



The Gipper

Marine Corps League
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597
Semper Fidelis

R. A. "Dick" Jennings, Commandant
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Richard Farra, Managing Editor
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MARCH 2019



COMMANDANT
R. A. "Dick" Jennings

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805-328-9817



From the Desk of the Commandant

First, I would like to thank our Detachment members for the honor of being your Commandant for another year. I feel privileged to lead the best Detachment in the State of California, if not the best Detachment in the Marine Corps League. The Board of Directors accomplished a lot this past year and with your support, we will continue to grow our membership thus becoming a bigger force within our community.

VETERAN CENTER

I spoke about the new Veterans Center during our March general meeting, but for the benefit of our members who were unable to attend, this is what was covered. We have cleared the first of many hurdles for our Veteran Center to become a reality. Let me be very clear, this is just the first step in a very arduous process in getting this project off the ground.

On February 25th, Jeff Di Julius, General Manager of the Simi Town Center and an Associate of our Detachment, contacted me regarding our interest in building a Veteran Center in Simi Valley. In this conversation, Jeff said there may be some land in the Town Center that would become available. We then met on the 1st of March where he told me that the land from the old Macy's Men's Store, west to the Museum of Military History is available. After our conversation, I told him I would arrange to have him meet with our builders and the executives of Homes4Families.

On Tuesday, March 5 at the Town Center Office, 4 executives from our builders, Jeff Di Julius, Paymaster Andy Dobrzynski, and myself met for our initial meeting regarding this project. Jeff laid out what is transpiring on his end with new owners and Homes4Families laid out what their idea for this project.



To receive outside funding from the state and government, Homes4Families must build low income housing for Veterans. This means in order to have a Veteran Center that we are in dire need of, they must build houses, condos and/or apartments in the same area that the Veteran Center would be located.

After some discussion, our builders said that they would build in excess of 100 condos in the location of the old Macy's store, with a Veteran Center. There would be small stores and shops around the building and a few of the restaurants that are there already would remain and more would be brought in.

As I stated, this is just the first of many meetings that hopefully will take place. This project is huge and at any minute it could go "side-ways." It is not a done deal by any stretch of the imagination, but this is the furthest anyone has gone to have a Veteran Center.

Our next meeting will be in a couple of months with the new lenders and the bank. Once this is done and approved, we will meet with the City Fathers to get their approval for this project. One good thing about Simi Valley's politicians, they are very strong on Veterans.

This project will take some time to get done. I will try to keep you up to date on every aspect of our meetings and what must be done to make this a reality. This is not a Marine Corps League deal but it's a deal for all 8 thousand Veterans in and around the Conejo Valley.

As I closed my talk at our monthly meeting, I said and I will say again, "When you hit the floor at night to say your prayers for your family and all our Veterans, don't forget to mention the Veteran Center. We need all the help we can get."

Semper Fi

Dick Jennings
Commandant





NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS TAKE THE OATH FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE DEPT. OF CALIFORNIA - RAY VALENZUELA

The 597 was honored to have Commandant Ray Valenzuela swear in our new board, and he was more than happy to perform the ceremony.





Past Commandant, Jerry Anderson asked me to forward this to everyone. It's never too early to get ready for a golf tournament. Looks like a lot of fun and I may take my clubs out of mothballs and take a whack at this.

SEVENTH ANNUAL Thank A Veteran Golf Event

Friday, November 1, 2019
Registration: 0800 – 0930
Opening Ceremonies: 0945
Shotgun Start: 1000



Sand Canyon Country Club

27734 Sand Canyon Rd
Santa Clarita, CA 91387

(Denim and non-collared shirts are prohibited per course dress code)

Veterans: No charge for you! * A \$75 deposit is required which will be returned to you at registration. Valid military ID requested at check-in. You may post date your check to 9/1/2019. Donation of your refundable deposit is greatly appreciated to support our cause!
* - Limited spots available.

Non-Veterans: \$175 until 9/1/19. (\$200 after 9/1/19).

On Course Contests Include: Hole-in-One, Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, Air Cannon, Putting, and Beat-The-Pro Long Drive Contest.

Tournament Fee Includes:

- ⌘ Continental Breakfast
- ⌘ Box Lunch
- ⌘ Awards
- ⌘ Gross & Net (Peoria) Awards
- ⌘ Range balls
- ⌘ Hot buffet dinner at end of round
- ⌘ 18 holes of golf with cart on a wonderful course!
- ⌘ ... and a nice day to be with your fellow veterans!

For more information about the tournament and other sponsorships, please email nancy@thankavet4golf.com.

