swing the vote with great motivation and a \$20,000 donation for the banquet.

A new Marine lifecycle training program which starts at recruit training has gone into effect. Because 75% of first term Marines must leave at the expiration of their contract, there are now 4 paths in the Transition Readiness Seminar (formerly TAMP) that started in March. Marines will be given assistance to find employment, pursue higher education, obtain a technical trade, or to even become a business owner.

Several Detachments across GA took home awards for increasing membership and the PFC George Eiland Detachment moved from 2<sup>nd</sup> place last year to 1<sup>st</sup> place this year in the newsletter competition for level 1. Our own Bobbie Elmore received a much deserved Certificate of Participation.

I also had the honor of attending a special ceremony where our Chaplain Ernie Elmore was presented with the Chapel of Four Chaplain's award. Take the time to read about the significance of Ernie's accomplishments. <http://www.fourchaplains.org/Chapel%20of%20Four%20Chaplains%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

There is so much more that took place I could add volumes but I suggest if you have the opportunity attend the next or any National Convention. You will be glad you did!

Semper Fi!

Ron Kirstatter

## **Chaplain's Corner**

---

*"If God is for us, who can be against us?"*

*(Romans 8:31)*

Never borrow from the future. If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it doesn't happen, you will have worried in vain. Even if it does happen, you have to worry twice.

1. Pray.
2. Go to bed on time.
3. Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
4. Say NO to projects that won't fit into your time schedule or that will compromise your mental health.
5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
6. Simplify and uncluttered your life.
7. Less is more.
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump the hard things all together.
10. Take one day at a time.
11. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.
12. Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
13. Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps. etc.

14. K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.

15. Get enough rest.

16. Eat right.

17. Get organized so that everything has its place.

18. Every day find time to be alone.

19. Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray.

20. Make friends with godly people.

21. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you Jesus."

22. Laugh.

23. Laugh some more.

24. Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all.

25. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).

We send our condolences to Marine Felix Demuth on the recent loss of his daughter Diane.

Also, we pray for speedy recovery for Jr. Vice Commandant Roger Paul and his recent surgery and Ann Aldrich with her surgery.

We wish Bill Hammock and Denzil Harrell a quick healing.

Chaplain Ernie Elmore can be reached at 435-2283 or [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net) to report sickness, injury or for spiritual needs.

## **Get Involved!**

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### **FIELD OF FLAGS**

We need you to help set up the American Flags in the field between Dillard's and the N Westover Blvd on Saturday the 8th at 0800. Volunteers will be fed lunch by the American Legion.

September 11th is the Ceremony and we need volunteers to man our Marine Corps League table. You are needed no later than 1900.

September 16th. Your help is needed to take down the flags.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION PICS  
MOBILE, AL AUGUST 2012**



Tom Newton, Commandant Ron Kirstatter and others at National Banquet.



Bobbie and Ernie Elmore, Tom Newton and Ron Kirstatter at National Banquet. The place was packed! Food and camaraderie was good.



Detachment Chaplain Ernie Elmore is awarded the National Four Chaplains Award.

Every Wednesday 0900 Detachment breakfast at Roosters on Westover Blvd. Join us if you can.



**Shooting team**

- \* We now have a full 5 members of the pistol team
- \* We have 2 maybe 3 members for the rifle team
- \* We must shoot for qualification prior to October 31st.
- \* We MUST register with National prior to October 31st. Registration is \$10 per member. We will turn our money into Paymaster Bob Adams and he will write a Detachment check for our registration.
- \* The Base range is closed for the month of September due to the opening of hunting season.
- \* Team Captain is Jim Rodgers. Contact him with your questions. 446-4528 or [rodgers72oki@gmail.com](mailto:rodgers72oki@gmail.com).



## Muster Highlights

*(This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the full minutes please go to our Website.)*

August 21, 2012

Call to Order: Commandant Kirstatter called the regular Detachment monthly meeting to order at 1830.

Roll Call: All officers were present except Adjutant Alex Hart and Judge Advocate Bill Hammack.

Guests: Daulton Luttrell's friend Mandy was present.

Applications for Membership: Two applicants for Associate Member were received, voted upon and sworn in: Daulton Luttrell and Maxine Belk.



Commandant Kirstatter announced that he had accepted the resignation of Judge Advocate Hammack and appointed Carl Wilcox to serve out the remainder of the term to elections in January. Commandant Kirstatter swore in Carl Wilcox:



Approval of Minutes: Last meetings minutes were approved.

Paymasters Report: Approved without corrections.

Chaplain's Report: One Fallen Marine was reported by the Chaplain - GySgt Marvin Douglas Alexander. The following Marines were reported in distress: Bill Hammack, Jr. Vice Paulin and Associate Denzil Harrell.

Report of Officers: Commandant reported on several decisions made during the Detachment Staff meeting held on August 7th (refer to minutes posted on website).

No reports from other officers.

Committee Reports: Veterans Coalition: Field of Flags report.

Patriotism: Replaced 128 flags since start of program. Detachment received check for \$200 from the Exchange Club after speaking at luncheon. Donation of casket flag made at request by funeral home for Marine Veteran.

Cookbook: Need 4 recipes from each member by 15 September. Funding for publication will come from local merchants.

Marksmanship: First practice took place at MCLB Albany range with 5 shooters. Team membership

is still open. Marine Jim Rodgers is team captain. See insert regarding next shoot.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Motion made by Marine Aldrich and seconded by Marine Jim Rodgers to staff table at Field of Flags for the purpose of membership drive.

Good of the League: Jr. Vice Elmore had requested sheets for the Kandahar hospital in Afghanistan. Marine Jim Rodgers explained that while shipments are made through official channels they are sent to Pakistan and convoys are raided prior to making the Afghanistan border. Shipments of the sheets we have collected will be paid for by American Legion Post 30, mailed and delivered directly to Kandahar.

Marine Nicholson reported that the VA is 900,000 cases behind and by hiring 14,000 adjudicators the backlog is not going to be reduced anytime soon.

Marine Newton announced National By-laws changes made at National Convention.

Announcements: American Legion Post 30 has dinner/dance on 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month for \$10.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned by Commandant Kirstatter at 1940 hours.

## ***Good of the League***

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*Marines Tom Newton and Carl Wilcox will be giving a presentation on the Marine Corps League and our Detachment, Monday September 10th at 1330 at the TAMP class aboard base. If you are interested you can join them.*

*The following Marines have annual dues due on the dates shown.*

<i>Ruthie Breton</i>	<i>Sept 12</i>
<i>Kathy Fazekas</i>	<i>Sept 12</i>
<i>Frederick Miller</i>	<i>Sept 12</i>
<i>John Padden</i>	<i>Sept 12</i>
<i>James Reilly</i>	<i>Sept 12</i>
<i>Tom Collins</i>	<i>Oct 12</i>
<i>Jim Vaught</i>	<i>Oct 12</i>

**STAFF MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH (FROM SEPT 11TH), 1830 AT THE HONG KONG RESTAURANT.**

## ***Short Rounds***

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### **MY BAD**

*Your editor wants to make a great big apology for showing Bob Breton, our last months' Marine of the Month as a GySgt! Marine Breton retired as a MSgt, a rank he worked very hard to achieve and deservedly earned.*

### **GOD, COUNTRY, CORPS**

*"The Army and the Navy are run like traditional military services. The Air Force is run like a corporation, but the Marine Corps is a religion."  
...quote from a Navy Admiral*

**The original point and click interface was a Smith and Wesson.**

**CONGRATULATIONS to Member Bob Cerney who, along with his employer Battelle Memorial Institute was given the "Star Business of the Week" award by the Albany Chamber of Commerce.**

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## Boy Scouts

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*We've started off the new school year with a lot of motivation and high expectations from scouts, scout leaders and parents. Following a leader planning meeting on 13 August, Troop 3 of Albany had their first troop meeting of the year on 20 August. We kicked it off with the older boys working with the younger boys to get through their personal fitness test. In spite of the heat all the boys did well and demonstrated heart. They all got a motivating "oorah" from me. We are working with three of the older boys on their Eagle Scout projects and we are excited about that. I have coordinated with other troops in the area to be sure to get updates from them regarding activities and upcoming eagle scouts candidates. Additionally, we have scheduled several troop meetings dedicated to assisting the boys as they all work toward their respective Religious Emblems awards. Definitely off to a positive and busy year!*

*From Dan Gillan, our Boy Scout Coordinator*

## ***This Month in History***

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September 2, 1945: Japan formally surrendered aboard USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

September 7, 1990: The 13th MEU embarked and arrived in the Gulf of Oman, joining U.N. forces.

September 11, **PATRIOTS DAY/FLAG DAY**

Fly your flag

September 15, 1950: The 1st MarDiv landed at Inchon, Korea and moved on to capture Seoul.

September 16, 1942: Birth of 3rd MarDiv at Camp Elliott in California

September 17, 1944: The 1st MarDiv (Rein) was heavily opposed following the Peleliu landing.

