



The Gipper

Marine Corps League
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597
Semper Fidelis



Richard Jennings, Commandant
mcl597commandant@gmail.com
Richard Farra, Managing Editor
richfarra@gmail.com
Matt Valenzuela, Publisher
mattevalenzuela@gmail.com

MAY 2018



COMMANDANT
Richard Jennings

MCL597Commandant@gmail.com
805-328-9817



Marines, Corpsmen and Associate Members:

One of our Mission Statements is "Community Service." Well, I've been trying to fill this as best I can. In the time I've been Commandant, I have addressed the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Sunrise Rotary of Simi Valley, have participated in the "Pass in Review" at Royal High School. On Monday, May 7, I will accept a certificate from the Simi City Council on behalf of the Detachment celebrating Veterans Month. We were honored, along with other service organizations by the VA at a luncheon for Volunteers. The Color Guard presented colors and I accepted a beautiful glass plaque thanking us for everything we've done this past year. I am not writing this to brag of what "I" have done but to acknowledge what "we" have done as a Detachment and to let people in our community know who we are and what we are about.

If any of you feel that I should be someplace to represent the Detachment, please let me know and I will do my best to be there.

I just want to commend the men of our Detachment for answering the call. I was asked if I could get some "pallbearers" to help load "Gunny" Emery's casket on the hearse going to Palmdale. Eight men stepped up, not all from the color guard and helped at the Reardon Mortuary. I just want to say thank you and I knew I could depend on all of you to come through.

Our next Board Meeting is on May 16 at 4pm in the US Bank Bldg on LA Avenue.



On a personal note, my 2nd book has been published and is on Amazon.com. The title, "A Shooter's Moon"

Thank you so much Marine and Semper Fi

Richard Jennings
Commandant MCL 597



SR. VICE COMMANDANT

Harry Hodges

Hodges1951@gmail.com

805-583-8951, Mobile



Marines and Associate members,

- 1) Don't forget to check your ships store for your Silk Screen and Embroidered Polo Shirts. We also have the red MCL garrison covers (piss cutters) in Men's and Women's sizes,
- 2) We also have MCL T-shirts for 10:00 in sizes XL, 2XL, and 3XL
- 3) Also check out our collection of MCL patches, pins, decals and challenge coins.

Thank You
Harry Hodges
Senior Vice & Ships Store Rep



JR. VICE COMMANDANT

Ken 'Doc' Honaker

JrviceMCL597@gmail.com

805-416-4063, Mobile



Greetings Marines and Associates,

The May 12th Simi Valley Street Fair was a bustling affair in its new location at the Simi Valley Town Center. According to the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, there were 25% more vendor booths this year versus last year when it was held on Cochran Street - between Galena and Sequoia Streets. There was a broad variety of vendors and attendees ranging from arts and crafts, ethnic foods, government services, and political representatives.



I'm proud to say that there were several active duty Marines who stopped by our booth, and family members of Marines currently serving. Oohrah. Perhaps we will see some of these active duty, turn Veterans will be future members of the 597 - we did have a handful fill in their contact information on our sign-in sheets.



I want to thank those Marines and associates who helped set up the booth, greet visitors, and tear down. We had enough coverage that I was able to slip away for my grandson's baseball game nearby. I hesitate to list the names in case leave someone off the list. They know who they are and they contribute greatly to getting out to proudly represent the 597.

The next event coming up for the Big Red Canopy will be the Cajun Festival May 26th and 27th at the Rancho Santa Susana Community Park, opposite the Simi Valley train stop. Concurrent with the Cajun Festival event on Saturday the 26th, California Lutheran University will be hosting a Veterans picnic at the campus. The Cal Lu event is from 1200-1600 hours Saturday only. The Veterans picnic event will NOT include the Big Red Canopy.

The Cajun Festival hours for both days will be 1000-2000 hours. Setup for the Cajun Festival will be 0800 on Saturday. Enter from Stearns street for parking and booth attendance. Tear down will be Sunday at 2000 hrs.

We are considering having a booth at the 4 July celebration. It would also be a long day from 1100-2200 hrs. Attend the booth, picnic and watch fireworks to commemorate our Independence Day. Stay tuned.

Semper Fi
 "Doc" Honaker
 Jr. Vice Commandant



JR. PASTCOMMANDANT

Jerry R. German

jrgerman@sbcglobal.net

818-324-2338, Mobile



A Part of Something Big

The Marine Corps League was founded by Lieutenant General John A. LeJeune USMC in 1923. It is the only federally chartered Marine Corps-related Veteran Service Organization in the United States. The League is organized into Departments in each of the 50 states. The Department of California has 53 MCL Detachments located in Mt. Shasta and Susanville to the north, San Diego and Chula Vista to the south and 49 other communities in between.

The earliest Department of California Detachment to be Chartered was Glendale-Burbank Detachment #15, chartered in 1943. MCAS El Toro Detachment # 17 was second in 1967. Third to be chartered was Detachment # 22 San Clemente in 1974. Fourth was Detachment # 19 Bill King Modesto in 1976 and fifth our own President Ronald Reagan Detachment # 597 on the 30th of June 1985. We are proud to be Veterans helping Veterans in Simi Valley for almost 33 years.

The Department of California has a total of 2362 members and associates in its 53 Detachments. The Detachments range in size from as few as 7 members to as many as 171 members. Our President Ronald Reagan Detachment # 597 is the largest of the 53 Department of California Detachments with 171 members and associates, 61 of them being Life Members of the Marine Corps League.

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to assist our fellow veterans to return to being happy, productive and contributing members of our communities upon returning from their active duty experiences. The League is especially focused on helping veterans who might have physical, mental or spiritual scars from their military service experiences. The Marine Corps League receives no government funding of any kind, so our veteran support programs are paid for by fund-raising activities held each year, primarily our Golf Tournament each June and our Marine Corps Birthday Ball each November. Our focus, as we approach the middle of May is our annual golf tournament. Commandant Dick Jennings is the Chair of the Golf Tournament Board and would appreciate your support as we plan and prepare for the 18Jun2018 golf tournament. Success of our tournament is paramount to our ability to support our fellow veterans and introduce our communities to the Marine Corps League. If you want to be a part of something big, call Dick or anyone on his Board today.

