



The Gipper

Marine Corps League
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597
Semper Fidelis

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Marines, Corpsmen and Associate Members:

What a hectic past few weeks.

To start, this year's Birthday Ball was a great success. Those who attended came looking their best, "Dressed to the Nines." Chaplain Bradley Cantley, who dressed like "Digger O'Dell" looked fantastic, and gave a very strong and moving invocation to kick off the festivities. As expected, our Detachment's Color Guard and "Cake" detail performed and looked their best. The high-lite of the evening was our guest speaker, Sergeant Major Ramona Cook who gave one of the best motivational talks I have ever heard. Her resume is astounding and if you haven't read it, it's available on our webpage under Birthday Ball and then Guest Speaker. If the Marine Corps were smart, they should bring her back and have her give motivational speeches all over the country.

I would be amiss if I didn't take another opportunity to thank Ken "Doc" Honaker our Jr. Vice Commandant and Chairman, for doing a superb job in organizing and making the Ball another success. Thank you, Doc. Can't wait till next year. For those who missed it, it was a terrific evening.

Right after the Ball, Thanksgiving was upon us and I reflected on what I had to be thankful for this past year. First, for your belief that I could do the job as your Commandant. I really enjoyed this past year and as my wife Edna says, "you work harder at this job than you did when you worked for a living and enjoy it more." I am also thankful for the Board of Trustees for their dedication to our Detachment. Outside of our four elected officers, we have an additional six officers who volunteered. As you have seen, they have done a terrific job and hopefully they will continue into next year.



Then came our monthly Business Meeting of the 6th of December and our annual Christmas Party. Ben Pfister, PDD and Pound Keeper for MODD Pound 325, was the Chairman for this year's event and he did a superb job. He hired "Viva la Pasta" to do the catering and the Board of Trustees were the "servers" for the evening. After the delicious meal, Ben and his lovely wife Sue, started the "White Elephant" festivities which seems to bring the "dark side" out in everyone who participated. A lot of fun was had by all, but Matt Valenzuela can lower his prize now, nobody wants to "steal" that.

On 24 November, we lost one of our Senior Members and a dear friend to everyone in the Detachment, Ed Farra. Ed, a Korean Veteran, went to be with our Supreme Commandant. As is customary we usually drape our charter and "honor" the fallen, but because of the "short" meeting this evening, I thought this to be inappropriate. I spoke with Ed's son, Rich, and I decided with his permission to forego the "honors" for Ed until our January meeting where we can give him the proper respect.

In between all of this, our Color Guard had many details, the Toys for Tots year kicked off in Thousand Oaks and we start to prepare for the Holidays. Below is a picture of our Robert Martinez at the T.O. shopping center Toys for Tots location.

On December 11, our Detachment accepted over 1000 assorted toys for our Toys for Tots campaign at the Elks Lodge. Pictured from L/R: Larry Fischer, Ramon Arevalo, Keri Sears (lady who donated the toys) April Giosetti (Exalted Ruler of the Simi Valley Elks) and Jack Parfitt accept the toys.







Because of our notoriety and community outreach, our Detachment 597 has a column on the Ventura Star Facebook page. To get into it, just go to Facebook and in the open area on top left, type in...VC Star Community News.

One last note, this first Thursday of January 2019, we will be taking nominations for the 2019 election of officers for our Detachment. The positions open are: Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant, and Judge Advocate. To nominate a member to these positions, the member must be present or has notified the Adjutant that he/she is willing to accept if elected. The member may also contact the Adjutant or Commandant and nominate him/her self. February 7th will be the next nominating night and it is also the election night. All nominations must be done in February and then we will have the elections. The March 7th meeting will be the "swearing in" ceremony.

I know that some of our members are planning to go to the Marine West 2019 Expo. You must be present at our meeting to be able to vote. Per our By-laws, there shall not be any "absentee" ballots or anything else.

