



The Gipper

Marine Corps League
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597
Semper Fidelis

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JULY 2019



COMMANDANT

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From the Desk of the Commandant

Marines and Associate members,

During the July general meeting, I accepted the change of command as Commandant from Richard Jennings, now Dept. of California Commandant, in a ceremony at the start of the meeting. I look forward to serving the 597 as your new Commandant for the remaining term ending March 2020. It will be a new challenge that I am looking forward to, even though I am still trying to understand Dick's Bahstan accent, things will transition smoothly.

27 June was a very special day for the 597 as we hosted a book signing and interview with actor, author and Honorary Marine Gary Sinise, a.k.a. Lt. Dan from the blockbuster film Forrest Gump. Gary is involved with many Veterans and active duty support foundations, as well as performing USO events for our troops deployed worldwide, and was made an Honorary Marine by the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Commandant Jennings interviewed Gary Sinise on stage at the Elks Lodge in front of over one hundred members and their guests. In addition





to answering questions from Dick, Gary spoke about his recently published book "Grateful American – A Journey From Self To Service." His book has already received accolades from Rick Lynch, Lt. Gen. U.S. Army (Ret.), Tom Hanks, actor and film maker, Robin Hand, Gen. U.S. Air Force (Ret.), Clint Eastwood, actor director, producer and musician.

This was truly a special event where we heard from a patriot who has dedicated his life to helping Veterans. We listened to him as he spoke of his childhood and how he got into acting and then onto the big screen to be a supporting actor on Forrest Gump and on several television series.

He shared some family information and Military background which led him to helping Veterans by creating Foundations to aid Veterans. His primary foundation is the Gary Sinise Foundation which raises money by putting on concerts with his Lt Dan Band, selling his books, and other activities.

We were blessed to have had this opportunity to speak face-to-face with Mr. Sinise in this once in a lifetime event. At the end of the interview I presented Mr. Sinise with a Marine Corps League red satin jacket and with a Lifetime membership to our President Ronald Regan Detachment 597 Marine Corps League. I want to thank Dick Jennings for arranging this interview and the Daughters of the American Revolution for organizing the book signing and sales.



Next, if you haven't seen the new military branch flag display at the Veterans Court, it's a must see. The 597's Color Guard and Rifle Squad provided the ceremony for the reinstatement of the military branch flags in the Veterans Plaza. I want to thank Col. Marty Spann, U.S. Army (Ret.), for doing a terrific job as the event's Master of Ceremony; Bob "The Bugler" Martinez for assisting in hanging the flags and playing taps; and those participating in the Color Guard and Rifle details: John Miller, Doc Honaker, Dave Opfer, and me – Harry Hodges. And as a special note the rifle squad's volleys were so precise, each of the three volleys sounded as if there were only one rifle performing the detail – very nicely done.

Lastly, we had our annual 597 picnic on Saturday 13 July at the Veterans Park, Simi Valley. We had a fun time playing bean bag toss with John Miller and Jim Wagner winning most of the games, followed by teams Mel Krone and Doc Honaker, Dick Jennings and Harry Hodges, Bradley Cantley and Don Joy, and lastly Debbie Sands and Jim Wagner. Valeria presented each of the winning teams with award bags in recognition of their victorious teamwork and expert tossing skills. For those attending nobody left hungry, there was plenty of food for everyone in the group who were treated to an abundance of hot dogs, burgers, potato salad, cake, cookies, and more. The Santa Clarita Young Marines also showed up to join us for a great summer day in the park. I want to give a special thank you to Valeria Galvan for organizing this wonderful day for our members and to those who helped.



Semper Fi,
Harry Hodges
Commandant



SR. VICE COMMANDANT

Martin Spann

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Fellow Marines, Corpsmen and Associate Members,

It's an honor to be addressing you for the first time as your Detachment's newly appointed Senior Vice Commandant. While I had the privilege of meeting some of my fellow Detachment members at last month's meeting after my installation, I would be remiss if I didn't share with the rest of our members who were not able to attend my gratitude, and my congratulations to our new Detachment Commandant Harry Hodges.

First and foremost, I would like to recognize and congratulate Dick Jennings on his appointment as Commandant of the Department of California of the Marine Corps League. It has been through his initiative, vision, and dedication to mission accomplishment that our beloved Detachment has flourished.

As your Detachment Senior Vice Commandant, I want to take this opportunity to let you all know what my agenda is during my tenure;

- Support the Detachment Commandant and members of the Detachment Board of Directors.
- Encourage membership involvement and participation.
- Sustain the Detachment by recruiting new members.

I believe each of these points are achievable and are necessary to sustain our Detachment for future success.

I look forward to working with all of you and encourage your continued support to our beloved Marine Corps and our Detachment.

Continue to March &
Semper Fidelis

Marty Spann
Senior Vice Commandant



JR. VICE COMMANDANT

Jim Wagner

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Now Hear This!!

For all seagoing Marines and Sailors who served in the 'Blue Water Navy' off the coast of Vietnam during the Vietnam be advised you are now entitled to benefits for exposure to Agent Orange. Previously, only those who actually served on the ground in Vietnam were entitled to benefits as a result of exposure Agent Orange and the medical problems caused thereby.

However, recently President Trump signed into law the Blue Water Navy Act of 2019 granting benefits to seagoing Marines and Sailors of Blue Water during the Vietnam War who suffer the effects of Agent Orange toxicity. It's my understanding though that only those Marines and Sailors who were aboard ships that operated within 12 miles of the coast of Vietnam are covered by this act.

Here is a link the Blue Water Navy Act of 2019: <https://www.legion.org/legislative/246107/president-signs-blue-water-navy-veterans-act-law>

Anyone who believes that they suffer from the effects of Agent Orange should contact a local VSO (Veterans Service Officer) to discuss filing a claim for disability benefits with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Semper Fi
Jim Wagner
Jr. Vice Commandant



EVENTS DIRECTOR

Ken 'Doc' Honaker

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Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,

The Stand Down at the Ventura County Armory has been held every year for over 25 years and going, and I have had the honor of participating and helping our disadvantage Vets for over 10 years. This year's Stand Down will be 26-28 July, Friday through Sunday, and providing services spanning from AA to VA; and including employment opportunities, dental and medical services, eye exams with prescription eye wear,



legal clinic, haircuts, food, clothing and showers. Vets can stay Friday and Saturday night, although some don't stay because there is a no drugs or alcohol policy within the compound. The Stand Down is primarily for homeless Veterans, but it is open to all Veterans in need – the only criteria to receive Stand Down aid is that you must be a Veteran.