Semper Fi,
Jerry R. German
Junior Past Commandant



JUDGE ADVOCATE

John Miller

kathiemill@aol.com
(805) 581-5462



Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,

As a reminder, the National Marine Corps League bylaws state that ALL persons entering a Marine Corps League function must show their current Marine Corps League membership identification to attend. Remember to show your MCL identification upon signing in at our monthly meetings or events. Your ID can be the original or a copy on your cell phone. Please help us comply with our National leadership's orders. As many of you know the National Marine Corps League Convention will be held this August in Buffalo, New York. The current bylaws will be reviewed and according to reliable sources, the bylaws will be shorter and easier to understand to follow from now on.

Many things happened to make the Marine Corps what it is today. Its landmarks, past battles, and heroes are just a few that make us "The FEW The PROUD The MARINES," this slogan was voted the most recognized in the history of American marketing. We should be proud of this and know that the world knows about the US Marine Corps. The following are just a few events that are of interest and importance to us as Marines.

On April 5, 1776, our first Commandant, Captain Samuel Nichols, with 200 Marines and Sailors made the first amphibious assault against an armed enemy encampment. This unit attacked the British garrison in the Bahamas during the Revolutionary War and inflicted heavy damage on the garrison and their belief that American resolve was weak and ineffective.

The North Vietnamese Army with 120,000 men and 1,200 tanks began an offensive during April 1972 to wipe out the Republic of Viet Nam and its armed forces. This was later to be known as the Easter Offensive.

If General Neller attends one of our meetings, he must have ID. OK?

If anyone has a rule change or a suggestion for bylaw correction or establishment, please contact one of the Detachment Officers.

Semper Fidelis

John E Miller
Judge Advocate



ADJUTANT

John Coley

w4simi@yahoo.com



From the Desk of the Adjutant – May 2018

Marines, Corpsman and Associate Members

On the 19th of April, our beloved Commandant, Dick Jennings spoke to the Rotary Simi Sunrise about our upcoming Golf Tournament and his “Dream” of a Veterans Building in Simi Valley for the veterans in Ventura County. Both were very well received and help was offered by the members.

On the 24th of April our detachment had the honor of being pallbearers for the remains of Gunny F. Lee Ermev at the request of Member Anthony Hernandez, Managing Director of Reardon Funeral Home in Simi Valley. Pallbearers were John Miller, Brent Kast, Associate Dave Opfer, Louis “Jack” Parfitt, Harry Hodges, Ken “Doc” Honacker, Larry Fisher and Rudy Cordero.

May is going to be an exciting month with all of the upcoming events and then culminating with Memorial Day Weekend. On May 7th the detachment was presented a proclamation by the Mayor and the City Council of Simi Valley in recognition of National Military Recognition Month, accepted by our Commandant Dick Jennings. Santa Clarita Young Marines had their annual Fundraiser on the 12th of May at the Santa Clarita Elks Lodge, and that was a successful endeavor. The color guard has, and will be, very busy with Memorial Day approaching. So far four events are requested and the feeling is many more will be coming.

Remember the Golf Tournament on the 18th of June. We still need players! Buy your raffle tickets for the pistol and the Ball Drop. All proceeds above costs will help the veterans of Ventura County. Drawing and Ball Drop will occur following the tournament. Do not have to be present to win.

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

818-912-9863



Woof Woof,

Wow, we're already 5 months into 2018 - my how fast time flies. Remember when you were 21 years old how slow time seemed to pass, and now our life story is part of our country's history. With opportunities to volunteer valuable time and personal experience through involvement in the Detachment's Color Guard detail, Speaker's Bureau, Street Fairs, MODD, and MCL Annual Golf Tournament next month our members can make a difference in their own life and within our community.

And let's not forget to save some of that scarce and valuable time to enjoy our families, friends, and offer help at the VA. No wonder I often feel like taking a nap, but when in the heck would I find the time. At least I'm not by myself, because no matter where I go or what I do, I do it friends like you.

The MODD Pound 325 is growing, we now have 35 Devil Dogs. In the picture below, it shows 20 Devil Dogs who represent Detachments 597, 1277 and 1347.

Woof Woof





CHAPLAIN Bradley Cantley

bradleycantley@gmail.com

Cell: 805-813-3571



The Chaplain's Corner

Hello my fellow Marines and friends,

I do hope and pray you are all well.

As we are halfway through the month of May, and it is now time to reflect on memories past. But in this gloomy type month there is a beacon of hope, eagerness, and a love now for the United States. That beacon is in Santa Clarita/Canyon Country area, and it is our club of Young Marines. I had the honor, privilege, and humbleness to see them work their fundraiser. The amount of people that were there for these young Marines was incredible. I was truly amazed about the support and the volunteers who worked with these kids. I think that if more of us volunteer to help these kids. Seeing the respect they showed everyone and the professionalism they are learning. It is so much different from when of the volunteer's talks about to actually seeing it in person. Semper Fi, and a big OohRah!!!! To those who volunteer to help those kids. Oh a side note is that they could use more female volunteers for their female young marines. That way they can do all the activities like the boys.

Now I wonder about is trying to recruit new members. I know I sent out a flyer for everyone to print, but I know that is going out of our comfort zone to talk to strangers. But, I think that talking to some of our younger service members while you are out will help us increase our numbers. Let us work together to get our detachment in number one in recruiting new members. We got these Marines!! Oohrah!!

Isaiah 41:10-So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

1 Thessalonians 5:11-Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Take care and may God bless you all.

Semper Fi

Chaplain Brad



COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

Ruy Peña

colorguard597@gmail.com

818-912-9863, Mobile



Color Guard Report

The Detachment's Color Guard has been extremely busy with 15 Color Guard Detail events in April. Our event engagements have been increasing in number as we have been making a very positive impact within our community. On April 24th we had the honor of being the Color Guard Detail and pallbearers for "Gunny" Ronald Lee Ermey-there is an article submitted below by David Opfer. And on April 28th we also had the honor of presenting Colors at the California State Daughters of the American Revolution-the article below was submitted to the Gipper from DAR. Dave Opfer, Brent Kast, Harry Hodges and Ramon Arevalo performed the presentation of Colors at this event, and our very own Matt Valenzuela was the keynote speaker.