To all our Members, Associates and Friends of Detachment 597, I want to wish everyone
A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Until next year and Semper Fi,
I remain,

Dick Jennings
Commandant



SRVICE COMMANDANT

Harry Hodges

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Marines and Associate members,

Well the end of 2018 is upon us and our beloved MCL continues to do well. Our membership is growing, our Ball was successful, and our Christmas party was fun and had good food. The Ships Store is also doing well, and I'll continue to keep the red polo shirts in stock; as for other colors in the polo shirts, they will have to be special ordered and be paid in full prior to ordering them. There will be no returns or refunds on special ordered shirts. Winter is here, so don't forget we have MCL jackets, they are nice and warm and look great. Completely done with embroidery they run about \$135.00, our Red covers are \$30.00, and cap ornaments are between \$6 and \$7.

Semper Fi,
Harry Hodges
Senior Vice & Ships Store Rep





JR. PASTCOMMANDANT

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REAL ID ACT

After the terrorist acts of 9/11/01, the federal government, in an attempt to prevent further terrorism and/or unlawful entry into and out of the country, looked at ways to increase security of state issued driver licenses and identification cards (IDs).

WHAT IS THE REAL ID ACT?

The REAL ID Act was passed by Congress on 11 May 2005, in response to the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the Federal Government "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver licenses to make fraudulent identification harder to obtain and use." The Act is a mandate on Federal agencies and establishes minimum security standards for state-issued driver licenses and identification cards and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for official purposes licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards. The jurisdictions covered by the Act includes: accessing federal facilities, entering nuclear power plants, and boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft.

REAL ID is not considered a first step toward a national data base? REAL ID is a national set of standards, not a national identification card, and does not create a federal database of driver license information. Each jurisdiction continues to issue its own unique license, maintains its own records, and controls who gets access to those records and under what circumstances. The purpose of REAL ID is to make our identity documents more consistent and secure. Once the Act is fully implemented, residents without the new mandated ID will need to provide a valid U.S. passport or permanent residency card in place of the new ID.

THE PROS AND CONS OF THE REAL ID

Proponents of the REAL ID Act cite its benefits to national security. These measures ensure that non-citizens are unable to obtain state-issued IDs or driver licenses, and also prevent anyone without one from boarding aircraft or entering high-security locations. Similarly, these IDs would place the United States in the company of nearly 100 other countries in the world (including most European countries) that have some form of a national ID card.

However, many states oppose the implementation of the REAL ID Act based upon the estimated cost. The Act is an unfunded mandate, meaning that while the requirement is federally issued, the entire cost of recreating and re-issuing millions of licenses and ID cards falls solely upon the states – without any financial assistance from the federal government. States are therefore required to raise their licensing fees in order to make up the added cost... putting an extra financial burden upon the licensee, who may simply be attempting to transfer one valid license into the REAL ID format.

Another major concern is the idea of personal information being gathered and stored into what some are calling a "national database." In order for the DHS and TSA to validate a citizen's identity, they need to collect and store the information that otherwise would be solely kept by individual states. Many are worried about the "Big Brother" implications this may have to personal privacy.



MAJOR EFFECTS UPON IMMIGRANTS

Immigrants, and foreign nationals working in the United States, are similarly worried about how the REAL ID Act may affect their abilities to live and work within the country. Since the new REAL ID requirements are much more stringent than what some states may currently employ, foreigners without legal proof of entry into the country or without a social security number may be barred from obtaining a driver license, limiting their means of travel throughout country and possibly forcing them to return to their home country to renew their ID. But, supporters of the REAL ID Act cite this as an example of the system working properly, since it ensures that the only people working and traveling within the U.S. are those that the government has officially allowed to be here. At present, a passport affords you access to domestic flights along with cross-border access.

THE HISTORY OF THE REAL ID ACT (2005-present)

On 11 May 2005, the House of Representatives passed the REAL ID Act that modifies U.S. federal law pertaining to security, authentication, and issuance procedures for driver licenses and identity documents regulated by the individual states.

The Act sets forth requirements for state driver licenses and ID cards to be accepted by the federal government for "official purposes", as defined by the Secretary of the [United States Department of Homeland Security](#) (DHS). The Secretary of DHS has defined "official purposes" as boarding commercially operated airline flights and entering federal buildings and nuclear power plants, although the law gives the Secretary the unlimited authority to require a "federal identification" for any other purposes.