September 21 **POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY**

Fly your flag

September 25, 1942: Camp Pendleton was dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.  
September 26, 1915: "Horse Marines" engaged Haitian bandits near Petite Riviere.

## ***In the News***

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*(Condensed from AP press 29 Aug 2012)*

*General Amos has confirmed that next month some female officers will be attending the infantry officer school at the Marine Corps' Quantico, VA. He said that early steps to begin moving women into artillery, tank air defense and combat engineer units have been successful. Putting them through Infantry Officer School will be an experiment to gauge whether women can handle the course's extreme physical and mental challenges. Officials, he said will evaluate the test, collect the data and then he will give his recommendation to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.*

In other comments, Amos defended the administrative punishments doled out to three Marines on Monday for their participation in a video that showed them urinating on the corpses of Taliban insurgents. The actual punishment hasn't been made public but could include demotions, extra duty, and forfeiture of pay or a letter in their file. The punishments also could stall any future advancement and end their military careers.

## ***Birthdays!***

### **SEPTEMBER**

Benjamin Holliday - 1

Jeff Wilson - 1

Ludovic Baudouin d'Ajoux - 4

Jim Vaught - 3

Bob Adams - 10

Greg Freed - 13

Joann Kraus - 13

Ron Munson - 18

Bob Cerney - 20


Andrea Gillan - 22

Jerry Wassels - 24



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# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> • Young Marines Drill Weekend
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> • 8:00 am -11:30 am : Field of Flags setup • 9:00 am -10:30 am : Meeting with Tifton Marines
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> • 1:30 pm -1:45 pm : TAMP Class	<b>11</b> • 8:00 am -8:00 pm : 911 Remberence Ceremony	<b>12</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast • 6:30 pm -8:30 pm : Detachment Staff Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> • Young Marines Drill Weekend
<b>16</b> • 8:00 am -11:30 am : Field of Flags Tear down	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> • 6:30 pm -7:30 pm : Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment #1260	<b>19</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>20</b> • 6:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1333 Monthly Meeting in Waycross	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>27</b> • 5:00 pm -7:00 pm : Pound 322 Growl • 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1373 Monthly Meeting in Warner Robbins, GA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						



# Dispatch

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<b>Sgt-At-Arms:</b>	Jim Rodgers	(229) 446-4528	<a href="mailto:rodgers72oki@gmail.com">rodgers72oki@gmail.com</a>

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Volume 3, Issue 10  
October 2012

## Member Spotlight

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**Major Lawrence DesJardines**  
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**SPECIAL STAFF:**  
**JNROTC/Young Marines**  
**Coordinator**

Kelly Fisk

**Boy Scout Coordinator**

Dan Gillan

**Fallen Marine Coordinator**

Bob Breton

**Newsletter Editor**

Bobbie Elmore

**Patriotism Committee**

Dave Aldrich

**Veterans Service Officer**

Nick Nicholson

**Quartermaster**

Tim McClelland

**Historian**

Kathy Fazekas

**Web Sergeant**

Ron Kirstatter



**MGYSgt CHARLES "CHUCK" BUSHNELL**

Born in Grants Pass, OR, Charles joined the Marine Corps during his senior year at Dunsmuir High School going to boot camp after graduation in October of 1976. "I was living in a small town and although I worked part time jobs at places like Cal-Trans, California State Parks and the city of Dunsmuir, CA all through my high school years, I wanted something more and felt the Marines could be the stepping stone I needed." While attending basic training at MCRD, San Diego, CA Charles was injured during the second phase of training resulting in a bad case of tendonitis. Not saying anything to the Drill Instructors, he was able to get by for about 3 more weeks until one night when the Series Commander, 1st Lt Natonski was conducting the nightly hygiene inspection. Charles once again stated "Sir! Pvt Bushnell has no problems Sir!" This was working out well until the Lt noticed one ankle twice the size as the other stating "You have a problem now Pvt!" giving the tendon a little twist. Needless to say, the next morning Pvt Bushnell was ordered to go to Sick Bay with his Senior Drill instructor; Sgt Mellinger's words still ringing

in his ears "You better not come back on crutches @\$%!" After much pleading with the doctor to just give him some pills and let him go back to his Platoon, Charles found himself not only going back with crutches but a cast as well. "I knew that my fate was sealed as we had already lost about half of the Platoon we had started with making this become one of the lowest points in my life." When Pvt Bushnell reported back to his Senior Drill instructor he was asked, "Why didn't you say something?!" He responded "Sir! The Pvt wanted to graduate with his platoon Sir!" After a few more explicative words, he was told to leave the hut in the kind way that only Drill instructors are all so good at. As the days passed, it became apparent that Charles was not going to be dropped; in fact he was promoted meritoriously at Graduation with the cast coming off the day prior. "One night I found myself sitting across from SgtMaj Mellinger, my former Senior Drill instructor while playing a friendly game of poker and even though I was then a MGySgt, I still got shivers when he smiled one of the few times I've lost on poker night. We laughed about it but you never forget your senior drill instructor, at least I didn't."

After becoming an Assault Amphibian repairman, Charles' next three assignments were all with AAV BN's at Camp Pendleton, Okinawa, and Camp Lejeune. "Okinawa was a turning point for me as I had reported as a Lance Corporal and within a year, I was leaving a Sergeant." While at Camp Lejeune when Sgt Bushnell was 7 months out from the end of his first enlistment, he decided to re-enlist which turned into a culmination of 27 years of active service to the country. His other duty stations were MCLB Barstow, CA where Sgt Bushnell was a mechanic on various production lines; Assault Amphibian School, Camp Pendleton where SSgt Bushnell was an instructor for both the basic and intermediate courses; GSM Co, 3rd FSSG where GySgt Bushnell ran shops at CRP and was the Maintenance Officer for

Support Platoon. From there GySgt Bushnell completed a successful tour on recruiting duty finding himself once again back at Barstow where MSgt Bushnell lead teams of inspector's supporting Marine Reserve Units west of the Mississippi. MGySgt Bushnell's final tour was as the Division Ordnance Chief, G-4, 1st Marine Division retiring in November 2003.

In August 2003, Charles and his wife Kathy went on a 2 month tour on a Harley riding over 10k miles through 23 states. "This had always been my dream which Kathy made possible." It was during this ride that Charles received a call from a fellow retired Marine asking for his resume to come to work for Raytheon. "It was the perfect job where I found myself still supporting the Marines and especially the warfighter. I was home once again." In 2005, Charles and his wife moved to Albany where he continues to work for Raytheon. He is currently a life member of the following organizations; Marine corps League; Veterans of Foreign Wars; Disabled American Veterans; Together We Served and the Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association. He has five children (his oldest son also served in the Marines) and two grandchildren.

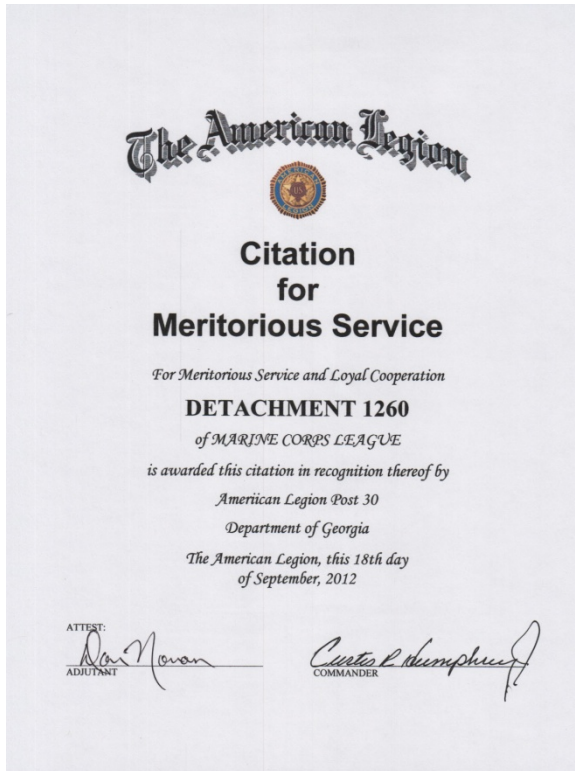
## ***From the Commandant***

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I count myself among the truly fortunate to have the honor of being the Commandant of such a great Detachment. First I would like to thank all that took part

in the setup, ceremony, activities and removal of the Field of Flags during Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. It was my distinct pleasure to accept on behalf of the Detachment, The American Legion Citation for Meritorious Service and a Certificate of Appreciation from Post 30 for our "outstanding service and assistance."



Secondly I would like to acknowledge those that have (and I expect will) step up to fill the positions that keep our Detachment running; Carl Wilcox our Judge Advocate, Bob Breton our Chaplain, and those that will soon form our annual Nominations, Awards and Banquet Committees. If anyone is looking for a great opportunity to jump in and lend a hand, here it comes. With only a few months left in the year I hope to revisit my first input to the Dispatch and see if we have been as successful as I expected we would be.