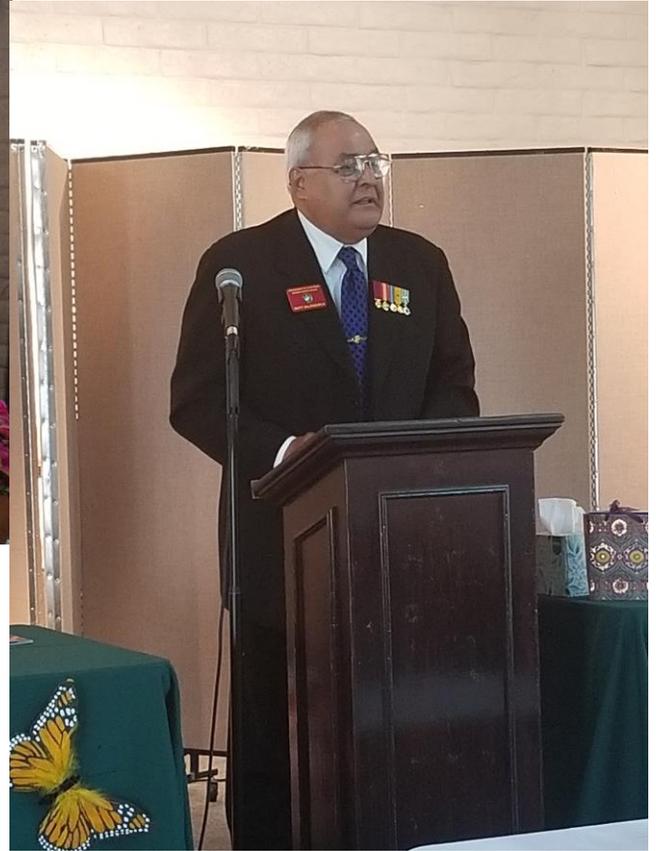
We can't do what we do without our members who volunteer their time and service to our Color Guard details. I am very grateful for all the dedication our members put forth. I encourage our members to participate in these events, we will help you march again and have fun doing it.

California State Daughters of the American Revolution District VII Meeting – April 28, 2018

Debbie Sands reported that Matt Valenzuela was our keynote speaker. His topic was "Patriotism and Overview of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library." Seventy-nine members of the various chapters of District VII California State Daughters of the American Revolution had their spring District meeting, hosted by the Rancho Simi Chapter, and was attended by our MCL 597 Associate, Debbie Sands, outgoing Corresponding Secretary of the chapter.

Debbie added, "The Color Guard did a fabulous job, as always, and the DAR members were really honored to have them officially commence our District meeting, as well as have Matt be our wonderful and enthusiastic speaker."

Pictured below Top left – Brent Kast, Dave Opfer, Donna Cohen (Tri-County District VII Director) and her husband, Harry Hodges, and Ramon Arevalo. Top right – Matt Valenzuela. Bottom left Donna Cohen and Matt Valenzuela. Bottom right – Dave Opfer, Harry Hodges, Ramon Arevalo, and Brent Kast.





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.

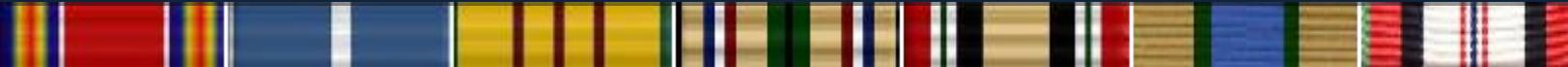
Most significantly, we are having our Annual Election of Officers, where we are always hearing a call for new blood, but where few new faces seem to found. Honestly, we do want new people in these vital positions! If you are not sure you can do the job, take the current holder of that office aside for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





MCL GOLF TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN

Dick Jennings

2018GOLFTOURNEY@GMAIL.COM

805-328-9817, Mobile



PLAYERS.....PLAYERS.....PLAYERS.....PLAYERS

When this May issue of the Gipper is sent out, there will be approximately 1 month until our golf tournament.

As the heading of this message says, we need players. Not only paid players, but we also need Disabled Veterans to fill out each foursome. There is no cost to these Veterans and they will be paired with each foursome. If you know of a Veteran who plays golf, please invite him to participate in the tournament. All they would have to do is go to our website www.2018golftournament.org and fill out the registration form. When it comes to charges, he/her only has to put in Veteran and as Matt always says, "Bob's your Uncle." Don't know what that means, but this is all they have to do.

Our last Volunteer meeting for the tournament will be on May 24, 2018 at the 99.1 The Ranch Radio Station starting at 6:30pm. This will be a very important meeting because assignments will be assigned. Please try to make it to this meeting.

For those who don't play golf, but who might like to come to the Awards Dinner immediately following the tournament at the Country Club BBQ and it's "all you can eat." The awards dinner is \$55 per person. If you want a reservation, just send me an email letting me know how many will be attending, you can pay at the door.

Remember, this is one of our Detachment's major annual fundraisers. Everyone is invited and try to get some PLAYERS, come out and play golf, and enjoy the fun.

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL ME AT (805) 328-9817 OR EMAIL 2018GOLFTOURNEY@GMAIL.COM



HISTORIAN

John Miller

kathiemill@aol.com

(805) 581-5462



Sgt. Alvin York
US Army
World War I
82nd Division

Alvin Cullum York was born on December 13, 1887 in the small Tennessee mountain village of Pall Mall. He was one of 11 children born to William and Mary York. His grandfather was a Union soldier during the civil war who deserted his post and fled to the mountains to hide from authorities. The York family was impoverished and harvested just enough food and grain to keep themselves alive. Mrs. York made all the children's clothing from skins and hand me downs from family and friends. Alvin spent only 9 months in a school setting and quit to help his family when his father died in 1911. Alvin took on the responsibility of raising his younger brothers and sisters and worked as a railroad construction laborer and a logger for a local saw mill. Early on he had a violent temper brought on by excessive drinking and saloon fights. He was arrested numerous times in both Tennessee and North Carolina.

After one episode (in jail) he wandered into a church revival and became a born again Christian. He became devout and took up the pacifists leanings of the church. His church was against all forms of violence and refused to comply with other local church doctrine. In 1917 when the United States entered World War I, Alvin stated "I was worried clean through and didn't want to go and kill. I believed in my bible." At age 29, Alvin was required to register with the local draft board and claimed conscientious objector status. His request was denied and he was sent off to Fort Gordon, Georgia while he waited for his appeal to work its



way through the civil and military hearings. Alvin never sought discharge from the Army, and never accepted his mother's request that he be exempt as the sole support of his family. His Company Commander was also a devout Christian and they compared bible scriptures that argued for and against war. Finally the Captain gave Alvin a 10 day pass and told him to return home and seek advice from his local pastor.