The organization needs Volunteers to assist in serving chow, directing Vets to needed assistance, parking control, clothing distribution, etc. Come and help even if it's for a few hours, your help will be gratefully accepted. To volunteer call the Director of Stand Down, Claire Hope at 805-630-2431, or for information regarding clothing donations call Connie Biggers at 805-646-5033.

I will be delivering clothing to the event on 24 July and assisting in the medical area on Friday. Please call me if you have items of clothing in serviceable condition, and we can either meet, deliver them to my house, or take them to Ventura yourself. A nice short drive and visit to the beach can't be all that bad.

August 4-9 is the Marine Corps League National Convention in Billings, Montana. As a native Montana boy, I will be there at least part of the time.

August 24 the annual Military and Veteran Job Fair and Expo will be held at Oxnard College. Big Red will be there and manning the booth is always fun and interesting as we always meet nice people who come to talk with us.

October 20 is the date for the Thousand Oaks Street Fair, more specific information will follow in the coming weeks.



On a personal note, this past 15 June was an exciting day for me, this was the day I met and had lunch with the UH-34 USMC co-pilot that med evacuated me in Vietnam. We did go down in flames after I was picked up 1 May 1968, he and the other helo-crew carried me to the wingman aircraft to Delta Med in Dong Ha. Ed Searing and Joanne, his wife, were on a road trip from the Chicago area that included a stop to meet me face-to-face after all these years. Ed recalls that day very clearly as it was his first flight in-country. Quite an initiation. He is now a retired Elementary School Principal and not big on flying. He was stationed at MCAF Tustin prior to Vietnam. The UH-34 in the Marine Museum is the actual helicopter Ed flew (by serial number) and the downed bird burned to ashes. The helo still carries the Evil Eyes of HMM-163. Thank you Marine for allowing me to survive to live the wonderful life I've had. OOHRAH.



During our July general meeting, I had the pleasure of presenting an aviator clock with plaque to Suzanne Barger in memory of GySgt Ken Barger USMC (Ret). This item has been floating around the 597 storage locker for some time. When I realized that Gunny Barger had worked on restoring the PBJ aircraft, at Commemorative Airforce at Camarillo Airport, I proposed to the MCL 597 Board that we dedicate and present the clock to Suzanne. Semper Fi Gunny. End of watch Marine. Bravo Zulu.

Semper Fi
Doc Honaker
Events Director



JR. PAST COMMANDANT & COMMANDANT

Dept. of California

R. A. "Dick" Jennings

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Marines, Corpsmen and Associate Members,

Our Commandant has asked me to take the helm for our fundraising efforts from 2019 to 2020. Fortunately, I have the best assistant in this field, Debbie Sands, and she will be running our fundraising efforts. Currently, we will have three fundraisers held during the year - 2 Bingo nights at the Elks Club and a Bingo night in October - we how to have more types of fundraising activities as new ideas come forth.

Fundraising is the backbone of any Service Organizations' cash flows, and we are no different. Our "Mission Statement" is clear, we are "Marines helping Marines," and we need to raise increasing amounts of funds every year. In the prior year, we were able to give thousands of dollars to a myriad of charities, which included the fire victims located in Northern California and Agoura Hills.



Our Detachment needs your help! One or two people cannot do this job alone. This is not a full-time job, you can help to work the different events, help make fliers, contact donors, or event organize a new event and manage it. It's up to you to let us know what you would like to do, we need your help. Please contact me with your questions.

Semper Fi,

Dick Jennings

Jr. Past Commandant

President Ronald Reagan Det. 597

Commandant

Department of California

Marine Corps League



JUDGE ADVOCATE

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JULY 2019

July means that half of 2019 has past and soon will come the warmest days in Ventura County. This past year was full of accomplishments: Our former Commandant Dick Jennings was elevated to the position of Commandant, Dept. of the California; the Veterans center is moving along with several important developments that push this important issue forward; and Gary Sinise visited and gave a very heartfelt interview to our fellow veterans and citizens at the Elks Lodge on June 27th. What an amazing man and a true friend to each Veteran. Let's keep up the good work and make 2019 the very best it can be.

Our Detachment Color Detail continues to render respect and honor to those Veterans that have passed on to their reward guarding the streets of heaven. There is no better feeling than to watch the family of a deceased Veteran accept the military honors that all Veterans deserve and have earned with their blood and sacrifice.

Enjoy the summer and let's hope there are no more shake, rattling and roll for the foreseeable future. We are a proud military organization and our history and traditions make us who we are and define our lives. Below are just a few of the accomplishments that our Marine Corps has accomplished over the centuries.



Marine Corps History for July

July 21/24, 1944	2 nd & 4 th Divisions land on Tinian during world War II
July 27, 1953	Armistice ends Korean War
July 2, 1945	I/Cpl. Michael Badsing born and later, September 6, 1965 was KIA in Viet Nam.
July 1, 1834	Archibald Henderson promoted to Colonel and is the highest-ranking Marine to become Commandant. He served as Commandant for 39 years.
July 30, 1881	General Smedley Butler born in Pennsylvania. He earned 2 Medals of Honor on 2 separate battlefields engagements.
July 10, 1944	Sgt. John Basilone marries Marine Lenna Riggi in Oceanside, Ca. He was the only enlisted man to earn the Medal of Honor and Navy Cross in World War II. He was also the only Medal of Honor recipient to return to combat and be killed in action. He was KIA on the first day of fighting on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945.
July 26, 2013	Statue of USMC combat horse "Sgt. Reckless:" unveiled at Semper Fidelis Field at The National Museum of The Marine Corps. She received 2 purple heart medals, National Defense Medal, Korea Service w/3 stars and many other awards during her lifetime.
July 4, 1776	Declaration of Independence approved by Continental Congress.
July 7, 1798	"The Presidents Own" United States Marine Corps Band was established by an act of Congress. It is the oldest professional musical organization in the United States.
July 30, 1846	During the Mexican War US Marines land at Santa Barbara and 2 weeks later, 360 Marines seize Los Angeles.
July 21, 1861	US Marines fight during the first major battle of the US Civil War. The 1 st Battle of Bull Run.
July 1/3, 1863	The battle of Gettysburg, lasted 3 days with a Union victory. It was considered the high-water mark of the Confederate States of America. They never entered Union Territory again.
July 25, 1930	General Louis "CHESTY" Puller earns his first of 5 Navy crosses.
July 11, 2019	Harry Hodges is ceremoniously sworn in as the new 597 Detachment Commandant after assuming the position when former Commandant Dick Jennings is elected the State of California Commandant in June 2019.