Make checks payable to "THANK A VETERAN GOLF EVENT" and mail check and form to:
Nancy Butler, Thank A Veteran Golf Event | PO Box 802771 | Santa Clarita, CA 91380
(661) 675-3006

Name (Please write neatly)	E-Mail Address (Please write neatly)	Veteran?	Non-Veteran?



2019 Thank A Veteran Golf Event Sponsorships

4-Star Flag Sponsorship \$2200

- ★ Two Foursomes
- ★ One hole sponsorship sign
- ★ Logo and advertisement in Tournament Program

3-Star Command Sponsorship \$1500

- One Foursome
- One hole sponsorship sign
- Logo and advertisement in Tournament Program

2-Star Warrant Sponsorship \$650

- ★ Two player spots in tournament
- ★ One hole sponsorship sign
- ★ Logo/name in Tournament Program

1-Star Sponsor \$350

- ❖ One player spot in tournament
- ❖ One hole sponsorship sign
- ❖ Logo/name in Tournament Program

Not Playing? Sponsor ...

- A hole. \$150 includes sign on tee box and noted in the program booklet.
- A Veteran. \$175 and is noted in the program booklet.

o Make check payable to: Thank A Veteran Golf Event
o Mail to: Nancy Butler | Thank A Veteran Golf Event | PO Box 802771 | Santa Clarita, CA 91380
o Contact Nancy Butler, Tournament Chair at nancy@thankavet4golf.com for more information and to submit your player names and sponsor logo.
501C3 # 47-4857686
(661) 675-3006



Some members from our Detachment 597 and the 1277, along with members of the Military Order of World Wars, were on hand to honor our own Robin Hutton. Robin gave a great after dinner talk on her two books - Sgt. Reckless and War Animals.

Pictured are L/R:

David Opfer, Ken "Doc" Honaker, Ben Pfister, Pastor Stan Taylor, Robin Hutton, Al Langford, Dick Jennings, Matt Valenzuela, John Coley, Fausto Galvan, and Jay Jaker from Det. 1277.





**March 29 is
National Vietnam War Veterans Day**

Please join us in thanking and honoring our
nation's Vietnam veterans

When: Friday, March 29th, 2019

Where: SACC Rec Hall, Bldg. 22,
16111 Plummer St.

Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

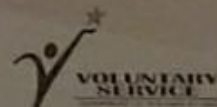
The event will include light refreshments and gifts

For more information or questions, please contact
Voluntary Service at 818 895-9325

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans





SR. VICE COMMANDANT

Harry Hodges

Hodges1951@gmail.com

805-515-1401, Mobile



Marines and Associate members,

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me, I am really looking forward to serving the League and fulfilling my duties of my position to the best of my abilities. Looking forward, we should have a busy and productive year focusing on growing membership and helping our brother Veterans. Additionally, I will do my best in working closely with Commandant Jennings to achieve the Detachment's goals he has set. Due to uncontrollable circumstances, such as bad weather, we are back-ordered on Polo shirts, but our vendor informed me that our quantity ordered is in route. We should also expect to receive our order for more covers, hopefully by our April general meeting.

Semper Fi,
Harry Hodges
Senior Vice & Ships Store Rep



EVENTS DIRECTOR

Ken 'Doc' Honaker

JrviceMCL597@gmail.com

805-416-4063, Mobile



Now that I have stepped down as an elected member of the board, I have been asked by Commandant Jennings to continue to manage events for the 597 within the community. Most notable will be street fairs though other activities will likely arise.

The next scheduled community event for the Detachment 597 will be the Simi Valley Street Fair on 4 May 2019. This annual activity is again slated for the Simi Town Center. Specifics will be forthcoming.

The Simi Valley Veterans Memorial Park will be host to the Antelope Valley half size exact replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall from 24-27 May. There will be an opening ceremony on 24 May, at 1600, and will remain open 24 hours daily through to the closing ceremony scheduled at 1600 on 27 May. The



Wall will close at 0800 on 28 May. Spread the word of the arrival of this memorial. We must not forget what was given by our Veterans, or we will forget the value of freedom and democracy.

This event will require volunteers to setup and take down the wall, greet visitors, help locate names in the directory and guide visitors to locations on the Wall, listen to stories and lend a hand when needed. These volunteer assistance opportunities will be needed throughout the time the wall opens to closing. It is tradition to read the names of the fallen throughout all hours of the stay of the Wall. Readers can sign up for times. More info as the Wall arrival draws near.

By the way, it is still flu season and not too late for a flu shot.

