



# The Gipper

Marine Corps League  
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597  
Semper Fidelis

Richard Jennings, Commandant  
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## SEPTEMBER 2018



**COMMANDANT**  
**Richard Jennings**  
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### Marines, Corpsmen and Associate Members:

#### National Convention, Buffalo, NY

As many of you know, for the past year I've been dreading going to Buffalo for the MCL National Convention. I promised Ben and Fausto that I would attend this year's convention no matter what because I missed the past National Conventions in Tulsa and Kansas City. Little did I know it was going to be held in Buffalo, a place I haven't visited in over 50 years and it was terrible. But this time it was different, even though I didn't get to see much of the area, what I did see it was nice, except for the weather which reminded me of east coast humidity - hot and uncomfortable. Outside of the weather, the people couldn't have been nicer and were very hospitable.

Again, as I stated during the meeting last night but if you didn't hear my eloquent version then I'll write it. It was the final meeting day and we were all sitting in the back of the room. The speaker was giving out awards to some of the Detachments and suddenly I heard "finishing third in the company division is the President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 of California." I jumped out of my seat and almost sprinted to the podium. They gave me a plaque that stated we came in third for "The Gipper." What a thrill! I'm standing amongst the "hierarchy" of the Marine Corps League and we won third prize. Now the first place Detachment is run by a lady who owns a publishing company and it looks like a bound book, so it's hard to displace her. The 2nd place Detachment book was nice, but I thought we were better, and next year we will be. Proud isn't the word for it, but Proud I was. This award isn't mine or Rich Farra's (but without him, I don't think we would have gotten it) but this award is ours. The Detachment, every single member who has participated in something that we have done as a unit. Whether it's just coming to a meeting, color guard,



golf tournament, Birthday Ball or just the Street Fairs. We all participated and that is what makes a great Detachment. I was never so proud to be your Commandant and walking up to that podium as I was that morning in Buffalo.

Now as I said in the meeting last night, if you are attending a National Convention to listen to speeches and vote on resolutions, you're wasting time and money. But, if you're going there to "Network" and meet all the folks from the other detachments from around the country, then it's worth twice as much. As the year goes on, I will present some of the things I think we can use here which are being used in Alabama, Pennsylvania, Idaho, and in other states. More importantly, I plan on going to more conventions if they are anything like this one.

Next year's National Convention will be in Billings, Montana from August 11-16, 2019. The folks there are planning on having one of the best conventions ever with more outside events for spouses and civilians. I would recommend going to at least one Nationals so you can see how the Marine Corps League is run.

#### MCL 597 Website

As most of you know, from my emails to the Detachment, our webpage [www.mcl597.org](http://www.mcl597.org) has a new look and is up and running. I hope you will visit our new website and be as excited as I am about our website. It's more user friendly and has greater capabilities than before. We can do many more things on this website than ever before, so give me your ideas of what you would want to see on it and use.

We can all thank our new webmaster for the improvements. She is a college student who is doing this as a part-time job. But unlike our past webmasters who had full-time jobs, she can make changes in the evenings and for what would take me hours, she does in minutes if not seconds. If you have anything that you think is special and should be on the webpage such as pictures, articles, etc., email her at [webmasterdet597@gmail.com](mailto:webmasterdet597@gmail.com).

#### Award Nominations

As John Coley, our Adjutant, stated during our past two general meetings, we are asking every member to submit nominations for our Detachment awards - to be presented during our 243rd Marine Corps Birthday Ball on 17 Nov. 2018. I will be sending out the list of award categories and the forms to fill out. When finished sign your ballot, then you can either scan it and email it to either John Coley [w4simi@yahoo.com](mailto:w4simi@yahoo.com) or Dick Jennings [mcl597commandant@gmail.com](mailto:mcl597commandant@gmail.com), turn it in during the October general meeting, or mail it to either of us.

In closing, I must remind you that we just have a certain number of seats for the Birthday Ball, so go into the website and buy your tickets. It's easy, I know this for a fact because I did it and never had to ask anyone for assistance.

Have a wonderful month and remember, if you have a question about anything relating to the Detachment or MCL, send your question to Rich Farra, editor of "The Gipper" and I will answer it ASAP.

Next General Meeting is October 4, 2018, Elks Lodge, starts at 7pm.

Semper Fi,

Dick Jennings  
Commandant



## SR. VICE COMMANDANT

**Harry Hodges**

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### Marines and Associate members,

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

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

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

Semper Fi,  
Harry Hodges  
Senior Vice & Ships Store Rep





## JR. VICE COMMANDANT

**Ken 'Doc' Honaker**

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### Greetings Marines and Associates,

Next up for the MCL 597 community activity calendar is the Thousand Oaks Annual Street Fair to be held on 21 October 2018. The T.O. event is big, and we would like to have as many volunteers to man BIG RED as possible throughout the day. Please contact me regarding your availability to help set-up, man the event and help tear-down. If you haven't volunteered for one of these street fairs, it's a blast to meet people from the community who are Marines or have a friend or family member in the Corps; it gives our Detachment a great opportunity to recruit new members, tell people about the Marine Corps League, and a great opportunity to sell raffle tickets for the birthday ball.