It's our History - Honor it

Semper Expertus	Often Tested
Semper Fidelis	Always Faithful
Fratres Aeterni	Brothers Forever



July 2, 2019 Advocate John Miller, Lt. Colonel Kevin Stepp and Bugler Bob Martinez.
During Change of Command for 9th Comm. Battalion
at Camp Pendleton. Lt. Colonel Stepp assumed
command of the Battalion on above date. He is the
Bugler's nephew.



Irish and Scots at the Gathering of the Clans in Costa Mesa

Semper Fidelis
John Miller
Detachment 597 Judge Advocate



ADJUTANT

John Coley

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From the Desk of the Adjutant

Marines, Corpsman and Associate Members,

I hope that all of you had a Happy and Healthy National Birthday on the 4th of July.

Some History of Independence Day

We celebrated 243 years of independence from Great Britain The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical.

By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the bestselling pamphlet “Common Sense,” published by Thomas Paine in early 1776.

On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies’ independence. Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee’s resolution, but appointed a five-man committee—including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York—to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee’s resolution for independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 “will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival” and that the celebration should include “Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other.”

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

Festivities including concerts, bonfires, parades and the firing of cannons and muskets usually accompanied the first public readings of the Declaration of Independence, beginning immediately after its adoption.



Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress was still occupied with the ongoing war.

George Washington issued double rations of rum to all his soldiers to mark the anniversary of independence in 1778, and in 1781, several months before the key American victory at Yorktown, Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday.

After the Revolutionary War, Americans continued to commemorate Independence Day every year, in celebrations that allowed the new nation's emerging political leaders to address citizens and create a feeling of unity. By the last decade of the 18th century, the two major political parties—the Federalist Party and Democratic-Republicans—that had arisen began holding separate Fourth of July celebrations in many large cities.

The tradition of patriotic celebration became even more widespread after the War of 1812, in which the United States again faced Great Britain. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4th a federal holiday; in 1941, the provision was expanded to grant a paid holiday to all federal employees.

Over the years, the political importance of the holiday would decline, but Independence Day remained an important national holiday and a symbol of patriotism.

Falling in mid-summer, the Fourth of July has since the late 19th century become a major focus of leisure activities and a common occasion for family get-togethers, often involving fireworks and outdoor barbecues. The most common symbol of the holiday is the American flag, and a common musical accompaniment is "The Star-Spangled Banner," the national anthem of the United States. Credit to : History.com

The Second Birthday of the US. Marine Corps

On 10 November 2019, the U.S. Marine Corps celebrates its 244th birthday, marking the Nov. 10, 1775, decision by the Second Continental Congress to establish two battalions of Marines.

Except those weren't *the* Marines. That 1775 group was known as the Continental Marines, and it wasn't yet the United States Marine Corps.

When this force was first raised during the Revolutionary War, it was part of the Continental Army.

The Continental Congress ordered "that particular care be taken, that no persons be appointed to office, or enlisted into said Battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea when required." The newly formed Continental Marines soon launched a mission on the British Fort Nassau in the Bahamas, and according to a 1921 Marine Corps Gazette article they participated in the Battles of Trenton and Princeton. When the Revolution ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the Marines, like the Navy, were disbanded.

It wasn't until 15 years later, on July 11, 1798, that President John Adams signed into law a congressional act which created—or re-created, depending how you're counting—the United States Marine Corps. The re-established force served in addition to the Army and Navy and would organize those marines who were already enlisted in other military branches.

In 1921, Major Edwin McClellan, the officer in charge of the Historical Section at the Headquarters of the Marine Corps, suggested to Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune that the Marine Corps celebrate the date of the initial founding of the American Marines. On Nov. 1, 1921 Commandant Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, which declared that in memory of the thousands of men who served as Marines after the group was created on Nov. 10, 1775, "it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history."



He praised the history and honor of the Marine Corps, including “the eternal spirit which has animated our corps from generation to generation.” Commandant Lejeune’s order closed, “So long as that spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our Nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as ‘Soldiers of the Sea’ since the founding of the Corps.”

Our Color Guard participated in three events on July 4th doing the detachments part in upholding tradition. The morning detail was held at Veterans Plaza in Simi Valley, followed by a celebration at the Reserve in Thousand Oaks at about noon, and ending with the fireworks extravaganza at Rancho Tapo Park in Simi at 1800 with a Color Guard detail for a large crowd of people that show up for this event.

Our annual picnic was held the 13th of July at Simi Valley Veterans Plaza on Avenida Simi in Simi Valley. The picnic was free, thanks to the 597 picking up the costs of the hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls and all the trimmings. For some reason the turnout this year was smaller than last year. Possible weather related? None of our sister service organizations were there to boost the attendance this year. Nevertheless, everyone there appeared to have a good time and some played cornhole with a lot of accusations of cheating being thrown about. Food was excellent in quantity and quality. Thanks to Dave Opfer and John Fuentes for doing most of the grilling of the hamburgers and dogs.

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**

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818-208-1095



Woof Woof Devil Dogs, Marines and Associate members,

I would like to welcome our newest Dog to Pound 325, Pup Jesse Esparza with Detachment 1277. We now have 52 Dogs in the Pound.

If any of you regular members with one year or more in Detachment 597 is interested in joining the MODD, please see Commandant Harry Hodges.

Woof
PDD Ben Pfister
Pound Keeper



CHAPLAIN Bradley Cantley

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The Chaplain's Corner

Fellow Marines, veterans and friends:

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

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

Dick Jennings's wife Edna—Needs strength and healing.

John Miller's daughter—Has recovered and is healing nicely

Gary Sinise—our guest speaker (an honorary Marine) needs prayer for his sister-in-law who has cancer.

