



# Semper Fi Gazette

## After 232 Years

*Happy Birthday Marine*



*Marine Corps Recruiting Poster from 1942*

### Treasure Valley Detachment Marine Corps League

#### Leadership:

<b>Commandant</b>	Rich Erickson	208-562-0498
	3968 Rushmore Way Boise, ID 83709	
<b>Senior Vice Commandant:</b>	Michael Grigsby	208-322-8309
<b>Junior Vice Commandant:</b>	Arnie Strawn	208-454-8295
<b>Judge Advocate:</b>	Bob Smith	208-939-2582
<b>Adjutant/Paymaster</b>	Ralph Elston	208-853-7344
<b>Chaplain</b>	Bill Johnson	208-384-1844

Since the birth of our Nation, our liberty has been purchased by valiant men and women of deep conviction, great courage, and bold action; the cost has often been in blood and tremendous sacrifice.

As America's sentinels of freedom, United States Marines are counted among the finest legions in the chronicles of war. Since 1775, Marines have marched boldly to the sounds of the guns and have fought fiercely and honorably to defeat the scourge of tyranny and terror. We are Marines - that is what we do.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy: "In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger." Magnificent heroes fought in the wheat fields of Belleau Wood, in the snows of the Chosin, and on the streets of Hue City. Your generation bears this obligation now, and it is borne on mighty and capable shoulders. Just like the Marines at Belleau Wood - we are once again engaged in sustained operations ashore. Just like at Belleau Wood - the Marines have been given the toughest sector and have prevailed over a resilient and determined enemy - who has made us pay for our gains. Once again, as in any struggle, the road ahead is far from certain, but as Marines, we are not dissuaded by the challenges of war or the tough conditions of a warrior's life. Indeed, we don't just accept our destiny - we shape it.

On our 232nd birthday, to every Marine - those still in uniform and those who have served honorably in the past - be proud of who you are and what you do. Know that your citizenship dues have been paid in full; you are part of this Nation's elite warrior class. Cherish our families who offer marvelous support, abiding resolve, and steadfast patience. Remember those who have served and those who have fallen - their names are chiseled on the roll call of America's heroes. Those who have carried the battle colors of our Corps have forged our heritage, and today's generation of leathernecks chart our future.

Carry the colors with pride; carry them with honor.  
Happy birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,  
James T. Conway  
General, U.S. Marine Corps

### **Business Meeting for November 2007**

The regular Business Meeting of the Treasure Valley Detachment Marine Corps League for November will be held at the Pavilion on Gowen Field at 1900 hours. Nov. 15th. All members are encouraged to attend. The next regular business meeting will be December. 20th, 2007. Your opinions, ideas, and voice is important to the detachment. So please make a note on your calendar to attend the meetings.

### **Happy Hour and Koffee Klatch**

Koffee Klatch starts at 0900, although you can show up as early as you want, but you should wait until they open. Koffee Klatch is held at Quinn's on Vista Ave. every Saturday morning, except the third Saturday of the month. That day is our Happy Hour Breakfast with the ladies and guests.. Happy Hour is at 1000 hours and this month it will be on November 17th.

### **Marine Corps Birthday Ball**

The Ball this year will be at the Grove Hotel Grand Ballroom, on the 3rd. of November. Social hour begins at 1700 and the Ceremony begins at 1800. The price of the tickets are \$40 and are available from SSgt. Dennison at Gowen Field. (208) 422-6248.

### **Happy Birthday to Our Ladies:**

Carolyn Dunlap, Delores Lee, Sherry Meade, Theresa Nakashima, Catherine Schroeder, and Lynne Sterling.

### **2007 Veterans Day**

- Missing in America, Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, November 9th., at 1100 hours
- Veterans Day Parade, November 10 at 0845 near Boise Cascade Building.
- Veterans Day Ceremony at Idaho State Veterans Home, November 11th, at 1100 hours
- Veterans Day (celebrated), November 12th.