He returned convinced that God meant for him to fight and that God would look out for him and keep him safe. Upon his return to Georgia, he was shipped overseas to France and the battlefields around Chatel-Chehery (near Belleau Wood). His 17 man unit was ordered to infiltrate German lines and to take out and silence several machine gun nests that covered the valley. The unit got behind enemy lines and captured several German soldiers in a command complex. While they were escorting the prisoners back to allied positions, they were fired upon by the machine guns nests they had been ordered to neutralize. Six Americans were killed and three others wounded, leaving Corporal York as the senior NCO. He ordered his remaining men to stay and guard the prisoners while he attempted to flank the machine guns. One enemy position spotted Corporal York and began firing at him with their machine gun. Corporal York used his bolt action rifle to quickly pick off 19 German soldiers one by one. All the while he was yelling for the Germans to surrender, but they refused. Six Germans fixed bayonets and charged at Corporal York. His rifle was empty, so he drew his .45 caliber M1911 pistol and killed all six soldiers before they reached his position. A German Officer emptied his pistol at Corporal York without any results. Corporal York convinced the Officer to surrender. He accepted, and convinced his command to surrender also. All in all Corporal York silenced 2 machine gun nests, killed 25 German soldiers and had another 132 as prisoners.

York was promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Later, after a short investigation, the DSC was upgraded to the Congressional Medal of Honor. General John "Black Jack" Pershing himself, presented the medal to Sgt. York at a ceremony near the Western front. The French/ Allied Supreme Commander, Field Marshall Ferdinand Foch also presented Sgt. York with the French Croix e Guerre. Marshall Foch stated during the ceremony, "What you did was the greatest thing accomplished by any soldier in all the armies of Europe." Many other allied nations decorated Sgt. York for a total of over 50 citations and awards.

MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION

After his platoon suffered heavy casualties and three other Non Commissioned Officers became casualties, Corporal York assumed command. Fearlessly leading seven men he charged with great daring a machine gun nest which was pouring deadly and incessant fire upon his platoon. In this heroic feat the machine gun nest was taken together with four Officers and 128 men and several guns.

In explaining his actions, Sgt. York replied, "a higher power than man guided and watched over me and told me what to do."

Before leaving France, Sgt. York was the 82nd Division NCO to the convention that established the AMERICAN LEGION. In World War II, the 82nd Division became one of the first Airborne Divisions in the United States Army, becoming the 82nd Airborne Division.

His actions went unnoticed in the United States until The Saturday Evening Post published an article about his actions in France. The article described him as a man of faith, a mountaineer, with skills in firearms, who was patriotic, plainspoken and unsophisticated. A group of former Tennessee businessmen living in New York City arranged a parade and ceremony for Sgt. York when he returned to the United States.

On June 2, 1919, Sgt. York was discharged from the United States Army and returned to his home in the mountains. On June 7, 1919, he married his sweetheart Gracie Williams. The ceremony was performed by Tennessee Governor Albert Roberts.



Sgt. York remained a humble man and refused thousands of dollars for appearances, endorsements and newspaper articles. He even turned down the rights to his life story. He did champion the state of Tennessee to build a road to his rural mountain district and the road was completed in the 1920's and named the ALVIN C YORK HIGHWAY. He also formed a foundation to promote higher education in rural Tennessee. He did have severe financial difficulties during the great depression and had to borrow money to keep his farm. He complained, "I can get used to any hardship, but I'm not fitted for the hardship of owing money."

Sgt. York worked for the government as a supervisor for the Conservation Corps and he kept that job until 1940.

In 1941, during World War II, he attempted to re-enlist in the regular US Army, but at age 54, overweight, with arthritis and near diabetic, his request was denied. He was however, given a commission as a Major in the US Army Signal Corps and toured training camps and bond drives from 1942 onward.

This humble man of moderate means became an American icon of service and valor. He remained a Major in the Signal Corps and was also appointed a Colonel in the Tennessee State Guard. Not to be confused with the National Guard which can be federalized, the State Guard has jurisdiction only within the borders of the State of Tennessee.

In 1939 Sgt. York wrote of himself and his family, "We are the decedents of the pioneer long hunters of the mountains, have been called Scotch-Irish and pure Anglo-Saxon, and that is complimentary, I reckon. But, we want the world to know that we are Americans. The spiritual environment and our religious life in the mountains have made our spirit wholly American, and like that true pioneer American spirit still exists in the Tennessee Mountains. Even today with all the clamor of the world and its evil attractions, you still find in the little humble log cabins in the Tennessee Mountains, the old fashioned family alter of prayer... The same that they used in grandma and grandpa's day. WHICH IS THE SPIRIT OF THE LONG HUNTERS. We in Tennessee are not transplanted Europeans: Every fiber in our body and every emotion in our hearts is AMERICAN."

In 1941, the movie "Sgt. York" was released starring Gary Cooper in the title role. It gained 11 Oscar nominations, winning two, including Best Actor for Gary Cooper. Sgt. Alvin York made \$150,000 off the movie and royalties and had a 10 year battle with the IRS. He came out ahead in the end.

Alvin and his wife Gracie had 8 children, 6 boys and 2 girls. Even in the naming of his children, he proved to be an American through and through. His children were named: Alvin Cullum Jr., George Buxton, Woodrow Wilson, Sam Houston, Andrew Jackson, Betsy Ross, Mary Alice and Thomas Jefferson York. He raised his children to be good and decent citizens and his youngest son Thomas, was the local Police Constable. He was killed in the line of duty when a man shot and killed him during a traffic investigation in Fentress County, Tennessee on May 7, 1972.

On Memorial Day 1941, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, he said: "Veterans understand that liberty and freedom are so very precious, that you don't fight and win them once and stop. That slogan "THE WAR TO END ALL WARS" was not right, we are no better off now than we were then." He also said that any man who talks against the interests of his own country, ought to be arrested and put in jail, not excepting Colonels and Senators.

After numerous health concerns and issues, Sgt. Alvin York died at the Veterans Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee on September 2, 1964. I was a young Marine at Camp Pendleton when the Hero of World War I died and I was saddened by his passing. He was a true American of the sorts that are becoming fewer and fewer, and we must always strive to uphold the valor and commitment that he gave to us. Many honors were bestowed upon Sgt. York, including his farm which is now a state park, his likeness is on the 2000 US



postage stamp. The riderless horse at President Reagan's funeral was named Sgt. York. He is well known to every freedom loving American and a charter member of the American Legion. Two of the men who were with Sgt. York during the firefight argued that he didn't do what was on his Medal of Honor citation. In October 2000, a US Army Colonel and several French officials revisited the battlefield and recovered evidence that showed that Sgt. York's actions were the same as on the citation and Sgt. York's honor was restored. All the men in his patrol, who were not killed, were awarded various medals for valor, including a Distinguished Service Cross and a Silver Star.

