

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



Treasure Valley Detachment, No 878

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Semper Fi Gazette



*"To care for him
Who shall have
borne the battle
and for his widow
and his orphan."*

Abraham Lincoln



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TIME FOR YOUR VOTES

April is just around the corner and our Detachment's Board of Officers have fulfilled their duties and more. Our By-Laws only allow our Board of Officers a two year tour of duty. That time has come and we now must elect new Officers. A pre-convention is being held in Salmon, Idaho on April 17 & 18th.....We must have selected our Board of Officers no later than April prior to going to the pre-convention with our new Officers.

Our next two schedule Detachment meetings are March 19th and April 16th. So time is running out and we need to act quickly to establish our new Officers. If you are a paid up member in good standing we need you to show up for the next Detachment meeting scheduled for March 19th at 1900 in the Pavilion at Gowen Field.

A Quorum of the majority of it's Board of Officers plus a minimum of (10) registered delegates must be present in order to have the election.

If we are able to have 20 folks to show up at Quinn's for coffee surely we have that many to show up for an election. There are no mail-in elections allowed. You must be present to cast your vote.

Please support your Detachment and your Board of Officers by showing your loyalty and devotion to our Detachment and our fellow registered Marines Semper Fi,



TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL)

Information from both the *Reserve Officers Association*, (ROA) and the *Military Officers Association of America*, (MOAA) have issued statements condemning the rumors that the Politicians on the Hill and the Congressional Budget Office are making plans in their discussion to discontinue the Tricare For Life, (TFL) healthcare for seniors in the near future. These chain emails are nothing but Rumors. We should still be cautiously optimistic as our Representatives on the Hill discuss our future Healthcare benefits as well as all benefits that was promised to us when we walked into that Recruiting Office years ago to begin our careers..... Semper Fi.

Camp Lejeune Water Claims

Marines and their families who were stationed and resided on base at Camp Lejeune, NC between 1957 through 1987 may have come in contact with two solvents that is considered highly hazardous in the base's water system. Trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene, (PCE) both unregulated at the time and found in the water system supporting Tarawa Terrace and Hadnot Point areas at the time. If you were stationed at Camp Lejeune at the years noted above contact the website at www.marine.mil/clsurvey or call 1-877-261-9782, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST to establish yourself on the register. The Department of the Navy is conducting studies with two agencies at this time; Agency for Toxic Substance & Disease Registry, (ATSDR) and The National Academy of Science, (NAS). Upon completion of the findings the Marine Corps will notify all persons on the register of their findings and results.

Disabled Veteran Featured On Cereal Box

Mobile, AL The next time you pick up a cereal box of Cheerios, you might see a familiar face. A fellow Veteran by the name of Patrick Peterson, a resident of Fairhope, AL will be featured in the cereal's tribute to disabled veterans. Peterson is one of twelve people who will have his picture on the Cheerios cereal box sometime this spring. The promotion honors those who competed in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in August 2008.

Social Security News

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This new legislation provides a one-time payment of \$250.00 to Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries. All payments are expected to be delivered by May. If you do not have your one-time SS/SSI payment by the end of the first week in June check with the local office or call their toll free line.

Tricare Fee Bill Need Support

H.R. 816 Needs your support.....Contact your Representatives and voice your opinion. The Military Officers Association of America, (MOAA) and the Military Coalition strongly endorses this bill, The Military Retirees' Health Care Protection Act, (H.R. 816). This bill would bar the DOD from unilaterally increasing military **Tricare** enrollment fees, co-payments, and other fees. Congress has rejected repeatedly Pentagon's proposals to double or triple **Tricare** fees for retirees under age 65 and increase pharmacy co-pays for all beneficiaries who purchase medications through Tricare's retail or mail-order pharmacy system.

Proposed Budget Includes 2.9% pay Raise

President Barack Obama's proposed fiscal 2010 budget calls for a 2.9% pay increase for service members, according to the **Office of Management and Budget**. Usually the pay increase for the military goes hand-in-hand with the retirees, Social Security and VA disability, but we have a long way toward the 2010 fiscal budget final stages.

Notes of Interest/Errors

(1) In the November, 2008 newsletter I announced the signing into law by our late President Bush a bill sponsored by Jim Inhofe about saluting out of uniform etc, etc.

