



# The Gipper

Marine Corps League  
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597  
Semper Fidelis

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## NOVEMBER 2018



### COMMANDANT Richard Jennings

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### Marines, Corpsmen and Associate Members:

Wow, what a busy non-stop month it's been since the October *Gipper*. It started with participating in several Color Guard events which included details in Hollywood, VA Sepulveda, Ventura, and presented colors at a VA State Convention of Reps in the City of Commerce. If that wasn't enough, we presented colors at the 19th Annual Polish Film Festival, at the Egyptian Theater, where I was overwhelmed by the wonderful reception we received from the audience.

With these activities going on, I ended up in the hospital for 4 days with the "Noro Virus," and I was never on a ship. I lost 17 pounds in a week, losing weight this way was ridiculous. I'm feeling much better now – thank you for asking and for your support.

On Thursday the first day of November, we presented colors at a Prayer Day for Veterans held at the VA Sepulveda Chapel. And later that evening, we had our monthly general meeting at the Elks Lodge. What a night!

We had a great surprise guest and soon to be new member, Ms. Jean Irving, who was brought to us by Marine Doug Morrison. Doug met Jean in a doctor's office waiting room. Doug said he was wearing his Marine Veteran cap and she tapped him on the arm to proudly say, "I'm a Marine too." Jean is a World War II Veteran who enlisted in the Marines in April 1943. When Corporal Irving joined the Marine Corps, I wasn't even born until October of '43. Jean is quick witted, good humored, has a magnetic personality, and is 100% Marine.



I had the great privilege of swearing in two new women members, Marine Irving "Regular Member" and Jessica Cana Le-Stemples, "Associate Member," an active duty Navy Chief and Intelligence Specialist. During the swearing in ceremony, I asked her if she wanted to remain seated, she responded, "No sir, for a great honor like this, I would like to stand." WOW!! This was a special oath ceremony because this is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women in the Marine Corps which we also celebrated at the Ball.

Then comes our Ball on 17 November, where Jean was the oldest Marine present and Dillon Parker the youngest Marine present. This year our own Godfrey Harris was inched out of being the oldest Marine by just a couple of months. During the Ball we also celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women in the Marines. Our guest speaker for the Ball Sergeant Major Romona D. Cook, was brought to us by LtCol Mark Shuster. Before the formalities of the Ball, everyone walking into the reception area greeted the SgtMaj and wanted pictures with her. Ed Farra must have taught his sons Marine rank as Rich Farra, our editor, knew she was a SgtMaj.

SgtMaj Cook is a Parris Island Marine who rose through the ranks to become Camp Pendleton's base SgtMaj. She is extremely well spoken and articulate. Her speech came from her heart as a Marine and resonated throughout those in attendance. She pointed out that of all the armed services, Marines are the only branch which Marines are Marines and not soldiers, airmen, etc. Oorah!!! Sergeant Major Cook the 597 thanks you for your Marine vigor and speech!

For those who couldn't attend the Birthday Ball, you missed one hell of a party and the Awards presentations. During the Ball we presented awards to the following award winners:

- Leaguer of the Year - John Coley
- Associate of the Year - David Opfer
- Godfrey Harris Award - Anthony Hernandez
- Kenneth Mask Award - Harry Hodges
- John Mitchell Toys for Tots Award - Bob Martinez
- Commandant VIP Awards - Rich Farra, Andy Dobryznski, Debbie Sands
- Life Achievement Award - Ken Mask

These folks truly deserve all the recognition that they get. On a sad note, John Coley couldn't join us at the Ball, he is recovering from an illness at Los Robles Hospital. All prayers to John, please.

For all my fellow Marines, a Very Happy 243rd Birthday!

As a reminder, all members welcome to our annual Christmas Party on December 6. This is the party we've all been waiting for and it's a blast! More information will follow, so keep checking your emails!

Another upcoming big event is our "BINGO NIGHT" on the 12th of December at the Elks Lodge. All proceeds received with over 10 paid players will go directly to our Detachment. The BINGO buy-in is only \$26, food and soft drinks will be available, and prizes for each game will range from \$100 to \$400. This night is open to all, not just the Detachment, so bring your spouses, significant others, neighbors, or anyone else you can think off. The more people that play means more money to our Detachment.

Don't forget, if you have any questions for me or any of the Board of Trustees, send the questions to the Gipper and we will try to answer them as soon as possible.



Again, please don't forget our two next big functions.

December 6 - Business Meeting (brief) and our annual Christmas Party (more to follow on this)

December 12 - Bingo night at the Elks Lodge. All proceeds go the Detachment 597.

Pictured below is from our November Board of Trustees meeting where John Miller wore an authentic WWI Marine uniform to show us what he will be wearing at the Birthday Ball. With John from left to right is;

Senior Vice Commandant - Harry Hodges

Junior Vice Commandant - Ken "Doc" Honaker

Judge Advocate- John Miller

Commandant - Dick Jennings

Sgt-at-Arms - Fausto Galvan



Semper Fi,

Dick Jennings

Commandant





## SRVICE COMMANDANT

**Harry Hodges**

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### Marines and Associate members,

Membership growth benefits the League in many ways and is probably our biggest goal, because without it we won't be around over time. I know how hard it is to find new members, especially to get them to show up to one of our monthly meetings. I personally invited four Marines to our last meeting and not one of them showed up. But you never know unless you ask, the more we ask the greater the chances of growing membership. The benefit is that the larger our membership, the greater the impact to help other Veterans.