Ken Mask—Pray for strength and healing

Don Joy—please pray for healing, he sees the surgeons on Monday.

Hank Noorda—Is at home, and recovering

Bill Trammell—Pray for continued healing.

Conrad Wright—needs prayer for healing and recovery

Conrad Wright's wife—also needs prayer for an injury

Julie Stranges—needs prayer and healing

Maria Avila—Has cancer needs strength and healing

Robert Nelson—Pray for healing

Ericka Silva—Still under treatment

Thomas Hernandez—Strength

Blanca Hernandez—Healing

Jim Lieberknecht—Stay strong.

Mike Maxwell—Still under treatments, and healing

Sue Honaker—need prayer for 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"

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



HISTORIAN

John Miller

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GLORY DENIED COLONEL FLOYD JAMES THOMPSON UNITED STATES ARMY

Home is the Sailor... Home from the Sea, and the Hunter home from the Hills.

This warrior is one that was forgotten by most historians and at times denied by the very country that he fought and bled for. He was a Viet Nam Veteran, and therefore, at the very least he was scorned by many when he came home from the war. Also... He was treated like a Korean War Veteran in that he was ignored and not remembered at all. His story is unique in that he was one of the bravest of the brave and he was held in enemy hands longer than any American in the history of our nation. Nine long and painful years. Let me repeat that, "NINE LONG AND PAINFUL YEARS." Held prisoner, first by the Viet Cong and later the Communist North Vietnamese, the NVA. Let me introduce you to the finest Hero that I have ever read or learned about. His name is Colonel Floyd James "Jim" Thompson United States Army.

Floyd Janes Thompson was born on July 8, 1933 in Bergenville, New Jersey, and graduated from the local High School in June, 1951. On June 14, 1956, Jim (as he was known and preferred to be called) was drafted into the United States Army. Originally, he was resentful of authority and was a rebellious soldier. By the time he graduated from boot camp, he had a change of heart, and decided to make the Army his career. He applied for and was accepted into Officer Candidate School (OCS). He was the most surprised soldier when he was accepted and made every effort to become a fine and dedicated Army officer. He was stationed at Fort Bragg and it was there that he was selected to attend The Special Forces School. After Special Forces School, he was sent to Ranger and Jump School and was formally inducted into the "Green Berets." His skills were so in demand that he became an instructor at the US Army School of Infantry at Fort Benning, Ga. He also became a platoon commander with the 2nd Brigade of the 34th Infantry Regiment. In June 1960, his unit was sent to South Korea and he remained there until July 1961.

His other duties included the detached reenlistment officer at 18th Airborne Corps at Ft. Bragg, NC., and staff officer with the 1st Special Forces Unit. His entire career was with infantry and special forces units.

In early December 1963, long before Viet Nam became a household name and battle location, Captain Thompson received orders for a six-month temporary duty to South Viet Nam. He was to assist and instruct the ARVIN military in the art of special operations and long-range reconnaissance procedures. On March 26, 1964, he was the co-pilot/observer in a L-19/01 "Bird Dog" observation aircraft with USAF Captain Richard Whiteside as the pilot. Outside Quang Tri province his aircraft was shot down by small arms fire. Captain Thompson survived the crash, but suffered massive burns, a gunshot wound to his face and a fractured spine. The whereabouts and condition of the pilot was unknown to Captain Thompson. He was quickly captured by local Viet Cong (NLF) and taken to a prison in the nearby jungle. Several air and ground



searches failed to locate Captain Whiteside or the observation plane. The ground units failed to locate and rescue Captain Thompson.

Captain Thompson spent the next 9 years as a Prisoner of War, first with the Viet Cong and later with the North Vietnamese Army (NVA). He was held captive longer than any other American soldier in any conflict in our nation's history. It wasn't until 1967 that he was finally sent to Hanoi and the infamous Hanoi Hilton. During his captivity with the VC, he was beaten, hung up by his thumbs, starved and denied any contact with other American POW's, at one point, he hadn't spoken to another American in over 5 years.

On the day of his capture, his wife was informed of his situation and she became so upset that she went into labor and delivered her son on that very same night. She already had 3 daughters ages 4, 5 and 6. Originally, she believed that her husband survived the crash and settled into a belief that he would return. After a time, she gave up and took the 4 children and moved in with a retired army sergeant in Massachusetts. She remained there with the sergeant, but never divorced Captain Thompson.

Captain Thompson was repatriated to the United States along with numerous other POW's in Operation Homecoming in March 1973. He attempted to reconcile with his wife, but he was never able to come to grips with her actions during his captivity. They finally divorced in 1975 and his wife retained custody of the children. He never ever had any type of relationship with any of his children and later in life was completely estranged from all of them. His wife stated that his captivity effected his brain and he became an alcoholic and she said he became abusive to her and the children.

Captain Thompson was promoted to Lt. Colonel upon his release from captivity and resumed his military career. However, he had many struggles to overcome. In 1977, he attempted suicide with a combination of alcohol and pain meds. The only reason that he was not discharged from the service was his military record and his courage during his 9 years as a POW. He was promoted to full Colonel and was assigned to the Pentagon. He suffered a massive heart attack and stroke in 1981. He was in and out of a coma for months and was paralyzed on the left side of his body and was unable to speak except in short brief phrases for the remainder of his life. Due to his complete disability, he was medically discharged from the Army in 1982. On January 28, 1982 the Army held a retirement ceremony for Colonel Thompson at the Pentagon. He had a close civilian friend read the following statement to the brass that attended the ceremony.

"I am honored to receive this award, but at the same time saddened to be leaving active military service. (He had been presented with the Distinguished Service Medal prior) The Army has been my life and I am proud of each of my 25 years of service, of those 25 years, 9 I spent as a prisoner of war. Those days were grim, and survival was a struggle. I was able to withstand that long agony because I never lost my determination to live no matter how painful that became, because I love my country and never lost faith in her, and because I had dreams of what my life would be like upon my return to America. Those dreams were always, unquestionably, of a life that was Army. I found that the dreams of continued service gave me a goal that helped me return from Viet Nam.

The opportunity to serve became the motivating force in my life. Military service has given me my greatest challenges and my greatest rewards. I have worked hard for sound leadership development in the Army and for realistic training.