As I key this note in, I received a call from the McDonough Detachment that our Department Judge Advocate Bonita Johnson lost her only son David Feaster to an automobile accident September 27<sup>th</sup>. Please join me in praying for Bonita and her family in their time of need. As prayers go, we can be thankful that our own Bill Hammock has tested cancer free and hope that his health continues to improve so that he may once again join us. Don't forget to put in a

word or two for our other members in need and of course all those serving in harm's way so we can enjoy the freedoms of this great nation.



The Syrup City Young Marines in Cairo, GA were the recipient of a \$500 donation from the Department of Georgia during their annual awards ceremony the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. Our own Albany Young Marines will be receiving their \$500 donation at their monthly drill on 20 October.

In October I'll be taking a week to relax and catch up on the latest movies with Sheila after she quietly crosses that half century mark (oops). I'm also looking forward to spending some time with y'all at the Rivers Alive Riverwalk Cleanup on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Then it will be an all out sprint to our 237<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Toys For Tots Campaign and Annual Awards Banquet.

Semper Fi!  
Commandant Kirstatter

## Chaplain's Corner

### Chaplain's Corner

*This being my first introduction to a position of this kind may I only hope that I will do it justice. I accepted the post in accordance with 2 Timothy 4 verse 2, "Be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction." I look forward to the encouragement part as I perform the duties assigned and try my best to fill a great big pair of shoes that was evacuated by my predecessor Ernie Elmore. I have met many men of faith and Ernie falls into one of the best. I hope you will pray for Ernie and his family to continue to be led in the Lords desires.*



*We have already heard some great news in the report that our brother Bill Hammack has received a clean bill of health in his report last week. But alas, there was also some bad news in the passing of our associate member, Andrea Gillan's father. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. Although the passing of a friend or family member is tragic, we, who remain must continue on, and with the support of our friends and family, we will triumph.*

*I would also ask that you keep our brothers Roger Paulin and Denzil Harrell who have been suffering for several weeks, our veterans and wounded in your prayers.*

*Devotion: Philippians 4: 8: "Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right". What are you putting into your head these days? Is it good for you? It's especially true of some of the garbage we might be tempted to put in our heads. It's not wrong to watch television, listen to hit music, or watch videos. But God wants us to be wise about what you put into your mind through those medias, there's a whole lot of garbage served up in them. If you are feeding on trash you are very likely to crash. Be very picky of what you serve your mind and heart. God give us your wisdom as we think about the media we consume. Help us guard our minds.*

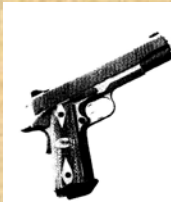
**Bob Breton**

Chaplain Bob Breton can be reached at 434-1169 or [msgtrabret@yahoo.com](mailto:msgtrabret@yahoo.com) to report sickness, injury or for spiritual needs.

## ***Get Involved!***

Every Wednesday 0900 Detachment breakfast at Roosters on Westover Blvd. Join us if you can.

### **SHOOTING TEAM**



Our team is shooting for record on 13 October.

Please contact Team Captain Jim Rodgers 446-4528 or [rodgers72oki@gmail.com](mailto:rodgers72oki@gmail.com) for more info.

## ***Muster Highlights***

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2012 (condensed)**

Full minutes can be found on our website.

Call to order: Commandant Kirstatter called the regular meeting to order at 1830.

Roll Call: All present except Jr. Vice Commandant Paulin on sick call. There were 24 members present and 3 associate members.

Approval of Minutes: approved

Applications for membership: None

Visitors/Guests: None

Correspondence Received: None

Installation of Officers: Commandant Kirstatter administered the oath of office to Marine Bob Breton, who agreed to assume the duties of Detachment Chaplain from Marine Ernie Elmore.



Paymaster's Report: Report made by the Paymaster and approved and seconded and passed.

Chaplain's Report: Chaplain Breton reported no Fallen Marines however the following were ill: Felix De Muth; Bill Hammack; Ann Aldrich; Jr Vice Commandant Paulin and Andrea Gillan's father.

Report of Officers:

COMMANDANT: gave a report on the 25 August 2012 Department Staff Meeting. Next Staff Meeting is set for December 8 at the Marriot in Macon where a Growl is also planned. The Department approved a \$2000 donation to the national MCL and approved donations of \$500 each for the Young Marines Detachments in Albany and Cairo. These will be presented to the Young Marine Detachments by Commandant Kirstatter.

Our detachment hopes to form a MODD pound soon.

Thanks to everyone who assisted in the Field of Flags. Marine Ernie Elmore was interviewed on Fox 31 about that event.

Marine Fisk has made contact with the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment about the Detachment providing assistance as needed. The detachment feels its resources will be better used by supporting the Wounded Warrior Regiment vice the Wounded Warrior Project.

The Detachment will be purchasing a carrying case for Detachment colors, and the Detachment logo will be embroidered on it.

SR VICE: Sr Vice Commandant Elmore announced the next Detachment Staff Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 6:30 p.m at Golden Corral (vice the Hong Kong Restaurant).

JR VICE: absent

JUDGE ADVOCATE: No report

ADJUTANT: No report

Standing Committee reports: None

Special Committee Reports:

Cookbook Committee: Sr Vice Elmore announced that all the needed recipes were submitted; however, she said the Detachment must line up business to purchase ads in the cookbook to be able to pay the cost of publications.

Veteran's Coalition Committee: Judge Advocate Wilcox reported a band has been lined up for Veteran's Day but a guest speaker is still needed.

Old/Unfinished Business: Marine Nicholson announced that 16 boxes of 6-7 white sheet sets per box were mailed out to the hospital in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

New Business: Marine Nicholson presented two Certificates of Appreciation from the American Legion to the Detachment for its participation in the Field of Flags and for putting up flags all over Dougherty County.

Good of the League: Marine Ernie Elmore showed us the Detachment Bell and stand which is now finished. Thanks to Bill Hammock.

Announcements:

The Detachment was awarded the National Jr. Vice Commandant's Citation for exceeding the previous year's membership numbers for a 12 month period.

Coin holders are for sale for \$25

Marine Nick Nicholson asked us to remember Rick Blisk (9th Marines, Vietnam) in our prayers; he is in the end stages of an Agent Orange related illness.

Marine Newton said that a new member training session is set for 1900 on October 19th at Golden Corral.

Marine Coutu announced that the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a golf tournament. Per Commandant Kirstatter, the issue of whether the Detachment will make a donation to that event will be put on the agenda for the next Detachment meeting.

Commandant Kirstatter said the Detachment Banquet is tentatively set for December 18, 2012. He will need to talk with Jos Bekkers about whether River Pointe will host. A committee will be named to recommend members for Detachment awards. Members were reminded to consider who might be candidates for the various awards.

Also, a Nomination Committee will be named to consider the slate of candidates for the next officer elections.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 1724.

#### ..... First to Fight!

Private Jones was assigned to go straight to the Marine Induction Center to advise new recruits about their government benefits, especially their Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI). It wasn't long before the Center's Lt. noticed that Pvt. Jones had almost a 100% record for insurance sales, which had never happened before. Rather than ask about this, the Lt stood in the back of the room and listened to Jones' sales pitch.

Jones explained the basics of the SGLI to the new recruits and then added "If you have SGLI and go into battle and are killed the government has to pay \$200,000 to your beneficiaries. If you don't have SGLI and go into battle and are killed the government has to pay only a maximum of \$6000.

"Now," he concluded, "which bunch do you think they are going to send into battle first?"

## ***Patriotism***

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As we usually do, our Detachment stepped up to help make this year's Field of Flags memorable. My thanks to the following members who helped set up stands, the platform, mark the field, put in the 1000 flags, attend the ceremony and then return to take down everything:

Bob Breton, Richard Chaffin, Ernie Elmore, Al Fazekas, Dan Gillan, Jim Johnson, Ron Kirstatter, Tim McClelland, Tom Newton, Nick Nicholson, Jim Rodgers, Carl Wilcox, John and Maxine Belk and Jerry Wessels.

Our Detachment was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from The American Legion Post 30 for our efforts, presented by Marine N. Nicholson.

Reminder, if you see a torn or faded American flag please contact Dave, Tim McClelland or Ernie Elmore.

Dave Aldrich, Patriotism Chairman

## ***Boy Scouts***

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*Marine Bob James, standing in for our Boy Scout Coordinator Dan Gillan, presented the Eagle Award MCL Certificate to Michael Owens on 16 September, at Chehaw. Michael is a sophomore at Lee County High School and in addition to scout work, Michael is a member of the school band.*

## ***Good of the League***

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Members who have YEARLY DUES coming up:

#### November

Bob Adams, Dave Aldrich, Bob Cerney, Felix Cheshire, Greg Freed, Bill Hamby, Ken Harper, Bob James, Joann

Kraus, James Kraus, Kent Morrison,  
Greg Satterfield, Roger Wood.