Semper Fi
Doc Honaker
Events Director



JR. VICE COMMANDANT

Jim Wagner

ANALOGCOWBOY61.GMAIL.COM

760-898-4548



LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF

Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,

Because many of our members don't know that much about me, I would like to share a brief bio of myself with you.

I was born in 1952 in Massachusetts where my parents were stationed at Westover AFB. My father was an Air Force fighter pilot. As a D.O.D. kid, I grew up in San Francisco, Iowa, San Bernardino, Torrance, Studio City and Northridge, CA. While in fifth grade in Studio City, I met my girlfriend, Debbie (Fiebach) Sands (a current Associate Member of the Marine Corps League). Moving to Northridge in 1964, I got involved with golf and horses. At Granada Hills High School, ran cross country and graduated in 1970. On my eighteenth birthday, I enlisted in the Marine Corps for two years.

In the Marine Corps, I was originally trained as a Mortarman (MOS 0341). However, upon shipping over to Vietnam, I was assigned to a counterinsurgency unit known as the Combined Action Platoon (CAP) program. The CAP Marine program involved using a squad of Marines, tasked with a similar number of Vietnamese Popular Forces (Vietnamese militia), to provide 24/7/365 military protection of given civilian villages from the ravages of Viet Cong terrorism. Accomplishing our mission required that we live in, and around, our village permanently. We were known as a mobile CAP Marine team which meant we had no permanent barracks. We slept on the ground and moved our location at least every eight hours. During the day, we conducted two patrols. Every night found us setting up another ambush around our village. Our mission was



simply to kill or capture any Viet Cong seeking to visit violence on the civilians in our assigned village. Fortunately, I only spent five months in Vietnam and returned to the States when all the combat Marines were recalled from Vietnam in May 1971.

After the Marine Corps, I went to college and then law school in San Diego. I married and have two little girls who have given me three grandchildren. For twenty years, I specialized in personal injury and insurance litigation. I retired from the practice of law and relocated to the Palm Springs area following my divorce in 2000. In 2014, I returned to the San Fernando Valley and later reconnected with my girlfriend, Debbie Sands. We both joined the Detachment in 2016. Debbie and I now live in Moorpark.

At our last Detachment meeting, Doc Honaker mentioned to me that my primary responsibility as the new Junior Vice Commandant will be "recruitment and retention" of League membership. I know I have big shoes to fill following Doc, but I will do my best. To that end, I am hopeful that everyone will feel free share with me any thoughts they might have on how I can fulfill my obligations and keep our Detachment strong, now and in the future.

It is my distinct honor to represent our Detachment as your new Junior Vice Commandant.

Semper Fidelis
Jim 'Wags' Wagner
Junior Vice Commandant



JR. PAST COMMANDANT

Jerry R. German

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Saint Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland

Who was Saint Patrick? Why do we celebrate his day on March 17th? Why is he so revered? Why the significance of the shamrock? Why is the color green so popular? Where did the traditional meal of corned beef and cabbage originate?

St. Patrick was a fifth-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "National Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of Ireland, along with saints Brigit of Kildare and Columba.

St. Patrick is one of Christianity's most widely known figures-he is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland and probably responsible in part for the Christianization of the Picts and Anglo-Saxons.

But for all his prevalence in culture, namely the holiday held on March 17th, the day of his death, his life remains somewhat of a mystery.



St. Patrick was actually British, born to Roman parents in either Scotland or Wales (no one is exactly sure which). After being forced into slavery by Irish pirates, he turned to his Christian faith and became one of the first people to bring the religion to the region in the fifth century, around the year 432. St. Patrick died around 461 A.D. in Saul, Ireland, and is said to have been buried in the nearby town of Downpatrick, County Down. St. Patrick's writings, noted for their humble voice, include the autobiographical ***Confessio*** and ***Letter to Coroticus***.

Historians say that St. Patrick preferred the color blue rather than green. The use of green on the holiday became common during the 1600s and 1700s, when the clover became a symbol of nationalism and wearing green on lapels became the norm.

St. Patrick's Feast Day, March 17, flourished during the 5th century in Britain and Ireland but the traditional St. Patrick's Day meal, corned beef and cabbage, isn't actually traditionally Irish. Pork was actually the preferred meat of Ireland, but early Irish immigrants to America found that beef was much cheaper, and they could easily cook the beef and cabbage in one pot. In 2009, roughly 26.1 billion pounds of beef and 2.3 billion pounds of cabbage were produced in the United States.

Up until the 1970s, St. Patrick's Day was considered a religious holiday in Ireland, meaning all pubs in the country were closed, thanks to a law written by Parliament member James O'Mara. However, Ireland later realized that they could attract many tourists for the holiday and green beer was suddenly free-flowing.