And as a reminder your annual Marine Corps League dues were due on August 31, 2018, so if you haven't already taken care of it, please do so ASAP.

Regarding the Ships Store, our new website will be featuring MCL merchandise for sale. One of the new items we have just received is the MCL #597 red polo shirt with a new logo, as shown below. (The new logo - left photo / older logo - right.) This new shirt is made of better material and is not supposed to fade. Depending on the sales of these shirts, we will be ordering other colors as well.

Semper Fi,  
Harry Hodges  
Senior Vice & Ships Store Rep





## JR. VICE COMMANDANT

**Ken 'Doc' Honaker**

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### Greetings Marines and Associates,

Well our Detachment's 243rd Marine Corps Birthday Ball and Fundraiser has come and gone. While there were some hiccups in the works, as Marines, we adapted and overcame these challenges and issues and made everything work. Dinner was served after a cocktail reception where Rich Farra twisted the arms of attendees to support the Detachment by purchasing the various raffle tickets - thank you Rich. His arm twisting apparently was not severe enough to impair our guest from enjoying their meals served by Grand Vista Hotel's attentive staff.

Prior and during dinner, attendees had the opportunity to pose in our evening's finery for a photo by Robert Orsa, a professional portrait photographer. Robert has been a supporter for the last few birthday ball celebrations. Additional Ball portrait photos are available by going to his website at [robertorsaphotography.com](http://robertorsaphotography.com) or by emailing him directly at [robert@robertorsaphotography.com](mailto:robert@robertorsaphotography.com).

Lou Korell once again was the roving photographer. His photos will soon be available on the MCL597.org website and you are all welcome to download photos of your choice. Our webmaster will be creating a new tab for posting our Ball pictures from this and prior years. I know there were many other photos taken during the Ball maybe they can be shared soon.

I had the great honor of escorting Jean Irving, our newest MCL 597 member and oldest Marine member, through the cake ceremony. Jean is a WWII WM who joined the Marine Corps in 1943 and our 597 in 2018. (Jean's biography is in the new member's section of this newsletter.) Thank you for your service Marine. Jean was introduced to us by Marine Doug Morrison, who made sure Jean arrived safely to participate in our celebration. Dillon Parker was the youngest Marine present and was pressed into receiving cake as tradition demands by the 13<sup>th</sup> CMC Gen Lejeune.

Sharing this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women in the Marine Corps, we had the honor of meeting and hearing from SgtMaj Ramona 'Dee' Cook USMC (Ret) who has certainly had an illustrious career in the Corps. Her words of encouragement can inspire us all and brought smiles to our faces with the quote from Rear Admiral Stark. SgtMaj Cook was brought to us through the efforts of Mark Shuster, former MCL 597 Commandant, who now resides in Colorado with his wonderful wife Mary.

We had the right mix of traditional ceremonies and fun which was enjoyed by all those attending. Bob Martinez and his band of merry musicians entertained us during dinner. Jimmy Owens (JMYO Entertainment) provided us with the video presentation, supplemental Marine Corps and DJ music. We thank both Bob, Jimmy, and their supporting members for entertaining us.



The highly visible presence of Jerry German, Matt Valenzuela and Dick Jennings all helped me to look good as the Birthday Ball Chair. I thank them for their continued contributions and support. Jerry filled in for John Coley who was not able to make it to the Ball due to health issues. John Miller and Jerry German performed the MIA/POW Remembrance Ceremony which was deeply felt by those who attended.

I want to personally thank all of those who participated in the logistics, preparation, and setup of our ball. And of course, all of those who attended, it would not have been successful without you. Even though this Detachment function took months of planning and work, we did it because it's part of our tradition and legacy of being Marines.

We thank Tammy at Conroy's Flowers for the beautiful table centerpieces, and Loretta at Kopy King for doing the layout and printing the ball program with advertiser list. Please solicit our advertisers when doing business and tell them you saw their ad in the 597-birthday ball program.

Also, I hope that everyone who desired to do so, took home the MCL 597 wine glass at each table setting.

Remember, as members we are 'recruiters' as well. The reward from recruitment is strengthening our Marine heritage and brotherhood with more Marines. This is our visceral brotherhood, you are Marines! I'm proud to be a member of the President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 of the Marine Corps League.

Ooorah!!! And Semper Fi,  
"Doc" Honaker  
Jr. Vice Commandant

Thousand Oaks Street Fair on October 21st

L/R: John Mitchell, Doug Morrison, John Fuentes, Ben Pfister and half of "Doc" Honaker







## JR. PASTCOMMANDANT

**Jerry R. German**

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### Speech by Rear Admiral J. Stark, USN Newport, RI, 10 November 1995

...The first reason I like Marines is, they set high standards for themselves and those around them and will accept nothing less.

I like the way Marines march.

I like the way Marines do their basic training whether it's Quantico, Parris Island, or San Diego.

I like the idea [that] Marines 'cultivate an ethos conducive of producing hard people in a soft age.

I like the fact that Marines stay in shape.

I like the fact that the Marines only have one boss, the Commandant. And I like the directness of the Commandant.

I like the fact that Marines are stubborn.

I like the way Marines obey orders.

I like the way the Marines make the most of the press.

