

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



Treasure Valley Detachment, No 878

Volume 16, Issue 8

April, 2009

Gazette



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

Abraham Lincoln



- **Commandant**
Rich Erickson, 208-562-0498
- **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
- **Chaplin**
Bill Johnson, 208-384-1844
- **Newsletter Editor/Publisher**
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*To be connected with VA
suicide Prevention and Mental
Health Professionals. Call the
toll-free National Suicide
Prevention hotline and indicate
you are a veteran. 1-800-273-*

ELECTION DAY FOR MCL, DETACHMENT, NO 878

As always our turn out for last month's Detachment meeting was poor. We had only twelve folks show up out of 84 paid up members.....

The election and final vote for the officers' billets have been accepted at this time. Our current *Commandant*, Rich Erickson has put his hat in for another term. Our Junior Vice Commandant, Arnold Strawn has elected to run for the *Senior Vice Commandant's* position. John Walker, one of our new members has put his hat in for the *Junior Vice Commandant's* position. Bob Smith our current *Judge Advocate* has also elected to remain for another term.

Ralph Elston, our *Paymaster/Adjutant* has also elected to remain in his current position. That's where we stand at this time. Remember there is no call-ins or absentee voting. You must be present to vote or recommend your choice for any of the Officer's positions. Our next Detachment meeting will be April 16th at 1900 at Gowen Field in the Pavilion. If you want to vote or become involved in any of the positions in the Detachment please come in and voice your concerns or opposition.

VIETNAM VETERANS

If you have not registered at the VA hospital and have not gotten an Agent Orange examination, I encourage you to do so for your peace of mind as well as for the benefit of your family. If you're not familiar with the certain cancer diagnosis that is covered with Agent Orange you will be able to find out all this at the time of your register/examination.

The longer you put off the harder it is to prove your case. It's already been thirty-four years since the end of the Vietnam campaign. We are all getting older and time is not on our side. As a former veterans administration employee my experience working veterans' case files is to get yourself on record and establish your health case, whether it's approved or not, so later on down the road you can have something to fall back on for record. As we all get older our health may start to deteriorate faster or it may not. We all hope it will take longer, but we can't predict what may happen in the future. So by getting yourself on record for now may save a lot of headaches trying to find paperwork, remember dates, and places later on down the road. The same with registering with the VA hospital for Agent Orange and getting an exam.

Some Updates On Last Month's Newsletter

Some more information in reference to the water contamination at Camp Lejeune, NC. I did a little research and went online at CDC.com to find out more about the chemicals in question.

Both chemicals can cause cancer with the liver and kidneys. The PCE can cause tumors on the liver as well. **Note;** these studies have been done on animals only.

Another report by ATSDR, Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry reported a higher rate of people on the register compared to the general population have health conditions extending from ;

Anemia

Diabetes

Hearing Impairment

Hypertension

Kidney Disease

Liver Problems

Skin Rashes

Speech Impairment

Strokes

Urinary Disorders

If you want to get more details, go on line at CDC.com

Another follow up from last months newsletter;

House panel Democrats, GOP: 3.4% raise vs. 2.9%

Democrats and Republicans on the House Armed Services

Committee are both calling for a larger pay increase for fiscal year 2010. A lot is riding on 2010 COLA.

The CPI is the metric used to calculate annual cost of living adjustments, (COLA) for military retired pay, Social Security, and Survivor Annuities. The inflation is making its way towards positive territory, but not very fast. The February CPI increased only a 0.5% over January's number. That puts cumulative inflation at -4.1% since Oct 2008. This is the lowest rate of inflation in almost 40 yrs. Only five times since 1970 has there been a CPI swing of more than 4% in the space of five months. And this is the first time that large of a swing has been negative. If inflation is negative or flat for the entire fiscal year, there would be no COLA for retired pay or Social Security.

Recovery Payment for Disabled Vets

This is a more detailed update from last months newsletter; President Obama signed into law the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*. This act provides for the one-time payment of \$250.00 to individuals who get SSI or SS benefits and to disabled veterans that are in receipt of VA Compensation and Pension. No action is required on your part. For more information, please contact the Federal VA at 800-827-1000.



Business Meeting For April, 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 April's scheduled meeting is on the 16th at 1900 hours. As highlighted on the front page we have our selected Officers who wish to apply for the positions in question. If there are anyone else who wishes to apply please be at this month's meeting. Hope to see a good turnout.....

Post Office Named After Medal of Honor Recipient

On March 19, 2009 the United States House of representatives designated the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main St. in McLain, Mississippi as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office." McLain is the home town of deceased Ed Freeman. The House unanimously voted with a final vote of 384-0. Major Ed Freeman is interred in Idaho Veterans Cemetery.

People Who Makes a Difference in Others' Lives.....

