



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



JANUARY 2019



COMMANDANT
Richard Jennings

MCL597Commandant@gmail.com
805-328-9817



Marines, Corpsmen and Associate Members:

It was a hectic December. First came our monthly meeting/Christmas Party that PDD Ben Pfister put together. It started after a brief meeting of 11 minutes and everyone was ready to "Party." The food was from Viva la Pasta and was served by the Board of Directors - everyone had enough to eat. After eating a great meal, we settled down for Ben and Sue, his lovely wife, to start and conduct the "White Elephant" gift exchange. After a couple of "swaps" you could see the "dark side" starting to come out in all the exchanges. It was a wonderful night, and a BIG thanks to Ben and Sue for putting it together.

Next was our first venture into Bingo as a fundraising event, which was co-sponsored by the Simi Valley Elks. Our part of the deal was to get as many participants as possible for the evening. We were able to get 35 plus with the help of our Detachment member Anthony Hernandez, who brought ten people. Thanks to the Simi Valley Elks Lodge and our Paymaster Andy Dobrzynski (whose idea it was) for including us in this event. One night, no extra work, produced over \$1,100 for the Detachment.

The month of December was our annual Toys for Tots Campaign, this year was no different as we started the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Our usual place is at the Janss Mall in front of Toys r Us, but Toys went out of business, so it wasn't that good. John Mitchell, our octogenarian, Director of this campaign decided to move us in front of the Burlington store. Now this store decided to add more toys to their inventory because of the closing of the big toy store, but not many people knew about it. Bob Martinez, Assistant Director and John had the idea to go and ask the Target Store at the Sycamore Square Mall in Simi Valley if we could put a few boxes in front of their store to collect for Toys for Tots. With the manger's permission, we moved our



base of operation to Simi for the month of December, and at last count, we were extremely successful. Along with this, a lady from Simi Valley, Keri Sears donated over 500 toys and stuffed animals to Toys for Tots.

I look forward to next year's campaign and a few more Target stores to set up shop. Thanks to John and Bob for a job well-done.

After the holiday, hopefully everyone

had a very happy holiday season, we held our monthly meeting on January 3, 2019. At this meeting, we held our first nominations for our elected officers.

Nominated were:

- Commandant - Dick Jennings
- Sr. Vice Commandant - Harry Hodges
- Jr. Vice Commandant - Jim Wagner
 - Ken "Doc" Honaker (declined)
- JAG - John Miller

This is the first and the second and last chance to nominate a member will be at our February 7 Detachment meeting. Also, right after that nomination will be the elections of Officers.

Remember only Members are eligible to vote, no Associates. Associates can be appointed to non-elected but very important positions on the Board. You also must be a Member in Good Standing meaning your dues have to be paid up.

When you check in on the 7th, give your membership card to John Fuentes (Corporal of the Guard) or our Paymaster at the sign in table. They will check if you are in good standing. If so, you will be given a ballot with the names of January's nominees typed on it. There will be space to write in the new names that may have been nominated previously. When you finish filling out the ballot, you can put it in the ballot box.

Our Adjutant will then have 2 people of his choosing to count the ballots and announce the outcome. If you want to vote, you must be present.

We also held a brief memorial for one of our oldest and nicest members, Ed Farra. Soon, we will announce a date for a more fitting memorial.

I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard this past month. For all our Detachment brothers and sisters who came out and worked the Toys for Tots campaign, to the players at Bingo. But I want to thank our Detachment brothers and sisters who come to our monthly meetings. Hopefully, you enjoy yourself, learn a little something and want to come back the following month. I try to run the meetings as if I was sitting out in the audience, quick and to the point.

If I haven't told you personally, I want to say it now'
I wish everyone a very Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year.

Semper Fi,
Dick Jennings
Commandant



Two members of our Detachment (Ben Pfister and Fausto Galvan) traveled to Orange, CA to present 3 plaques to Executives of SKB Cases for their strong support of the Marine Corps League. and the President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597.