Fear of God makes a Hero... Fear of man makes a coward Sgt. Alvin York United States Army





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

Earlier this year the National Montford Point Association, Inc., began preparing for their Annual National Spring Council. The Spring Council is usually held during the second week of April. This year was no exception as the Spring Council was held from the 12th through 15th of April in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The Spring Council is the precursor to the National Convention held at the same location during 25th through 28th of July 2018.

We are proud to announce that the final preparations have been made for the 53rd National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. Convention. The convention will consist of meetings and planning for the coming year. We will revisit the City of Jacksonville, North Carolina for the Memorial Gifting Ceremony to take place at 8 a.m. on Wednesday July 25, 2018 at the Montford Point Marine Memorial site in the Lejeune Memorial Gardens on Hwy 24, Jacksonville, North Carolina. The gifting ceremony will allow the National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. to formally transfer responsibility of the Memorial to the Secretary of the Navy.

In addition, The Congressional Gold Medal presentation will take place during the President’s Reception at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25, 2018 at the Hilton Gardens Inn, located at 1016 Jacksonville Parkway, Jacksonville, North Carolina. The Congressional Gold Medal will be awarded to several of the Original Montford Point Marines, those who actually went through Boot Camp during the period from 1942 through 1949 when the Montford Point Camp was closed. Please plan to join us as we acknowledge the contributions of these heroes and honor their dedicated service.

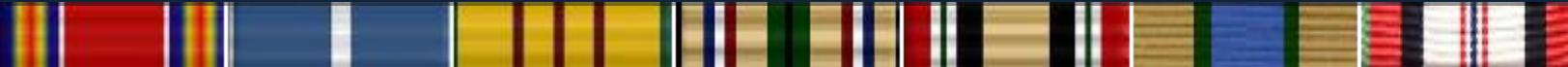
As the Vice President of Los Angeles Chapter #8, I am looking forward to attending and participating in the convention.

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

W.M. Trammell Bio

Since joining the Marine Corps and going to Boot Camp at MCRD San Diego, CA in June of 1958 William “Bill” Trammell has served as a Marine Communicator. His first tour of duty was as a Radio Operator with H & S Co 2nd Battalion 7th Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton where he was a member of Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 2/7/9 and on Okinawa. Trammell was later assigned as a Radio Operator with Marine Corps Base Schools Battalion at Camp Pendleton. In 1964, as a young Corporal Trammell served as Radio Telegraph Operator with the Military Advisory Command Viet Nam (MACV-2) in I Corps. Upon returning to the “states” he was assigned to Marine Air Control Squadron 4 at MCAS Tustin, CA.

His next assignment Trammell attended the Radio Chief’s Course at the Marine Corps Communication & Electronics School (MCC&S) at MCRD San Diego. After serving briefly in 2nd Tank Bn. at Force Troops Camp Lejeune NC Staff Sergeant Trammell found himself on his second tour in Viet Nam where he was assigned as the Radio Chief with H & S



CO 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment and later with C Battery 1/11. Then as Gunnery Sergeant Trammell served as a Radio Chief in Communications Company Headquarters Bn. 3rd Marine Division.

After that tour of duty Trammell was assigned to Senior Course Instructor in MCC&E Schools at MCRD San Diego, CA and later moved with the school to MCAGCC 29 Palms, CA.

During his career as a Marine, Trammell has served in various capacities as a communicator this does not include a tour of duty in Security Battalion at Camp Pendleton where he serves as a watch commander with Presidential Support at the "Western White House" in San Clemente, CA.

In September 1976 while serving as a Senior Course Instructor Trammell at 29 Palms Trammell attended the Inter-service Radio Frequency Management School at Richards-Gabour AFB, Class 76C, near Kansas City, Mo. Upon graduation Trammell returned to MCC&ES, 29 Palms. GySgt Trammell and GySgt Hutchinson shared the distinction of being the first two Marines to ever attend this joint service school.

In December 1977 Trammell received orders to the 1st Marine Brigade in Kaneohe Bay, HI. Where he served as the Frequency Manager for the First Marine Brigade and the Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, HI. Trammell retired from the US Marine on January 12, 1982 as a Master Sargent.

In June 1983 Trammell was hired as a Frequency Manager at the Naval Communication Area Master Station Eastern Pacific (NAVCAMS EAST-PAC, Wahiawa, Hawaii. He later accepted a position at the Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu, CA where he received another promotion and became the Frequency Manager for the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division. While serving in the Frequency Management Office, Trammell became the Chairman of the Range Commanders Council (RCC) Frequency Manage Group (FMG). Until his retirement in Nov 30, 2006 Trammell has remained an active member of the RCC FMG.

After his Civil Service retirement, Trammell accepted another Frequency Management position as a contractor with INFRATECH of Frederick, MD to begin yet another career. That position ended as Trammell decided to hang up his spurs in mid-April 2010.

Now Trammell spends his time supporting service groups, such as, the Marine Corps League President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 in Simi Valley, the Montford Point Marine Association Los Angeles Chapter #8 and the American Legion Oxnard Post #48. Yet he still has time to spend at his favorite past time playing double pinochle the Wilson Senior Citizen in Oxnard and the Pleasant Valley Senior Citizen in Camarillo.



Glen Griswold

glencgriswold@gmail.com



50 Year Reunion of the Battle of Hue and Tet Offensive

In January of this year, I was contacted by the local USMC Ambassador for “The Greatest Generations Foundation” and asked if I had an interest in going to Vietnam for the 50-year reunion of the Battle of Hue and Tet Offensive.

I’ve always wanted to return to and re-visit the areas where I spent 26 months of my young life. I had hoped that someday I could make this trip with some of my foxhole buddies and share our experiences. Unfortunately, time and/or health reasons, e.g. Agent Orange, have taken their toll on so many good Marines. This sad to say, includes the dozen or so brother Marines I’ve kept in contact with—none were able to go or just did not want to return to Vietnam.

I was more disappointed in the fact that this trip was not well known and that no one I knew could make the trip. However, I continued with the application process. On February 22, 2018, I met up with 12 other combat Marines and one Corpsman at the Bradley International Terminal, LAX. Within 10 minutes I felt the brotherhood that all Marines share. As my assigned roommate said, “I just met 13 Marines and Corpsman that I have known all my life.”