The Real ID Act implements the following:

- Title II of the act establishes new federal standards for state-issued driver licenses and non-driver identification cards.
- Changing visa limits for temporary workers, nurses, and [Australian](#) citizens.
- Funding some reports and pilot projects related to border security.
- Introducing rules covering "delivery bonds" (similar to [bail](#), but for aliens who have been released pending hearings).
- Updating and tightening the laws on application for asylum and deportation of aliens for [terrorism](#).
- Waiving laws that interfere with construction of physical barriers at the borders.

Enforcement of the REAL ID Act was resisted by many state governments who feel that the Act infringes upon states' rights granted to them by the 10th Amendment and causes increased costs to taxpayers to implement the Act's provisions. After passing the bill into law, the House tabled enforcement until 2007, when it was announced that the federal enforcement of the act would be postponed again for an additional two years. In 2010, the federal government announced that all states would have to be in compliance with the REAL ID Act by the end of [2017](#).

States had made considerable progress and by 2010 every state had a more secure driver license than before the passage of the Act but by February 2013, only 19 states had demonstrated compliance with the [REAL ID Act](#). Additional compliance started to gain traction following events like the Boston Marathon bombings and people throughout the country started seeing changes to their driver licenses and state IDs.

REAL ID BECOMES MANDATORY

On December 20, 2013, following years of "deferred enforcement", the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that implementation of Phase 1 would begin on January 20, 2014. There are four planned



phases, three of which apply to areas that affect relatively few U.S. citizens—e.g., DHS headquarters, nuclear power plants, and restricted and semi-restricted federal facilities such as military bases.

On January 8, 2016, DHS issued an implementation schedule for Phase 4, stating that starting on January 22, 2018 "passengers with a driver license issued by a state that is still not compliant with the REAL ID Act (and has not been granted an extension) will need to show an alternative form of acceptable identification to board their domestic flight". Further, on October 1, 2020 "every air traveler will need a REAL ID-compliant license, or another acceptable form of identification, for domestic air travel."

Residents from a state/territory that is compliant with REAL ID or non-compliant with REAL ID, but has received an extension may continue to use their current state/territory-issued driver licenses and identification cards, regardless of whether the card is REAL ID compliant or not, for accessing federal facilities, including military bases. This is called "state-based" enforcement. Only the state that issued the resident's license/ID must be either compliant or have been granted an extension in order for that resident to use that license/ID for accessing federal facilities. The license/ID itself does not have to be REAL ID compliant until "card-based" enforcement begins on October 1, 2020.

HOW DRIVER LICENSES / IDS ARE AFFECTED

The REAL ID Act sets forth new federally mandated requirements for all state driver licenses and ID cards. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) set standards similar to those already in place in most states. On each driver license and ID, the following information must be present:

- Full legal name
- Residential address
- Birth date
- Gender
- Driver license/identification card number
- Digital front-facing photograph
- Signature

Driver licenses and IDs must now also include a common barcode and security device to prevent tampering with or counterfeiting of the card, and must display a star in the upper right-hand corner, signifying that the card-holder's identification has been approved by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and that the identity has been verified. As of year-end 2017, all applicants must present the following documents during the Driver License / ID application process:

- A photo ID, or non-photo ID that contains the applicant's full legal name and birth date
- Valid birth certificate
- Social Security number
- Proof of legal U.S. citizenship, OR proof of lawful admittance into or temporary residence within the U.S.

Lastly, each state must also agree to share its database of licensed citizens and drivers with all other states, including every piece of data on the cards themselves (name, address, birth date, etc.), along with all driving records and driver histories of everyone licensed to drive in the state.

As of January 22, 2018, airline passengers with a state-issued driver license in a state or territory not yet compliant with the Real ID act have been required to show an alternative form of identification to fly domestically. If you do not have an alternative form of identification to go along with your state-issued



driver license, you will not be permitted through the security checkpoint. Passengers who have licenses issued by a state that is compliant or that has an extension to become compliant with REAL ID requirements may continue to use their licenses as usual.