Regarding the 243<sup>rd</sup> Marine Corps birthday celebration, our annual ball is slated for the Grand Vista Hotel in Simi Valley on 17 November 2018. Tickets and meal selections are now available on the MCL597.org website. The prizes for the raffle are a World War Two Era M-1 with carrying case, a Glock 17 with 3 – 10 round magazines, cleaning rod and carrying case, and a Happy Wanderer Gift Basket. Raffle tickets for these fantastic prizes are \$10 per ticket or 11 tickets for \$100 - such a deal.

We are also now soliciting ads for the birthday ball program. The best places to approach are those businesses that you already do business with, these are the ones who will be most likely to help us with a \$50 business card ad to a full-page ad for \$200. We need your help even though there are some league members that usually sell ads. Follow your money. Don't know if you don't ask. We have last year's programs to use as a sample if need be.

The date of our ball gives us all the chance to celebrate the actual Marine Corps birthday on 10 November at the site of your choosing. There are usually several venues to celebrate the birth of the Corps.

Semper Fi  
"Doc" Honaker  
Jr. Vice Commandant



## JR. PASTCOMMANDANT

**Jerry R. German**

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### American Battle Monuments Commission

The United States maintains 24 cemeteries and 26 memorials, monuments and markers around the world. More than 140,000 U.S. servicemen and women war dead are interred in the cemeteries, and more than 94,000 missing in action, or lost or buried at sea, are memorialized on cemetery **Walls of the Missing** and on 3 memorials in the United States. All of these cemeteries and memorials are under the care of the **American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC)**.

The **American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC)** is an [independent agency of the United States government](#) that administers, operates and maintains permanent U.S. military cemeteries, memorials, monuments and markers both inside and outside the United States. The ABMC also maintains an online database of names associated with each site. The ABMC was established by the United States Congress in 1923. Its purpose is to: Commemorate the services of the U.S. armed forces where they have served since April 6, 1917; Establish suitable War memorials; designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining permanent U.S. military burial grounds in foreign countries; Control the design and construction of U.S. military monuments and markers in foreign countries by other U.S. citizens and organizations, both public and private; Encourage the maintenance of such monuments and markers by their sponsors.

Following World War I, the United States Department of War established eight European burial grounds. Upon the establishment of the ABMC, its first program was to landscape and erect non-sectarian chapels at each of the eight sites, constructing 11 separate monuments and two tablets at other sites in Europe, and constructing the **Allied Expeditionary Forces World War I Memorial** in Washington, D.C. A percentage of those buried, who could not be identified during World War I, was commemorated by **Star of David** markers, rather than a **Cross**; this practice was not continued for those who could not be identified during World War II.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order transferring control of the eight United States Department of War European cemeteries to the ABMC, and made the commission responsible for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of all future permanent American military burial grounds outside the United States.

The ABMC has become the caretaker of cemeteries, monuments and memorials for the Philippine-American War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Mexican-American War. In 2013, Clark Veterans Cemetery in the Philippines became the 23th site under the control of the commission. Clark Veterans Cemetery dates back to the Philippine–American War at the turn of the 20th century. The Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Cemetery outside Paris, France was added to the commission's responsibilities in 2017. The ABMC manages a cemetery in Mexico with 813 American war dead from the Mexican-American War of 1846-48.



The Commission manages nine WWI cemeteries, 7 in France with 25,008 war dead interred, 1 in the United Kingdom with 468 war dead interred and 1 in Belgium with 1937 war dead interred.

The Commission manages twelve WWII cemeteries: 5 in France with 30,400 war dead interred, 1 in the United Kingdom with 3,812 war dead interred, 2 in Belgium with 14,315 war dead interred, 1 in the Philippines with 17,201 war dead interred, 2 in Italy with 12,263 war dead interred and 1 in Luxembourg with 5,076 war dead interred.

In addition, the ABMC manages 26 memorials, monuments and markers in the US and internationally as follows: Spanish-American War (Cuba 1), WWI (France 11, Belgium 2, Gibraltar 1), WWII (US 3, France 2, Mariana Islands 1, Morocco 1, New Guinea 1, Philippines 1, Solomon Islands 1) and Korean War 1 (in Busan). The American Battle Monuments Commission employs a full-time staff of 418 people around the world. All ABMC sites are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. local time, seven days a week, except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Cemeteries are not closed for national holidays. When the sites are open to the public, a commission staff member is available to escort visitors and relatives to grave and memorial sites and to answer questions.

Semper Fi,  
Jerry R. German  
Junior Past Commandant



## JUDGE ADVOCATE

**John Miller**

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(805) 581-5462



### Judge Advocate message for August 2018

The very core reason for the Marine Corps League is the important duty of helping fellow veterans when they need assistance the most. Several memorable incidents occurred during the past few weeks. For privacy the veterans name will remain anonymous.