We boarded our flight first to Incheon Korea and then to Da Nang Vietnam. I remember what the Da Nang airport was like 50 years ago and wasn’t sure what to expect. In my business life, I traveled all over the world and have been in every major airport. The Da Nang airport is now at the top of my list. Extremely clean, modern and well laid out. Immigrations and Customs were a model of efficiency.

From the airport we traveled in a brand new, air-conditioned bus to the Hyatt Regency Resort, a 5-star hotel where President Trump stayed when he visited Vietnam.

For the next 10 days we worked our way up to the DMZ visiting the locations that each one of us had submitted that we would like to see again. This was all arranged by “The Greatest Generations Foundation” (TGGF). We were taken care of like royalty for lodging, meals and drinks the entire time. What really made the trip a pleasure was the CEO and President of TGGF, Tim Davis, checked every day with each of us to see how we were doing and if there was anything we needed. In addition to this, he coordinated and managed every day’s agenda. It was the most seamless period of travel I have ever experienced.

I could write hundreds of pages of the events and experiences on this trip.

The one single event for each of us was when we were standing on the ground we stood on 50 years ago, fighting for our lives and the lives of our brother Marines. Each one of us re-counted to the group what actions were taken at the various locations we selected to visit. Every single one of us cried tears when we went back in time and told our personal stories.



Other things that stood out were that there was nothing recognizable in the whole country from 50 years ago. The Vietnamese people are very happy and prosperous although it's still a communist country. The technology boom has taken over like the rest of the world. It's interesting to see Mama San dressed the same as in the past but with a cell phone and a motor bike.

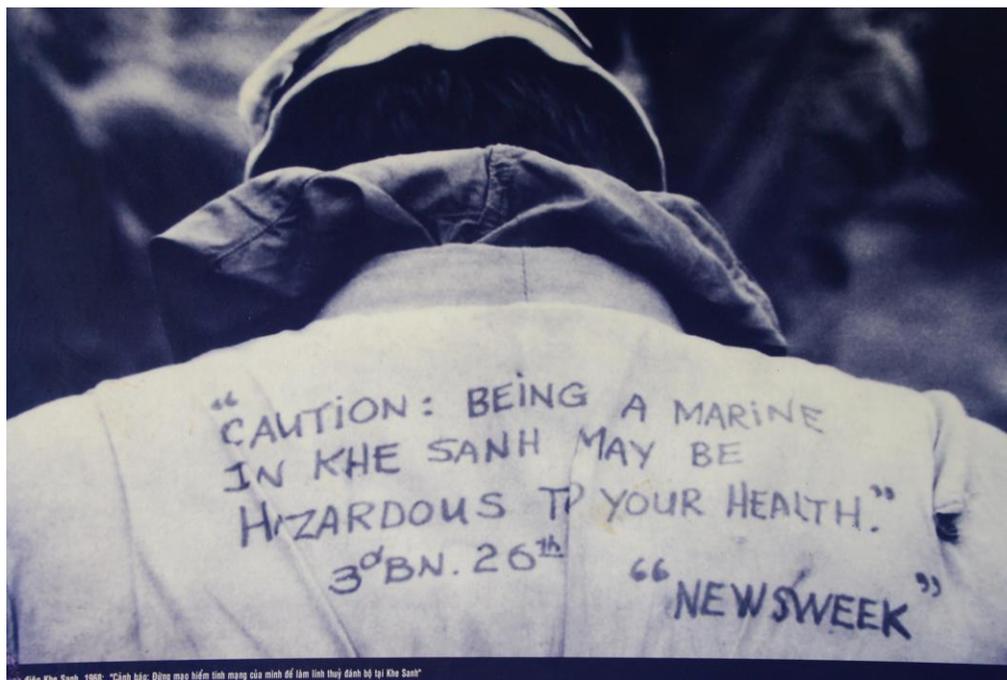
We met with former NVA and Viet Cong and there was never any animosity. They were happy that we survived and had families and we felt the same for them.

Communist propaganda is still alive and well. In the museum in Khe Sanh, there was a display of "The great battle." The description read basically, "During this battle, the American Regime lost 11,360 Marines." The truth is that we only had around 300 Marines there at the time. I was told several times by young Vietnamese that they enjoy the inter net so they can learn the truth. One told me that he knows that what his grandfather and father have been telling him over the years is BS. He loves the inter net and learning about the United States.

It will be very hard for the Vietnamese government to control this new generation of ambitious men and woman. It was really a pleasure to see this.

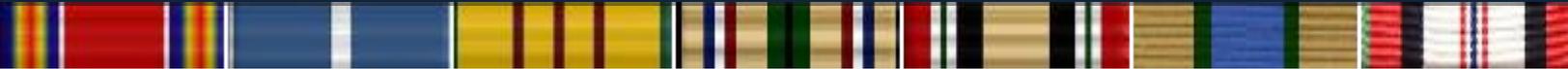
Once again, I thank TGGF for this life changing adventure. Feel free to view their web page.

www.tggf.org



điệp Khe Sanh, 1968: "Cảnh báo: Dùng mạo hiểm tính mạng của mình để làm lính thủy đánh bộ tại Khe Sanh"





Gunnery Sergeant Ronald Lee Ermey (March 24, 1944 – April 15, 2018)

On April 15, 2018, Gunnery Sergeant Ronald Lee Ermey was given his final orders by the Supreme Commandant. (Biography follows) The events of his service are given by David Opher.

On April 24th eight members of our Detachment John Miller, Brent Kast, David Opfer, Jack Parfett, Harry Hodges, Ken "Doc" Honaker, Rudy Cordero, and Larry Fisher were asked to be pallbearers at the Reardon Mortuary in Simi Valley. We arrived at noon and paid our respects to "The Gunny." When everything was in place we carried The Gunny to the coach. The CHP escorted the procession to the Interstate 5 Freeway. In Palmdale the Police took over the procession to the church. At the church the Marine Corps removed the casket and provided the escort to the church.

Our Color Guard presented the colors. The Color Guard was made up of Larry Fisher, Brent Kast, Ben Pfister, and Fausto Galvan. They performed the posting of the Colors and made our Detachment proud.