Driver licenses from states on the extension list will fail to meet the federal government's minimum-security standards under the Real ID Act after October 10, 2018, though as in previous years, these states will more than likely receive deadline extensions to the final deadline.

At present, 39 states and territories have been certified as compliant, and 17 have been granted extensions so all fifty-six states and territories are currently compliant with REAL ID or non-compliant with an extension. The residents from these states and territories may continue using their state -issued driver licenses or identification cards, regardless of whether the license/ID is REAL ID compliant.

Residents of the Real ID-compliant states/territories as well as some of those on the extension list, like California and Oregon, are now able to obtain Real ID cards and driver licenses from their local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices.

Starting October 1, 2020, every domestic air traveler will need to present a Real ID driver license, a REAL ID identification card or a passport in order to access federal facilities, enter nuclear power plants, or board commercial aircraft. A Real ID-compliant license or card is one that meets and is issued by a state or territory that complies with the Real ID Act.

Starting October 1, 2020, every state and territory resident will need to present a REAL ID compliant license/ID, or another acceptable form of identification. This is called "card-based" enforcement. The card, itself, must be REAL ID compliant unless the resident is using an alternative acceptable document such as a passport. The Act does not require individuals to present identification where it is not currently required to access a federal facility (such as to enter the public areas of the Smithsonian) nor does it prohibit an agency from accepting other forms of identity documents other than documents from non-compliant states (such as a U.S. passport or passport card).

DO YOU NEED A REAL ID?

If you want to travel by air or visit federal facilities after 20 October 2020, you will need a valid passport, military ID, other federally approved form of ID (including a REAL ID Driver License or ID Card). If you don't want to travel by air or visit a federal facility, or if you have a valid passport or military ID card, YOU DO NOT NEED A REAL ID driver license!

If you want a REAL ID driver license, you must fill out the Electronic Driver License and ID Card Application on-line, record your Application Reference Number and then visit a DMV facility, including a Driver License Processing Center (DLPC).

REAL ID PROCESS

Before you renew your driver license or identification card, or apply for a new one, you must choose between a REAL ID card and a federal non-compliant one. You have a choice between a federal compliant REAL ID driver license or identification (ID) card or a federal non-compliant driver license or ID card.

REAL ID DRIVER LICENSE OR ID CARD

If you choose to get a REAL ID driver license or ID card you must visit a DMV field office (appointment is highly recommended to avoid standing in line) and present original or certified documents (no photo copies) proving your identity, Social Security number and residency (photocopies accepted). Note: Additional



original or certified documents will be required if you have changed your legal name. You MUST complete the Electronic Driver License and ID Card Application on-line before your office visit. Pay the application fee: \$35 for Driver License or \$30 for ID Card (cash, check or debit card only-credit cards are NOT accepted).

Federal Non-Compliant Driver License / ID

To apply for a Federal Non-Compliant Driver License / ID, You can [renew online](#) or by mail (if eligible), and avoid going into a DMV field office. This card will have the phrase "FEDERAL LIMITS APPLY" on its front. You may NOT use a Federal Non-Compliant Driver License / ID, to board a domestic flight or enter a secure federal facility that requires identification –such as a military base- starting October 1, 2020. (You will have to use some other valid identification such as a valid U.S. Passport).

If you choose to get a REAL ID driver license or ID card, you must visit a DMV Office with one document from each section below:

1. Identity Document (original or certified copy only)
2. Unexpired U.S. passport or passport card • Certified copy of birth certificate from a U.S. state or U.S. territory • U.S. certificate or consular report of birth abroad • Unexpired foreign passport with valid U.S. visa and approved I-94 form • Certificate of naturalization or citizenship
3. Proof of Social Security Number (full number required, no copies)
4. • Social Security card • W-2 form • SSA-1099 form • Non-SSA-1099 form • Paystub
5. Proof of California Residency (copies accepted, no electronic files)
6. Home utility bills (including cellular phone) • Medical documents • Car or Boat registration • Employment documents • Insurance documents • Bank and Financial institution records • Change of Address confirmation by the U.S. Postal Service • Mortgage bill, rental or lease agreement (signed by owner and tenant) • IRS or California FTB tax return

After you successfully complete the DMV process and pay the required fees, you will be told to expect your REAL ID Driver License in the mail within 10 business days. I received mine in eight days.