Today, there are more Irish people in America than in Ireland. According to the 2016 census data, there were 32.3 million Americans who listed their heritage as primarily or partially Irish, compared to 6.3 million people in Ireland, so about five times more Irish people live in America than in Ireland itself. In fact, Irish is America's second most frequently reported ancestry, ranking only behind German.

St. Patrick reportedly used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity, but later interpretations also said the three leaves are meant to symbolize hope, love, and faith. If there's a fourth leaf, it symbolizes luck, which is why today we consider four-leaf clovers to be lucky.

Some Irish legends claim that St. Patrick drove all of the snakes out of Ireland after being attacked by a snake, but he probably does not deserve this credit. Historians and biologists say the legend probably isn't true, since the frigid ocean waters that surround the island likely prevented snakes from ever populating Ireland.

Many Irish immigrants settled in Boston once they arrived in America, and the Irish spirit is still alive and well in the city today. **South Boston** hosts one of the biggest St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the U.S., drawing around a million people to the parade, which is usually about 3 miles in length, in contrast to Arkansas which hosts one of the shortest St. Patrick's Day parades in Hot Springs National Park — it's only 98 feet in length!

***So, it seems that on March 17th, we are all Irish.
Happy St. Patrick's Day all ye lads and Lassies.***

Jerry McGerman
Jr. Past Commandant



JUDGE ADVOCATE

John Miller

kathiemill@aol.com

(805) 581-5462



Marines,

I would like for every member of our Detachment to remember that we are Marines first and foremost. We must be responsive to the needs of each member and make them feel the Espirit de Corps that binds us all together. Our history, customs and traditions should not only recognize, but should always be part of our very fiber. Recognize all the good deeds that are present in each member of our Detachment. Honor their past accomplishments and the family members that make up their inner self and worth.



Color Guard and Commandant at Chatsworth Vet Center



98



29

The Oldest and Youngest Medal of Honor recipients together

Semper Fidelis,
John E Miller
Judge Advocate



John Coley

w4simi@yahoo.com



From the Desk of the Adjutant

Marines, Corpsman and Associate Members,

We had the honor of having The Department (State) Commandant Ray Valenzuela on hand at our March Meeting to swear in our elected and appointed officers for the next year. He had driven down from Northern California to do the ceremony for our Detachment. Our thanks to Ray!

Our re-elected Commandant, Dick Jennings conducted his normal quick and concise meeting to the gratitude of all present. We had special guests at this meeting: James and Theresa Espinosa came by to express their gratitude for the Military Honors that our Honor Guard had done for their respective brother and son.

Don't forget our annual picnic is quickly approaching. It will be held at Lemon Park in Simi Valley on the 13th of July. We are inviting all our fellow Service Organizations to join us for a little competition and a lot of fun. More detail to follow.

Semper Fidelis,
John Coley
Adjutant



THE DOG ROBBER HOWLS

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

DD Ben Pfister
Pound Keeper

benpdet597@gmail.com

818-208-1095



Woof Woof,

Join me in welcoming three new pups to Pound 325 - Ed Alarcon, John Hogan and Jose Razo. A special note, Ed is 92 years young (that's not dog years). He enlisted in 1944 at the tender age of 17, and he served in the South Pacific and is a Chosin Few Korean War Veteran.

On the March 13, we held our third monthly "Visit with a Vet" at Brookdale Senior Living in Chatsworth. There are 21 Veterans residing at Brookdale and management is very excited to have us there to give recognition to their Vets. At this event, we hung a world map on the wall and marked where each Vet was originally from and where they served, so those attending could see. Some shared stories of their service exploits - one of them told us that Generals Omar Bradley and George Patton gave pep talks to the troops just prior to landing at Omaha Beach on D-Day; another told us that one of the engines fell off the seaplane, he was piloting, on his way to Japan from San Diego. We had a good time listening to the "Dear John" stories that a couple of them received after leaving for battle, and some who met their wives through care package correspondence. There were 12 Vets: 3-Marines, 4- Navy, 3-Army Air Corps, and 2-Army. These Veterans enjoyed socializing with us young'ins and re-living their war time stories. Even a couple non-military lady residents recalled stories about their husbands' time in service. A big "Thank you" go to Bradley Cantley, Fausto Galvan, Jerry German, Ken Honaker, Stan Taylor, and Rich Farra. We'll be doing this again at Brookdale on April 9th, so if you are interested in taking part, please let Ken Honaker know he'll be taking the lead.