### **Marine Corps Birthday Celebration**

at the Idaho State Veterans Home, the celebration will be after the Veterans Day Parade in the afternoon of November 10th.

### **Idaho Department State Convention**

Our detachment will host the State Convention this next year. The convention dates are May 30th. and June 1st. More information will be given as received. If you have any ideas to make this a great convention please contact Arnie Strawn, 208-454-8295.

# **Auxiliary News**

Treasure Valley Marine Corps League Auxiliary #408



#### **TVDMCL Auxiliary Leadership**

President: Theresa Nakashima  
208-672- 8642

Senior VP: Sherry Meade  
208-377-3806

Junior VP Melba Butler  
208-343-4093

Judge Advocate: Donna Schumaker  
208-286-0680

#### Minutes for June 21, 2007.

No monthly meeting of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary, for October

#### **The mailing Address for the Auxiliary is:**

Ralph or Barbara Elston  
7845 W. Powell St.

**Note from the editor:** I must have the minutes by the last Friday of the month or they may not be in the newsletter, editor.

# Event Horizon

- Marine Corps Birthday Ball, November 3rd. 1700 hours
- Election Day, November 6th.
- Marine Corps 232nd. Birthday, November 10th
- Happy Hour, November 20th. 1000 hours
- Regular Business Meeting, November 15th., 1900 hour
- Veterans Day November 11th.

## History of Marine Divisions



### History of 2nd. Marine Division Part 1 of 2

- From 2nd. Marine Expeditionary Force website and Wikipedia
- [http://1stbattalion3rdmarines.com/div-hist-index\\_files/history\\_2nddiv.htm](http://1stbattalion3rdmarines.com/div-hist-index_files/history_2nddiv.htm)
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S.\\_2nd\\_Marine\\_Division](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._2nd_Marine_Division)

The 2d Marine Division is the ground combat element of II MEF. Its backbone is the individual Marine infantryman whose basic mission is to locate, close with, attack and destroy, or capture the enemy.

The Division is comprised of more than 15,000 enlisted Marines and Sailors and 1,000 officers who form the 2d, 6th and 8th Marine Regiments (infantry), 10th Marine Regiment (artillery), 2d Tank Battalion, 2d Reconnaissance Battalion, 2d Combat Engineer Battalion, Headquarters Battalion, 2d Assault Amphibian Battalion and 2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

Formed in 1941, division units began regular deployments to the Mediterranean as landing forces for the U.S. Sixth Fleet. The units have also deployed to Korea as replacements during the Korean War and to the Middle East

to evacuate Americans and to prevent civil war during the Mideast crisis. The 2d Marine Division provided forces for the multinational peacekeeping effort in Beirut and for Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, Operation Just Cause in Panama, and Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf.

Most recently, the 2d Marine Division provided forces for multinational peacekeeping efforts in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and Liberia. The 2d Marine Division - the "Follow Me Division" - is combat ready and an integral part of America's force in readiness.

During World War II more than 60,000 Marines saw action with the Second Division. When the division was formally activated on February 1, 1941, at San Diego, California, its keystone was the old Sixth Regiment which brought to the division the historic traditions of Chateau Thierry and Belleau Wood.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, it was elements of the "Silent Second" which were indisputably the first Americans to land on enemy soil during World War II. Just before dawn on August 7, 1942, a company from the division's Second Regiment splashed ashore onto the gray-white beaches of Florida Island in the Solomon's some 80 minutes before Guadalcanal was invaded. On August 8 a platoon of Second Division Marines met the enemy in the war's first American bayonet charge; and on that day the Division's Artillery fired the first offensive shells of the war. It was thus on the sands of the Solomon's that the Global offensive began, spearheaded by men of the Second. After a period of rest and reorganization in New Zealand, lay Tarawa, where more than 3,000 of the Division's Marines spilled blood in seventy-six hours of hellish action. After Tarawa the Marines served in Hawaii where they prepared for their next attack.