Semper Fi,
Jerry R. German
Junior Past Commandant



JUDGE ADVOCATE

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Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!



ADJUTANT

John Coley

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From the Desk of the Adjutant

Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,

I have been AWOL since about the 13th of November when I was admitted to Los Robles Hospital with a myriad of severe health issues. I had issues with parts of the body that I did not know existed. I was transported to the ER by Commandant Jennings on early morning of my birthday, when in previous years I would be headed to a local tavern where I could drink beer free on your birthday.

For me to pass up free beer should give you an idea of how badly I was feeling! I asked the Commandant to send a message that I wanted no visitors or phone calls, that was about as successful as asking for award recommendations three months in a row.

But every situation has its bright side. Visitors were bringing me their impression of how things were going within the detachment and not from the board of directors' side. Did not vary by a lot, but just enough where it should be sent to the Gipper for an explanation. I was privy to see pictures of events before they were "published" on social media. I was extremely impressed by the pictures from the Ball, especially by the radiant smile of our newest member Miss Jeanne during the social hour. The ceremony in the pictures looked sharp, considering the amount of time that the participants had to prepare. I have been going to Balls faithfully since 1964 and participated in a great number of them over the years. This one looked sharp!! (With a few exceptions).

The cake cutting was the highlight of the ceremony and always my favorite part. By tradition, the first piece of cake is given to the Guest of Honor who this year was SgtMaj Ramona Cook, last SgtMaj of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Her impressive biography can be found on the MCL 597 webpage under Birthday Ball Guest of Honor.

The second piece of cake is given to the oldest Marine present, who this year is Cpl Jeanne Irving. She was born in Cincinnati Ohio and joined the Marine Corps in 1943 as a radio operator and served at MCAS Mojave teaching aerial gunnery, then to MCAS Santa Barbara for air and sea rescue missions and discharged in 1945. The third piece of cake is passed from the oldest Marine present to the youngest Marine present who was Cpl. Dillon Parker. He was born in 1991 at 29 Palms CA and enlisted in the Marine Corps in Granada Hills, CA in July of 2011, leaving for MCRD San Diego 26 Sept 2011. Obtaining the MOS of 0351, Assault man, he was assigned to 1st Mar Div., 2nd Bn, 7th Marines in 29 Palms CA. Deployed to Helmand Province Afghanistan Nov 2012, injured in an IED blast Dec 2012 receiving the Purple Heart Medal, remained in country to finish tour. Dillon was discharged Oct. 2015 at 29 Palms CA and is married to Kelsee and has 3 daughters. As a side note, Dillon was a member of the Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines before enlisting and worked with the unit after discharge.



I am hoping to be a little more active in the Detachment again after this setback. I especially miss doing the Honor Guard and Color Guard Details and feel as if I am letting my Brothers down by leaving some details short-handed. But that part will have to wait until I put on 15 pounds so my trousers fit again.

Thank you all for the well wishes and have a most joyous Holiday Season.

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

818-208-1095



Woof Woof Devil Dogs and Detachment Members,

I hope everyone is ready for Ole Saint Nick, he gets faster as I get slower, if seems that he gets quicker every year.

Our next Growl is Jan 8th 2019, wow time sure flies by. It will be held at VFW Post 2323 in Granada Hills at 17522 Chatsworth St. The Growl starts at 1900 hrs; but please come early for some socializing.

Pound 325 is growing and if you are a regular member that has been an active in the MCL for 1 year or more and would like to become a MODD member then contract the Commandant Dick Jennings.



CHAPLAIN Bradley Cantley

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Cell: 805-813-3571



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:

Rudy Cordero—has evidently cut off his thumb while doing work around his house. Please keep him in your prayers as he recovers from his injury.