The greatest problem facing Prisoners of war was fear of the unknown. This fear can be reduced, not only for the potential POW, but across the awesome environment of the battlefield, by training which is honest



enough to address the real issue of combat and which is tough enough to approximate the battlefield conditions.

No, I do not retire freely---- There was much I still wanted to do--- but circumstances present me no alternative. I leave military service because I must. But for the rest of my life, the Army will be no less of me, and of what I am, than it has always been.

Colonel Floyd James Thompson

January 29, 1982

His former wife died of cancer in 2009. His only son born on his captivity date was convicted of murder and served 16 years in prison. One of his grandsons committed suicide. Colonel Thompson lived a life of high moral achievement and dark personal despair.

On the morning of July 8, 2002, several of the Colonels friends came to his house to celebrate his birthday. He was full of life and was very jovial during the celebration. Eight days later, he was found dead in his house in Key West, Florida. He died of natural causes and his remains were cremated and scattered along the coast of Florida. An American Hero had passed into the history of the Viet Nam war. A man of extreme courage and endurance and faith in his country, even until the very end.

There is no finer meaning of the word Hero than that of Colonel Floyd James Thompson. From George Washington, Andrew Jackson, US Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Alvin York, "Chesty" Puller, Eugene Obregon, Audie Murphy, John Canley and William Carpenter, his name will stand beside them. This man, this American Soldier makes me feel honored that I served while he did, so that I could know exactly what an American Hero really is.

May his name be Eternal

Semper Fi,
John Miller
Historian



PAYMASTER'S CORNER

ANDY DOBRZYNSKI

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805-428-5902

My fellow Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,

The past couple weeks were very exciting due to the visit by Gary Sinise to our function at the Simi Valley Elks Lodge. All had a great time and it was a real pleasure to meet Gary. The additional books are on the way for those who are back ordered on their book purchase.



Also, for those of you that have not received your new membership cards, I was assured that they are being worked on and that there was a slight glitch in submitting new and renewed memberships for April and May.

Your annual memberships dues will be due September 1, 2019 for the year 2019 thru 2020. You may send your \$40 checks to Andy Dobrzynski, Paymaster at P.O. Box 65, Simi Valley, CA 93062. I should be sending out invoices to those members who have not paid by mid-August. Your prompt payments will be greatly appreciated.

Enjoy the Summer and Semper Fi.

Andy Dobrzynski
Paymaster



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

Marines:

June was another very busy month for the National Montford Point Marine Association (NMPMA), Los Angeles Chapter 8, and Mike Johnson, NMPMA Western Regional Vice President, promises that July will be the same or even busier.

A day we should remember - on June 25, 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 establishing the fair employment practice that started erasing discrimination in the Armed Services. Twenty-five years after World War II started, in the summer of 1965, an enterprising group of Marines veterans residing in the Philadelphia area formulated and developed plans to hold a national reunion of the Montford Pointers and The Montford Point Marine Association was born.

On November 23, 2011, President Barack Obama signed into law bills S. 1527 and H.R. 2447. These important legislative actions authorized the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) to those Marines who had gone through Boot Camp at Camp Montford Point between 1942 and 1949. The CGM bestows the honor and recognition to these first African American Marines trailblazers they so richly deserve. A ceremony was conducted in Washington, DC where many MPMA members received their CGM,



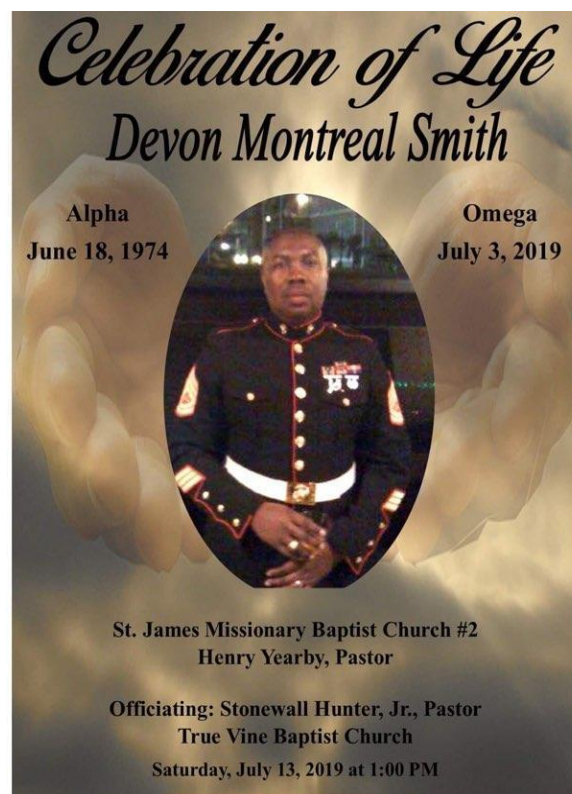
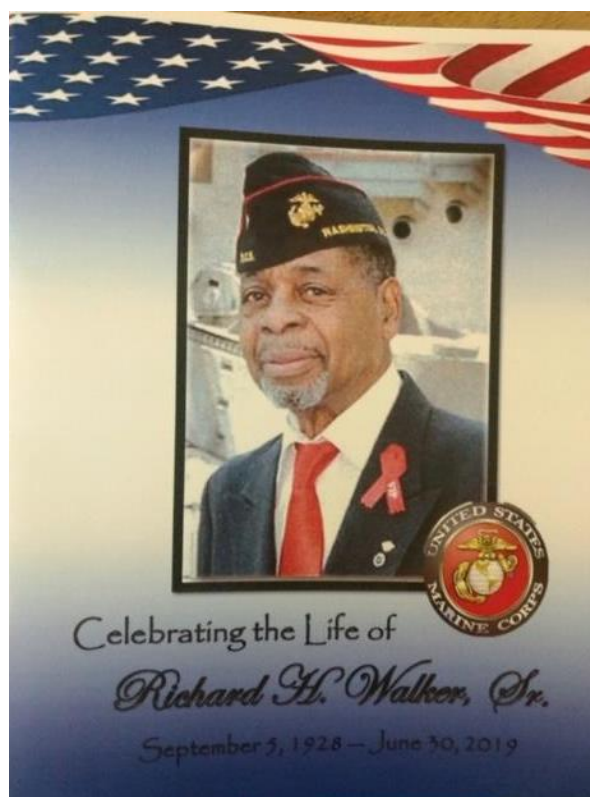
and yet many of the Original Montford Pointer's (OMP) have yet to come forward to receive their CGM. It is now the distinct honor, duty and responsibility of the NMPMA to seek out the remaining OMP's and to ensure that they or their surviving family members receive this honor.