L/R: Mike Melsh (Director of Sales, West Coast), Fausto Galvan, Dave Sanderson (Owner), Ben Pfister and Steve Kottman (Owner)





SR. VICE COMMANDANT

Harry Hodges

Hodges1951@gmail.com

805-515-1401, Mobile



Marines and Associate members,

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

Semper Fi,
Harry Hodges
Senior Vice & Ships Store Rep





JR. VICE COMMANDANT

Ken 'Doc' Honaker

JviceMCL597@gmail.com

805-416-4063, Mobile

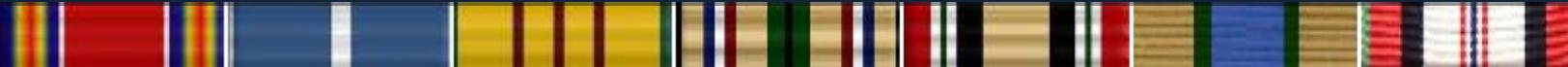


Marines, Corpsmen and Associates:

In the event you missed the first meeting of this year on 3 January, Happy New Year. If you missed the meeting, why? Do you need a ride as you don't see well at night or figure you haven't attended for a while or your dues aren't paid up? These are easily corrected by reaching out to your fellow Marines and/or calling the paymaster. Resolve to get back in the flow of the 597. You could even attend and nominate yourself for one of the elected detachment offices, or let the commandant know you would be up for serving as one of the non-elected board appointments. I am stepping down as Jr. Vice Commandant, although I will be as involved in league activities as my home circumstances will allow.

I attended this month's Military Collaborative in Oxnard and was reminded of the many services available for veterans in Ventura County. Presenters this month included UCLA in collaboration with the VA Wilshire offers support through the Veteran Family Wellness Center, website vfwc.ucla.edu for more information. Team RWB (Red, White, Blue) which has chapters across the country for group activities, website TeamRWB.org for activities. Even the Ventura County Public Defender's office had a presence for information for the Veterans Court to assist veterans with various legal infractions. There's a multitude of ways veterans can find support, but we as members of MCL 597 can start with Marines we encounter daily. Bring them in with an offer of a burger and a beer (or soda) and let them know their fellow Marines are here.

Semper Fi
Ken "Doc" Honaker
Jr. Vice Commandant



JR. PAST COMMANDANT

Jerry R. German

jrgerman@sbcglobal.net

818-324-2338, Mobile



JUDGE ADVOCATE

John Miller

kathiemill@aol.com

(805) 581-5462



Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

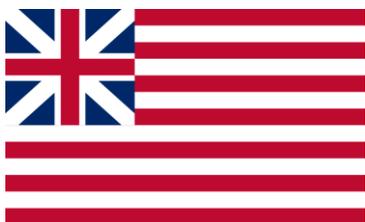
Let's each and everyone have a very Happy and Blessed New Year. As we start a new beginning, let's not forget the principles that have made us the fine organization that we all belong to. Friendship and Esprit de Corps are the threads that hold us together as Marines and Americans. Let us hope and pray that the 116th Congress will move our Nation forward in peace and prosperity. Let's look ahead to good times and dedication to our core values. May this year be one that we will all look back on as one to remember with pride and happiness.

We must also remember the men and women that made our country great and made us who we are. History has always been important to Marines as we look back with pride and respect to the events that shaped our Corps and our nation.

Here are events in January that are important to us and made the world a safer and a more democratic place for everyone.

Events for January in History

January 1, 1776 General George Washing unveiled the first National Flag.





- January 1, 1863 Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Lincoln.
 - January 1, 1892 Ellis Island opened in New York Harbor
 - January 1, 1915 Our strong ally Australia became a nation
 - January 1, 1735 Patriot Paul Revere was born
 - January 1, 1752 Patriot Betsy Ross was born
 - January 3, 1959 Alaska became a state
 - January 8, 1815 The Battle of New Orleans
 - January 9, 1913 President Richard Nixon born in Yorba Linda, California
 - January 15, 1929 Reverend Martin Luther King born
 - January 16, 1991 Iraq War began
 - January 17, 1706 Patriot Benjamin Franklin born
 - January 21, 1954 First nuclear submarine the USS Nautilus
 - January 23, 1968 USS Pueblo seized by North Korea in International waters. 1 US Sailor killed
 - January 24, 1965 Winston Churchill died
 - January 24, 1975 Japanese soldier captured in Guam 30 years after the end of World War II
 - January 26, 1880 General Douglas Mac Arthur born
 - January 27, 1973 Official end of US involvement in the Viet Nam War. Over 58, 00 US military deaths, 300,000 wounded, 2,500 missing in action and 55 killed in captivity.