From Medical Director, VA Medical Center To Gordon & Velma Williams;

On behalf of the hospitalized Veterans at the Boise VAMC I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your support during the "National Salute to Veterans Week." Your generous donation of time and energy made this year's Salute a great success. Your visit made the Veteran patients realize they are not forgotten.

Thank you again for caring..... Your interest in our hospitalized Veterans is greatly appreciated.

r/s DeWayne Hamlin

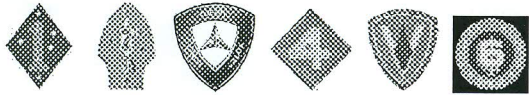
Director, VAMC

I know I speak for all our Detachment Members, when I say we appreciate your personal sacrifice and energy you put forth to give our veterans and to show them they are not forgotten.

Semper Fi, Gordon & Velma Williams



PLEASE NOTIFY THE TVD NEWSLETTER OF ANY CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS TO YOUR MAILING ADDRESS



Dates of Interest for April

- 4th1992~Operation Vigilant Resolve, (First Battle for Fallujah) commenced in Iraq
- 7th1958~ 8th and 6th Marine Regiments landed in Beirut, Lebanon
- 14th 1865~John Wilkes Booth shoots President Lincoln At Ford's theatre in Washington, D.C.
- 21st ..1951~Carrier based Marine planes downed three Yaks in the first air-to-air engagement with the North Korean Air Force
- 27th ..1805~Lt Presley O'Bannon raised the America flag Over Derna, Tripoli.
- 30th ..1975~NVA captured Saigon, Vietnam; Vietnam War ended



Washington, D. C. H.R. 24

Congressman Jones has been supporting this bill in the House to change the name from *Department of the Navy* to..... *Dept of the Navy and Marine Corps*. I encourage every one to write or call your Senators and tell them that you and fellow Marines like you have always stepped up to protect the rights and freedom of our United States. We only ask that in return you recognize the United States Marine Corps for its contribution to this Nation's history by re-designating the Department of the Navy as the "*Department of the Navy and Marine Corps*." Semper Fi, MARINES !!

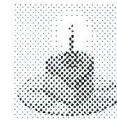
State House Bill (H-22)

Recommendation for Gold Star License Plates.... is still in the House Chambers on it's 3rd round of reading. However it still is expected to pass soon.

Memorial Day Services



Memorial Day services will still be held at the Veterans Cemetery on May 25th.....The time of the ceremony has been changed to 10:00am. Hope to see you all there.



April Birthdays

Elaine Stonebraker
Nancy Teague

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



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 !

VA Priority Groups 6-8

The new Directive allows the VA to provide glasses and hearing aids to those veterans who are not service-connected and in groups 6-8. Even though glasses and hearing aids may be provided at no charge, there may be a co-payment required for those in groups 6-8. Audio is a *Specialty* clinic with a \$50.00 co-payment for some services. There are no co-payments for the devices or the batteries. Visit your VA Medical Center or call to find out more details.

H.R. 613- The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act

If you want to see this bill pass, notify your Representatives today.

H.R. 613 would authorize the retention of the full final month's retired pay by the surviving spouse, (or other designated survivor) for the month in which the member was alive for at least 24 hours.

It is current practice of the Dept, of Defense Finance & Accounting, (DFAS) to immediately recover the last month's retired pay upon notification of death. The DFAS then sends back a pro-rated portion of the payment based on when the retiree died. Today the widow must apply for the pro-rated portion of the funds utilizing a SF-1174 form. How many of you ladies or your husband are aware of this? That's why this new bill, *H.R. 613* would eliminate this burden on the survivor and instead be able to retain the retiree's full retirement for that month of his death.

MCL Dept of Idaho 2009 Annual Convention....May 15, 16 & 17, 2009

There have been 25 rooms reserved at the Post Falls Red Lion Inn for the Department. To reserve your room call; 1-800-Red Lion and mention the Marine Corps League. Please send your reservation and check to

***Pappy Boyington Detachment #966, PO Box 3107
Coeur d' Alene, ID. 83816-3107***

If you did not get a reservation form check with one of the Detachment Officers or the Editor for more details. Those who have computer access may have gotten your notices. Those who do not have a computer and are interested in going and want a copy of the schedule please let me know a.s.a.p.

Treasure Valley Young Marines Graduation Ceremony and 50 Year Anniversary

Please come out and join the Treasure Valley Young Marine Recruit graduation ceremony. The date and time are; 7 April, at 7:00pm at Bldg 800, Gowen Field.

This is also their 50th year in existence and the graduation and celebration of 50 years should be a great day for all. The Treasure Valley Young Marines and Staff would like to extend their appreciation and thanks for the donation of two replica M-1 Garand rifles for their color guard and parades.

Some Recruit Training Pictures of This Past Month.....



PFT Day



Future Young Marines

SSgt Nolan Zorn

*MSgt
JAMES
DURBIN*



Roll Call



Rifle Drill



Precision Drill

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