On 30 June 2019, Marine Gunnery Sergeant (Ret.) Richard H. Walker, an original Montford Pointer (OMP), passed away. Mr. Walker was among the first African American Marines who received their basic training at Camp Montford Point a segregated facility at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina. After 24 years of honorable service Gunny Walker retired on 30 July 1970.

On 3 July 2019, Marine Gunnery Sergeant (Ret.) Devon Smith received his final orders from the Supreme Commander, he resided in Las Vegas, NV. His funeral services will be held in Monroe, LA on 13 July 2019. He was a member of MPMA Los Angeles Chapter 8. Mr. Smith was a 32-Degree Scottish Rite Master and Shriner with the Jack Haywood Lodge in Las Vegas, NV.

Marine Joseph Alexander from Hayward, California will receive the Congressional Gold Medal at the Hayward Veterans Memorial Center on 2 August 2019.

Marines Harold F. Evens and Willie P. Murphy will receive their Congressional Gold Medal during the NMPMA convention ceremony in Charlotte, NC on 28 August 2019.



During our Chapter's June meeting we presented scholarship awards to two highly deserving high school seniors. They are pictured below from left to right, Mr. Bennie Harris, Chapter 8 President, Mr. Bob Carter, Scholarship Chairperson, Ms. Brenda M. Montano and Ms. Imani C. Thomas both from Freemont High School in Los Angeles, and Mr. Bill Trammell, Chapter 8 VP. Both recipients will be attending college starting this fall.



Events & Special Projects For 2019

July 01, 2019 WRVP visiting OMP's In Bay Area Oakland, Hayward, Sacramento CA

July 04, 2019 4th July Independence Day

July 06, 2019 NMPMA OC Chapter Business Meeting @11 AM

July 07, 2019 Services Tuskegee Airman Mr. Robert Friend @11 AM Palm Springs

July 13, 2019 Services for OMP Mr. Richard Walker @ 10 AM Parris CA.

July 13, 2019 NMPMA Chapter #1 CGM Ceremony OMP at 11 AM PHI PA.

July 20, 2019 NMPMA SD Chapter Business Meeting @ 10 AM

July 20, 2019 NMPMA NEC Teleconference Call @11 AM

July 26, 2019 DeVry University Graduation @ 6PM Las Vega NV

July 27, 2019 NMPMA LA Chapter Board/Business Meeting at 11:00 A.M.

August 02, 2019 CGM Ceremony OMP Mr. Joseph Alexander Hayward CA.

August 03, 2019 NMPMA OC Chapter Business Meeting @11 AM

August 00, 2019 MPMA LA BBQ Scholarship Fund Raiser @11 AM

August 17, 2019 NMPMA SD Chapter Business Meting @10 AM

August 17, 2019 NMPMA NEC Teleconference Call @11:00 AM

August 19, 2019 Next Dimension University Commencement @5 PM LA CA

August 24, 2019 NMPMA LA Chapter Board/Business Meeting at 11:00 A.M.

August 28, 2019 CGM Ceremony OMPs Mr. Willie Murphy and Mr. Harold F. Evans' Family @ NMPMA NC.

August 28-31, 2019 NMPMA 54th National Convention (Charlotte) NC



September 07, 2019 NMPMA OC Chapter Business Meeting @11 AM
September 14, 2019 MCRD Museum Salute @5 PM SD CA.
September 21, 2019 NMPMA SD Chapter Business Meeting @10 AM
September 21, 2019 NMPMA NEC Teleconference Call @11:00 AM
September 28, 2019 NMPMA LA Chapter Board/Business meeting at 11:00 A. M.

As the Event & Special Projects for 2019 depicts that we are very busy, and this is an exciting time to be involved within the Western Region.

The next meeting of Chapter 8 will be on 27 July 2019. Our meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month. We meet at the American Legion Post 46 at 11:00-14:00 at 5309 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230. You can contact me at (805) 512-2215.

Semper Fidelis

William Trammell
Vice President
Los Angeles Chapter #8
MPMA



Fausto Galvan
Executive Officer
Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines

Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com

818-259-2119

The month of June 2019 was full of good times for the Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines (SCVYM). We started with drills which tested our physical fitness and swimming qualifications. Then we were invited to the Camp Pendleton mud run. Our June 15th drill was special because we said goodbye to graduating YM/Corporal Galvan-Sayre who was promoted to Staff Sergeant, received a scholarship from the Vietnam Veterans of America Group, and was given many other awards. In addition, his sister YM/Corporal Galvan-Sayre was promoted to Sergeant. We will miss Staff Sergeant Galvan-Sayre but wish him good luck in his studies and thank him for his time in our unit.

YM/Pfc Snyder



Deborah "Debbie" Sands
DAR Vice Regent, Rancho Simi Chapter
Detachment 597 Associate Member

DAR Project Patriot

In addition to serving as the Vice Regent of Rancho Simi DAR, I'm the Project Patriot Chair for the chapter. This is a cause near and dear to my heart and the reason I joined DAR in 2011.

From the NSDAR website:

"The DAR Project Patriot Committee is the official Daughters of the American Revolution committee that supports America's servicemembers and their families. At the national level, DAR support is focused on two groups: women serving in the military and wounded military men & women at three locations: the Chaplain's Closet at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany; the Warrior Transition Brigade at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Bethesda, Maryland; and the Warrior and Family Support Center in San Antonio, Texas. We also address needs at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, a Mobilization Training Center. Camp Pendleton has recently been added to our nationally-supported centers. In addition, we provide support to deploying and returning servicemembers and their families."

Locally, the Rancho Simi DAR chapter is currently involved with the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Family Readiness Group at Pt. Hueneme. We are collecting items on their "wish list" for those who deployed in April and are returning this October. These troops will be returning to empty living quarters, and our chapter members will assist in purchasing essential items to make sure they have what they need - from shampoo to laundry pods - the moment they return. Our chapter is dark during summer and will resume our meetings on September 14. (The Seabees will send a driver and truck to our meeting to pick up all items collected.)