## December

Ludovic Baudoin d'Ajoux, Michael Brown, William Cobb, Al Fazekas, Ken Frost, Andrea Gillan, Dan Gillan, Alex Hart, Harold Hart, David Lee, Greg Maine, Keith McCutcheon, Henry McDole, Deanna Nicholson, Cam Paulin, Gale Rodgers, Jim Rodgers, Richard Roe, Bobby Sanders, Burt Sutherland,

## ***Short Rounds***

---

*The Knights of Columbus will hold its 6th Annual Veteran's Day Golf Tournament at 0900 on Nov 12th. Will be held at Grand Island Golf Course. \$70 per player. Pre-Registration required. Contact Harry McDole at 291-3749.*

*Our Detachment's Annual Awards Banquet will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup> at Riverpointe . Mark your calendar.*

*Coin Holders are available for sale from the Detachment for \$25 made by our own Bill Hammack.*

*Our next Riverwalk Cleanup is scheduled for Thursday, October 25th at 0800 and Saturday, October 27th at 0900. We will be participating in the 9th Annual Rivers Alive event sponsored by Keep Albany Dougherty Beautiful. We will meet Judy Bowels and her team Saturday at the 3rd Avenue entrance to the Riverwalk. If you would like a T-shirt please call or email Tom Newton and give him your shirt size. Tom says our efforts there are finally making a difference.*

*Andrea Gillan's father will be buried in Andersonville National Cemetery on 9 November at 1200. They request no flowers.*

*Looking ahead, the POW/MIA Ceremony this year will be held at 1030 hours on 3 November in the Civic Center.*

## ***This Month in History***

---

**October 6, 1945:** Japanese forces in north China surrendered to III Amphibious Corps.

**October 7, 1846:** Marines of USS Savannah recaptured San Pedro, CA during the Mexican War.

**October 8: Columbus Day (observed) fly your flag.**

**October 11, 1951:** HMR-161 in Korea transported 3/7 in the first battalion size combat helolift.

**October 17, 1814:** Marines and sailors landed on Grand Terre Island, LA, to punish pirates.

**October 22, 1777:** Continental Marines helped foil Gen William Howe's plans to capture Philadelphia.

**October 23, 1983:** 218 Marines were killed during the terrorist bombing in Beirut, Lebanon.

**October 30, 1952:** Korean PUC awarded the Marine Advisory Group with the Korean Marine Combat Team.

## ***In the News***

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### ***Elite Units to field new pistols***

*The Marine Corps' elite special operations and reconnaissance units will field thousands of new 45-caliber pistols over the next four years, military acquisition officials confirmed.*

*The service awarded a \$22.5 million contract to Colt Defense for its M1911A1 Rail Guns. It is speculated the order will total 4,000 firearms.*

*Designated the M45 Close Quarter Battle Pistol by the service, Colt's Rail Gun takes a tried and true platform used since World War 1 and outfits it with a rail at the front of the receiver that can be used to mount the flashlights, lasers and infrared devices preferred by today's special operations forces. While fundamentally unchanged since its inception, the weapon does*



*use the company's newer series 80 firing system, developed during the 1980's to increase safety by adding a firing pin block that prevents the discharge of a live cartridge if the gun is dropped or banged.*

*Marine Corps News 19 July 2012*

***Birthdays!***

OCTOBER

*Tim McClelland - 2*

*Dawaine Lake - 5*

*Kenneth Frost - 6*

*Harry McDole - 14*

*Gregory Satterfield - 16*

*John Belk - 30*


HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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OCTOBER 26TH

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USMC Secondary Reparable Program  
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229.430.5762 fax  
gregory\_frich@raytheon.com  
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### River Pointe Golf Club

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The Dispatch is the official publication of the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment 1260 of the Marine Corps League, Albany GA. The newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of Detachment members and guests. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official views of the Marine Corps League or the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment. Send all articles and comments to the editor Bobbie Elmore at [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net).



# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> • 1:30 am -1:45 am : TAMP Class • 8:00 am -5:00 pm : Reciepes are due in	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> • 6:15 am -7:30 am : retiree Breakfast • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> • Young Marines Drill Weekend
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> • 6:30 pm -7:30 pm : Detachment Staff Meeting	<b>10</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> • 9:00 am -10:30 am : Meeting with Tifton Marines
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> • 6:30 pm -7:30 pm : Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment #1260	<b>17</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>18</b> • 6:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1333 Monthly Meeting in Waycross	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> • Young Marines Drill Weekend
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	<b>25</b> • 8:00 am -10:00 am : Riverwalk Cleanup Advanced Party • 5:00 pm -7:00 pm : Pound 322 Growl • 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1373 Monthly Meeting in Warner Robbins, GA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> • 9:00 am -11:00 am : River Alive Riverwalk cleanup
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast			



# Dispatch

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<b>Adjutant:</b>	Alex Hart	(229) 669-6957	<a href="mailto:alex@hallwilliamsonhart.com">alex@hallwilliamsonhart.com</a>
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*Volume 3, Issue 11  
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Happy 237th Birthday  
Marines !!!!!

**SPECIAL STAFF:**

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Tim McClelland

**Historian**

Kathy Fazekas

**Web Sergeant**

Ron Kirstatter





## ***A MESSAGE FROM THE CMC***

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As we pause to celebrate the 237th birthday of our Corps, we reflect on the rich legacy of service handed down to us, we recommit ourselves to the tasks at hand, and we look forward toward a bright future in service to our country.

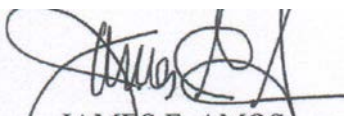
Marines exist to fight and win our Nation's battles. We are most proud of our well-earned reputation for answering the clarion call first. This was never more evident than at the epic battle of Guadalcanal 70 years ago. Picked to lead the first allied counter-offensive of the Pacific war because they were the "most ready," Marines landed on 7 August 1942 in the Solomon Islands. They persevered through months of unrelenting deprivation and bitter combat. By the time the veterans of the Blue Diamond, the Cactus Air Force, our legendary Marine Raiders, and initial elements of the Follow-Me Division gathered together to raise a canteen and toast the birthday of their beloved Corps some three months later, the battle was no longer an issue. The situation was well in hand...victory was assured.

We carry that same legacy of resolute commitment and valor today. Over the past year, Marines have stood firm in the toughest of circumstances and on numerous occasions. We've taken the fight to the enemy in Helmand and to the Horn of Africa. We've manned the ramparts of beleaguered embassies in the Middle East and North Africa, fought alongside our allies throughout the world, while behind the scenes, afloat and ashore, other Marines did the painstaking hard work required to maintain our high levels of readiness and efficiency.

As we look toward the future, we know that our sentimental place in the hearts of our fellow Americans and critical role in the defense of our way of life are assured. America has always wanted a

Marine Corps...It's always been that way. Now, more than ever, America needs its Marines as we confront a dangerous and unpredictable world. Faced with difficult days ahead, we will continue to draw strength from our rich heritage and the shared values of the Marines to our left and to our right. We know who we are...we know what we stand for. As ever we will strive to be found worthy of the legendary trust of our fellow Americans.

I salute the enduring faithfulness of those who have gone before, of those who wear our cloth today, and of the families who stand so resolutely at our sides. Happy Birthday, Marines!



JAMES F. AMOS  
General, U.S. Marine Corps

2012 Marine Corps Birthday Video Message

<http://www.dvidshub.net/video/158810/honor-country-2012-marine-corps-birthday-message#.UINAxYbN3Cb>

## ***Member Spotlight***

---

### **DETACHMENT PIPER DAN GILLAN COLONEL USMC (RETIRED)**



Dan hails from Chicago, Illinois. Eldest of eight, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1976, attended Recruit Training at Parris Island in 1977 in Platoon 2069. He served as an Aviation Ordnanceman until his commission through the Marine Enlisted Commissioning and Education Program in 1984. Upon his promotion from SSgt to 2nd Lt., he began his many diverse assignments as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer and Aviation Logistician. Dan retired from the Corps on 30 September 2009 after over 32 years of active duty. Dan and his high school sweetheart, Andrea, have been together the entire time. Through numerous deployments, exercises, operations and of course the many moves, she has been the constant in his life. Dan will tell you she is the reason for his success.

Dan's love of the Marine Corps started with movies like the "Sands of Iwo Jima." He was also raised in a small suburb of Chicago (Maywood) that was very patriotic. He visited Great Lakes Naval Hospital with his dad and brother Marty. Having a dad and two uncles who were Marines definitely helped with the influence. Dan was also heavily influenced by his bride of over 33 years. Dan and Andrea dated in high school and one day during Dan's senior year they were enjoying lunch in front of the school when a Marine recruiter drove up in big red van with "Marines" emblazoned on the side. These influences are measurable and tangible; however, it is really the sense of love, family and a strong foundation of Faith that really sealed the deal. Dan introduced himself to SSgt Tim Hughes and that night came home with enlistment papers for his mom and dad to sign. Mom cried and dad said, "it'll be good for him!"