 - January 28, 1986 Shuttle "Challenger" explodes shortly after launch killing all 7 crew members.
 - January 29, 1843 President William McKinley born
 - January 30, 1968 Tet offensive begins in Viet Nam
 - January 30, 1882 President Franklin Roosevelt born
 - January 31, 1945 Army Private Eddie Slovik executed for desertion/ cowardice during World War II. He was executed by firing squad and was the first such execution since the Civil War.
- For those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and other events in January;

Congratulations and many more years of happiness and good Health.

Semper Fidelis,
John E Miller
Judge Advocate.



ADJUTANT

John Coley

w4simi@yahoo.com



From the Desk of the Adjutant

Marines, Corpsman and Associate Members,

Let me start off by wishing all of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year, and hopefully Santa brought you all that you deserved.

The first co-sponsored Simi Valley Elks and MCL 597 Bingo Night, on 12 December, drew a large turnout of detachment members and associates who had a great night out and even won some money (\$\$). Many folks brought their significant others, and for some, being new to BINGO, seemed to have a good time once they figured out how to play the games. The detachment earned \$1100 for all to enjoy themselves.

Our Color/Honor Guard did seven details since the last Gipper. We did the honors at Pioneer Cemetery in Simi Valley for Wreaths Across America, another color guard in Van Nuys, and five honor Guards for burials around the area.

Our own Ed Farra was laid to rest at the Riverside National Cemetery on the 5th of January with the Active Duty Honor Guard doing the ceremony. Detachment 597 was represented by fourteen Members and Associates who went to pay their respects. Our sympathies go out to Ed's wife Mitsy, and sons Donald and our Gipper Editor Richard Farra.

At our January meeting, nominations were started for the positions of the four elective offices as stated in the National By Laws. Only regular members in good standing can hold the elective offices, and only regular members in good standing can vote in this election. Nominated and pledged to serve were: Dick Jennings for Commandant; Harry Hodges for Sr. Vice Commandant; Jim Wagner for Jr. Vice Commandant; and John Miller for Judge Advocate. Additional nominations for these positions will be re-opened and then closed for a vote during the February 7th General Meeting. Voting will be held by secret ballot and the newly elected Officers will be installed during our March meeting. Please plan on attending the February meeting to cast your ballot. If you don't vote, don't complain later about the Detachment Officers.

See you on February 7th!

Semper Fidelis,
John Coley
Adjutant



THE DOG ROBBER HOWLS

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

DD Ben Pfister
Pound Keeper

benpdet597@gmail.com

818-208-1095





CHAPLAIN Bradley Cantley

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:

Rudy Cordero—Continue to pray for Rudy as he recovers from his injury.

Matt Valenzuela—is doing much better, and Matt it was great to see you at the meeting. You are looking good.

Ericka Silva—Ericka is still in our prayers, and I currently don't have a recent update. If someone knows more, please let me know.

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

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

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

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

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

Buggs Ansell - On oxygen 24/7

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

Brad Cantley—I have a few surgeries coming up in January and beginning of February.

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

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

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

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

God Bless and Semper Fi,
Chaplain Brad



COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

Ruy Peña

colorguard597@gmail.com

818-912-9863, Mobile



Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,

We had a full calendar in January with Honor Guard details for our veterans. January 5, we went to Riverside National Cemetery to provide a Color Guard rifle detail for our own Ed Farra, Korean and Vietnam Veteran. USMC Rifle Company provided the honors for his service and we were there as a back-up. Fourteen members of our Detachment were present at the service to pay final respects to Ed.



On January 12, we provided an honor detail for Allison McKowen's fiancée Joe Krigbaum, a Navy Veteran in Ventura. Our Detachment's Bradley Cantley presided over the memorial, Robert Martinez bugler, Ramon Arevalo and Larry Fischer flag detail, Larry Fischer, and Dick Jennings, Ben Pfister, and Dave Opfer on rifle detail.