Just one more way we support our active military in Ventura County!



ANNUAL PICNIC DIRECTOR

VALERIA GALVAN

Hello Marines, Associates Family and Friends,

Our picnic was another success! The weather couldn't have been better and seeing everyone having great conversations and playing cornhole was super fantastic! A big hug and thanks go to John Fuentes and David Opfer for being the dog and burger chefs, and to those who brought salads and desserts. We had special guest at the picnic, The Santa Clarita Young Marines! I heard a lot of grunting and chest pounding from the young ones, ha-ha.

Thank you all so much!

Valeria Galvan



Birthdays for the month of August

Leah Coughlin Hernandez	4
Russell R. Hicks	6
Ruy G. Peña	7
Joseph E. Trotta	8
Scott Chamberlain	11
Scott Zimmer	14
Mary Shuster	21
Andy Dobrzynski*	23
Johnnie B. Walker*	23
Kenneth L. Mask*	25
John Moreira	30
Sho Bin Yu	30

*Life Member



Matt E. Valenzuela **Past Commandant**

mattval@aol.com

310-768-2847 Office

310-308-7015 Mobile



Marines, Corpsmen and Associate members.

The Installation Ceremony for the new Board of Trustees for the San Fernando Detachment 1277 was held on Thursday, 20 June 2019. Marine Jay Jakar, Sr. Vice Commandant of Det 1277 and soon to be the new Commandant, asked me to be the Installation Officer. Thanks Jay, this is an honor that I do not take lightly. After the new Jr Past Commandant, Marine Bennie Najar, passed on the Detachment Colors to the new Commandant, we all settled down to both a sumptuous and scrumptious dinner. There was plenty to eat and drink for all 65 Marines, Associates, and friends of Detachment 1277 who attended the meeting.

This is a fast-growing Detachment folks! When Taj and I left, the newly elected and appointed officers were already planning for their Marine Corps Birthday Ball on 10 November at the Odyssey.

The newly elected Officers of San Fernando Detachment 1277 are:

- Commandant: Jay Jakar 323-574-8888, jjmcl1277@aol.com
- Sr. Vice Commandant: Jose Razo 818-335-5871, Cplrazo@msn.com
- Jr. Vice Commandant: Alphonso Ornelas 661-537-3511, Fonz_e25@yahoo.com
- Judge Advocate: Robert Schirtz 661-537-3511, Schirtz@sbcglobal.net

Wishing the new Board a lot of success and good fortune in growing in their 2019-2020 year,
Semper Fi

Matt Valenzuela





No wonder their Det is growing...Look at the cases of beer on the table!

Semper Fi
Matt Valenzuela



PAST COMMANDANT

Jerry R. German

jrgerman@sbcglobal.net

818-324-2338, Mobile



President Ronald Wilson Reagan

THE EARLY YEARS

Ronald Wilson Reagan was born in Tampico, IL on 06 Feb 1911 to Father, John Edward (Jack) Reagan, and Mother, Nelle Wilson Reagan, a new brother for two-year old John Neil Reagan born in 1908. Ronald Reagan learned work ethic and optimism from Mother Nelle - "Jack had the dreams-Nelle had the drive." The older brother Neil was nicknamed "Moon" by his Father after the "Moon Mullins" cartoon character. Ronnie picked up the nickname "Dutch" because his father thought his youngest son "looked like a fat little Dutchman." The family moved to Dixon, IL when Ronnie was 9 years old. He considered Dixon his boyhood "hometown."

COLLEGE & HOLLYWOOD

Ronald Reagan attended Eureka, IL College and majored in Business and Sociology. He earned a bachelor's degree in Economics. He wanted to be a Hollywood actor, but his Father did not consider acting a "real job." Reagan started his working life as a sportscaster of local football and baseball games. While broadcasting a Chicago Cubs' Spring baseball game on Catalina Island, CA he made his way to Hollywood, was able to get a screentest with Warner Brothers and was offered a seven-year contract. While working for Warner Brothers in 1940, he met and married Jane Wyman. They had two children, Maureen & Michael. They divorced in 1948. He was elected President of the Screen Actors Guild in 1946. He met and married Nancy Davis in 1952 and had two children, Ron, Jr. and Patti. The Reagans would remain married for more than 50 years, until his death in 2004. During WWII, he was assigned by the US Army to the First Motion Picture Unit in Culver City, CA where he made training films. After the war he served as the Host of the "General Electric Theater" for over eight years which gave him the opportunity to travel America and learn of its peoples' needs and concerns. He considered his General Electric Theater experience a post-graduate course in political science.

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR (1967-1975)

His Hollywood and General Electric Theater experiences made him a household name in America in the late 50s and early 60s. His "Rendezvous with Destiny" introductory speech of Senator Barry Goldwater at the 1964 Republican Convention made him the GOP's go-to candidate in the 1966 California Governor's race. He handily defeated incumbent Edwin Pat Brown. In his two terms as Governor of California he managed to turn a budget deficit into a surplus and huge tax rebate to the state's citizens. He made major strides in welfare reform, spending limits, and rejuvenated the conservative movement in the state. He ran against Democratic President Jimmy Carter in 1976 and was defeated. His Mother's teachings as a child would provide all of the urgings he needed to make a second presidential run again in 1980.

THE PRESIDENCY (1981-1989)

During the election of November 1980, Ronald Reagan ran on a platform of improving the morale and outlook of the American people. His campaign won 44 of the 50 states. He was able to make major strides



during his first 70 days in office, including the return of American hostages from Iran, settlement of the Professional Air Traffic Control Organization (PATCO) Strike and budget reform, but was struck down and hospitalized on his 70th day in office in an assassination attempt by John Hinckley. He returned to the Oval Office from the hospital after 12 days determined to reduce nuclear weapons in the world, which he did by signing the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty with the Soviet Union in May 1988.

AFTER THE PRESIDENCY

President Reagan left Washington, DC on 20 January 1990 and returned to his beloved California. He and Nancy split their time between their homes in Bel Air and Rancho del Cielo, east of Santa Barbara. Ronald Reagan is the only person ever to serve as Governor of California and President of the United States. On 05 November 1994, Ronald Wilson Reagan acknowledged that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease when he wrote to the American People, "I now begin the journey that will lead me to the sunset of my life."