First, there was a desperate cry for help made over the internet and several Detachment members read the message and immediately went into action. The Veteran's family was contacted, and the Veteran was transported to a hospital where he received the medical attention he needed. More important, this Veteran realized that he was important to his family and friends and that they had his six. So, several members should be applauded and recognized, they are Ruy Peña, our Color Guard Commander and Matt Valenzuela, Past Detachment Commandant, both were instrumental in assisting a fellow veteran who was in a dire condition.

Second, a fellow Veteran contacted our Commandant and told him that an Army Veteran and friend had passed away in Oregon. This Veteran had served with the deceased Army Veteran in Viet Nam and the family in Oregon had difficulty in getting a military tribute arranged for this Veteran's funeral. Commandant Dick Jennings sent an e mail to the Commandant of the MCL Detachment in Oregon and gave them the information regarding the Veteran's burial date and the name of his wife and family. On the Veteran's funeral date, a four-man VFW Honor Guard attended the service and rendered the honors that this Viet Nam Combat Veteran deserved. The family was overwhelmed with gratitude and pride in the fact that their husband, father and Veteran was given his last request to be buried with full military honors. Again, Veterans helping Veterans.

I would also want to thank everyone for showing identification at our monthly meetings. It is required in our bylaws and it is rewarding to see everyone abiding by the rules and taking these details in stride.

Finally, there is a unique way that our government is honoring veterans this year as the centenary of World War I is observed and honored by the United States Mint. The mint is producing a World War I commemorative pure silver dollar and there is another bronze medal that honors and celebrates the bicentennial of the United States Marine Corps. Both items can be purchased at USMINT.gov.

Semper Fidelis  
John E Miller  
Judge Advocate



The photo above is the VFW Honor Guard from Bend Oregon that rendered Honors to a Viet Nam Combat Veteran at the request of Commandant Dick Jennings. The photo to the right is Detachment Judge Advocate John Miller shaking hands with Secretary of Defense General James Mattis at the reunion of Viet Nam Veterans in Washington, DC on August 18, 2018.





**ADJUTANT**

**John Coley**

w4simi@yahoo.com



**From the Desk of the Adjutant**

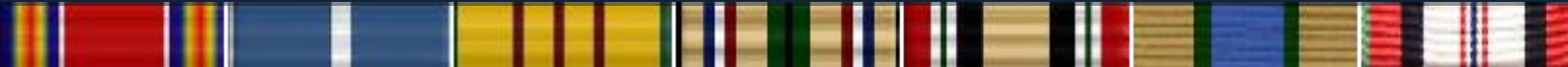
**Marines, Corpsman and Associate Members**

The Detachment had five members “shuffling off to Buffalo” for the 95th National Convention of the MCL, held 12-17 August: Commandant Dick Jennings, Ramon Arevalo, John Coley, Fausto Galvan, and Ben Pfister. The highlight of the meeting was when your Det. 597 was awarded 3rd Place in the National Newsletter Competition. Congratulations to our Editor Rich Farra and our members who contributed interesting articles for the “The Gipper.”

Next, the 243rd Marine Corps Birthday Ball is rapidly approaching, and our major fundraising drive is part of it. Because most of our funds from the Ball come from selling sponsorship advertising for the program, I am strongly encouraging all members to get as many advertisers as possible. Go to your barber shop, dry cleaners, nail salons, laundromats or anywhere else you do business and sell an ad. Prices range from \$50.00 to \$200.00 (excluding the outside and inside covers and the center pages which have been sold). Email Doc Honaker, Dick Jennings or myself for an advertisement price sheet.

Last, please get your recommendations in for our Detachment awards ASAP! These awards will be presented during the Ball on 17 November, the committee needs your submissions as quickly as possible to determine who the recipients are. Forms were passed out at the August and September meetings and will be available again at the October meeting. The time frame for award recognition is from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Semper Fidelis,  
John Coley  
Adjutant