Woof Woof
PDD Ben Pfister
Pound Keeper







CHAPLAIN
Bradley Cantley
bradleycantley@gmail.com
Cell: 805-813-3571



The Chaplain's Corner

Fellow Marines, veterans and friends:

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:

Ericka Silva—Still under treatment

Thomas Hernandez—Strength

Blanca Hernandez—Healing

Jim Lieberknecht—Stay strong.

Mike Maxwell—Still under treatments, and healing

Bill Trammell—Still under treatments, and healing

Buggs Ansell—Strength and healing

Sue Honaker—Under treatments, strength and healing

Brad Cantley—Sick, relief of pain, and healing

Ramon Arevalo—Sick and in the hospital, 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



COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

Ruy Peña

colorguard597@gmail.com

818-912-9863, Mobile



NEVER LETTING A VETERAN DOWN

Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,

As your Color Guard Commander, I will be striving to continue to improve and to uphold our sacred vow to be able to provide Veterans with a proper military send-off. No Veteran should leave this earth without the recognition for their service to our great nation. We also hold the responsibility to be the representatives of our Detachment and the Marine Corps League. I want to personally thank every color guard volunteer who takes time off their personal schedule to fulfill our mission and act professionally while providing our services.

Semper Fi

Ruy Peña

Color Guard Commander



HISTORIAN

John Miller

kathiemill@aol.com

(805) 581-5462



IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

Next, Spring is just about upon us and maybe this rain will finally let up a little bit. In most of the country, if March comes in like a lion, it goes out like a lamb. I hope it stands up for California also. We need the rain, but enough already.

Of course, the 17th of March is when everyone is Irish, so I say to my fellow Irish, ERIN GO BRAUGH, Ireland forever. In our Nation's history there have been 3,464 Medals of Honor presented for courage under fire that goes above and beyond the call of duty. Of that total 2,021 have had Irish heritage. 22 US Presidents have Irish blood in their veins, from John F. Kennedy to Barack Obama, every single President since JFK has some Irish ancestor to look back upon. President Trump is a close cousin with Scots heritage. Famous Marines also display their heritage with uncommon acts of valor, including Dan Daly who is one of only two



Marines to have earned the Medal of Honor twice, in separate engagements. And since I am Irish and a wee bit o' the blarney in me, I am claiming Sgt. Reckless as being a bit Irish too. Prove me wrong Boyoo. I am also claiming the Marine with the most Purple Hearts, (9) 5 in World War II and 4 more in Korea, his name is Albert Ireland. Other famous Irish are names like, Wyatt Earp, Tom Brady, John Elway, Whitey Ford, Walt Disney, Audie Murphy, Marine General (Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) Joe Dunford and Marine General John Kelly.

And of course, we all remember that famous Irish Lieutenant of Marines, Presley O'Bannion, who led the charge on the Shores of Tripoli. So, lift a pint of Guinness to the Lads, and the Lassie too, and don't let any land on your chin, as that for sure is an Irish sin.

Famous Days in March

March 1, 1872	Yellowstone the 1 st National Park
March 2, 1962	Wilt Chamberlain scores 100 points in one basketball game
March 3, 1931	Star Spangled- Banner officially becomes our National Anthem
March 5, 1770	Boston Massacre
March 10, 1876	Alexander Graham Bell makes first phone call
March 12, 1912	Girl Scouts founded
March 15, 44 BC	Julius Caesar killed in Rome
March 15, 1767	President Andrew Jackson Born
March 16, 1751	President James Madison Born
March 16, 1968	My Lai Massacre in Viet Nam
March 18, 1837	President Grover Cleveland Born
March 23, 1775	Patrick Henry Says "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death"
March 24, 1958	Elvis Presley Joins US Army
March 27, 1964	Largest recorded earthquake ever measured hits Alaska. It was an 8.3
March 28, 1979	3 Mile Island Nuclear Melt Down
March 29, 1886	Coca Cola Invented

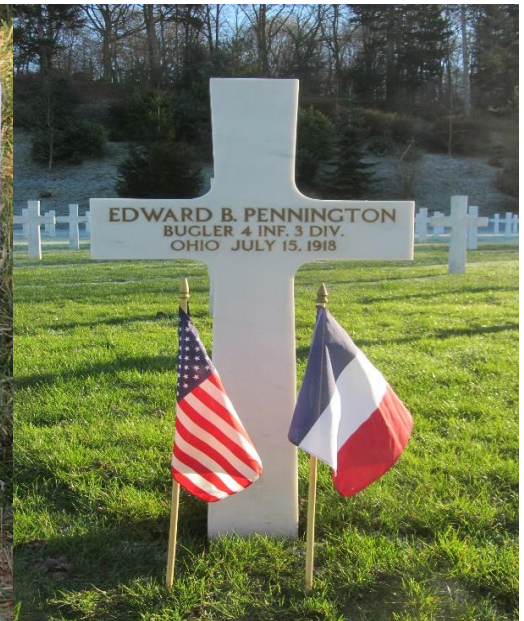
March 3rd and 4th, 1776 Marine Captain (Later First Commandant) Samuel Nicholas, makes the first USMC Amphibious Assault against British Garrison on Nassau, the Bahamas, during the Revolutionary War.