HISTORIAN

John Miller

kathiemill@aol.com
(805) 581-5462

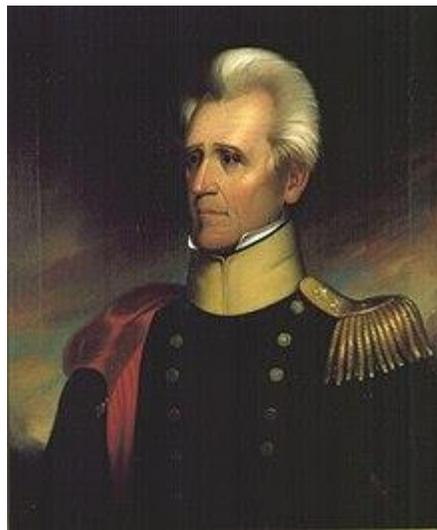


Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Andrew Jackson

United States Army

7th President of The United States



Andrew Jackson was born on March 15, 1767 to Andrew and Elizabeth Jackson. The parents were of Scots-Irish heritage and had immigrated to the American Colonies from Ireland in 1765. Andrew's father was killed in a logging accident 3 weeks prior to his son's birth. His early childhood was spent in poverty and he obtained only a minimal classroom education. His exact birthplace is unknown due to the remote wilderness area in the border between North and South Carolina.

His mother was an early patriot of the American Revolution. Andrew and his older brothers Hugh and Robert all served in actual combat conditions during the rebellion. His oldest brother, Hugh, died of heat exhaustion during the battle of Stono Ferry, near present day Charleston, South Carolina on June 20, 1779. Andrew and his remaining older brother, Robert, became messengers and couriers between battlefield commanders operating in the Carolinas. He was only 13 at the time and his brother 15. He and his brother were captured by the British and forced to perform house duties for a group of British officers. One officer ordered young Andrew to wash and polish his boots. When Andrew refused, the officer slashed Andrew across the left hand and head with the blade of the sword. The blow created a scar on the young man's face and an intense hatred for anything British. His brother was also ordered to shine the officer's boots and he refused and was struck with the sword also. Soon thereafter, both brothers contracted smallpox and nearly died.



Their mother obtained their release from custody and they began the 40 mile walk back to their home in rural N. Carolina. A severe rainstorm struck them about half way to their destination and Robert's condition worsened. He died 2 days after the family reached their home. Andrew was also near death and was nursed back to health by his vigilant and loving mother. After his recovery, she volunteered to nurse the American prisoners of war aboard British warships in Charleston Harbor. She developed cholera and died while nursing to the prisoners. She was buried in an unmarked grave, at an unknown location near the harbor entrance. Andrew was orphaned at age 14 and blamed the British for the deaths of his family. He rebelled against most of his extended family and went to work as a saddle maker and school teacher.

A local attorney took him under his wing and helped him pass the North Carolina bar examination. He became a lawyer in 1787 and obtained a position as a local prosecutor in the western district of N. Carolina. In 1788, he took offense to a remark made by another lawyer and challenged him to a duel. Both men agreed to an honors duel and each man fired his shot into the air thus satisfying their personal honor without injury to either man. Due to the duel and other matters, Andrew Jackson moved to Nashville, Tennessee in 1788

In Nashville, he met his future wife Rachel who was in an unhappy marriage to a Colonial Officer. The couple fell in love and married, only to find out later that Rachel's husband had not filed for a divorce. They separated for a time and waited for the final divorce to be in effect and then remarried. In colonial times and in rural areas, it was proper and legal for a couple to live together as man and wife, if the community agreed to the union and supported it. In 1794, Andrew joined with another attorney and became involved in Indian affairs and was one of the founding fathers of the City of Memphis, Tennessee. He was ambitious and entered politics and became the Judge Advocate of the Tennessee Militia. He rose to the rank of Major General in the Militia and was the head of the State Militia for many years.