I like the wholehearted professionalism of the Marines.

...it occurred to me that the services could be characterized by different breeds of dogs...

The Air Force reminded me of a French Poodle. The poodle always looks perfect...sometimes seems a bit pampered...always travels first class. But don't ever forget that the poodle was bred as a hunting dog and in a fight it's very dangerous.

The Army is kind of like a St. Barnard. It's big and heavy and sometimes seems a bit clumsy. But it's very powerful and has lots of stamina. So, you want it for the long haul.

The Navy, God bless us, is a Golden Retriever. They're good natured and great around the house. The kids love 'em. Sometimes their hair is a bit long... they go wandering off for long periods of time, and they love water.

...Marines I see as two breeds, Rottweilers or Dobermans, because Marines come in two varieties, big and mean, or skinny and mean. ...They're aggressive on the attack and tenacious on defense. They've got really short hair and they always go for the throat. That sounds like a Marine to me!

So, what I really like about Marines is that 'First to Fight' isn't just a motto, it's a way of life. From the day they were formed at Tun Tavern 221 years ago, Marines have distinguished themselves on battlefields around the world. From the fighting tops of the Bonhomme Richard, to the sands of the Barbary coast, from the swamps of New Orleans to the halls of Montezuma, from Belleau Wood, to the Argonne Forest, to Guadalcanal, and Iwo Jima, and Okinawa and Inchon, and Chosin Reservoir and Hue City and Quang Tri and Dong Ha, and Beirut, and Grenada, and Panama, and Somalia and Bosnia and a thousand unnamed battlefields in Godforsaken corners of the globe, Marines have distinguished themselves by their bravery, and stubbornness and aggressive spirit, and sacrifice, and love of country, and loyalty to one another.



They've done it for you and me, and this Country we all love so dearly. And they asked for nothing more than the honor of being a United States Marine.

And that's why I like Marines!

Semper Fi,  
Jerry R. German  
Junior Past Commandant



## JUDGE ADVOCATE

**John Miller**

kathiemill@aol.com  
(805) 581-5462



### Judge Advocate message

November is a month that is full of history both from our Marine past and from the nation itself. I would like to mention that our Marine Corps is deep in traditions and customs borrowed from our Navy Brothers. Terms like bulkhead, deck and head are just a few of the terms we use every day plucked from our naval history. Marines are, after all, "Soldiers of the sea." The ethos of the US Marine Corps is Honor, Courage and Commitment. Each of these qualities is embedded in every Marine's mind and memory.

**Honor** is measured in bearing true faith and allegiance to the United States of America. Therefore, we should always conduct ourselves in the highest ethical manner in all relationships between our peers, superiors and subordinate.

**Courage** is facing danger for just one more minute, and then moving on to enable others to succeed and accomplish the mission, whatever it may be. It means that we will support and defend each other and never let our comrades down. Courage is the value that gives us the moral and mental strength to do what is right even in the face of mortal danger.

**Commitment** is caring for the spiritual and person well-being of you fellow Marines and citizens. Show respect to all people, no matter their race, religion or gender. We must exhibit the highest degree of moral character.

These three values are what make the US Marines Corps the finest fighting unit in recorded history. They are also the same values that we, as Marine Corps League members, live by and should always display towards each other and our community.

As many of us know, this past week in Ventura County has been a very tragic and sorrowful time. First, we had the mass shooting at the Country and Western Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, a Marine Corps veteran was among those slain along with a Navy veteran and a Ventura County Sheriff's Deputy. Immediately thereafter, the Woolsey fire consumed homes and resulted in at least two lives lost. Many of our friends





and comrades were affected by these events. We are deeply saddened by the tremendous burden these two events had on our community. May those families affected know that The President Ronald Reagan, Detachment 597 of the Marine Corps League mourn with you. We as citizens of this county will stand together and carry out whatever it takes to ease the pain and suffering of our friends and fellow Americans. Stand by our commitment to each other and remember these words of encouragement and devotion from Joshua Chapter 1, verse 9.

“Be strong and of a good courage, be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with you.”

Semper Fidelis, Saepe Expertus, Fratres Aeterni  
John E Miller  
Judge Advocate



**ADJUTANT**  
**John Coley**  
w4simi@yahoo.com



### **Marines, Corpsman and Associate Members**

We've been quite busy and had fun since the middle of October. Our faces were out in public at the Thousand Oaks Street Fair; Color Guard details performed in Valencia for the City of Santa Clarita, Ventura for Honoring the Color Guards, San Fernando for the 50<sup>th</sup> year Celebration, and at the GLA VA Sepulveda for the National Day of Prayer for Veterans Healing.

At the General Meeting on 01 November, I received the final recommendations for Awards from Members and Associates; although, I am a bit surprised that we received so few award recommendations given the size of our detachment over a three-month period.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINES!!!! On Saturday 10 November, our Detachment held its Birthday Celebration, for all Marines who wanted to attend, at the Junkyard in Simi Valley. The food was plentiful, and libation was excellent! The turnout was so large that Jerry German had to go cumshaw more chairs - I will never ask details.

Over Veterans Day weekend the Detachment had Color Guards scattered from hither to yon. Well done to the Color Guard Commander and all the members of the details for being so flexible.

SEE YOU ALL AT THE BALL ON THE 17TH AT THE GRAND VISTA! (John's message was written prior to his hospitalization and date of the Ball.)