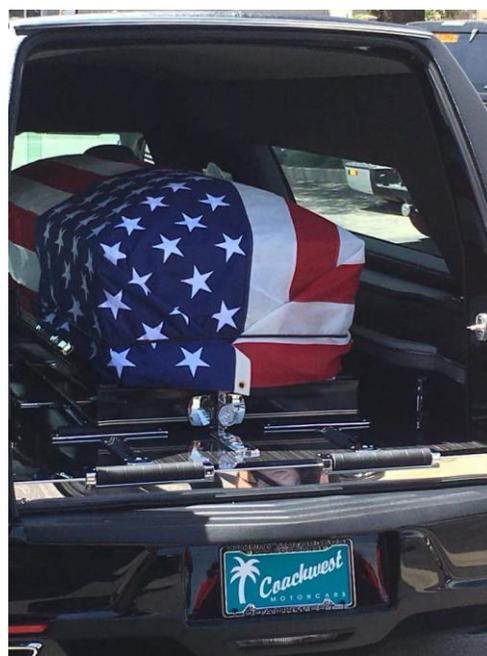
At 2230, we rendered our final salute as the casket was placed back into the coach. We then followed it back to Reardon Funeral Services in Simi Valley where we carried The Gunny back into the chapel.

* Ronald Lee Ermey was an American actor, voice artist, and former military drill instructor. He achieved fame when he played Gunnery Sergeant Hartman in the 1987 film *Full Metal Jacket*, which earned him a Golden Globe Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor. Ermey was also a United States Marine Corps staff sergeant and an honorary gunnery sergeant. During his tenure in the United States Marine Corps, he also served as a drill instructor.

Ermey was often typecast in authority figure roles, such as Mayor Tilman in the film *Mississippi Burning*, Bill Bowerman in *Prefontaine*, Sheriff Hoyt in *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* remake, Jimmy Lee Farnsworth in *Fletch Lives*, a police captain in *Se7en*, plastic army men leader Sarge in the *Toy Story* films, Lt. "Tice" Ryan in *Rocket Power*, a prison warden in an episode of *SpongeBob SquarePants*, and John House in *House*. Ermey hosted two programs on the History Channel: *Mail Call*, in which he answered viewers' questions about various military issues both modern and historic; and *Lock n' Load with R. Lee Ermey*, which concerned the development of different types of weapons. He also hosted *GunnyTime* on the Outdoor Channel.



Ronald Lee Ermey enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17, and went through recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in San Diego, California in 1961. Ermey first served in the aviation support field before becoming a drill instructor in India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, where he was assigned from 1965 to 1967. Ermey then served in Marine Wing Support Group 17 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, Japan. In 1968, he was ordered to Vietnam with MWSG-17, and spent 14 months in country. The remainder of his service was on Okinawa where he was advanced to staff sergeant (E-6). He was medically discharged in 1972 because of several injuries incurred during his service. On May 17, 2002, he received an honorary promotion to gunnery sergeant (E-7) by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James L. Jones. *Source: Wikipedia





Dr. Tony Saunders

JudgeadvMCL597@gmail.com

805-587-4900, Mobile



CALL TO ACTION



Fellow Members

Another Marine informed me that Disneyland plans to use a prerecorded message during its flag ceremonies. GySgt Ernie Napper-USMC (retired) has been at Disneyland for many years as a Security Officer, but he's better known for his inspirational narrative when taking down the flag at the evening ceremony. He has single handedly given Veterans of all ages something to be really proud of. Now Disneyland, supposedly the "Happiest Place On Earth" is going to discontinue this ceremony in favor of a pre-taped message. Just another example of not having much pride in our flag. Remember, GySgt Napper is one of our own, a Detachment Member and he addressed our meeting early last year.

I have put together 3 points to help you write your letters:

1. We greatly appreciated the flag lowering ceremony where veterans were acknowledged and thanked for their service.
2. We are greatly disappointed that Disneyland has chosen to replace a live person with a recorded message of thanks.
3. We request that GySgt Nipper and/or other Disneyland Security Officers be allowed to continue the flag lowering ceremony and the live acknowledgement of veterans.

Please use your own words and thoughts, if you can, about what it means to you to be a Veteran.

Mail to: Disneyland Resort Guest Experience Services
PO Box 3232
Anaheim, CA 92803-3232

Semper Fi
Dr. Tony Saunders



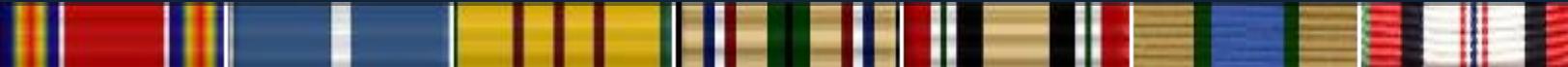
Letter to the Editor

Hello Rich, this might be of some interest for the Gipper readers. Two years ago St. Martin's elementary school invited the MCL color guard to perform a flag presentation and the playing of taps for a Memorial Day celebration. Afterwards the school provided lunch for us, while Doc and I were eating this little cake came up to me and said, "I can sing the Marines Hymn," so of course I asked her to sing as we Marines stood by her... the rest is history-there wasn't a dry eye in the house. This is why I love to be part of our honor guard it's another opportunity to give back, this day we got a lot in return.

S/F Bob Martinez



To see this video email Bugler Robert Martinez at thebugler597@yahoo.com



MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD FARRA

richfarra@gmail.com

818-470-3258 Mobile

For the better of the League!

So many great things happening with our community outreach with our High School Speakers Bureau, Young Marines, Speaking engagements, Color Guard presentations, VA volunteering, street fairs, civic government involvement, and more. You are all doing a fantastic job giving back to our community and making it that much stronger.





Valeria Galvan, Fausto's better half, is spearheading our annual Detachment's picnic. There will be a no holds barred chili cook-off and the winner will receive a ticket to the Ball. The best part is that it is free to members and their families! This year's picnic will be held on July 21, and the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Simi Valley. Fausto is going to love this part, here is his email address so you can get more information regarding the picnic – FaustoGalvan14@gmail.com

Dick Jennings, your Commandant, has informed me that he must be doing a fantastic job leading the Detachment. If you have ideas to make our Detachment even better than it is, or want to make a comment email me and I will pass them on to Dick anonymously.

Thank you

DEAR COMMANDANT

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 ones 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.



CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Matt E. Valenzuela

mattval@aol.com

310-768-2847 Office

310-308-7015 Mobile



Fellow Marines, Corpsmen, and Associates,

On Monday, 07 May 2018, at the Simi Valley City Council meeting, Mayor Bob Huber issued a Proclamation announcing that the month of May will be "Military Appreciation Month" in Simi Valley.