As an ordnanceman with VMVA 235 Death Angels and then with VMFA 232 Red Devils, Dan was meritoriously promoted to Cpl while on deployment to Iwakuni, Japan. As a result of his promotion he was given liberty to Taipei, Taiwan for the weekend with a

handful of other Marines from Iwakuni. It just so happened that weekend was when President Carter decided to sever diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Never fear though, Dan and the group of Marines he was with lived up to their Marine reputation and quickly barricaded themselves in the American Compound club after rioters attacked the club. They not only protected the people in the club and guarded the doors but they also had plenty to drink since the bartender ran away. Needless to say, the evening did not go as planned and although Dan was glad to depart Songshan airport that Sunday, it was an experience he would never forget. He was still able to find some nice jade jewelry to bring home to his fiancé.

Dan's final assignment was as Commander, Maintenance Center Albany. It was the capstone of his career and what brought him and his family to Albany, GA. Previous assignments include Assistant Chief of Staff, Aviation Logistics Department, 3d Maintenance Aircraft Wing, 1st Marine Expeditionary force. He was the principal advisor to the commanding General for all Aviation Logistics within 3d Marine Aircraft Wing. He deployed to Iraq with 3d MAW, 1<sup>st</sup> MAW, 1<sup>st</sup> MEF in 2005, 2006 and 2007. He has extensive experience in all aspects of Marine Corps and Naval Aviation operational logistics including squadron, group, wing and Marine Expeditionary Force assignments. He commanded the Devilfish of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11. His broad background also includes assignments as Contracting Officer at Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, CA where he deployed to Somalia in 1991-1993 in support of Operation Restore Hope, Joint Task Force Provide Relief. He was assigned to Chief of Naval Operations, Pentagon as a resource sponsor for aviation ground support equipment and science and technology during September 11, 2001 and as the Systems Engineering and Integration Team Lead for Autonomic Logistics on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Dan really took advantage of all the opportunities the Marine Corps provided. He earned his B.A. Degree from Purdue University, a M.S. degree in Management from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Masters in Military Studies from the Marine Corps Command Staff College.

Dan's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (gold star in lieu of second award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (gold star in lieu of second award), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (gold star in lieu of second award), Combat Action Ribbon and other service decorations. He is also the recipient of the Taiwan 923 Badge of Honor and the Taiwan Commemorative Mutual Defense Service Medal.

Dan learned early on in his career the meaning of service, sacrifice, honor, courage and commitment. All bounded by an unyielding Faith. Dan enjoys still supporting the Marine Corps and teaching boot camp fitness classes at the Albany YMCA. He likes participating in the school activities of his teenage children. He enjoys staying active and healthy and participating in Church and community events. He relishes his role as the Marine Corps League Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment Piper and looks forward to time spent with fellow Marines sharing their war stories. He respects and takes very seriously the many roles he has as husband, father, son, brother, cousin, uncle and friend. Most importantly he enjoys his time with his wife and life partner, Andrea.

(Editor's note: Dan is very faithful to community Boy Scouting and is our detachment Scout Coordinator)

## *From the Commandant*

---



Happy 237<sup>th</sup> birthday Marines! Regardless of how you decide to celebrate, there is much in our history and future to celebrate. Be sure and review the Get Involved section for all of the November activities.

Many of our members have contributed much this year and as our December awards dinner approaches make sure to submit your recommendations to the Sr. Vice.

We also have elections coming up. Oh, both on November 6<sup>th</sup> and in January for your Detachment officers. Make your vote count on both. I will be running for a second term as your Commandant and if elected be looking for some new appointments. Don't be surprised if I call on you!

The Albany Young Marines held their boot camp the last weekend in October. I had the honor of being the guest speaker during their graduation. You could see in their faces they had truly endured over the previous 27 hours of training but responded with a resounding "YES SIR" when addressed. It was my pleasure to present the \$500 donation from the Department of Georgia.



Veteran's Day is just around the corner. You are encouraged to attend the "Salute to Veterans" on the 10<sup>th</sup> and come have breakfast at Post #30 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be holding a short ceremony at Major DesJardines' gravesite after the breakfast. It always looks good to see red hats.

Semper Fi!

Commandant Kirstatter

## Chaplain's Corner

---

*This has been a pretty good month so far! Not much going on, but alas there has been two Fallen Marines. LCpl Michael J. Cullers of Cordele passed on the 22nd of September and MSgt Edward G. Herrod, Ret. passed on the 16th of October. I would ask you all to keep their families in your prayers as they go through the grieving process.*

*I was especially distressed at the callousness of some family members during this time and would ask you to be very diligent toward your families. Top Herrod had two sons in the Albany area that did not even show up for the visitation while we (Leaguers) were there to present our certificate and condolences. His daughter received the certificate and our sympathy. When we presented the certificate she hugged our necks and whispered in my ear "Thanks for remembering".*

*I very much appreciate your support as I learn to accomplish all that are my duties.*

### Devotion:

*You're normal if you want to have friends and be liked. Like every other human being on earth, you have a built-in need to be important to others, especially family. At times you are likely to face situations where you're left out or family arguments leave you with unforgiveness in your heart. How you handle those painful times can either make you stronger or set you up for further hurt. Maybe you've never pictured our Lord as a friend who knows about rejection. Isaiah*

*described the Lord in this way: "He was despised and rejected - a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way when he went by. He was despised and we did not care." (Isaiah 53:3). But, he never held onto unforgiveness towards us. He forgave and forgave, why can't we?*

Chaplain Bob Breton

Chaplain Bob Breton can be reached at 434-1169 or [msgtrabret@yahoo.com](mailto:msgtrabret@yahoo.com) to report sickness, injury or for spiritual needs.

## Get Involved!

---

### SHOOTING TEAM



Our first volley of rounds have gone down range for score and it is the consensus of the shooting team that we need a whole lot more practice. We were unable to form a team for the rifle with only Ron Kirstatter (M1 Garand) and Ernie Elmore (M1A Garand) there were actually some holes in the targets at 100 yards. Unfortunately, for the pistol team comprised of Gale Rodgers, Tom Newton, Roger Paulin, Daulton Luttrell, Ron Kirstatter and Ernie Elmore, the targets survived with only minor injuries. We have a whole year ahead of us until the October 2013 deadline for team registration. We could use more shooters and a coach or two.

**PARADE:** *As a Detachment we will be participating in our first community parade. We will be marching behind our Detachment Banner at the front of the Parade, behind the Grand Marshal forming up at 1000 in front of the Lee County High School on Saturday, December 1. Wear your red coats if you have them, otherwise, wear whatever uniform you have but all must wear their red covers. Please be there so that we*



*make a good showing to the community. This is a huge recruiting tool. Associate Members are urged to join us as well. Let's let our communities know that the Marines have landed!*

### VETERAN'S DAY BREAKFAST AND WREATH MEMORIAL

Following the breakfast at the Legion Post 30 on Monday, November 12th, our Detachment members and associates will drive over to Crown Hill Cemetery for our annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the grave of our namesake Major Lawrence DesJardines. Please be in red jackets, or white shirts, or blue shirts and tan trousers. If you don't have any of these, wear your red cover.

*Our Detachment Cookbook is in publication at this time and is available for Pre-Sale. Delivery should be around Thanksgiving. Purchase your cookbooks for \$12.00 each and receive a coupon good for your cookbook when it arrives. Hopefully, you will purchase more than one as there are plenty of friends, co-workers and relatives out there who would love to receive one as a gift from you this season (let's not forget Valentine's Day). To buy your cookbooks make out your check to "Albany Marine Corps League" and give it to Ruthie Breton at Roosters on Wednesdays or at our monthly meetings or anytime in-between. For further info contact Bobbie Elmore at 435-2283.*



**5th Annual  
"Salute To Veterans"**  
Albany Civic Center Veterans Park Amphitheater  
**Saturday Nov. 10th, 2012**  
\* Band prelude 0945 \* Ceremony @ 10 AM  
Guest **SPEAKER**  
**Lee James WWII POW**  
of **SOWEGA AMERICAN**  
**EX-POWS**  
**Ride from Park to VFW**  
\* Open to all vehicles  
\* Show your Flag  
Military Static Display ,Music ,  
Food , Auction to benefit:  
**"Purple Hearts Outdoor Tour"**  
Sunderland **HERE'S TO THE HEROES**

Our Detachment will be holding a Rose Sale Saturday, Nov 24th from 0900 until 1500 in front of Sam's. Please contact Ernie or Bobbie Elmore ([ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net) or 435-2283) to volunteer to help. We need at least two people to man the post for two hours. We may be able to sell some of our new cookbooks but that is still pending.

Pound 322 is offering Boston Butts for \$25 each to raise money for the Macon Children's Hospital. If you want one please contact Ernie Elmore, or Tim McClelland, Roger Paulin, Richard Chaffin or Bob Breton (all are members of the pound). We need your order in by November 12th and they will be available for pick-up on the 17th from Ernie. When we start our own pound here in Albany we will be able to do things like this for our own charity projects.

Every Wednesday 0900 Detachment breakfast at Roosters on Westover Blvd. Join us if you can.