Semper Fidelis,  
John Coley  
Adjutant



## THE DOG ROBBER HOWLS

Pound 325, Ventura County Devil Dogs  
California Pack 2012 Pound of the Year

**DD Ben Pfister**  
**Pound Keeper**

[benpdet597@gmail.com](mailto:benpdet597@gmail.com)

818-912-9863



### Woof Woof Devil Dogs and Detachment Members,

On Monday 11/12, our Color Guard presented colors for the Presidential Library's Veterans Day Celebration. We had the pleasure of meeting with guest of honor and WW2 Medal of Honor recipient Hershel (Woody) Williams who is also a MODD member. We also had the pleasure of meeting Michael Reagan. Pictures are attached.

If any of you are interested in joining the color guard or MODD, please see Ruy Pena, Dick Jennings or Ben Pfister.





## CHAPLAIN Bradley Cantley

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### The Chaplain's Corner

#### Fellow Marines, veterans and friends:

A short and simple prayer to those in need: "Supreme Commandant (Father God), I pray for healing for all on this list. Thank you Jesus, Amen." Newly added will be highlighted in sky blue, but only the first time when I send an update. If you have recovered nicely please let me know if you wish to be removed, or need an update on your condition. Also, if I missed anyone please let me know.

Below are those brave men and women who need our prayers:

John Coley—Is in the hospital for a nasty cold.

Ericka Silva— Is going in for thoracic surgery, so please pray for her fast recovery.

Joe Krigbaum- Far as I know Joe is still in the same condition, so if Allison or anyone else knows his status please let me know.

Ed Farra— Ed is in his "end of life" stage of dementia and is being cared for by Mitsy, Rich and hospice nurses. Please keep him and his family in our prayers.

Thomas Hernandez—Tom still needs prayer and we all hope to see him at the meetings.

Blanca Hernandez – Has had 3 strokes and needs care 24/7. Tom Hernandez is taking care of her. So, let us pray for her to get healed, and for Tom to have the strength to help.

Jim Lieberknecht – Recovering from a stroke isn't easy and I believe things are slow but progressing nicely. Keep him and his wife in your prayers.

Mike Maxwell – We still need to pray for Mike (prostate cancer) for the treatments to work better for him.

Bill Trammell – Bill as well has prostate cancer, and we pray that his treatments will go well for him.

Bugs Ansell - On oxygen 24/7

Sue Honaker – Sue will be in our prayers still, and I pray she gets better soon.

John Miller – I talked to John this morning and evidently there were more problems that he first thought. So, keep him in your prayers for he could use some especially now. When he is feeling better, he may allow visitors but for now he doesn't want any.

Brad Cantley—Been very sick this week because of all the smoke. A little better today.

**RED (Remember Everyone Deployed)** – Let us keep those Marines and other service members in our prayers as they might be in harm's way, or just away for training. "We ask our Supreme Commandant to watch over them and keep them safe. Bring them back home as soon as You are able too. Amen"

**New Veteran Center** - This is a project that is in preliminary stages, but it will happen as long as we keep it in our prayers. It will be in Simi Valley area somewhere and we diffidently could use one closer to us.

May our Lord and Savior keep watch over us, and to continue to watch over us. May He protect us, keep us healthy, and to keep us safe.



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My our Lord and Savior keep watch over us, and to continue to watch over us. May He protect us, keep us healthy, and to keep us safe.

God Bless and Semper Fi,  
Chaplain Brad



## COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

**Ruy Peña**

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### Color Guard Report

The Color Guard has been and always will be very busy on Veteran's Day, this year was no exception! We had a total of 23 requests for the month of November, unfortunately, a few were canceled due to the Woolsey fire which affected much of Ventura County. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those impacted.

I am happy to say that at many of our recent events, John Calderon and his wife Wendy were able to take pictures, so we can share them with the detachment members. I would like to ask that if you are attending a color guard function, please take pictures and email them to our Editor, Rich Farra, [RichFarra@gmail.com](mailto:RichFarra@gmail.com). Most of the time, we are not able to take pictures because we are busy with the color guard functions.

I also want to make special note that we our color guard details are made up of Det597 members, as well as, members from our sister detachment Det1277 from the San Fernando Valley. We help them out in some of their functions and they help us out in ours. In addition, the 1277 is included in all our requests for color guard - as we say, brothers helping brothers.

I am very proud to say that we have several very active associate members who are in the color guard, specifically Dave Opfer, John Calderon, and Mike Davis who recently returned for duty. They may not have been Marines, but by golly they look sharp!

We are in the process of recruiting more volunteers from both VFW Posts 2323 (Granada Hills) and 10049 (Simi Valley). If you know of anyone who is interested in joining the color guard, please reach out to me or any of our color guard members. When we have Veterans, from various groups, performing a joint-color guard function, we refer to these as the "Joint Services Color Guard" a name affectionally given by our past Commandant, Matt Valenzuela.





On 01 November during our monthly general meeting, our MCL 597 Color Guard received honors, recognition and appreciation from Vaughn Next Century Learning Center, Pacoima Historical Society and a personal visit from the Conejo Valley Chamber President.

Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition, Assembly Certificates of Recognition, Livingston Memorial Visiting Nursing Association Certificates of Appreciation were given to Color Guard members: Ramon Arevalo, Jack Parfitt, John Fuentes, Hank Noorda, Al Landsdale, John Miller, and Matthew Gonzalez. It didn't stop there, Dr. Anarosa Estevez and Susanne Llamas of the Vaughn Next Century Learning Center and Pacoima Historical Society, represented Certificates of Appreciation to Color Guard members Dave Opfer, Ramon Arevalo, Ben Pfister, Ken Honaker, Larry Fischer, Robert Martinez, Al Landsdale, and John Coley.

In addition, Jill Lederer, president and CEO of the Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce stopped by to personally thank the Detachment's Color Guard members for their presentation at one of their events.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. We have pictures, many of them, showing the positive impact we are having within our communities. Our outreach gives a patriotic lift to our community – young and old. We bring the symbolism of being an American and those who defend America together.

Patriotism is creating a huge demand for Color Guard detail services. We need more volunteers to step forward to help. We enjoy what we do, ask any one of our detail members. We know some of you may be a little rusty, we will train you. We have the uniforms and equipment to help you do your best.

As we move through the year, our requests continue to grow. Again, we are making a difference within our community, and we can't do what we do without our members who volunteer their time and service to our Color Guard details. I extremely grateful for all the dedication that our members put forth. I encourage our Detachment members to try it, we know you'll enjoy it as much as we do.

Below are pictures from some of the events where we performed.

Semper Fi  
Ruy Peña  
Color Guard Commander













The Color Guard presented Colors at the Annual Polish Film Festival in Hollywood on October 17, 2018. In the picture (L/R) are: Vladek Juskiewkz, Chairman of Festival; Paymaster Andy Dobrzynski - Festival Board; Andy's daughter Jackie, wife-Rose, and daughter Michele; Dick Jennings, John Coley, Fausto Galvan, Harry Hodges, and Ben Pfister.



19th Anniversary Justice Armand Arabian Awards Luncheon  
Hilton Woodland Hills , October 25,2018  
Honoring President Ronald Reagan Det. # 597 MCL







These photos were taken by John Calderon at an MCL luncheon on 10-25-2018.



October 26, 2108, Color Guard Appreciation Day in Ventura.

Members of the Detachment 597 Color Guard are:

L/R: Larry Fischer, Color Commander Ruy Pena, Jr., Brent Kast, Dick Jennings, Ken Honaker, Ben Pfister, John Coley, Harry Hodges, Dave Opfer and Fausto Galvan





Sponsored by The Livingston Memorial Nurse Association and Hospice  
at Poinsettia Pavilion, Ventura, CA  
(Next 8 Below)







The Color Guard presented Colors at a Regan Library Veterans Day Celebration on 12 November. Here is the Color Guard with President Ronald Reagan's son Michael.

L/R: David Opfer, Color Guard Commander, Ruy Pena, Jr., Dick Jennings. Michael Reagan, Fausto Galvan and Ben Pfister.





## HISTORIAN

**John Miller**

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## Remembrance Ceremony

### Table Set Up:

- Small round bistro table
- White tablecloth
- Single place setting, all white
- Slice of lemon on bread plate and a small pile of spilled salt
- Wine glass, inverted
- Small vase with a single red rose
- Red ribbon tied around vase
- Lit candle
- Empty Chair



As you entered the banquet hall this evening, you may have noticed a small table in a place of honor. This is hallowed

Ground, and a sacred image. This table is our way of remembering our comrades, our "Brothers, our "Sisters"

Those who are unable to be with us this evening and so we remember them **REMEMBER (2 BELL STRIKES)**

The table is small and set for one. Symbolizing the frailty of one warrior alone against his oppressor. **REMEMBER**

The table is round displaying our never-ending love and respect

For those comrades lost. **REMEMBER**

The tablecloth is white. Symbolizing the purity of their intentions when they responded to our country's call to arms

**REMEMBER**





The single red rose reminds us of the life of each of the missing and their families, and loved ones, who keep the faith as they await the return of our comrade in arms. **REMEMBER**

The vase is tied with a red ribbon, a symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing and to have them returned home. **REMEMBER**

The slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land  
**REMEMBER**

There is salt upon the bread plate. Representing the tears shed by families and loved ones. **REMEMBER**

The glass is inverted. They cannot toast with us tonight.  
**REMEMBER**

The chair is empty. They are not here. **REMEMBER**

Remember All of you who served with them and called them friend, who depended upon their might and relied upon them.

They did not forsake you. **REMEMBER**

Please take just a moment and stand, if you are able, recall a friend who gave their life so that we could carry on in a country free of tyrants and tyranny.

**We are their legacy. It is our lives that honor the sacrifices made by warriors of courage and valor. 100 years ago, our Countrymen fought and died in Belleau Wood, The Marne and Chateau Thierry in France and Belgium. Remember a Grandfather, a Brother, an Aunt or a Friend. They will live forever.** REMEMBER

The above ceremony will be presented at our Detachment Marine Corps Birthday Ball and is our history and memorial dedication for November 2018.

John E Miller  
Judge Advocate





## **YOU KNOW THE DRILL!**

**Darrell Lee**  
**Training Officer**

### **Opportunities to serve**

Every meeting Ruy Peña asks for volunteers for the Color Guard (to carry rifles or colors for ceremonies and parades) and Honor Guards (Firing Details, Flag Folding, etc.). Every meeting we hear from the various committees (Golf Tournament, Birthday Ball, Family Day Picnic, etc.) and they're pretty much always open to getting new folks involved in the behind the scenes planning, preparation, and execution of these events.