Iwo Jima Flag Raiser Rene Gagnon Born on March 7, 1925 is buried at Arlington National Cemetery in a grave site as close to the Iwo Jima War Memorial as legally allowed. Pictured below.

A Warrior must be Honored and Remembered or His Soul will find no rest, no peace.



Rene Gagnon



My Uncle KIA in France



Fausto Galvan
Executive Officer
Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines

Fausto_galvan0471@yahoo.com

818-259-2119

During the month of February, the Santa Clarita Valley Young Marines continue to do our best to improve our community and ourselves, through community service, drills and promotions.

The Young Marines had drills on 2 Feb and 23 Feb, and we attended a community service event serving food to members of our local Elks lodge on 16 Feb. On 23 Feb, the SCVYM completed PFT - a hike and promotions. The following Young Marines were promoted: YM/PVT Schreiner to YM/PFC, YM/PVT Martin to YM/PFC, YM/LCpl Krenz to YM/Cpl, and YM/Cpl Lopez to YM/Sgt.

Our upcoming event for March is a boot camp for 10 new recruits, which will last 4 weekends and concluding with the Grad Challenge on Saturday, March 30th.

YM/PFC Snyder







PAYMASTER'S CORNER

ANDY DOBRZYNSKI

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805-428-5902

Greetings to all,

2018 was another successful year even though it was a great challenge for me.

During the recent general meetings, I've had several inquiries regarding the cost of becoming a life member. Because the fees are scaled to one's age, I've listed the fees to age range below.

35 and younger \$500

36 to 50 \$400

51 to 64 \$300

65 and older \$200

I hope that the new year is treating all of you well.

Semper Fi

Andy Dobrzynski

Paymaster



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

Marines:

This time of year, plans are well underway for the National Montford Point Marine Association Spring Council. The 2019 Spring Council, 4 and 7 April 2019, will be held in Charlotte, NC, is the preparatory meeting for our National convention. The NMPMA, Inc. invites all Chapter and Auxiliary delegates to attend Spring Council. The meeting is designed to conduct the business of the Association and set the agenda for national convention.

During the past couple of weeks Chapter 8 has been a beehive of activity.

Chapter 8 activities:

Chapter 8 conducted its monthly meeting on 23 February 2019. We meet each month on the Fourth Saturday of each month.

On February 27, 2019 at the invitation of the Department of Mental Health – *Veterans and Loved Ones Recovery*, a presentation was given by Mr. William Trammell on the "History and Legacy" of the Montford Point Marine Association at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles.

Members of Chapter 8 attended a celebration at the Ace Theater honoring the Congressional Medal of Honor. The celebration hosted by the Medal of Honor Foundation and the Palisade Post 283 honored Private Edwin Carter for "Valor above and beyond the call of duty". The Ace theater was well worth visiting, the interior of the theater's decor is maintained as it was in 1927 when it was built. The place was packed both the main floor and the balcony. This is a venue known for music events, located in Los Angeles, CA. Opened in 1927, the venue features seating for 1,600 people. The program highlighted the Medal of Honor awarded to Private or Sargent Edward Carter and his family. The film depicted realistic combat reenactments taking place during WWII Germany. The film also showed the role that the family played in getting Pvt. Carter's belated recognition decades after his death. The MOH was present to Sgt. Carter's family by Present William Clinton. This was a hell of a soldier. There is a whole series honoring MOH recipients that was produced by the Medal of Honor Foundation through Netflix and is available on line.

On March 4, 2019, The Montford Point Marine Association, Chapter 8 received an invitation to attend a book signing event, "From East Garrison to the Ranch House" at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall honoring Major General Peter J. Gravett (USA Ret).



As a heads up, please keep the date of 21 March 2019 open for an invitation to attend an event that acknowledges the Montford Point Marine Association Los Angeles Chapter 8. This invitation comes from The Palisade Post 283 and they are in the final planning stages. As details become available, time/place, I will pass them to you all.

Chapter 8 will hold its March meeting on 23 March 2019 at the American Legion Post 46 at 5309 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230. The meeting will begin promptly at 11:00.