In 1944 Saipan and Tinian were added to the battle streamers of the division's flag and on the turreted ridges of Okinawa in 1945 elements of the Second Marine Division spearheaded the last infantry offensive of World War II. Finally, the Second Marine Division landed in Japan itself; and achieved the goal for which it had striven longer than any other American Division - Army or Marine.

The 2nd Marine Division was officially organized on February 1, 1941 by change of designation from the 2nd Marine Brigade. During World War II, the 2nd Marine Division (Headquarters) participated in authorized operations and engagements in the Pacific Theater of Operations:

The Battle of Guadalcanal, in the Solomon Islands campaign — 4 January to 8 February 1943. 2d Marines, reinforced: Guadalcanal-Tulagi landings, 7 to 9 August 1942;

capture and defense of Guadalcanal, 10 August 1942 to 31 January 1943. 8th Marines, reinforced: capture and defense of Guadalcanal, 2 November 1942 to 8 February 1943.

The Battle of Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands campaign, 20 November to 4 December 1943.

The Battle of Saipan, in the Mariana Islands campaign, 15 June to 24 July 1944.

The Battle of Tinian, 24 July to 10 August 1944.

The Battle of Okinawa (floating Reserve), 1 April to 10 April 1945. (Detachment of Headquarters and the 8th Marines, reinforced, from 1 to 30 June 1945).

The 2nd and 8th Marines (reinforced by other units of the 2nd Marine Division) were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation while attached to the 1st Marine Division from 7 August and 4 November 1942, respectively, for the Guadalcanal operation.

The 2nd Marine Division was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands, 20–24 November 1943.

## Toys For Tots, 2007



### The History of Toys for Tots

It all began in December 1947, with a hand crafted Raggedy Ann Doll. The wife of Marine Reserve Major Bill Hendricks made this doll and asked her husband to deliver it to a needy child on Christmas Day.

Unfortunately, Major Hendricks could find no agency to provide such a service. To help fill that void, Major Hendricks and members of his Los Angeles Marine Reserve Unit collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children of Los Angeles during the Christmas of 1947. The seed was planted and Toys for Tots was born. The following year the United States Marine Corps adopted the program as an official activity and assigned the program as an official mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Walt Disney (a close friend of Major Hendricks) personally designed the Train Logo and coined the name "Toys for Tots".

In 1948 the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program expanded nationwide and the Reservists began collecting toys in nearly 200 communities nationwide.

The Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program collection and distribution sites have become a familiar and important element of the Christmas Holiday Landscape. To many people, Christmas is not complete without Marines in their Dress Blue Uniform collecting and distributing toys to the less fortunate children of their communities.

Anything you enjoy doing, generally you do very well. So it is with the Marine Corps Reserve and their Toys for Tots Program. Over the years Marine Reservists have been extremely successful and have worked tirelessly to meet the ever-growing demand for toys that enable parents, who may not otherwise be able, to provide their children with a Christmas toy and to answer their child's Christmas Dream.

The Toys for Tots Program has grown tremendously since its inception. Today, Toys for Tots serves over 600 local communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa. Over the years, Marines have distributed over 370,000,000 toys and brought the joy of Christmas and a message of hope to some 174 million children. Today, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve units collect and distribute an average of sixteen million toys to an average of 6.7 million children each year at Christmas.

This is an incredible accomplishment but as impressive as these numbers are, they do not tell the whole story. Every year there is a gap between the number of children needing toys and the number of toys available. Now, More than ever, Toys for Tots needs the assistance of members of the local community to help us make it better than ever.

Businesses and individuals are very important to us. It's a way you can give back to your community and it's less fortunate children. You can support Toys for Tots by donating a new, unwrapped toy at a collection site near you, or by assisting us with the sorting and distribution of toys. Helping to coordinate special toy raising functions is another way of getting involved.

Local Businesses are instrumental in the success of the Toys for Tots Program. You can generate or purchase media attention for the program, sponsor a toy-raising event, or simply allow your place of business to be a toy drop-off location.