In 1803 he purchased the Hermitage Plantation near Nashville and became a slave holder and wealthy landowner. His plantation was a money maker and he advanced quickly through the local political gentry. He was quick to anger and considered it an insult for anyone to question his wife regarding their marriage. A nearby landowner published an article in the local newspaper regarding his marital status and immediately Jackson challenged the man to a duel. The two met and Jackson was wounded in the chest by the other man's first shot. True to the honor code, the man stood his ground and Jackson shot him dead. He acquired a reputation as a violent and vengeful man and became a social outcast. To redeem himself, he joined ranks with former Vice President, Aron Burr, and together they made plans to invade Florida and take it away from Spain and have it annexed to the United States. During the preparation for the military invasion of Florida, Jackson found out that Burr was also planning on invading New Orleans. Jackson refused to attack American interests and notified President Jefferson. Burr was arrested for treason and put on trial and acquitted of all charges.

After the outbreak of the war with Napoleon in France, Britain enforced a naval blockade of American ports and began forcing American seamen to join the British Navy while on the high seas. On June 18, 1812, the United States declared war against Great Britain and its allies. This war was very unpopular in the established New England states and most of the original fighting took place along the border with Canada and on the Western frontier. Even with its most skilled troops in Europe, the British defeated American forces time after time. Eventually the British entered Washington and burned the White House to the ground. The only major government or military building not burned was the Marine Barracks at 8th STREET and I street in Southeast Washington.



Jackson assembled his 2,500 men strong Tennessee Militia and requested permission to enter the fighting against the British Army. While waiting for orders, Jackson got into a barroom brawl and was shot in the shoulder by one of his officers. Finally, his orders arrived. He was ordered to subdue a local Shawnee Indian uprising along the western frontier, not the British Army. The British would have to wait. The battle lasted 3 weeks and the Indians were forced to give up their lands and ordered onto a reservation.

On June 8, 1814, Jackson became a Brigadier General in the United States Army and 10 days later, he was promoted to Major General. With nearly 5,000 regular troops and volunteers, Jackson left to meet the British in New Orleans. On January 8, 1815, the British with over 10,000 regular troops met Jackson and his army. The battle took place 2 weeks after a peace treaty had been signed in Europe ending the conflict. Neither Jackson nor his British counterpart were aware of the treaty. The battle began. The result was a massive American victory and a humiliating British defeat. The British admitted to 2,037 casualties, 291 killed in action, 1,262 wounded in action and 484 missing in action or captured. The American side suffered 71 casualties, including 13 killed in action, 39 wounded in action and 19 missing in action or captured. Even though the war was officially over, Jackson became an instant American hero. This popularity would gather strength and send Jackson to the White House in 1828. He became the first leader of the Democratic Party.

Jackson was a man of action with a fierce love of his native land. It is hard to determine his legacy because he didn't have children but adopted 3 men as his heirs. One of the three was his nephew, and the other two were Native Americans. His opponents were his greatest and most bitter enemies and his followers worshiped him as the only man who could save the Nation.

Here is his true legacy and one we should admire and respect; He was an American Soldier and he fought and bled for our country and its principles and core values. He gave no excuse for his love of country. This motto was **Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori**, meaning: **IT IS SWEET AND PROPER TO DIE FOR ONE'S COUNTRY**. The English word Patriot comes from the Latin word PATRIA, one who loves his country. President Andrew Jackson was a true American original and one of our most honored Presidents. **May his Memory be Eternal!**



Commandants Residence 8th and I streets Washington DC



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

Matt E. Valenzuela

mattval@aol.com

310-768-2847 Office

310-308-7015 Mobile



Folks,

For those of you that were unable to make it to Riverside for Ed Farra's Celebration of Life Memorial, I managed to take several pictures.

Taj and I did not want to take a jostling, hurried drive on Saturday morning, so we left on Friday and stayed at the Mission Inn. To our surprise, Riverside was being festive with their Annual Mission Inn Festival of Lights...it is a sight to see, especially if you have children or grandchildren. They would enjoy the horse-drawn lighted carriages clomping down the streets. Pictures of some bright-lighted areas are attached above.

After checking in, we sat inside and watched the hotel's festivities while snacking and enjoying adult beverages. Festivities went on the streets until the late hours of Friday night.