## THE DOG ROBBER HOWLS

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

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

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

818-912-9863



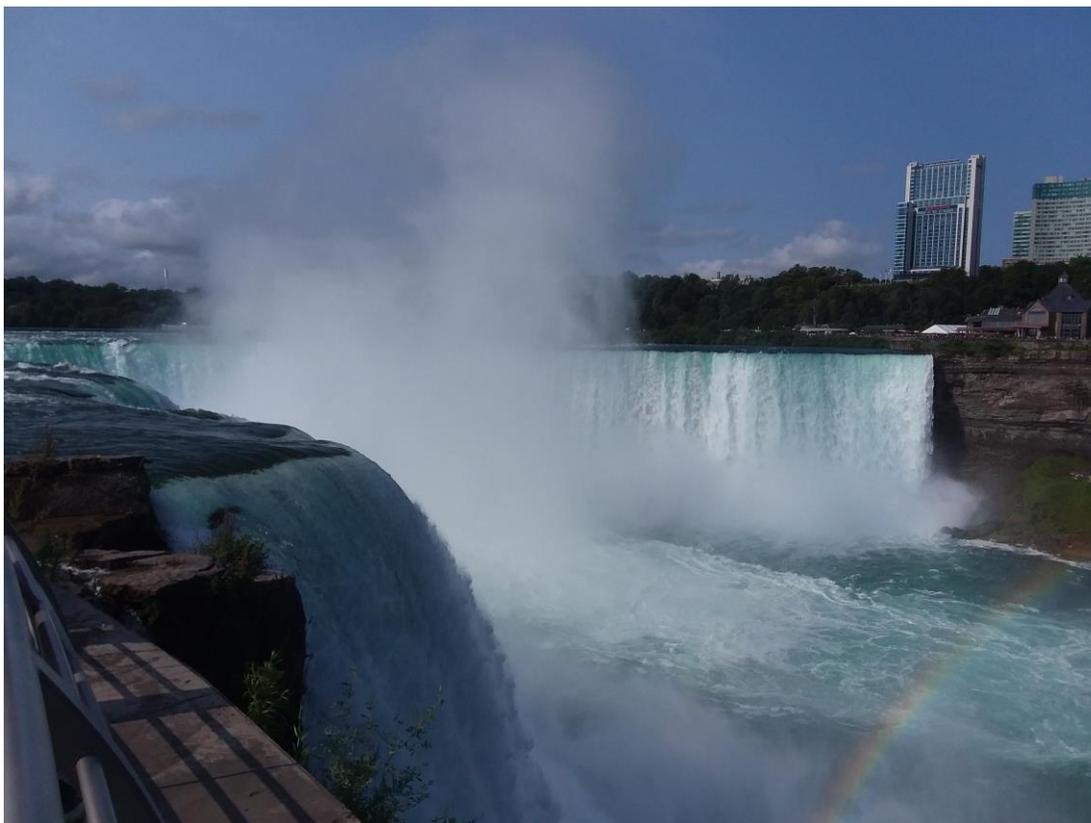
### Woof Woof Devil Dogs and Detachment Members,

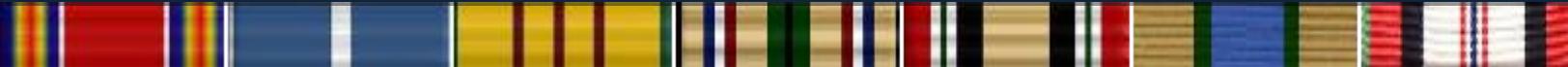
First of all, I want everyone to know what good time we had in Buffalo at the convention. We even learned a few things. John Coley, Dick Jennings and I were elevated to Pedigree Devil Dog (PDD). It was 3 days of harassment, like to what college kids are put through to join a frat house, but it was fun, and you learned from it.

We also had an opportunity to meet Louis Levi Oakes Akwesasne from the New York Mohawk Reservation, Louis is the last surviving Mohawk code talker who served in the Army during WWII.

Fausto and I stayed an extra day to see the Falls.







**Matt E. Valenzuela**  
**Sr. Vice Pack Leader**  
**Military Order of the Devil Dogs**  
**California Pack**



[mattval@aol.com](mailto:mattval@aol.com)  
 310-768-2847 Office  
 310-308-7015 Mobile

**Woof! Woof! Devil Dogs!!!**

Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed officers and staff of the Ventura County Devil Dogs, Pound 325, California Pack. Nominations, elections, and Installation of Officers were held at the Pound 325 Growl last night at the VFW Post 2323 in Granada Hills. The new Roster of the MODD Ventura County Devil Dogs, Pound 325 for 2018-2019 is below:

Position	Name	Email Address	Phone #
Pound Keeper	PDD Ben Pfister	<a href="mailto:benpdet597@gmail.com">benpdet597@gmail.com</a>	805 208 1095
Sr Vice Pound Keeper	PDD Rudy Cordero	<a href="mailto:tunnelrat628@gmail.com">tunnelrat628@gmail.com</a>	818 926 7380
Jr Vice Pound Keeper	PDD Ken 'Doc' Honaker	<a href="mailto:kdhonaker@gmail.com">kdhonaker@gmail.com</a>	805 416 4063
Smart Dog	DD Harry Hodges	<a href="mailto:hodges1951@gmail.com">hodges1951@gmail.com</a>	818 2371466
Dog Robber	PDD Fausto Galvan	<a href="mailto:faustogalvan14@gmail.com">faustogalvan14@gmail.com</a>	818 259 2119
Mad Dog	PDD Richard 'Dick' Jennings	<a href="mailto:dickedna2@yahoo.com">dickedna2@yahoo.com</a>	805 328 0669
Police Dog	Devil Pup Nick Frontuto	<a href="mailto:nik49er@aol.com">nik49er@aol.com</a>	818 989 3832
Dog Trainer	PDD Larry Fischer	<a href="mailto:larry_fischer@sbcglobal.net">larry_fischer@sbcglobal.net</a>	805 522 3850
Watch Dog	PDD Hank Noorda	<a href="mailto:hankandhelga@sbcglobal.net">hankandhelga@sbcglobal.net</a>	818 429 3315
Barking Dog	PDD John Coley	<a href="mailto:w4simi@yahoo.com">w4simi@yahoo.com</a>	805 368 1086
Jr. Past Pound Keeper	PDD Ruy Peña	<a href="mailto:toppena@yahoo.com">toppena@yahoo.com</a>	818 912 9863

***Semper Woof!!!***

Matt E. Valenzuela  
 Sr Vice Pack Leader  
 Military Order of the Devil Dogs  
 California Pack



## CHAPLAIN Bradley Cantley

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

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:

**Joe McKowan**—Has been diagnosed stage 4 glioblastoma brain tumor in April. He is a Navy Veteran and was given 4-6 months to live. It is now month 4 and he is in a hospital, which eventually he will be moved to hospice care. His wife Allison needs our prayers and support as she endures seeing her husband die before her eyes.