After the announcement, the Mayor presented Proclamation Certificates to Robert Hacker the Commander of American Legion Simi Valley Post 484, Dick Jennings the Commandant of Marine Corps League Detachment 597, and Wayne Wright the Commander of VFW Simi Valley Post 10049. Matt Valenzuela, Jr Vice Commandant for the Marine Corps League, Department of California accepted the Proclamation Certificate for John Calderon the Commander of DAV Chapter 55.





May is important because Friday 11 May is Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Sunday 13 May is Mother's Day, Saturday 19 May is Armed Forces Day, and Monday 28 May is Memorial Day. President Trump also declared in a Proclamation that Tuesday 15 May, all flags should be displayed at half-mast for Peace Officers Memorial Day.

The Memorial Day Commemoration will be at Pioneer Cemetery on Monday 28 May 2018 at 1000, the address is below.

El Rancho Simi Pioneer Cemetery
1461 Thompson Lane (Royal and Thompson)
Simi Valley, CA 93065

We urge everyone who is available to attend this Memorial Day Commemoration to remember and honor our Fallen Warriors who gave all for our Country.

Semper Fi,
Matt E. Valenzuela
Contributing Editor



PAYMASTER'S CORNER

ANDY DOBRZYNSKI

andydobrzynski@gmail.com

805-428-5902

Detachment Members,

Remember to keep your MCL membership current, if you have any questions regarding your membership status please see me at the next general meeting or contact me via email.

As a reminder you must show your membership card at the time of signing in before the general meeting.

Andy Dobrzynski
Paymaster



VERY HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS



04 - Ken Barger - *LIFE MEMBER*

08 - Jim Wagner

10 - Ron Lydick

19 - Suzanne Barger

19 - Bob Nelson

19 - Wynne Ritch - *LIFE MEMBER*

26 - Anthony Hernandez

NEW MEMBERS

Marine 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 all of the bumper stickers and EGA apparel, walk up to them and bring them home to the 597.



GUEST SPEAKER

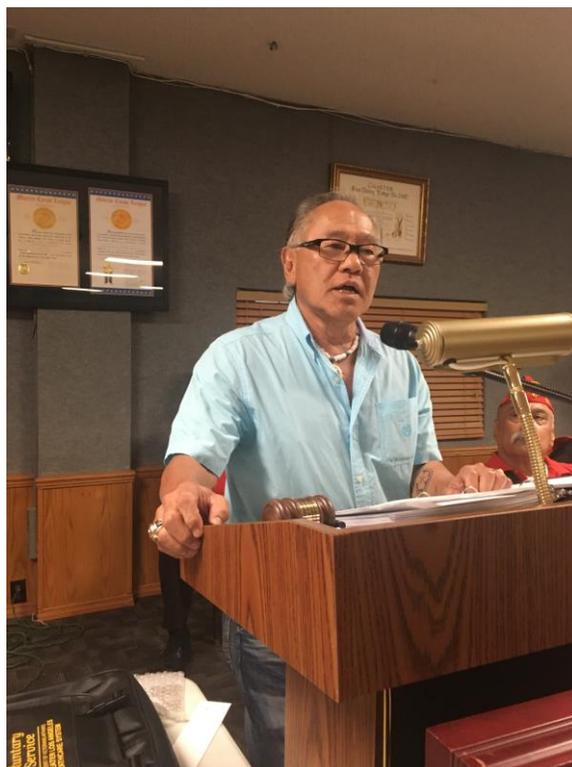
Bruce Kanegai was our guest speaker at our April general meeting. Bruce is a very accomplished man who is a 34 year art instructor at Simi Valley High School; 50 year International Karate Master; member of the first US karate team to fight in the 1966 Olympics held in Japan; 15 years as a State of California Law Enforcement Instructor; numerous television appearances; set the record for the 230 mile John Muir trail; awarded Teacher of the Year eight times; finalist for the teacher in space candidate for the Challenger; and a 3rd generation Japanese.

Bruce spoke about the history of Japanese who fought for the USA during World War II – the 442 Infantry Regiment. He talked about the legacy and the awards his father’s service during WWII in the CIA, Army Intelligence and during the Korean conflict.

*The 442nd Infantry Regimental is an infantry regiment of the United States Army and is the only infantry formation in the Army Reserve. The regiment is best known for its history as a fighting unit composed almost entirely of second-generation American soldiers of Japanese ancestry who fought in World War II. Beginning in 1944, the regiment fought primarily in Europe during World War II, in particular Italy, southern France, and Germany.

The 442nd Regiment is the most decorated unit in the history of American warfare. The 4,000 men who initially made up the unit in April 1943 had to be replaced nearly 2 times. In total, about 14,000 men served, earning 9,486 Purple Hearts. The unit was awarded eight Presidential Unit Citations (five earned in one month). Twenty-one of its members were awarded Medals of Honor. Its motto was "Go for Broke."

*SOURCE: Wikipedia.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

One of our Detachment's long-time sponsors is retiring. Mitch and Leslie Schneider, owners of Schneider's Auto Repair are retiring and going to enjoy life. We will miss them dearly.

Pictured below are John Calderon, Wendy Calderon, Leslie Schneider & Mitch Schneider, and the cake.





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	805-583-8951	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
Chaplain	Bradley Cantley	805-813-9667	bradleycantley@gmail.com
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	805-583-8951	Hodges1951@gmail.com
Fundraising Chairman	Harry Hodges	805-328-9817	Hodges1951@gmail.com
2018 MCL Golf Tournament	Dick Jennings	805-328-9817	2018golftourney@gmail.com
Historian	John Miller	805-581-5462	johnemillerusmc@gmail.com
Web Master		213-709-1520	parkjoon2013@gmail.com
Managing Editor, The Gipper Publisher/Contributing Editor	Richard Farra Matt Valenzuela	818-470-3258 310-768-2847	richfarra@gmail.com MattEValenzuela@gmail.com
Young Marines	Fausto Galvan Timothy Stratton Juvencio Gallegos	818-259-2119 661-257-9690 818-299-1777	Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com e-8sierra@sbcglobal.net adigallegos3531@gmail.com
Toys For Tots Chairman	John Mitchell	805-379-9664	Kathleen.Mitchell.is18@statefarm.com
Director of Associates	Valeria Galvan	818-899-4529	ValeriaHGalvan@yahoo.com
Department of California Staff			
Dept of CA Jr 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