Matt Valenzuela—has recently endured thoracic surgery to remove a tennis ball size mass attached and growing behind his heart. Seems to be in good spirits, but pray for a fast recovery and healing.

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

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.

Buggs Ansell - On oxygen 24/7

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

Brad Cantley—Dealing with crap-pain has intensified but trying to keep it under wraps.

Hospitalized/homebound veterans—Please no visitation to any veterans without checking with the veteran, or family or at the nurses station. So out of respect to them I have excluded their names, but still want to pray for their quick recovery and healing.

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.

God Bless and Semper Fi,
Chaplain Brad



COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

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Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!



HISTORIAN

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Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!



William Trammell

Vice President Los Angeles Chapter #8

Montford Point Marines Association

wmtrammell@twc.com

Marines,

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!!!

Semper Fi,

William M. Trammell

Vice President Los Angeles Chapter #8

Montford Point Marine Association, Inc



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MANAGING EDITOR
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We lost two Marines this year, Ralph Wilson and Elwood Farra. Elwood Farra was my father.

My father joined the USMCR in 1947 at the age of 17, and after turning 18 he joined the USMC. Because of his education in radio electronics, he was sent to Tennessee for aviation electronics school, and in 1949, he was sent to MCAS El Toro for airborne operator school. In 1950, he was on a ship, part of a convoy, to Korea for the Inchon landing. Once there, he along with other Marines climbed down the nets into transports as the USS Missouri fired its 16 inch canons above them.

On shore and at Kimpo air field Korea, they dug fox holes for cover. In October 1950 the R4Ds arrived in Japan and he and his crew mates were reunited with their aircraft. During this time Marines were moving into the Chosin Reservoir where there were surrounded by over 200,000 Chinese soldiers. His squadron's task was to bring in ammunition and supplies as well as evacuate the wounded. Ed and his crew flew into make shift landing zones which were completely surrounded by over 70,000 Chinese soldiers positioned within 200 yards of the landing area. Elwood's aircraft made supply and evacuation flights into hot areas where they rescued hundreds of wounded Marines. Many aircraft were shot down and/or disabled. His squadron received a Unit Citation for saving 4,685 Marines and supplying ammunition and supplies in the



reservoir while encountering heavy small arms fire; Ed was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism and courage under fire.

After the Korean War, Ed met and married Mitsy his soulmate and love of his life for 65 years. Ed and Mitsy had two sons Donald and Richard (me). In April 1969, Ed with the rank of Captain he retired from the USMC, while staying in the USMCR until 1977.

For the rest of his life he lived and breathed Honor and Duty to Country. He was proud to be a Marine as he had many USMC bumper stickers on his cars, wearing at least two pieces of apparel with the EGA on them, and flying the American and Marine flags on his house.

To the world he was a Marine, but to me he was my father. I will miss him dearly.

Elwood's burial ceremony will be on Saturday January 5, at 1:45pm at the Riverside National Cemetery with a reception to follow.

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 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

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**MARINES, CORPSMEN, AND ASSOCIATES,
GOD IS GOOD!**

I want to thank the Good Lord for looking out for you and me, and I want to thank you for being in my corner and for placing me on your Prayer List.

I believe in the power of prayer and with the surgeons not knowing which way it would go, we knew that with God's will and all the support from fellow Veterans, friends, and relatives, all would go well. However, if I had known what it entailed, I do not think I would have been as brave to go through with it.

The Thoracic Surgeon had to deflate my right lung to get behind my heart and remove the mass growing and attached behind my heart; the doctor said that when they looked at the nuclear PET Scan, it lit up like a Christmas tree and was as big as a tennis ball. The great news is that they did not have to crack my chest open. The surgeon, one of the best in Ventura County decided to implement robotic surgery; they just made four holes on my side, one big enough to pull it through by spreading my ribs, and Bob's your uncle.

I do know that many of you have had a similar, more delicate experience, or even a harsher ordeal, so you know how I feel at the moment. Growing old is certainly not for the timid.

Again, thank you for your concern and your prayers.

God Bless you and yours and have a Happy New Year!