**Ed Farra**— His Alzheimer's is not fairing him well. Mitsy, his wife, thanks all of you for your prayers. She wants you to remember him as he was, therefore, he may not be attending any future meetings. Please keep him and his family in our prayers.

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

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

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

**John Fuentes** (COG) – Physical therapy is indeed doing him good and he should be able to run some marathons soon. :O)

**Julie Stranges** – Haven't heard from her, so I am praying for the best for her. Please be sure to keep her in your prayers.

**Darrell Lee** – So Darrell is doing PT and far as I know doing good. So, prayer is a good thing, so let's keep it up!!!

**Mike Maxwell** – He has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He hasn't been doing well with the treatments. Let's make sure we pray for him to recover fully, and show the doctors there is a cure for all when we put it into Gods hands.

**Bill Trammell** – Has also been diagnosed with prostate cancer. So, once again we will indeed have God intervene and heal Bill of this cancer. Praying is indeed a powerful thing, and when we all do it miraculous things do happen.

**Buggs Ansell** - On oxygen 24/7

**Ken Barger** – Had his surgery on September 5<sup>th</sup> this morning and is at the West Hills hospital. The surgeon seems very pleased with the surgery and he should be doing PT soon. Let's keep those prayers coming.



**Sue Honaker** - Undergoing treatments and praying things are going well for her.

**Brad Cantley** – My uncle passed away on Thursday September 6, and his funeral will be next Saturday with full police honors. As for me, seems I am good at being a dumbass, and pissing some people off. Now I will publicly apologize for my remarks to those individuals I upset. In the future I will do my best to have better decorum. Thank you for your prayers.

**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 could definitely 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  
Semper Fi  
Chaplain Brad



## COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

**Ruy Peña**

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818-912-9863, Mobile



### Color Guard Report

I’ve gotta say, our Color Guard Details look absolutely fantastic! We finally had someone take pictures of our events and I am proud. Look at the pictures taken from the Simi Valley Days Parade and Moorpark Grocery Outlet Grand Opening. In Simi we had Dick Jennings, Ben Pfister, Fausto Galvan John Calderon and me performing the honor of presenting colors during the parade. In Moorpark Brent Kast, Dick Jennings, John Coley, David Opfer, and Fausto Galvan. I am so proud of our 597 Color Guard members! Oorah! Marines!

As we move through the year, our schedule continues to be very busy. We are making a difference; our Color Guard presentations are making a very positive impact within our community and surrounding areas. 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.

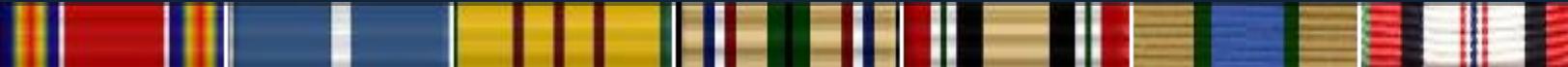
Semper FI,  
Ruy Peña  
Color Guard Commander



Simi Valley Days Parade



Moorpark Grocery Grand Opening



## **YOU KNOW THE DRILL!**

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

### **Opportunities to serve**

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

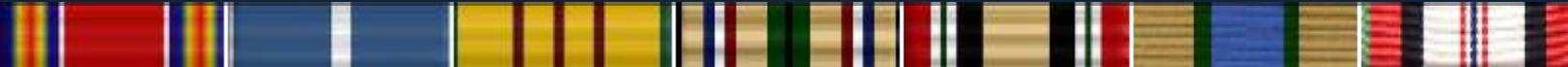
Every month there is a Board of Trustees meeting where anyone can attend and put in their two cents, and possibly find another avenue of service in supporting the League.

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

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

Semper Fidelis,

Darrell Lee



**HISTORIAN**

**John Miller**

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(805) 581-5462



## Hiroshi (Harry) Kobashigawa Congressional Gold Medal Recipient

Military Assistance Service United States Army World War II the Congressional Gold Medal is presented to an individual or a group of people that embody the highest ideals of the American way of life. The Medal is bestowed by the United States Congress and along with the Presidential Gold Medal is the highest civilian award our country can present in the name of the American people. The Medal is given in appreciation of an act or activity that has had an input on American History in a patriotic or cultural manner.