Every month there is a Board of Trustees meeting where anyone can attend and put in their two cents, and possibly find another avenue of service in supporting the League.

Most significantly, we are having our Annual Election of Officers, where we are always hearing a call for new blood, but where few new faces seem to be found. Honestly, we do want new people in these vital positions! If you are not sure you can do the job, take the current holder of that office aside for a few minutes or so to get a better idea if you can handle it. I bet you can...

And if running for elected office isn't your thing, the appointed offices are still an option worth considering. While only a few are mentioned in our bylaws, we have created many informal, but important, offices like Training Officer (yours truly), Newsletter Editor, etc. If you want to be considered for one of these posts, let someone know; the current office holder and the incoming Commandant-Elect would be the most logical people, as well as others who have been around for a while. Many of us have previously held these positions.

Semper Fidelis,

Darrell Lee



**William Trammell**  
**Vice President Los Angeles Chapter #8**  
**Montford Point Marines Association**

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**Marines,**

\*Bill Trammell is recovery from health issues and moving to a new home. Bill said he will be active in January. He wishes all Marines a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to hearing from him.

Below is a schedule of events for the Montford Point Marines Association, Los Angeles. Please note the events highlighted in **RED**, e.g. the Las Vegas Birthday Ball.

Semper Fi,

William M. Trammell  
 Vice President Los Angeles Chapter #8  
 Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.  
 (805) 512-2215

National Montford Point Marine Association Inc. (NMPMA)

**Western Region**

Los Angeles, San Diego, Okinawa, Oceanside Chapters  
[www.montfordpointmarines.org](http://www.montfordpointmarines.org)

**Events & Special Projects For 2018**

<b>November 24, 2018</b>	<b>NMPMA LA Chapter Board/Business Meeting at 11:00 AM</b>
<b>December 2018</b>	<b>"Toys for Tots" Meeting/Drive</b>
<b>December 2018</b>	<b>Presentation Congressional Gold Medal OMP Mr. Murphy J. Jackson Jr.</b>
<b>December 15, 2018</b>	<b>Greenwood Mortuary @ 8 AM SD Ca</b>
<b>December 15, 2018</b>	<b>NMPMA NEC Teleconference Call @11:00 AM</b>
<b>December 25, 2018</b>	<b>Christmas (Thursday)</b>



**Fausto Galvan**  
**Executive Officer**  
**Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines**  
[Fausto\\_galvan0471@yahoo.com](mailto:Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com)

Article submitted by PFC Snyder, Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines

#### SCVYM Promotions and Future Events

Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines had an active few weeks. SCVYM promoted 2 YM/Corporals, 4YM/Lance Corporals, and 2 YM/Private First Class during the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Annual Chili Cook Off in Castaic. Our Young Marines were integral in helping to make the Cook Off successful by helping people setup and break down the event. SCVYM had a booth to inform participants about what we do and our contributions to the community, as well as distributing information on DDR(Drug Demand Reduction).

On November 3 and 4, the Young Marines helped the Kiwanis Club with their annual Special Needs Horseback Riding Competition at the Hansen Dam Equestrian Center.

In honor of the Marine Corps 243rd Birthday on 10 November, SCVYM joined members of VFW post 6885 to celebrate their birthday. Lastly, on Veterans Day, SCVYM joined the City of Santa Clarita to honor local veterans. There will be a hometown celebration that will include a changing out the 5 branches of service flags with the Knights of Columbus. We will also be traveling to the Brookdale Convalescent Hospital meet with senior citizen Veterans to listen to their stories when they were in the service and thank them for their service. This a wonderful time of year to help our community, we look forward to doing this year around.

Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines have even more upcoming events.

PFC Snyder





## MANAGING EDITOR

**RICHARD FARRA**

[richfarra@gmail.com](mailto:richfarra@gmail.com)

818-470-3258 Mobile

**The community is clearly embracing the outreach of this Detachment. The credit goes to its leadership and members. This Detachment has great leadership at its helm.**

Year-to-date, our Detachment's community outreach and recognition has risen geometrically. High schools want to hear from Veterans of the Speakers Bureau, and organizations wanting to reinvigorate patriotism are requesting our Color Guard. Our MODD is reaching out to senior Veterans letting them know that they are not forgotten, and Det597 members are helping youth build self-confidence and leadership skills through the Young Marines. Our historian reminds us that you are all heroes, and our chaplain reminds you that we are a family. Our members are making a difference.

The expansion of our outreach must focus on membership growth to avoid being stretched too thin organizationally. This is one of the big reasons why each member must take that extra step to bring in new members. Large organizations attract relatively more members than smaller ones, so let's grow this Detachment.

New members will have new ideas to make positive contributions to our community, generating increased recognition and support.

Our Birthday Ball was missing someone this year, my father. It wasn't the same.

Thank you,  
Rich Farra  
Managing Editor



## **Things can't be that good, your Commandant wants to hear from you so please write him a “DEAR COMMANDANT” letter**

We need your ideas to make our detachment better. If you have ideas and/or gripes about our general meetings, events or whatsoever. Your Commandant wants to hear about them.

