



Semper Fi Gazette

Toys for Tots

Bringing a smile to a child for 60 years



A young Marine from C co. 4th Tanks filling a toy order.

The war was over, and peace finally settled in Europe and the Pacific, and Diane had spare time to handcraft a Raggedy Ann doll. In the autumn of 1947 she wanted to give it to a destitute child for Christmas in the Los Angeles area, in which her and her husband Bill lived. Diane gave it to Bill and asked him to give it to an organization that did such things for the needy children at Christmas time. Well, her husband, searched for such an agency and found that there wasn't one to be had, so he told his wife the sad news. Determined that this doll would be in the hands of a child at Christmas, she told her husband to create one. Now Bill a Marine Major and a reservist in Los Angeles, California was ready and more than willing to take on the challenge to start this new project in the fall of 1947.

Treasure Valley Detachment Marine Corps League

Leadership:

Commandant

Rich Erickson 208-562-0498
3968 Rushmore Way
Boise, ID 83709

Senior Vice Commandant:

Michael Grigsby 208-322-8309

Junior Vice Commandant:

Arnie Strawn 208-454-8295

Judge Advocate:

Bob Smith 208-939-2582

Adjutant/Paymaster

Ralph Elston 208-853-7344

Chaplain

Bill Johnson 208-384-1844

Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, and fellow Marine reservists from Los Angeles collected and distributed 5000 toys to needy children in the area in that year. The 1947 "Toys for Tots" pilot project had succeeded so well, that the Marine Corps adopted the "Toys for Tots" program in 1948 and launched it into a nationwide campaign, with each Marine Reserve Unit collecting and distributing the toys for their own community. This has successfully been fulfilled every year since.

The initial objective of the "Toys for Tots" campaigns is to bring the joy of Christmas to America's needy children, and this objective still lives on today. Additionally the Toys for Tots Foundation, which formed in 1991 by the command of the U. S. Marine Corps in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, desires to play an active role in the development of one our nation's most valuable natural resources, our children; to unite all the members of our local community for a common goal. Last but not least, to contribute to a better community in the future.

The goal in 1947 was to provide a toy to needy children at Christmas and from 1947 through 1979 the "Toys for Tots" program employed both used and new toys. While Marines were on drill weekends during October, November, and December they worked on refurbishing used toys, and collecting new and used toys and the distribution of the toys to local social welfare agencies, church groups, and other local community organizations to distribute the toys. As the years passed the Marine Reserves built up a good working relationship with these local community associations. From 1980, things changed, The Secretary of Defense's Total Force Program changed the role the reserves had in America's defense posture. Time for training was more valuable, on weekend drills. Other factors to change what toys were collected were the safety concerns of used toys and the how "hand-me-down" toys would fit into the goal of building good self-esteem and message of hope the Marines wanted to give to the needy children. Something a shiny new toy would give.

The Commander, Marine Force Reserve in 1999, delegated the authority of the "Toys for Tots" program to the President, Marine Toys for Tots Foundation to approve and manage local "Toys for Tots" campaigns in communities that don't have a Marine Reserve Unit. This way "Toys for Tots" can reach out throughout all 50 states. By doing this the Foundation can authorize selected Marine Corps League Detachments or local community organizations to conduct campaigns in their community.

Business Meeting for November 2007

The regular Business Meeting of the Treasure Valley Detachment Marine Corps League for December will be canceled and we will have our annual Christmas Party at the Pavilion on Gowen Field at 1830 hours. December 20th. All members are encouraged to attend. The next regular business meeting will be January 17th, 2008. 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 December 15th.

TVDMCL Christmas Party

This years Christmas Party will be held on December 20th. at 1830 hours. See flyer for more details.

Happy Birthday to Our Ladies:

Anissa Bramlet and Lyn Butterworth,

2007 Veterans Day



Rich Erickson and Roy Jost with our Banner

Veterans Day was vary successful and a lot of fun. The weather held off its wrath until the events were over with this year. The Veterans Cemetery laid to rest thirteen Veterans and two spouses, which part of the Missing in America project in Idaho. The parade was well attended by the Detachment; kudos to those who participated.

Marine Corps Birthday Celebration

Was held at the Idaho State Veterans Home, the celebration was after the Veterans Day Parade in the afternoon of November 10th. The home has seven Marines in residence.

Idaho State Veterans Home Christmas Party

We were asked to help the Marines at the Reserve Center to help with giving the gifts to the resident Marines on December 21st. at 1400 hours and we are assigned to ward 2 East.

Wreaths Across America

On 15 December 2007, Wreaths Across America will be conducting its annual wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery. At the same time The Idaho Civil Air Patrol will lay a wreath at the Idaho Veterans Cemetery. The ceremony will be held at 1000 hours. The Detachment is encouraged to attend. We as a Detachment donated toward the purchase of a wreath to the CAP and we should be there to represent the TVDMCL.

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 November 15, 2007.

The meeting was called to order and the prayer, flag salute, and roll call were given. There were 9 members present.

The minutes of the April, May, and September meetings were read to bring everyone up to date.

Correspondence from National was read and discussed. A thank you from the Idaho Military Historical Society was read.