Hiroshi Kobashigawa was among those awarded this Medal for his service in World War II. Harry to his friends, is 99 years old and a veteran of World War II. Specifically, the battle of Okinawa in the Pacific Theater of Operations. The award was first given to General George Washington by the Second Continental Congress in 1776. Originally only military figures were presented the award. Later it was broadened to include among others, actors, authors, explorers and humanitarians. Any citizen from any country can be awarded the Medal. The Medal is normally awarded to a single person, but in 1979 the American Red Cross became the first organization to be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal. The recipient must be co-sponsored by 2/3 of the members of both the US House of Representatives and the US Senate. The Congressional Gold Medal and The Presidential Gold Medal carry the same level of prestige. The Medal is designed and produced by the United States Mint to commemorate the person or group and the accomplishments for which the medal was awarded. The Medal is not designed to be worn, but to be displayed.

Over our history many military leaders and units have been awarded the Medal, Harry and his compatriots were a small group of Americans of Japanese ancestry (Nisei) who served our nation in a war that at times pitted them against their own relatives and culture. Private Kobashigawa was drafted before the attack on Pearl Harbor and was in the service of the United States Army while his future wife, Nobuko who is currently 100 years old, was in a relocation center. This did not deter this soldier and he volunteered to serve as an interpreter for Army Intelligence. Later his assignment was to explore the many hidden caves and fortifications on the island of Okinawa and to ask the terrified civilians and Japanese soldiers to surrender to the American Army and Marines. This was very difficult as many civilians had been told by the Japanese Military that they would be killed or tortured by the Americans. For the Japanese soldier, surrender was dishonorable, and death was preferred over surrender. For his brave and courageous actions



on Okinawa and other missions during the war, Harry and his unit were selected to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

U.S. Army Military Assistance Service, (MIS) was among a small group that was qualified to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. The first of 19,000 awards were presented on November 2, 2011. One for each member of the MIS, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442 Regimental Combat Team. Somehow Harry's award was lost or misplaced. After the war, Harry returned to California and tried to forget about his wartime exploits and adventures. He became a gardener in Santa Monica and married his sweetheart and raised his six children. It wasn't until Harry's 99th birthday, last February 14th, that he finally received the Medal he so richly deserved.

Since the first award was given in 1776, many Marines have been honored with the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal. Included is Admiral John Paul Jones, who is the Father of the United States Navy and therefore represents our long and honored attachment to the US Naval Service. Senator and astronaut John Glenn, the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers, and The Montford Point Marines. In the case of a group recipient, one single gold medal is struck, and the remainder of the Medals are made of bronze and given to each individual person so honored in the group.

In the case of the Congressional Gold Medal for the Military Intelligence Service, it was first introduced in the halls of Congress in 2010. After approval by Congress, the Gold Medal toured the United States at several museums and civic centers before finally being displayed at the Smithsonian Museum/Institute in Washington, DC, where it remains to this day. It not only acknowledges the courage and bravery of the men who earned the Medal, In the case of the (MIS) it represented a grateful nation that recognized the injustice that each recipient had to endure in service to our nation.

Mr. Kobashigawa and his accomplishments are honored, and it is meaningful that he realizes that we are grateful for men like him who sacrificed so much for our Country and the virtues we all cherish. We also want to thank his wife for her sacrifices and for the support she gave to her husband during and after the war.

Let me quote; To those members not present, by whose service and sacrifice, we all prevail. Our Country owes its life to Heroes whose names it will never know. The revolution never ends. It was hollowed as a triumph of the righteous over the wicked. But the real battle lines were never clearly drawn. The real war, the one between good and evil is fought within us. The greatest war is the one fought within our hearts and minds. The following is just a summary of the original Public Order that was attached to the Congressional Gold Medal dedicated to the men who earned it while serving with the Military Intelligence Service and its attached units the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. All these units were mostly Nisei (second generation Americans of Japanese ancestry).

On January 23, 1942, Japanese-Americans in the military on the mainland were segregated out of their units. Further on May 3, 1942 by Civilian Order, all people of Japanese ancestry, whether citizen or not, were ordered to live in permanent relocation centers. On June 5, 1942 over 1,400 predominantly Nisei soldiers were removed from the Hawaiian Islands and reassigned as the 100th Infantry Battalion and shipped to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. In May 1943, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was established at Camp Shelby in Mississippi. The 100th Battalion was deployed to Italy and entered combat on September 26, 1943. During its 8 weeks of combat, the unit was awarded 6 Distinguished Service Crosses for gallantry. The 442nd (Go For Broke) RCT arrived in Italy on June 7, 1944 and one week later the 100th Battalion was made