Montford Point Marine Association, Western Region Vice President (WRVP):

The WRVP is reaching out to stand up New Chapters in Riverside/San Bernardino, San Francisco Bay and Las Vegas Nevada areas; The Western Region Vice President has attended events on Southern & Northern California Coast. Veterans Day Parade's, Birthday Balls, Black History Programs, Veterans Day, Events & USMC Drills Team Events. The qualifications for membership in the National Montford Marine Association are to have successfully completed basic training/Boot Camp and to have served Honorably and to be vetted by DD-214. The Western Region will be presenting donations to MCJROTC Cadets at Fontana HS and Carson HS. Their Cadet Color Guard's has supported many of our functions in so many ways.

The Western Region Members attended Funeral services for Original Montford Pointers:

-Mr. Archie Lee Robinson in Denver Colorado, Mr. Luke Leo House Jr. Los Angeles CA.

-Life Member: Mr. Theodor Moore Las Vega NV

Semper Fi,
William Trammell
USMC (Ret)
VP LA CH 8 MPMA



MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD FARRA

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NEW BOARD, NEW START

The new board is hitting the bricks running with the announcement of the proposed Veterans Center. This project has been on the back burners for years with the impediment being money, money and money. But as our Commandant pointed out during our February general meeting, the management at the Simi Valley Town Center may have land available to develop this project. Big kudos to our Commandant Dick Jennings for his relentless pursuit of this goal.

In case you missed the swearing in ceremony of our new board of directors, I have a selfie of me and Ray Valenzuela below. So much happened at the last meeting, let me summarize the high points.

- Jerry German announced that *"Johnny and Friends" is taking wheel chair donations for Vets.* What they do is take used wheel chairs and reassemble them into useable chairs.
- Ben Pfister announced that members of the 597 and MODD will be visiting Vets at the Brookdale Senior living home on a monthly basis to remember our Vets.
- Valeria Galvan announced that our *annual picnic will be on July 13* and its open to all Vets – here's her message: It is that time of the year again to come together and have some fun in the sun, our Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday July 13, 2019 at the Veterans Plaza beginning at 10:00 am, in which if any of you can come early to help set up that would be greatly appreciated, followed by the actual picnic to begin at 11:00 am. This year as we did last year, we have invited the other organizations, VFW, DAV and American Legion to join us and hopefully participate in a friendly game of Horseshoes to see who will out do the other, the winner will receive bragging rights along with a surprise gift. There is No Charge for the picnic, it is the Detachment's way of saying Thank You for all that you do. More information to follow in next month's newsletter.
- Doc Honaker *needs volunteers to work BIG RED at the Thousand Oaks Street Fair on May 4.*
- Ben Pfister jumped in again and reminded the group that the informal *Marine Corps birthday will be at the Junkyard 10 Nov. 1700-2300.*
- Ray Valenzuela chimed in and added to the discussion that younger Marines don't know about the Marine Corps League, stated that the *MCL is working closely with the Marines Corps to inform newly retirees about the MCL.*
- Mardu Lydick has a *flyer in this newsletter regarding the Lt Dan Band fundraiser, it's a great cause and you'll have a boat load of fun, so buy your tickets ASAP.*
- The Greater Van Nuys Rotary is *having a fundraiser "Service Above Self" be the inspiration – on 25 April at the Odyssey Restaurant, for more info call me.*



Richard Farra
Managing Editor

What do you want to see happening with our Detachment? Our Commandant wants your input, 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 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.



VERY HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Karla Hull*	3	David E Austin	15
John Calderon	3	Louis "Jack" Parfitt	18
Ramon Arevalo, Jr.*	8	Michael Holzbeierlein	20