The Treasurer's Report was given and Barbara Elston passed out new rosters for our Auxiliary to everyone. J.J. Beau donated \$50.00 to us and a thank you note will be sent to him. The Chaplain's Report was given and she mentioned that Linda Hansen's surgery went well and she is recovering nicely. Birthday cards were sent to our women veterans at the Veterans Home. Velma Williams will be helping to send Christmas cards to them next month. The Treasurer reported buying a membership to the Idaho Military Historical Society and a brick for the Veteran's Cemetery.

A discussion was held as to how to best use funds for the upcoming Christmas season. Several suggestions were made and we voted to do the following: 1. Give gift certificates to the women at the Veterans Home 2. Give a \$50.00 donation to the Veterans Hospital for their Christmas activities 3. Major Storer of the I & I Staff suggested we help one of his men who is going through a particularly difficult time right now. We voted to give the family a \$200.00 gift Certificate to Winco to help out over the holidays. 4. We will donate \$60.00 to the Wreaths Across America to sponsor 4 wreaths to be placed on the graves at the Veteran's Cemetery at Christmas time. They are hoping to be able to place wreaths on all the graves on December 14th and 15th.

The Detachment announced the Christmas party to be held at Gowen Field on December 20th at 6:30 PM. We are to bring a gift for Toys for Tots, and exchange gift, and a dish to share at dinner.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer. We hope to see many of you at the Christmas Party on the 20th.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Meade, Sr. Vice and Secretary

The mailing Address for the Auxiliary is:

Ralph or Barbara Elston
7845 W. Powell St.
Boise, ID 83714

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

- Happy Hour, December 15th. 1000 hours
- Annual Christmas Party, see flyer for details.
- Idaho State Veterans Home Christmas Party Dec.

History of Marine Divisions



History of 2nd. Marine Division Part 2 of 2

- From 2nd. Marine Expeditionary Force website and Wikipedia
- http://1stbattalion3rdmarines.com/div-hist-index_files/history_2nddiv.htm
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._2nd_Marine_Division

The Division didn't take part in a major action again until 1958 when elements participated in the U.S. intervention into the Lebanon crisis of 1958. 2nd Marine Division units helped to reinforce Guantanamo Bay during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 and landed in the Dominican Republic in 1965 as part of Operation Power Pack. Other peacekeeping operations carried on by the Division include being part of the Multi National Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon from August of 1982 until February 1984. The Division suffered the loss of 241 Marines and Sailors during the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing. Towards the end of the 1980s, Division Marines participated in Operation Just Cause, the invasion of Panama.

The 1990s began with elements of the Division participating in Operation Sharp Edge, the evacuation of American and allied civilians out of war torn Liberia. This was followed by deployments to Saudi Arabia in support of Op-

eration Desert Shield and then the liberation of Kuwait in Operation Desert Storm. Following the war, elements of the Division participated in Operation Provide Comfort.

Elements of the 2nd Marine Division deployed to Kuwait in early 2003 to reinforce the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. These units formed a Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) and were called Task Force Tarawa. Task Force Tarawa crossed into Iraq on the first day of the ground war with the initial task of seizing Jalibah airfield in southern Iraq. Following this, the Task Force pushed north and took part in a major battle in the town of Nasiriyah. After the war, these Marines were moved north to Al Kut where they provided security and stabilization operations in central Iraq.

The 2nd Marine Division returned to Iraq in January 2005 to relieve the 1st Marine Division in Al Anbar province in western Iraq. They remained there conducting security and stabilization operations until early 2006.

Marine Corps News

School supplies bring right message

Nov. 30, 2007; Submitted on: 11/30/2007 07:27:41 AM ; Story ID#: 2007113072741

By Cpl. Billy Hall, 2nd Marine Division

AL QA'IM, Iraq (Nov. 30, 2007) -- The schoolmaster blows his whistle. Feet scamper out of the classrooms to assemble in the school courtyard. Smiles forced their way through the beaming faces of Iraqi children as the Marines of Company I, Task Force 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2, filtered into the school with much needed supplies. The Marines recently visited schools on the outskirts of Ubaydi to deliver notebooks, pencils and other school supplies to nearly 400 children, in order to continue building relations with the local populace. The Marines presented the schoolmasters with new soccer balls for the schools before ensuring each child received an individual package of various school supplies. The supplies were available because of an overwhelming response from families, friends and church groups back home. The students lined up in their respective grade levels as they peered in delight over shoulders to catch a glimpse of the Marines handing out supplies.

Why in hell can't the Army do it if the Marines can? They are the same kind of men; why can't the Army be like Marines.
(Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, Commander-in-Chief, AEF, 12 February 1918)

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

Treasure Valley Detachment



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

2007 Christmas Party

Thursday, December 20, 2007 at 6:30 pm. Gowen Field Pavilion
Marines and Guests

Each person should furnish their own tableware and utensils
Each person should bring their own drinks
Ham and Turkey, will be provided by the detachment
Each person or couple is asked to bring and exchange gift (wrapped and valued at no more than \$15.00).
If you don't bring an exchange gift you won't be part of the exchange gift part of the Christmas party
Each person or couple is asked to bring a new unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots Program
All members attending, are asked to come early to help decorate the Pavilion
Hope to see you at the party, If not Merry Christmas to all

Last name begin with:

A-E please bring an hors d'oeuvre
F-K please bring a dessert
L-P please bring a sidedish
R-W please bring a salad