Semper Fi,

Matt Valenzuela

Dept. CA Sr. Vice Commandant

MODD Pack Sr. Vice Pack Leader



PAYMASTER'S CORNER

ANDY DOBRZYNSKI

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Detachment Members,

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year to you all!

Thank you very much for all those who attended the Elk's Bingo Night. We had a tremendous turnout and a lot of fun, and we raised a total of \$1,100 for the Detachment!!!

Just to make you aware, those of you that will seek reimbursement for mileage must turn in a total mileage reimbursement request and not gas station receipts. The mileage in 2019 will be calculated at 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

For example: 100 charitable miles x .14 = \$14.00

Your Paymaster,
Andy Dobrzynski

BINGO NIGHT

Bingo Night was a huge success last night. Here are a few pictures to show how many came and the fun they had.

Pic #1 Paymaster Andy Dobrzynski selling "pull tabs" to a Elks member.

Pic #2 Members of the Detachment (Tom King in forefront) trying to figure out how to play these games.

Pic #3 Edna Jennings in deep discussion with the lady's of the DAR while Debbie Sands and Jim Wagner figure out how they lost.





VERY HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Anthony L. Saunders	1/4
John Mitchell *Life	1/4
Jean McCreary	1/8
James Britton *Life	1/9
John E. Miller *Life	1/9
William Waite	1/10
John R. Fuentes *Life	1/13
Ivone Quintera-cagnacci	1/15
James M Dobrzynski	1/16

Albert Rodriguez	1/17
James Lieberknecht *Life	1/21
Douglas C. Morrison, III *Life	1/23
Robert Earley	1/24
Jose Luis DeLa Cruz, Jr. *Life	1/26
Toni Reed	1/29
Donald R. Joy *Life	1/30
David Opfer *Life	1/30
Mike Nolan	1/31



2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Rank or Title	Name	Phone	E-mail
Commandant	Richard A. Jennings	805-328-9817	MCL597Commandant@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Commandant	Harry Hodges	805-515-1401	Hodges1951@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commandant	Ken "Doc" Honaker	805-416-4063	kdhonaker@gmail.com
Jr. Past Commandant	Jerry German	818-324-2338	jrgerman@sbcglobal.net
Judge Advocate	John Miller	805-581-5462	johnemillerusmc@gmail.com
Adjutant	John Coley	805-368-1086	w4simi@yahoo.com
Paymaster	Andy Dobrzynski	805-428-5902	andydobrzynski@gmail.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	Faustogalvan14@gmail.com
MODD Pound Keeper	Ben Pfister	805-208-1095	benpdet597@gmail.com
Corporal of the Guard	John Fuentes	805-485-4230	John.R.Fuentes@Nav.mil
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Color Guard Commander	Ruy Peña	818-912-9863	colorguard597@gmail.com
Color Guard Vice Commander	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	Faustogalvan14@gmail.com
Training Officer	Darrell Lee	818-304-3580	dardan226@hushmail.com
MC Birthday Ball Committee Chair	Ken "Doc" Honaker	805-416-4063	kdhonaker@gmail.com
Ship's Store Captain	Harry Hodges	805-515-1401	Hodges1951@gmail.com
Fundraising Chairman	Harry Hodges	805-515-1401	Hodges1951@gmail.com
2018 MCL Golf Tournament	Dick Jennings	805-328-9817	2018golftourney@gmail.com
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	Timothy Stratton	661-257-9690	e-8sierra@sbcglobal.net
	Juan Avalos	(858) 229-1894	avalosjmscvym@gmail.com
Toys For Tots Chairman	John Mitchell	805-379-9664	Kathleen.Mitchell.is18@statefarm.com
Director of Associates	Valeria Galvan	818-302-9816	ValeriaHGalvan@yahoo.com
Department of California Staff			
Dept of CA Sr Vice Commandant MODD CA Pack – Sr. Vice Pack Leader	Matt E. Valenzuela	310-308-7015	mattval@aol.com
VAVS MODD Dept. of CA Pack - Watch Dog	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	fausto_galvan471@yahoo.com



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/ 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