Saturday morning, we checked out at noon and proceeded to the Riverside National Cemetery for Ed Farra's Memorial. We were there at 1230 and we were advised to come back at 1315 for scheduled admittance.

Ed's Memorial and Celebration of Life was at 1345 and all went well with the active Marines doing the Honors. However, I wish that our own Honor Guard had handled the Rifle Salute.

After the Eulogy, Ed's son, Rich Farra, told some wonderful stories about his Dad. Rich invited everyone to attend the reception at the restaurant.

For those that could not make the trip to Riverside, there is a local Memorial for Ed being planned to be held at Veterans Plaza at Lemon Park in Simi Valley. More information on that to follow.

Members of the President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597 and San Fernando Detachment 1277 that were present for Ed's Memorial are in the picture attached above.

Front Row Left to Right:

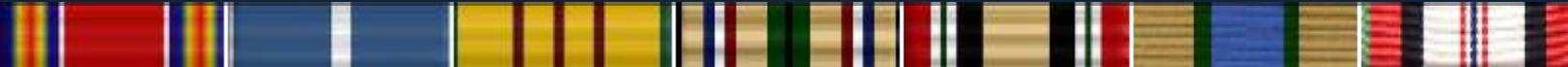
Color/Honor Guard Commander, Ruy Pena, Al Lansdale, Ramon Arevalo, Hank Noorda, Sr Vice Harry Hodges, Chaplain Brad Cantley, Larry Fischer, MODD Pound Keeper, Ben Pfister, Chaplain Matt Valenzuela, and Ed's son, Donald Farra.

Second Row Left to Right:

Past Commandant Jerry Anderson, Det 1277 Sr Vice Jay Jakar, 597 Paymaster Andy Dobrzynski, Allison McKowen, Sgt at Arms Fausto Galvan, Ed's son and 597 Associate, Gipper Editor, Richard Farra.

Also present were the three generations of the Farra Family, chief among them was Ed's beloved wife of 65 years, Mitsy Farra. Our most sincere condolences go out the Farra Family.

I will probably miss someone, but from my memory, members spouses present were Andy's wife, Rose, Hank's wife, Helga, and my wife Taj.



Wishing everyone the very best of a Healthy New Year!

Semper Fidelis,

Matt Valenzuela

Dept. of CA Sr. Vice Commandant

MODD CA Pack – Sr. Vice Pack Leader





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

wmtrammell@twc.com

Marines,

Happy New Year Marines!

Our Board is completing our activities schedule for the coming months. We look forward to publishing it in the coming Gipper.

Semper Fi,

William M. Trammell
 Vice President Los Angeles Chapter #8
 Montford Point Marine Association, Inc

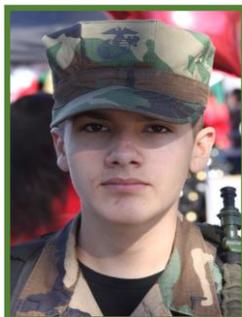


Fausto Galvan
Executive Officer
Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines

Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com

818-259-2119

Article submitted by YM/PFC Synder



Happy New Year!

The Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines had a very busy December. The month started with drill and a family Christmas party on the 1st. It was a great opportunity for our families to meet and get to know each other. Following the party, we attended the Christmas tree & menorah lighting ceremony in Newhall at the Veterans Plaza. There were prayers, speeches, and choir performances honoring the soldiers who were deployed during the holidays.

The weekend of 08 December, SCVYM helped at a Toys for Tots event where we collected toys and helped pack them into boxes to be delivered to kids in need. On 15 and 22 December, we attended a 1st Marine Division Luncheon, and assisted at another Toys for Tots event with the Marine Corps League 597, respectively.

2019's calendar is filling up. We have drill & recruit orientation on January 12th and 19th and looking forward to boot camp in March. We are excited to grow our unit this year and improve ourselves as individual Young Marines.

YM/PFC Snyder





MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD FARRA

richfarra@gmail.com

818-470-3258 Mobile

Thank you.

From the time my father joined the USMCR and USMC at the age of 17, the Corps was his family. He always greeted another Marine with respect and treated them like a brother. My father's family showed their respects at his burial ceremony at Riverside National Cemetery on 05 January. The family photo below says it all.