Like a shark, we must keep moving forward or we will die. We need your input to move forward and grow. For example, Dick Jennings suggested and executed on his idea for a Speakers' Bureau to share a Veteran's view of war to high school students. His idea is a positive community outreach idea and has had great reviews and demand for more presentations.

We want our members to share their thoughts, concerns and compliments to the Commandant. If there is something not done to one's expectations, please submit your ideas on how to resolve these issues and concerns. All correspondence will be kept confidential unless specified otherwise. Email me your ideas and thoughts to me, Richard Farra, Editor, at [richfarra@gmail.com](mailto:richfarra@gmail.com) and I will forward them to the Commandant anonymously for his feedback and include them in the Gipper.



## **DEPT. of CA SR. VICE COMMANDANT MODD CA PACK-SR. VICE PACK LEADER**

**Matt E. Valenzuela**

[mattval@aol.com](mailto:mattval@aol.com)

310-768-2847 Office

310-308-7015 Mobile



### **MARINES, CORPSMEN, AND ASSOCIATES,**

On 12 October 2018 at 1030, a Memorial Service was held for Marine Ralph Harper Wilson, a Life Member of the President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 of the Marine Corps League. The services were held at Calvary Chapel in Lancaster, CA.

Ralph was born on 01 July 1936 and went to be with our Lord on 04 October 2018.

The active Marines performed the Flag Folding Ceremony and presented the flag to Ralph's wife, Norma.

Marine Rudy Cordero played TAPS. There was no Rifle Salute.

Commandant of MCL Detachment 930, Chris Chandler is pictured giving a eulogy; the second and third picture is of Navy Veteran Philip J. Roberts, Adjutant of the Antelope Valley Veterans Community Action Coalition, who performed the Navy Two Bell Ceremony.

Marines present from the 597 were: Bob Nelson, Chaplain Brad Cantley, Rudy Cordero, Matt Valenzuela, Taj O'Toole (MCL 597Associate).







## **PAYMASTER'S CORNER**

**ANDY DOBRZYNSKI**

[andydobrzynski@gmail.com](mailto:andydobrzynski@gmail.com)

805-428-5902

### **Detachment Members,**

Hope everyone had a great windy day at the Veterans Plaza in Simi Valley on Sunday the 11th celebrating Veterans Day.

A friendly reminder, we still have approximately 65 delinquent membership renewals.

Also, please do not forget to join us on December 12th, 2018 for our First Annual bingo night, sponsored by the Elks Lodge 2492 in Simi Valley. Please bring your family, friends and neighbors to the bingo night. All net proceeds will go towards our Detachment. Don't be shut out. All the spaces are filling very fast. The entire cost is only \$26.00 to play bingo for the entire night. Bingo starts at 18:30 so be there by 18:00 so that you can choose your table and seat. Please RSVP to our Commandant or to me at the above phone number.

Your Paymaster,  
Andy Dobrzynski



## VERY HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



01 - William H. Phillips  
03 - Betty Anne Gilmore  
10 - Robert F. Farley, Jr.  
12 - Adriana Gallegos  
14 - Frank Lopez

15 - Jacqueline Dobrzynski  
18 - Nigel Boucher  
18 - Christina Garcia  
24 - Matthew E. Gonzalez

## NEW MEMBERS

Marines everywhere are home with the Corps. The Marine Corps League is the home again for Marine Veterans. So, if you see a Marine Vet, not hard to ID with a lot of bumper stickers and EGA apparel, walk up to them and bring them home to the 597.

Commandant Richard Jennings administered the oath to Marine Jean Irving and new associate member Jessica Cana Le-Stemples, Brent Kast's younger sister, an active duty Navy Chief and Intelligence Specialist.









## Jean Irving's Biography

Having just turned 20 years old in February 1943, and with a brother fighting in the Pacific, I was anxious to get out and do my bit for the war effort. Deciding to join the Navy, I was disappointed to learn that all the women's services at that time required enlistees to be at least 21 years old. Just then the newspapers announced the news that the Marine Corps was finally going to accept women and that they only had to be 20 years old! So, I went for it. But it wasn't easy.

In Cincinnati, Ohio, where I lived, it was impossible to find a recruiting office where they believed such an un-heard of thing could have happened (!) so after several weeks of searching I finally discovered a recruiting office in Cleveland where they didn't think the sky would fall in on them if they signed up a woman! So, I got myself on a train to Cleveland, found the recruiting office and jumped in. That was April 1943. I had to wait to go on active duty until they finished training more mature women to be officers and sergeants. In New York since I was too young for those responsibilities, so it was July before I received orders to proceed to the hell hole of the Marine Corps Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Although we had a brand-new barracks, that's about all we had – no uniforms, no schedules, no orders. They really didn't know what to do with us, so basically all we did was fill out paperwork and learn to drill. And drill we did, almost 8 hours a day! Our DI's were just back from Guadalcanal and never missed an opportunity to shout at us about the indignity they were suffering by drilling (here they stopped to spit) WOMEN! But I have to say that at the parade on "graduation day", complete with uniforms, band and flags, they had me 100%! I was a Marine and would be for the rest of my life.