It seems from the February Leatherneck Magazine a statement by our Marine Corps Commandant states that the **ALMAR 052/08** noted that customs and traditions provide a link to the past, binding leathernecks to their heritage, thereby reinforcing the spirit that serves to preserve our identity and reputation as a unique and elite fighting organization.

The **ALMAR** confirms: "By custom and tradition, Marines do not render salute when out of uniform or when uncovered". Let there be no confusion; that has not changed. During the playing of the National Anthem, or the raising, lowering, or passing of the National flag, Marines will continue to follow Naval Tradition and the policy/procedures contained in reference (a) Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonial Manual.

(2) Reference; January, 2009 newsletter. **Treasure Valley Young Marines**..... I outlined the hours of Recruit Training. I showed the training until 1800hrs From Mar 21, 22, 28 and 29th. Training on each of these days end at 1700hrs and not 1800hrs. Sorry for the confusion.



Business Meeting For March, 2009

Our regular scheduled Treasure Valley Detachment business meeting is always scheduled on the third Thursday of the months in the Pavilion on Gowen Field...unless otherwise noted in our newsletter. The date and time for March's scheduled meeting is on the 19th at 1900 hours. We need to elect our new Board of Officers. Lets give our Board of Officers a break. They've served their two years with pride in their jobs and with dedication to our Detachment. Now it's time to look for new volunteers and support from our Detachment members. Please show up at this ↓

March Business Meeting Continue.....

Important meeting. We need to elect our new Officers prior to going to the pre-convention at Salmon, Idaho on April 17, 2009. We need to elect a new Commandant, Sr. Vice Commandant, Jr. Vice Commandant & Judge Advocate. Our By-Laws are the same as National's. Our Officers can only serve a maximum of two years. We **must** have this up-coming meeting to select new Officers before the pre-convention. I hope to see you all there.
Semper Fi, Editor

*March Birthdays*

Donna Schumaker
Melody Vaquera

From all of us, from the Marine Corps League, Treasure Valley Detachment, #878 we wish you Ladies a very, very **Happy Birthday** and many years to come.
Semper Fi

*Dates of Interest for March*

- 5th....1947~The 7thMarRegt disbanded at Camp Pendleton following their return from China
- 6th....1932~ Marine Band leader John Philip Sousa died at the age of 79 in Reading, PA
- 7th....1951~ The 1st, 7th and 11th MarRegt commenced Operations against enemy at Hongchon, Korea
- 8th....1965~Marines landed at Red Beach, Da Nang, Vietnam
- 17th....1918~ The 5th MarRegt. was the first Marine unit to move into WWI frontline trenches .
- 21st....2003~The major ground assault into Iraq began When RCT-7 crossed the line-of-departure.
- 25th....1804~The Secretary of the Navy approved the First formal uniform of the Marine Corps

*Koffee Klatch*

Our weekly Saturday get-together for coffee is a great way to meet your fellow Marines and chat about the old days and the experiences we all had to endure and overcome. We might be hardcore and brain dead at times but we do discuss politics and other governmental affairs as well as sports and local gossip. So why not join us for coffee and breakfast or just tell us your sea stories. Remember the third Saturday we have our wives for breakfast as well. We meet at Quinn's Restaurant on Vista Ave downtown Boise. Doors open at 0900, but some old timers still come earlier. See you there MARINES !

Searching For a New Restaurant For Our Coffee Klatch

In your daily routine of eating out, especially breakfast. Take a few minutes and check with Management and see if they would invite the idea of our Detachment holding our Coffee Klatch in their establishment on Saturday's between 0800-1000hrs. Approximately 12-20 people. Preferably around Cole or Eagle overpass and Fairview or Overland. I visited, "The Griddle" off Eagle road and Overland to check out their atmosphere and food. Prices are high, acoustic, barely none. Your voice echo throughout the whole establishment. Food is good, but a little pricy. i.e. Corn beef/hash, \$9.99; Basic two eggs and bacon or sausage w/hash browns, \$8.99

Up-coming Marine Corps Birthday Ball

As it stands for now the Marine Corps Birthday Ball for November, 2009 is set for Saturday, November 7, 2009. More details in the coming months.



Sgt William H. Gordon

A Story of Heroism

Korea....."The Forgotten War." It is a conflict which never assumed the mythic character of the Civil War or WWII. However our Marines fought hard and died just the same as any wars. Heroes were no different than from any other

wars or conflict. This is a story of just one hero I want to recognized for his bravery as I saw it firsthand . The date was September 11, 1952. A tail of the *Fox*; Fox Co. 2dBn. 7thMar, 1stMarDiv.