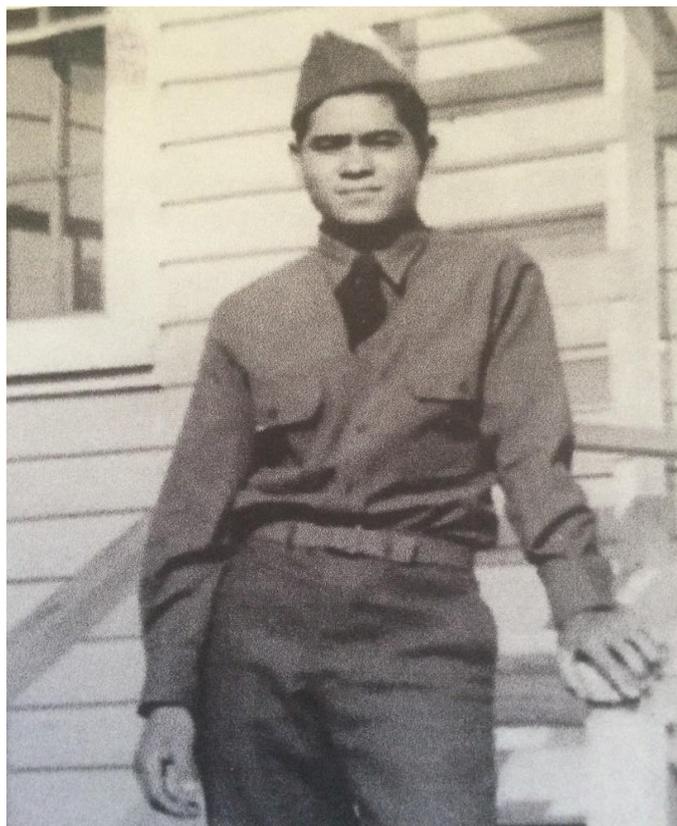


an integral part of the Regiment. The unit fought the final 11 months of the war with distinction in Italy, France and finally Germany. The Unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its action in battle on June 26-27, 1944. The 442nd became the most decorated Unit in American Military History.

In total, the units received; 7 PUC's, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 DSC, 560 Silver Stars, 4,000 Bronze Stars, 22 Legions of Merit, 15 Soldier Medals, (Heroism outside combat) and over 4,000 Purple Hearts. The MIS was made up of 6,000 Japanese-American soldiers who conducted highly classified intelligence operations and covert actions that proved vital to US military successes in the Pacific Theatre.

MIS soldiers were discharged and warned not to discuss their wartime work. Their contributions were not known until passage of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974. The contributions of the men assigned to the above units continued after the war and helped authorities in post war Japan to understand Japanese customs and traditions. These efforts resulted in a peaceful transition to a new and democratic form of government for the Japanese people.

If you are looking for Hollywood Heroes, go to Universal Studios. If you are looking for a real Hero, look at this remarkable soldier of 99 years, Hiroshi Kobashigawa. Thank you, sir, for your service to our great nation and thank you for your valor and commitment as it has filled our history with even more valor than it normally has.





**William Trammell**  
**Vice President Los Angeles Chapter #8**  
**Montford Point Marines Association**  
 wmtrammell@twc.com

**Marines,**

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

Semper Fi,

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

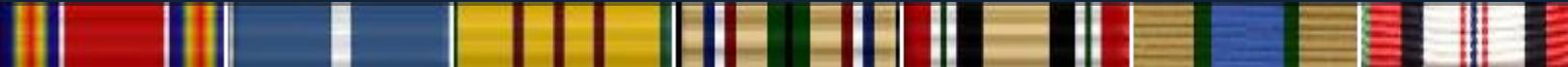
National Montford Point Marine Association Inc. (NMPMA)

**Western Region**

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

**Events & Special Projects For 2018**

- September 22, 2018** *N MPMA LA Chapter Board/Business meeting at 11:00 A. M.*
- October 15, 2018** *NMPMA NEC Teleconference Call @11:00 AM*
- October 27, 2018** *NMPMA LA Chapter Board/Business Meeting at 11:00 A. M.*
- November 03, 2018** *NMPMA OC Chapter Business Meeting @11 AM*
- November 03, 2018** *San Jose MC Birthday Ball @5 PM*
- November 2018** *Fontana H. S. Marine Corps MCJROTC Birthday Ball @ 6 PM*
- November 10, 2018** *Marine Corps Birthday Ball Las Vegas NV. @5:00 PM MCL*
- November 11, 2018** *Veteran Day Celebration @ 11 A.M. Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills*
- November 11, 2018** *City of Palms Springs Day Veteran Day Parade @ 3:30 P. M*
- November 17, 2018** *MPMA LA Chapter Birthday Ball Luncheon in Carson Ca @ 11-4 PM*
- November 2018** *MCB Barstow Marine Corps Birthday Ball @6 PM.*
- November 17, 2018** *NMPMA SD Chapter Business Meeting @10 AM*
- November 17, 2018** *NMPMA NEC Teleconference Call @11:00 AM*
- November 24, 2018** *NMPMA LA Chapter Board/Business Meeting at 11:00 AM*
- December 2018** *"Toys for Tots" Meeting/Drive*
- December 2018** *Presentation Congressional Gold Medal OMP Mr. Murphy J. Jackson Jr.*
- December 15, 2018** *Greenwood Mortuary @ 8 AM SD Ca*
- December 15, 2018** *NMPMA NEC Teleconference Call @11:00 AM*
- December 25, 2018** *Christmas (Thursday)*



## DETACHMENT HONORS

Commandant Dick Jennings presented the National Jr. Vice Commandant's certificate for 100% membership to Ken "Doc" Honaker, Detachment Jr. Vice Commandant and to Jr. Past Commandant, Jerry German.