He died at his home in Bel Air, CA on Saturday 05 June 2004, at the age of 93 and was interred at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum at sunset on 11 June 2004. Nancy Davis Reagan passed away at age 94 on Sunday 06 March 2016 and was interred with her husband at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Memorial Site on Friday 11 March 2016.

THE REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Presidents since George Washington have had libraries and repositories for their presidential papers/documents which were traditionally considered to be the property of the president. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Presidential Library System began in 1939 with the Franklin D. Roosevelt's Library. Herbert Hoover's library was second even though he preceded Franklin D. Roosevelt as president. Libraries of the next eleven succeeding presidents have followed the NARA model; that is, constructed using private funds, from non-federal sources and maintained using federal funds:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| • Franklin D. Roosevelt | • Lyndon B. Johnson | • George H. W. Bush |
| • Herbert Hoover | • Richard M. Nixon | • William J. Clinton |
| • Harry S. Truman | • Gerald R. Ford | • George W. Bush |
| • Dwight D. Eisenhower | • Jimmy Carter | |
| • John F. Kennedy | • Ronald W. Reagan | |

The Ronald Reagan Foundation was established in 1985 to raise funds for the building of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum. In 1988, the Foundation accepted an offer of 100 acres of land in Simi Valley, CA donated by the development firm of Blakeley-Swartz.

Dedication Day of the Library was 04 November 1991, eleven years to the day after Ronald Reagan was elected President of the United States. Dedication Day was attended by dignitaries and honored guests from around the world, including five former presidents and six first ladies of the United States. The library's architectural design resembles a Spanish mission with red tile roof and a central courtyard with fountain. It was designed by The Stubbins Associates architectural firm of Boston, MA and constructed by the Los Angeles firm of Peck/Jones Construction Company.

The library archives contain more than 60 million personal and government documents from the Reagan Hollywood career, governorship and presidency, and approximately 1.6 million still photos, 77,000 feet of



motion picture film, 20,000 video tapes and 62,413 personal gifts and artifacts from the life and times of Ronald W. Reagan.

MCL DETACHMENT #597

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 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, including Golf Tournaments, Marine Corps Birthday Balls and restaurant fund-raisers, etc.

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 over 34 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.

Considering Governor and President Ronald Reagan's respect and support of America's Military Services, especially the Marine Corps, and the location of his Presidential Library in Simi Valley, it is indeed appropriate that our Marine Corps League Detachment # 597, also headquartered in Simi Valley, be named in his honor, the President Ronald Reagan Detachment # 597. Semper Fi, Mr. President.

Jerry R. German
Junior Past Commandant



Bradley Cantley

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Cell: 805-813-3571



HONDURAS Part 5

Well, we finally got a couple potable water buffalos that were ready for the next day. We were able to clean out our previous canteens to make way for the better water. Our mission today, once again, puts us up in an Army Blackhawk helicopter to some mountain about 6 miles southwest of our airfield. Of course it was O'dark early when we left and we arrived at the mountain at about 0600's...it was still early, so not overly remembering the exact time. All I know I didn't get coffee or morning chow. Instead of repelling out of the helicopter it landed on what appeared to be a plateau. We got off and of course anytime you get off a helicopter you establish the perimeter.

After the helo took off we got back into our patrol formation - what I would call a stagger column going through a trail leading away from the LZ. The trail led us along the ridgeline of the mountain range, we were to travel at least two to three clicks over. The range reminded me of Camp Pendleton mountains except for mount mother###cker. After a few hours later we got to the area where we were to descend down into an overgrown ravine which would clear out some for us to move more freely to our objective (which was just on the other side of the village, which is closest to the airport). Upon our descent the point man had us halt, and the squad leader and I went up front to see what was going on. Evidently as brush cleared and there was a makeshift corral what appeared to be attached to a huge tree. Inside the corral was a huge (literally a huge) bull that seemed the size of the bull from Ferdinand (cartoon). So, our leader had us slowly travel to the left side of the tree. The bull kept watching us as we traveled around the fat trunk of this tree. "Holy shit, there is a hole in the fence!!!" exclaimed the point man, and the bull charged. We dove right and left out of its way, and it ran back into the corralled fenced area and he turned to look at us. We dusted ourselves off and some of us were getting ready to load in live ammo mags. Our leader put a stop to that pretty quickly because he figured the bull was just f@\$king with us. Have you ever seen a dog smile at you through their eyes, well this damn bull was laughing very hard those his eyes. LOL

Needless to say, the rest of the mission went as planned, but that bull will always be in my mind. Because I've never seen so many Marines just totally jump out of the way. It was just like calling "incoming" which was truly exactly like that.

Semper Fi

Brad Cantley

Chaplain



MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD FARRA

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A LOT OF GOOD THINGS HAPPENING!

Like the recent earthquakes we've experienced, the 597 had some big movements as well. (No toilet pun intended.) We had our very own Richard Jennings elevated to Commandant of the Dept. of California, Gary Sinese moved us with his words of how he is helping Veterans and active duty service personnel worldwide, Harry Hodges received and accepted the position of Commandant of the 597, and our annual picnic clearly showed that tossing a bean bag into a hole was a greater challenge than squeezing a trigger.

I'm not going to rehash the events because the comments above covered them, but I do have pictures. They will follow the Letter to the Commandant section.

Richard Farra
Managing Editor

What do you envision for the future of our Detachment? Our Commandant wants to hear your thoughts, he listens so we can get better. Please email him a "DEAR COMMANDANT" letter with your constructive thoughts.

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 Veterans Center to help Veterans transition from active duty to civilian life. His idea is getting the attention of those in local government and businesses to bring this dream to reality. Share your ideas and let's make them happen.

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, Managing Editor, at richfarra@gmail.com and I will forward them to the Commandant anonymously for his feedback and include them in the Gipper.



MCL JULY 2019 PICNIC PICS











2019-2020 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

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Department of California Staff			
Commandant	Richard A. Jennings	805-328-9817	califcommandant@gmail.com
MODD			
MODD Pound Keeper	Ben Pfister	805-208-1095	benpdet597@gmail.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 Dick Jennings with your new email address to: mcl597commandant@gmail.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 – start time 1600
US Bank Building
1445 East Los Angeles Avenue, Room 302
Simi Valley, CA 93065