* - Life Member

GUEST SPEAKER

Jeff Morris

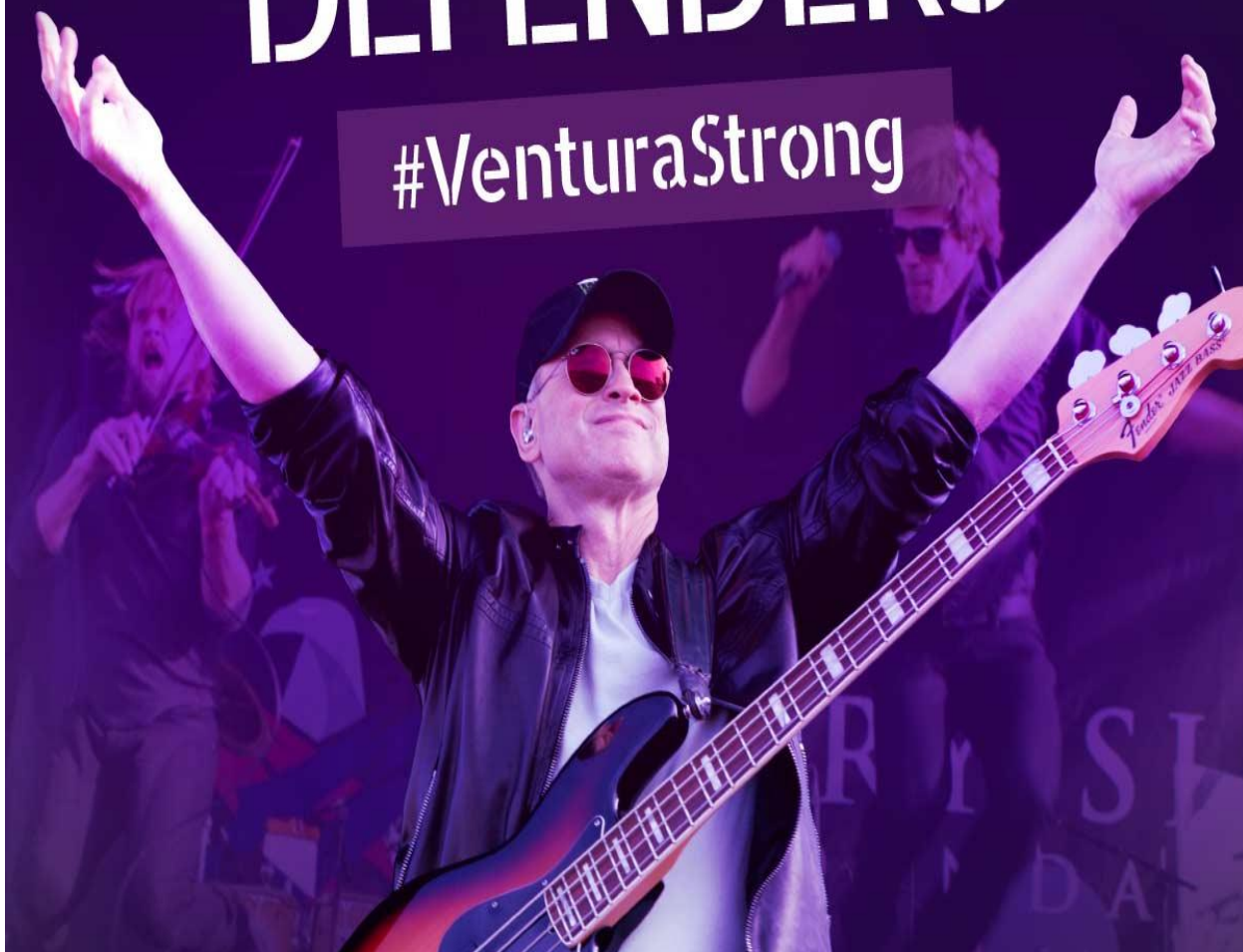
Wild Ops is a combat Veterans ministry, started by Jeff Morris, to reach at risk Veterans. Wild Ops believes that the best way to help Vets is through another Vet. Wild Ops takes small groups of Vets into the country, away from civilization, to go fly fishing, camping, hikes, etc. This allows his team to give one on one attention to addressing the issues facing these Vets. Jeff believes his organization has a good success rate in saving lives. Jeff is shown with Drew Toothman, USMC. You can reach Jeff at JEFF@WILDOPS.org





CONCERT FOR DEFENDERS

#VenturaStrong





Join us for an event celebrating our first
responders & all they do for our
community!

Our first responders were on the front lines of the recent
Borderline tragedy and Woolsey & Hill fires. Let's come
together for a day of music, food, and fun to honor these
heroes and those we lost. Together we are #VenturaStrong.

Saturday, April 13, 2019

William Rolland Stadium
California Lutheran University
Doors open at 4 p.m.

RSVP Now

More at ConcertForDefenders.com

Questions?

ConcertForDefenders@GarySiniseFoundation.org



2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Rank or Title	Name	Phone	E-mail
Commandant	R. A. "Dick" Jennings	805-328-9817	MCL597Commandant@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Commandant	Harry Hodges	805-515-1401	Hodges1951@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commandant	Jim Wagner	760-898-4548	analogcowboy61@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
Ship's Store Captain	Harry Hodges	805-515-1401	Hodges1951@gmail.com
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Toys For Tots Chairman	Juan Avalos	(858) 229-1894	avalosjmscvym@gmail.com
	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			
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