A very warm thank you goes out to Matt Valenzuela who gave my father's eulogy, Ruy Peña for organizing the Detachment's membership representation and Color Guard rifle squad back-up, Marines and Associates who made the journey, and his relatives who drove and flew-in to send my father off.

With the new board installation in February, I will be stepping down as the Gipper's editor. My involvement with the Detachment started in 2007 as a League Sponsor, helped to raise funds, worked with six Commandants Jerry Anderson, Mark Shuster, Glen Fiery, Matt Valenzuela, Jerry German, and Dick Jennings on marketing, communications with the community, and the newsletter. In 2012 my father wanted me to join the League. While newsletter editor for the Gipper, we won MCL National newsletter awards 2015 and 2018. It was my pleasure and honor to work with my father's Marine family. It's been a rewarding journey. I feel it's time to pass the baton to someone else who can take you further.

Thank you all,
Richard Farra
Managing Editor





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

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

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

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



PAYMASTER'S CORNER

ANDY DOBRZYNSKI

andydobrzynski@gmail.com

805-428-5902

Detachment Members,

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

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

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

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

Your Paymaster,
Andy Dobrzynski



BINGO NIGHT

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

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

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

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







VERY HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Richard A. Gallegos 1
 Al Lansdale 4
 *Don Montgomery 8
 *Timothy Stratton 13
 Yolanda Peña 15

Kathren Martinez 16
 *Matt Valenzuela 24
 Jay Adelman 28
 Ron Reyes 28

* - Life Member



2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Rank or Title	Name	Phone	E-mail
Commandant	Richard A. Jennings	805-328-9817	MCL597Commandant@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Commandant	Harry Hodges	805-515-1401	Hodges1951@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commandant	Ken "Doc" Honaker	805-416-4063	kdhonaker@gmail.com
Jr. Past Commandant	Jerry German	818-324-2338	jrgerman@sbcglobal.net
Judge Advocate	John Miller	805-581-5462	johnemillerusmc@gmail.com
Adjutant	John Coley	805-368-1086	w4simi@yahoo.com
Paymaster	Andy Dobrzynski	805-428-5902	andydobrzynski@gmail.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	Faustogalvan14@gmail.com
MODD Pound Keeper	Ben Pfister	805-208-1095	benpdet597@gmail.com
Corporal of the Guard	John Fuentes	805-485-4230	John.R.Fuentes@Nav.mil
Chaplain	Bradley Cantley	805-813-3571	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	805-515-1401	Hodges1951@gmail.com
Fundraising Chairman	Harry Hodges	805-515-1401	Hodges1951@gmail.com
2018 MCL Golf Tournament	Dick Jennings	805-328-9817	2018golftourney@gmail.com
Historian	John Miller	805-581-5462	johnemillerusmc@gmail.com
Web Master		213-709-1520	parkjoon2013@gmail.com
Managing Editor, The Gipper	Richard Farra	818-470-3258	richfarra@gmail.com
Young Marines	Fausto Galvan Timothy Stratton Juan Avalos	818-259-2119 661-257-9690 (858) 229-1894	Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com e-8sierra@sbcglobal.net avalosjmscvym@gmail.com
Toys For Tots Chairman	John Mitchell	805-379-9664	Kathleen.Mitchell.is18@statefarm.com
Director of Associates	Valeria Galvan	818-302-9816	ValeriaHGalvan@yahoo.com
Department of California Staff			
Dept of CA Sr Vice Commandant MODD CA Pack – Sr. Vice Pack Leader	Matt E. Valenzuela	310-308-7015	mattval@aol.com
VAVS MODD Dept. of CA Pack - Watch Dog	Fausto Galvan	818-259-2119	fausto_galvan471@yahoo.com



ATTENTION ON DECK

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

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

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

MCL Det. #597 GENERAL MEETINGS

1st Thursday of each month

Simi Valley Elks Lodge #2492

1561 Kuehner Drive

Simi Valley, CA 93065

Meet and Greet 1800

Dinner 1800-1859

Meeting 1900

BOARD MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month from 1600-1800

US Bank Building

1445 East Los Angeles Avenue, Room 302

Simi Valley, CA 93065