The important thing is that we are local people helping local families. This is the Christmas mission of your Marine Corps Reserve.

We sometimes hear- especially when a potential donor is trying to choose between two or more worthy charities, one of which is Toys for Tots- they say: "It's just a toy. With all of the problems facing the children in America today, what difference does a toy make?"

We submit that the Marine Corps discovered the answer over 60 years ago. The answer is "HOPE". Think about it, how many times can a child miss out on the simple joy of a toy at Christmas before he or she begins to lose hope?

We know from the smiles on children's faces and from the grateful appreciation of their parents, that the simple gift of a shiny, new toy- something that many take for granted- can make a tremendous difference in the life of a child. Hope is the key, and hope is what the Marine Corps Reserve is giving to the needy children of America through the Toys for Tots Program.

Last year in the Greater Treasure Valley Areas of Idaho, 16,207 children received 51,489 toys; all donated from our great community. This was our largest year ever. With the accomplishments from last year, our goal is to continue expanding our program assuring that no needy child goes without a toy on Christmas. Rest assured, all donations made in this area, remain in this area for our children. To assist us in ensuring that the needy children receive toys, we have recruited many of the local Charity and Support Agencies that will be accepting applications for toys and helping us with the toy distribution.

Thank you for your support over the years and we look forward to your future support of the Toys for Tots Program, because "Every Child Deserves a Little Christmas".

Sincerely,

Kraig M. Laskowski, 1stSgt/ USMC  
Toys for Tots Coordinator- Boise and Western Idaho  
I&I Staff, Co C, 4<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn  
4087 Harvard St, Bldg 800  
Boise, ID 83705  
(208) 422-6255

*That two battalions of Marines be raised consisting of one colonel, two lieutenant colonels, two majors and officers as usual in other regiments, that they consist of an equal number of privates with other battalions; that particular care be taken that no person 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.*  
(Resolution of the Continental Congress, 10 November 1775.)

## God Bless The United States of America and in God we Trust

## Marine Corps News

### Okinawa dog handler patrols with infantry in Iraq

Nov. 5, 2007; Submitted on: 11/05/2007 08:47:08 AM ; Story ID#: 20071158478

By Gunnery Sgt. Brenda L. Varnadore, II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)

CAMP GANNON, Iraq (Nov. 5, 2007) -- Operation Iraqi Freedom has called on Marines from different military occupational specialties to serve on the frontlines with infantry units. One Long Island, N.Y., native is guiding them on patrols with her dog, Darrah. Sgt. Jaimi Diaz, the Al Qaim kennel master, Task Force Military Police, is currently working with 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2, as a dog handler. She runs dismounted patrols with the unit to look for improvised explosive devices while balancing her duties in the kennel.

Diaz, who is on her first deployment, volunteered to leave her unit in Okinawa, Japan, to fill a yearlong individual augment billet. She began her assignment at Camp Fallujah where she served for five months as the senior dog handler. She was then sent to Al Qaim, on the Syrian border, to take over the role of kennel master and said she is learning a great deal. Although Diaz left her husband, Sgt. Christopher Diaz, in Okinawa with her 2-year-old son Jeremy, she still calls back regularly to seek his advice on how to live up to the expectations and how to support the units to the best of her ability. She also relies heavily on her dog to keep the Marines she is supporting safe. She has had Darrah for more than a year and a half and brought her from Okinawa. Although she is the dog's third handler, she said they have bonded well. One of the most important aspects of keeping the Marines she works with safe is making sure her dog is up to the task.

Diaz doesn't think being a female plays a part in getting her job done though. She said that everyone has accepted her and treats her as just another Marine in the unit. Since being attached to an infantry battalion is rare for a female, she is trying to show them that females can do exactly what the males are doing. Diaz is looking forward to returning back to her family and job in Okinawa in three months. She said she plans on applying for the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Program to become an officer.