## **Muster Highlights**

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(these minutes are condensed. For complete minutes please go to our website)

16 OCTOBER 2012

**Call to order:** 16 October 2012 by Commandant Ron Kirstatter.

**Roll Call:** All officers present except Jr. Vice Paulin (ill) and Sgt at Arms Rodgers.

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** approved

**Visitors/Guests:** Mr. and Mrs. Tony Carson from the State of Washington

**Correspondence Received:** National Auxiliary Raffle Tickets can be purchased for \$5 each. Raffle held at Mid-winter Conference.

**Chaplain's Report:** One Fallen Marine, LCpl Michael Cullers of Cordele. The following were reported ill: Jr. Vice Paulin; Associate Member Denzil Harrell and District commandant Mike Clark.

### **Report of Officers:**

Commandant Kirstatter presented a check and was Guest of Honor at the Young Marines Syrup City Detachment. He will also present a check for \$500 at the Albany Young Marines Detachment. No other officer reports.

### **Standing Committee:**

Riverwalk Committee. Next Cleanup dates are set for Thursday, October 25th and Saturday, October 27th.

### **Special Committee Reports:**

a) Fallen Marines: LCpl Michael Cullers. Certificate and letter sent to family.

b) Flag Committee: 132 flags issued since program began. Ten 3x5, three 5x8, and ten 4x6 flags are needed. The program is still in the black.

c) Cookbook: The cookbook is now in publication. Copies will be offered for sale at \$12 each. Each member is strongly encouraged to sell 20 copies each.

d) Young Marines: Albany Young Marines will be holding a Boot Camp from Oct 26-28th at MCLB.

e) Veteran's Coalition: The Westover H.S. Band and the Army Quintet have been lined up for Veteran's Day. Guest Speaker will be Lt. Lee James.

f) Shooting Team: Next shooting event will be 17 October at Chickasawhatchee at noon.

**Old Business:** Director Board of Directors approved spending \$175 for a full page black and white ad in the 2013 Department of Georgia Convention program.

**New Business:** Election, Awards, Banquet and Marine of the Year committees were announced.

### **Good of the League:**

Commandant Kirstatter announced that our Awards Banquet will be held 18 December at the Golf Club.

Marine Nicholson announced that the Annual Veterans coalition Christmas Party will be held December 7th at the American Legion on Gillionville. He also announced that the cost estimate for the upcoming WWII memorial is \$19,350. He also announced that there are free burial plots available for homeless veterans in Albany.

Associate Denzil Harrell announced the Leesburg Christmas Parade will take place Saturday 1 December. Veterans will be Grand Marshal.

Commandant Kirstatter said that the Cake-Cutting Ceremony for the Marine Corps Birthday on the base will take place at 0900 on November 7th with the Ball following on November 8. The Marine Reserves have not asked us for any help so far this year with the Toys for Tots.

**Announcements:** Associate Member Deanna Nicholson announced that the American Legion Auxiliary will be selling poppies at area businesses on November 10th.

Marine Aldrich announced that we will hold our annual Wreath Laying Service at Crown Hill Cemetery following breakfast at the Legion following breakfast on 12 November.

**Adjournment:** Acting Sgt at Arms Chaffin adjourned us at 1930.

## ***Patriotism***

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### **DAVE ALDRICH PATRIOTISM CHAIRMAN**

#### Proper Display of Burial American Flag

The question has been raised on several occasions, if the American flag used for a Military or Veterans funeral can be opened or flown or displayed in full form.

No. "The American flag used for a funeral of a Military or Veteran's funeral should NEVER be flown again or displayed in any other way than in the tri-fold shape in which it was presented to the next of kin. In other words, the folded flag should never be "opened" again.

However, there are many appropriate display cases available for purchase to display the burial flag and protect it from wear"

Ref: United States Flag Manual

## ***Good of the League***

---

Members who have YEARLY DUES coming up:

#### December:

Ludovic Baudoin d'Ajoux, Michael Brown, William Cobb, Al Fazekas, Ken Frost, Andrea Gillan, Dan Gillan, Alex Hart, Harold Hart, David Lee, Greg Maine, Keith McCutheon, Henry McDole, Deanna Nicholson, Cam Paulin, Gale Rodgers, Jim Rodgers, Richard Roe, Bobby Sanders, Burt Sutherland.

#### January:

Willie Peters

**Next Staff Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 13th, 1800, at The Golden Corral.**

## ***Short Rounds***

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The Knights of Columbus will hold its 6th Annual Support Your Veteran Golf Tournament at 0900 on Nov 12th. It will be held at Grand Island Golf Course. Pre-Registration required. Contact Harry McDole at 291-3749 or at McDoleHF@Bellsouth.net. All proceeds go to Dublin's VA Hospital general services to help provide day to day items that are not provided by the VA. Sponsors, golfers and donations are needed. You can enjoy 18 holes of golf, lunch by Wagner's, \$30K hole-in-one, and other prizes for \$70 per player.

Our Detachment's Annual Awards Banquet will be held on December 18th at the River Pointe Golf Course Club House. Tom Newton will chair this event and his committee consists of Melba Harrell, Bob Adams and Ray Murphy. Menu will be the same as last year. Cost is \$20 per person.

The Awards Committee is chaired by Bobbie Elmore. If you want to nominate a member for an award, please contact her at ernieelmore@att.net.

Ernie Elmore is chairing the Nominations Committee. His committee consists of Bob Breton, Tim McClelland and Carl Wilcox.

The Marine of the Year Committee consists of the last three recipients of the Marine of the Year award - Tom Newton, Ron Kirstatter and Ernie Elmore. This award will be presented at the Banquet.

Coin Holders are available for sale from the Detachment Quartermaster for \$25 made by our own Bill Hammack.

Andrea Gillan's father will be buried in Andersonville National Cemetery on 9 November at 1200. They request no flowers.

The Detachment, under the leadership of Tom Newton, held a "New Member" Orientation at the Golden Corral on Thursday, October 18th. Ten Members attended. The subjects were Detachment By-Laws, Uniforms, Award nomination process, and



the MODD. The program was scheduled to last 60 minutes but lasted 90 minutes due to some excellent questions. The program was attended by new members both regular, associate and life members.

Lee County Middle School would like to pay tribute to veterans with a special musical assembly program on Friday, November 9, 2012. All veterans who have served in any of the branches of the military and their families are invited to attend. There will be two performances held in the Lee County Middle School gym; one beginning at 0840 and the other at 1015. A reception will follow.

\*\*\*\*\*

A bunch of young Marines are watching a movie, when the starlet guns down her lover and shrieks, "Oh dear what do I do!"

A voice from somewhere in the theater yells, "Police up your brass and move back to the 300 yard line!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Use your brain on this one. There was once a recluse who never left his home. The only time anyone ever visited him was when his food and supplies were delivered but they never came inside. Then, one stormy winter night when an icy gale was blowing he had a nervous breakdown. He went upstairs, turned off all the lights and went to bed. Next morning he had caused the deaths of several hundred people. HOW?

(see end of birthday list for answer)

## ***This Month in History***

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**November 3, 1943:** A detachment of the 3d Raider Battalion occupied Torokina Island, Solomon Island, in support of operations at Bougainville.

**November 4, 1948:** Colonel Katherine Towle became the first Director of Women Marines as regulars and not reservists.

**November 6, 2012 - ELECTION DAY - VOTE!!**

**November 6, 1854:** The morning report showed the Marine Corps totaled 63 officers and 1,389 enlisted men.

**November 10, 1775:** The Continental Congress authorized the creation of the Marine Corps.

**November 11, 1918:** Armistice Day (Veterans Day). WWI ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year.

**November 12, 1946:** Gerald C. Thomas the first Marine to rise from private to general, rank by rank, received his second Legion of Merit.

**November 15, 1950:** Elements of the 1stMarDiv reached the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea.

**November 21, 1836:** Marines and Soldiers took action against the Seminole Indians at Wohoo Swamp, FL.

**November 24, 2012:** HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

**November 25, 2001:** The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) moved inland 400 miles in what was declared the longest amphibious landing in history, to seize forward operation base "Camp Rhino" in southern Afghanistan. The Marines were the first conventional ground troops in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## ***Birthdays!***

*Tom Collins - 5*

*Loron Cheshire - 6*

*George Palaima - 6*

*Kelly Fisk - 7*

*Richard Stevens - 11*

*Ralph Scoccimaro - 15*

*James Johnson - 16*

*Ernie Elmore - 18*

*Nathaniel Lowman - 18*


*Tom Voth - 25*

*(the recluse lived in a lighthouse)*



## Our sponsors deserve your business!

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To reserve your copy of the Dispatch in electronic format please notify [semperfi@mclalbanyga.org](mailto:semperfi@mclalbanyga.org).

The Dispatch is the official publication of the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment 1260 of the Marine Corps League, Albany GA. The newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of Detachment members and guests. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official views of the Marine Corps League or the Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment. Send all articles and comments to the editor Bobbie Elmore at [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net).



# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 • Young Marines Drill Weekend
4	5 • 1:30 am -1:45 am : TAMP Class	6	7 • 6:15 am -7:30 am : retiree Breakfast • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	8	9	10 • Marine Corps Birthday • 9:00 am -10:30 am : Meeting with Tifton Marines
11 • Veterans Day	12	13	14 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	15 • 6:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1333 Monthly Meeting in Waycross	16	17 • Young Marines Drill Weekend
18	19	20 • 6:30 pm -7:30 pm : Major Lawrence DesJardines Detachment #1260	21 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	22 • 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Det #1373 Monthly Meeting in Warner Robbins, GA • 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Pound 322 Growl	23	24 • 10:00 am -3:00 pm : Department Staff Meeting
25	26	27	28 • 9:00 am -10:00 am : Weekly Breakfast	29	30	



# Dispatch

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<b>Sr. Vice Commandant:</b>	Bobbie Elmore	(229) 435-2283	<a href="mailto:ernieelmore@att.net">ernieelmore@att.net</a>
<b>Jr. Vice Commandant:</b>	Roger Paulin	(229) 669-6957	<a href="mailto:rgrpaulin@gmail.com">rgrpaulin@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Jr. Past Commandant:</b>	Tom Newton	(229) 446-2209	<a href="mailto:newt1644@live.com">newt1644@live.com</a>
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Volume 3, Issue 12  
December 2012

## Member Spotlight

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**GYSGT CARL WILCOX**

**Detachment Judge Advocate**

### SPECIAL STAFF:

**JNROTC/Young Marines  
Coordinator**

Kelly Fisk

**Boy Scout Coordinator**

Dan Gillan

**Fallen Marine Coordinator**

Ernie Elmore

**Newsletter Editor**

Bobbie Elmore

**Patriotism Committee**

Dave Aldrich

**Veterans Service Officer**

Nick Nicholson

**Quartermaster**

Tim McClelland

**Historian**

Kathy Fazekas

**Web Sergeant**

Ron Kirstatter

Carl Wilcox was born in Cairo, Georgia on February 4, 1950. He attended his first three years of public school at East Side Elementary School in Thomasville, Georgia. In 1959 his family moved to Clearwater, Florida. He got a job at an early age working for the Clearwater Sun, selling newspapers first on the street, then worked a route in Largo, Florida. He eventually took over the route. Due to the route being the entire town of Largo, the route had to be delivered in a car and since he was too young to drive he hired an adult to drive him around. His route was the second largest in the company when he left to go into the Marine Corps. Later his route was broken down into three routes and given to adults.

He entered the Marine Corps right out of high school on 31 July 1968. He went through Boot Camp at Parris Island S.C. in Platoon 1059 in First Battalion. Upon graduation he went home on leave, and got married to his first wife. He was then sent to Camp Lejeune, N.C. for schooling as a 0351, anti-tank assault man. After school he went to Camp Pendleton, CA for staging, then to South



Vietnam. He landed on 26 May 1969 and was assigned to H&S Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. The first two weeks he didn't have a weapon, then was issued an M-16 which was a medivac weapon. He left Vietnam in May 1970. He left the Marine Corps for sixty-five days then re-enlisted and then was told he was wrong. When he went to re-enlist the recruiter said he could not re-enlist because E-3 and below who got out early and married were not eligible. Carl pointed out that the re-enlistment code on his DD-214 indicated he was eligible and signed by a Lieutenant Colonel who was still active duty. Carl suggested the recruiter call the Lt. Colonel. The recruiter learned that it was OK and re-enlisted him. Carl retired as a GySgt on 28 February 1989 with an MOS of 1169 Utility Chief, at MCLB Albany, Georgia. By this time he had married Jane Edwards on 30 August 1975, with a daughter Valerie Ann, a son Robert Carl and two beautiful granddaughters Christy Ailean Knowles and Sarah Jane Knowles. Besides being the Judge Advocate of our Marine Corps League Detachment, Carl is a member of The American Legion and a member of The Commons Church where he is a boys group leader.

### ***From the Commandant***

---



As our annual awards banquet approaches and the Awards Committee makes its selections from the submissions made, I feel truly honored to be in the

company of so many well-deserving Marines and Associates. This year we have expanded our membership by bringing in some great supporters of all our projects and I'm looking forward to making their efforts known.



November was a busy month for all of us but as we again filled several tables at the Memorial Day breakfast the Marine Corps League's presence was without a doubt recognizable. Several Marine brothers, motivated by our presence, decided to join us.

Merry Christmas Marines and friends, may all your wishes come true.

Semper Fi, Commandant Ron Kirstatter.

### ***Chaplain's Corner***

---

This month also has been very quiet, we have been blessed in the fact that only one brother in our district was declared as fallen. He was Marine Larry Harold Bokenhagen of Cordele, GA. He served during the Korean Conflict and was a retired civilian Marine from the Maintenance Activity at MCLB.

I pray that everyone had a very blessed Thanksgiving and all of you avid shoppers survived the wiles of Black Friday. I personally sat at home and laughed at the utter chaos. The crowds alone are enough to dispel any thoughts of my trying it. Again I pray that



all is well with you and your families and as we begin the Holiday season, let me wish all of you the very merriest of Christmas'. Let's all remember the "Reason for the Season"

### **Devotion:**

(Deuteronomy 10: 12-13) *What does the Lord your God require of you? He requires you . . . to obey the Lord's commands and laws that I am giving you today for your own good.*

Wondering how much we can get away with misses the whole point of being God's child. God didn't send his people wandering in a desert for nothing. When he first set them free from slavery in Egypt, they thought his goal was to kill them off (Exodus 14:11). They couldn't believe he would help them to conquer the Promised Land (Numbers 13). They didn't trust God – they didn't believe that he really wanted their good. They needed retraining. So God sent them for a *time-out* in the desert where they could think about two simple truths: "*Obey me only*" and "*My commands are for your good*"

If something you want to do is "only a little bad," then you're missing the point. It's clearly not the best, and God wants much better for you than that.

My prayer is: "Almighty God and Father, thanks for loving us and for giving us your good commands. Help us to want your best-always and completely."

### **Bob Breton** **Chaplain**

Chaplain Bob Breton can be reached at 434-1169 or [msgtrabret@yahoo.com](mailto:msgtrabret@yahoo.com) to report sickness, injury or for spiritual needs.

## ***Get Involved!***

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### **SHOOTING TEAM**



Join our detachment team. Contact Team Captain Jim Rodgers  
446-4528 or  
[rodgers72oki@gmail.com](mailto:rodgers72oki@gmail.com) for more info.

Every Wednesday 0900 Detachment breakfast at Roosters on Westover Blvd. Join us if you can.

**We are marching as a detachment in the Leesburg Christmas Parade. Stepping off at 1000 In front of the Leesburg County High School, Saturday December 1st. Look for our banner. Flatbed available for those who wish to ride. Wear your red cover.**

## ***Muster Highlights***

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(this is a condensed version of the minutes. You can read them in their entirety on our website)

Commandant Kirstatter called the meeting to order at 1830 at the Club House of the River Pointe Golf Course, Albany, GA.

All officers were present except the Sgt at Arms. There was a total of 18 members and 7 associate members present.

New member Eudale "Dale" Chambliss was approved by balloting and sworn in by Commandant Kirstatter.



SE Division/Department of Georgia Chaplain Ernie Elmore attended. Jacob Bowser and two other guests attended.

Correspondence included that on December 4th, 1400 at Post #30 there will be a discussion on getting the VA clinic moved to MCLB. December 5th, 1000-1500 at Albany Civic Center 100 W. Oglethorpe Blvd will be a Supermarket of Veteran's Benefits for anyone who needs assistance filling out forms or getting records through the VA.

Chaplain Breton reported one Fallen Marine, Larry Harold Bokenhagen. The following Marines or their families were reported as being ill; Jr. Vice Roger Paulin; Members Eugene Coutu and Richard Chaffin and Associate Member Denzil Harrell. Marine Bill Hammack continues to improve.

Commandant Kirstatter was the only officer with a report. He announced the Department Staff meeting will be held in Macon on December 8th.

Also he encouraged everyone to sell our cookbooks! Don't forget the December meeting will be our annual awards banquet.

The Patriotism Committee Chair Dave Aldrich reported that 141 flags have been distributed so far. The Memorial Day wreath laying at the gravesite of our namesake Major Lawrence DesJardine was attended by 17 members.



Sr. Vice Commandant Elmore announced that the Cookbooks are available now at \$12 each.

Under Good of the League, it was announced that through the efforts of member Charles Bushnell, Raytheon Technical Services Company LLC is renewing their Program Sponsorship at the Gold Level.

The following Announcements were made: February 23rd there will be a 5K Travis Manion Heroes Run with special honors for LCpl Steven Sutton.

American Legion Post 30 has requested of all service organizations that they consider participation in the flag service or rifle detail to increase the available pool of veterans that are available for funeral services. The uniform is Navy blue coat, white shirt, red or blue tie, grey trousers and appropriate organization cover.