Sergeant-at-Arms Fausto Galvan putting 2 of the 3 ribbons the Detachment was given at the National Convention on our Detachment flag.







## MANAGING EDITOR

### RICHARD FARRA

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

818-470-3258 Mobile

## **Like a shark, it must keep moving to live – just as this Detachment must keep moving forward. Your actions give the Detachment motion.**

Lots of stuff going on within the Detachment that involves every member and associate's help. To start, Doc Honaker can't put the MCL Ball together by himself, he needs your help to get things done-call him to find out how you can help. This is the time to get your dress Blues on, have a great time meeting your brethren Marines, and supporting the Detachment. Please plan on coming to the event, there are only 200 hundred seats available, so buy your tickets early - they're available online for your convenience. (Try our new and improved website [MCL597.org](http://MCL597.org).)

Our Detachment uses its funds to help Veterans in need; unfortunately, money doesn't grow on trees, not that I know of at least, so please get involved with our fundraising. One opportunity is by helping Doc Honaker with getting sponsorship donations for advertising in the Ball's program; by selling raffle tickets for the mega prizes – M1, pistol and giant prize basket; and/or silent auction and event basket prizes. We don't make money from the dinner tickets, prices are at times subsidizes to make the event affordable, so please buy raffle tickets and/or garner Ball sponsorships.

Another point are the nominations of those who give above and beyond for our Detachment. Let me bring some thought to this for you. For example:

- Valeria Galvan, she works very hard every year to put on the annual picnic for you. This past July there were over a hundred participants, that included members of the VFW, American Legion, Disabled Veterans, and our Detachment. The best part was it was free for those who attended, thanks to the Detachment's Board.
- Ruy Peña and all the members of our Color Guard detail for their selfless duty to honor those who served.
- Dick Jennings for his leadership in taking getting out in front of our local communities with his speaking engagements at the local high schools sharing his experience in Viet Nam, and other community outreach programs.
- Matt Valenzuela who, without fanfare, goes out of his way to help Veterans in need, finds guest speakers for our meetings, and promotes the Detachment with the Dept of CA.
- Fausto Galvan who helps the up and coming generations of our society by leading the Young Marines with discipline and generating self-esteem.



- John Miller who reminds us that you are all heroes, bringing to light the lives of those who gave above and beyond in their service to our nation, and ensuring honor is bestowed to those who would have otherwise been passed over.
- John Mitchell who's organized efforts with Toys for Tots gives hope and happiness to thousands of kids every year.
- Bradley Cantley, our chaplain, who doesn't let any member fall through the cracks and keeps them in our hearts and prayers.
- Doc Honaker for his leadership in organizing our annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and for making our Detachment 100% membership current whereby our Detachment received a citation for the same.

I'm sure I left some out of my comments, I did that for a reason, it's to have you think of those who have earned the right to receive an award.

Give a little bit of your time to help your Detachment to be a big deal to the community and its members.

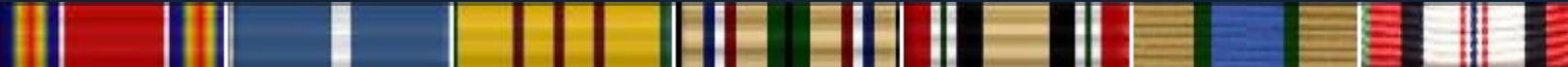
Thank you,  
Rich Farra  
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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



## PAYMASTER'S CORNER

**ANDY DOBRZYNSKI**

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

805-428-5902



### Detachment Members,

This week I am visiting Austin, Texas. Went to a high school Football game on Thursday. It was wonderful watching high school football players praying before the game. Non-existent in California. Honor guard from ROTC opened the game with multiple military flags being presented.

Please do not forget to send in your membership fee which was due on September 1. Renewal fee is \$40.00.

Please mail your checks to PO Box 65, Simi Valley, CA 93062.

Your Paymaster,

Andy Dobrzynski

## VERY HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



04- Dick Jennings - Life Member  
 07- Daniel McCoole  
 09- Sid Kirshner - Life Member  
 10- Juan Avalos  
 11- Ernest Napper  
 15- Tim Egan  
 18- Chris Cassidy  
 18- Rudy Cordero

19- Linda Keppler  
 21- Robin Hutton  
 21- Cassandra Wallace  
 24- Bo John Bloom  
 25- Bob Martinez - Life Member  
 29- Mitsy Farra - Life Member  
 30- Chris Bennett



## NEW MEMBERS

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

Commandant administering the oath to new Detachment member Bob Earley at our September Monthly meeting.





**NEW LIFETIME MEMBER  
JERRY ANDERSON**





## GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker for September is Associate Debbie Sands, topic TBA.







## ATTENTION ON DECK

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

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

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

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

1st Thursday of each month

**Simi Valley Elks Lodge #2492**

**1561 Kuehner Drive**

**Simi Valley, CA 93065**

Meet and Greet 1800

Dinner 1800-1859

Meeting 1900

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

3rd Wednesday of each month from 1600-1800

US Bank Building

1445 East Los Angeles Avenue, Room 302

Simi Valley, CA 93065