I was assigned to communications and sent to radio school at Miami University in Ohio. With Navy instructors I learned to take a radio apart and put it back together, could take Morse Code at 45 words per minute and type 95 WPM on a manual typewriter. From radio school I was assigned to MCAS Mojave, which had no need for radio operators, so I was given duty "teaching" aerial gunnery using a device called a "gunairstructor." Never having been on a plane or shot a gun before I don't know how much teaching was done but to me it was just like Disneyland! Finally, reassignment took me to MCAS Santa Barbara as a radio operator, sending and receiving messages in Morse Code until. Consequently, being lucky enough to land the job I loved – Air/Sea Rescue, working with the flying squadrons and the Coast Guard. It was exciting and fulfilling and I finally felt I was actually doing something to help.

After I was discharged, I returned to Cincinnati, where I soon joined the Marine Corps League, and later helped form and was president of an all-woman chapter.



## GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker for November was Mark Richardson, a mortgage broker with CSMC Mortgage. He was a sponsor of our Golf Tournament and is a friend of MCL597. Mark talked about VA loans and Reverse Mortgages.

He addressed the benefits of getting a VA loan - buying vs. renting, the flexibility of qualifying, and refinancing. He also spoke on the benefits of getting a Reverse Mortgage and how to qualify for one.

For more information you should give him a call or email him at 805-304-5626 /

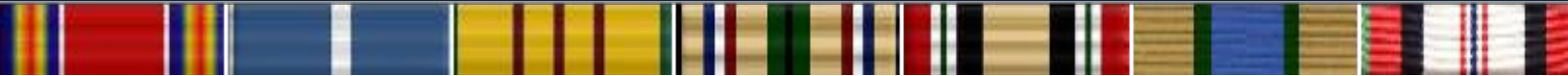
[markrichardson@csmcmortgage.com](mailto:markrichardson@csmcmortgage.com).



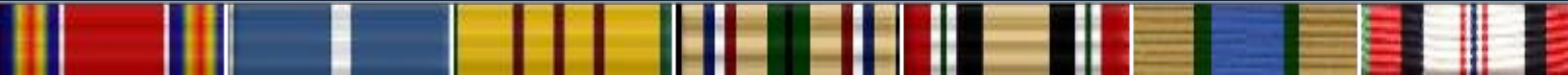






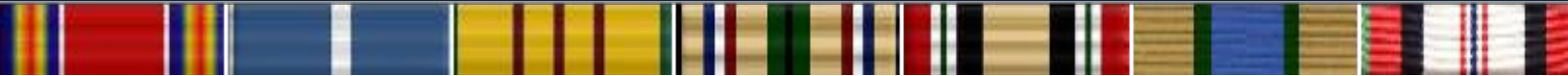




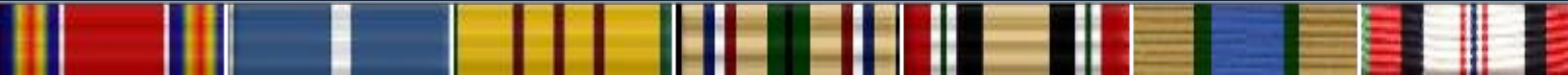




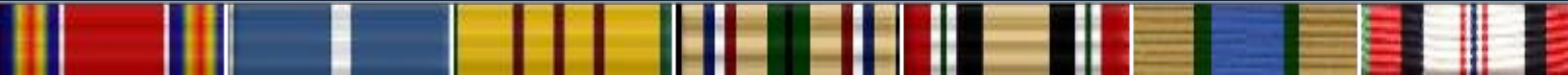


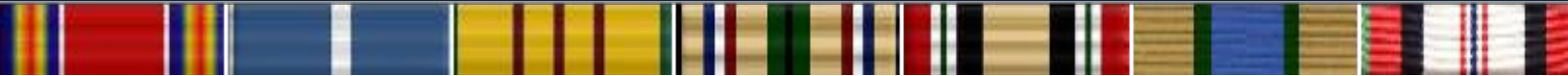
















## 2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

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<b>Department of California Staff</b>			
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VAVS MODD Dept. of CA Pack - Watch Dog	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	<a href="mailto:fausto_galvan471@yahoo.com">fausto_galvan471@yahoo.com</a>





## ATTENTION ON DECK

**EMAIL ADDRESSES:** If you did NOT receive this newsletter via email, it means your email isn't on the detachment roster. Please email Matt Valenzuela with your email address to: mattval@aol.com.

**DD214 REPLACEMENT AND MILITARY MEDALS & AWARDS:** Are you in need of a replacement DD214? Are you missing awards or medals and would like to get your records updated? Would you like to get the military records of a deceased next of kin? Please visit [www.archives.gov/veterans/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/) to fill out the eVetRecs online system or download the SF180 form.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS:** Members more than 6 months past due will no longer receive the newsletter and will be removed from the roster prior to publication. MCL National HQ requires a new application if a member is more than 12 months past due. To bring your dues up to date, contact the Paymaster. Renewal dues are \$40 per year, and due in September. New member dues are \$45. All new applicants for regular membership must be prepared to show proof of Honorable military service with a DD214.

### **MCL Det. #597 GENERAL MEETINGS**

1st Thursday of each month

**Simi Valley Elks Lodge #2492**

**1561 Kuehner Drive**

**Simi Valley, CA 93065**

Meet and Greet 1800

Dinner 1800-1859

Meeting 1900

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

3rd Wednesday of each month from 1600-1800

US Bank Building

1445 East Los Angeles Avenue, Room 302

Simi Valley, CA 93065