It was a chilly evening. We were on line in the Reno, Carsen and Vegas areas of Korea. (The Western Front). We were in trenches; Trenches were okay except the Chinese knew exactly where you were and were able to zero in on your positions. The enemy had a good sporting past time with their mortars, 76mm artillery and small arms on a daily basis. Our first platoon was to our left and we were tied in with "E" Co on our right flank. Every night it was routine for "F" Co to send out two patrols. That night 1st platoon went on a combat patrol out in front of our position...up a very steep hillside called Ungok. It was a steep climb to reach the top. The 1st platoon passed through a Korean graveyard and what appeared to be a saddle at the top of the hill. The 1st platoon was almost at the outskirts of the enemy's barbed wire when the Chinese opened up with everything. The first platoon was caught in a murderous cross fire of machine guns, small arms and mortar fire. We watched from our lines in the night, as the fighting intensified and explosions were lighting up the sky. Word was passed down the lines to prepare to move out and reinforce our first platoon buddies. Every Marine in our unit wanted to go, but we needed to keep our defense in tact on the lines just in case there might be a probe or night attack on our immediate lines. It took us about an hour of quietly moving through the cross fire and mortar barrages to reach the first platoon patrol. The patrol was in bad shape when we arrived. They had sustained (6) KIAs and (14) WIAs along with their Corpsman . I could see the wounded Corpsman illuminated from our artillery flares being fired in support of our rescue, crawling from wounded Marines to wounded Marines, and encouraging them to hang in there. I finally got into, what I thought a good position and started to lay down suppressing fire with my machine gun, when all of a sudden a loud explosion near me, shook the ground under me and almost knocked me unconscious. When I began to recover from the concussion my gun was destroyed. My trousers were shredded and both my legs was bleeding from a Chinese mortar round that landed about 4-5 feet from me, while I was firing my machine gun. I was able to walk out of the embattled area with the rest of the wounded and dead and headed back to our position that night just before daylight. This is when I got to see the Corpsman, Doc McElroy. He looked like he shouldn't be able to walk. Both legs looked like a mass of wounds. Something around his legs looked like they had tourniquets

But with so much blood it was hard to tell. He was walking around still helping the wounded and giving them encouraging remarks. We heard later that he had given himself morphine and doctored himself in order to continue to help his fallen comrades on the battle field. He later was awarded the *Silver Star* for his actions above and beyond the call of duty and saving many of the Marines' lives that night.

As I got back to our lines and headed for the medical station the Chinese tried once again to eliminate me as they started another barrage of mortar rounds on our position. Again a mortar round landed close by me and sprayed me with more shrapnel...like I didn't have enough embedded in me already. The wounds were not that bad. Of course my clothing was shredded and my legs were bloodied more as if I received a shotgun blast at close range on both legs.. As I laid there at the Company CP to be evacuated my friend Don Wade took his Jacket off and covered me up and we said our good byes as I was taken back to the rear, to 1st Med Bn . After my recovery I was sent back to my old outfit and reunited with Don. A few months later while on another patrol we got into another fire fight with the Chinese. I carried Don Wade off the lines, listed as KIA.



On behalf of our MCL Treasure Valley Detachment we like to thank Gordon William for his volunteer services at the Boise VAMC hospital and for 102 hours of services, which had to be yodeling most of those hours??? Keep up the good work Gordie Your selflessness and dedication to

our fellow brothers-in arms will always be appreciated with folks like you.....Semper Fi

Donations Needed

The Camp Tarawa Detachment #1255 from Hawaii are asking for donations to build a museum in memory of 55,000 Marines and Navy Corpsman who trained at Camp Tarawa from Dec 1943 through Aug 1945 in preparation for Saipan-Tinian and Iwo Jima campaigns and eventual occupation of Japan. Please make your tax deductible donations to; **The Camp Tarawa Foundation, PO Box 385551, Waikola, HI 96738** For more information you can contact Jim Browne, USMC 1950-1954

Chairman/Board of Directors and CEO, Camp Tarawa Foundation. (808) 883-0069 or barefoot.one@hawaiiantel.net Detachment website; www.camptarawamcl.com