The Veterans Coalition will be electing a new chair and vice chair in February. They also will hold their Christmas Party on December 7th at the American Legion on Gillionville. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Next Staff Meeting will be held Tuesday, December 11th at Lemon Grass Restaurant. Make sure to contact Tom Newton or Bob Adams if attending the December awards dinner. Rose Sale at Sam's Club on November 24th.

Meeting was adjourned at 1930.

\*\*\*\*\*

*A C-130 was lumbering along when a cocky F-16 flashed by. The jet jockey decided to show off. The fighter jock told the C-130 pilot, 'watch this!' and promptly went into a barrel roll followed by a steep climb. He then finished with a sonic boom as he broke the sound barrier. The F-16 pilot asked the C-130 pilot what he thought of that? The C-130 pilot said, 'That was impressive, but watch this!' The C-130 droned along for about 5 minutes and then the C-130 pilot came back on and said: 'What did you think of that?' Puzzled, the F-16 pilot asked, 'What the heck did you do?' The C-130 pilot chuckled. 'I stood up, stretched my legs, walked to the back, took a leak, then got a cup of coffee and a cinnamon roll.' When you get older and smarter - comfort and dull is not such a bad thing! Older folks understand this joke. It's called S.O.S. Slower, Older and Smarter.....*

## ***Patriotism***

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Dave Aldrich, Patriotism  
Chairman

### **Why does the VA provide a burial flag?**

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to his or her country. VA will furnish a burial flag for memorialization for each, (other than dishonorable discharged)

- \* Veteran who served during wartime
- \* Veteran who died on active duty after May 27, 1941
- \* Veteran who served after January 31, 1955
- \* peacetime Veteran who was discharged or released before June 27, 1950

### **Who is eligible to receive the Burial Flag?**

Generally, the flag is given to the next-of-kin, as a keepsake, after its use during the funeral service. When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making request for it.

### **How can you apply?**

You may apply for the flag by completing VA Form 27-2008, application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes. You may get a flag at any VA regional office or U.S. Post Office. Generally, the funeral director will help you obtain the flag.

### **Can a Burial Flag be replaced?**

No, however some veteran's organization can help you get another flag.



## ***Boy Scouts***

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*Our local Boy Scout community has been very busy. Popcorn sales have really helped the troops raise money to assist in funding the various campouts, gear and events for the boys for the coming year.*



*On Saturday 17 November Marine Dan Gillan was presented with his Wood Badge certificate attesting to his advanced leadership qualification and commitment to leading and mentoring boys. On Sunday 25 November Marine Bob James was on site to present Eagle Scout certificate to our five newest Eagle Scouts of Troop 26 in Americus, GA. Brandon Carter, Woodrow Greene, Carl Johnson, Nicholas McGhee and Tyerus Skala. Bob described the event as gong*

*well, so well in fact that due to a very enthusiastic throng of family and friends, he was unable to get a picture of the group. On Saturday, December 1, Marine Dan Gillan will present the Eagle Scout certificate to Owen Phelps of Troop 1 in Albany, GA. These young men are now tasked with carrying on the legacy of Scouting in that they will continue to be good examples to the other boys in their troops as well as to contribute to our communities and our nation. We have several other boys on track to earn their Eagle rank and we continue to work the boys on their Citizenship merit badges and their Religious Emblems.*

*Detachment Boy Scout Coordinator  
Dan Gillan*

## ***Good of the League***

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Members who have YEARLY DUES coming up:

### December

Ludovic Baudoin d'Ajoux, Michael Brown, William Cobb, Al Fazekas, Ken Frost, Andrea Gillan, Dan Gillan, Alex Hart, Harold Hart, David Lee, Greg Maine, Keith McCutheon, Henry McDole, Deanna Nicholson, Cam Paulin, Gale Rodgers, Jim Rodgers, Richard Roe, Bobby Sanders, Burt Sutherland,

### January

Willie Peters

Next Staff Meeting will be held Tuesday, December 11, 1800 at Lemon Grass Thai Restaurant. All members are welcome.



COOKBOOK SALES are moving right along. They can be purchased for \$12 each from Ernie or Bobbie Elmore. Call 435-2283 or email [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net). We had a Rose Sale at Sam's Club on 24 November and received donations of over \$700. Thanks to volunteers Bill Hamby, Carl Wilcox, Bob Breton, Ron Kirstatter, Bobby and Kay Sanders and Ernie Elmore.



Bobbie Elmore and our new Detachment cookbooks

**AGENT ORANGE:** If you, your spouse or friends served in Vietnam and can prove it, the VA assumes you were exposed to Agent Orange. If you, your spouse or friends served at certain bases in Thailand supporting Vietnam, or were in Vietnam inland waterways on watercraft or docked or went ashore then exposure to dangerous herbicides like Agent Orange is possible. Herbicides can cause illnesses/diseases, some recognized by the VA on pages 4 and

5 can result in service-related compensation payments, perhaps over \$2000 per month. This Self-Help guide is a summary of a potentially long claim process which may require a lot of detailed work., like collecting medical and service records to succeed. Please pass this on to Vietnam vets you are in contact with.

<http://www.vva.org/Guides/AgentOrangeGuide.pdf>

Don't forget about the VA Clinic discussion at Post #30 on Gillionville December 4th at 1400 and the Supermarket of Veterans Benefits at the Civic Center on December 5th from 1000 to 1500. Great place to get help with those forms.

## ***Short Rounds***

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Associate Member ANGIE KEARY will be receiving her RN degree at Darton, December 11, 7 p.m. in their Gym. It is hoped that as many of us as possible Will be there for her. Wear your red covers.

Our Detachment's Annual Awards Banquet will be held on December 18th at the River Pointe Golf Course Club House at 1830. The cost is \$20 per person and you pay at the door. If you have any questions please call Tom Newton 446-2209 or Bob Adams 344-3660.

The Awards Committee is chaired by Bobbie Elmore. If you want to nominate a member for an award, please contact her at [ernieelmore@att.net](mailto:ernieelmore@att.net) no later than December 5th.

Coin Holders are available for sale from the Detachment for \$25 made by our own Bill Hammack.

*We want to thank Raytheon Corporation for supporting our Detachment in the amount of \$500 for the second year. Thank you member Chuck Bushnell for your help in this.*

*Watch The Dispatch for the upcoming Raytheon sponsored 5K run, 23 February in Leesburg honoring LCpl Steven Sutton, USMC (deceased). Talk to Chuck Bushnell about this event.*

## ***This Month in History***

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December 1, 1950: The 1stMarDiv began its bitter withdrawal from Yudamni, North Korea.

December 5, 1929: Marine Captain A.N. Parker was the first person to fly over unexplored Antarctica.

December 7 **PEARL HARBOR DAY**: 1941; The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor left more than 3000 Marines and Sailors killed in action.

December 8, 2001: TF58 Marines secure American Embassy, Kabul, Af

December 9, 1992: Marines of 2/9 landed at Mogadishu, Somalia to begin Operation Restore Hope. The 15th MEU, RCT-7 and Provisional MAG-16 served.

December 17, 2001: The Marines of Task Force 58 raised an American flag over the airport in Kandahar, Af. That flag was flying at the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001.

December 25: Each year on Christmas, Marines guard our national security all over the world.

December 26, 1776: Marines participated in the second Battle of Trenton (NJ) as part of Gen George Washington's force.

December 29, 1966: The 11th Motor Transport Battalion was awarded the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry for service 29 Dec 1966-29 Sept 1969.

## ***In the News***

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### ***Birthdays!***

*December*

*Nick Nicholson - 1*

*Felix Demuth - 6*

*Robert Barry - 11*

*Ruthie Breton - 14*


*Daulton Luttrell - 15*

*Robert Roe - 19*

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO  
ALL MARINES AND FMF  
CORPSMEN AND THEIR  
FAMILIES**

## *Our sponsors deserve your business!*

John I. Waldrop, M.D.



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To reserve your copy of the Dispatch in electronic format please notify [semperfi@mclalbanyga.org](mailto:semperfi@mclalbanyga.org).

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# December

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 1000 Spirit of Christmas Parade and Festival, Lee County High School to Starksville Ave.
- 4<sup>th</sup> – 1400 VA Clinic Discussion, American Legion Post #30, Gillionville Road
- 5<sup>th</sup> – 0615 Retiree Breakfast, MCLB Albany, Crossroads Restaurant
- 5<sup>th</sup> – 1000 to 1500 Supermarket of Veterans Benefits, Albany Civic Center
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 1830 Awards Committee Meeting, 192 Miller Road, Leesburg
- 7<sup>th</sup> – 1830 American Legion Post #30 Christmas Party, Gillionville Road Advance ticket purchase required
- 8<sup>th</sup> – 1000 to 1630 Department of Georgia Staff Meeting, 240 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 1800 Staff Meeting, Lemongrass Restaurant
- 14<sup>th</sup> – 1700 Civilian Marines returning from Afghanistan
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 1830 Annual Awards Banquet, River Pointe Golf Club\
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas and to all a good night