

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



Treasure Valley Detachment, No 878

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Semper Paratus Gazette



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

Abraham Lincoln



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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.**
1-800-273-8255

MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 25, 2009



Ralph Elston, Adjutant/Paymaster, Treasure Valley Detachment No 878, Marine Corps League

Presenting our MCL, Treasure Valley Detachment wreath in honor of our fallen Veterans from all wars, past and present. I believe the turnout for this Memorial Day was the largest since the new veterans cemetery was establish. The day was beautiful....Bright sun, clear skies and a cool breeze to make it an enjoyable and somber day.

One of our guess speakers who was present to speak was, Congressman Walt Minnick. Introductory remarks were given by, Col. USMC Retired David E. Brasuell, IDVS Division Administrator. The Keynote Address was given by Col James J. McGovern, Commander, 366th Operations Group, Mountain Home AFB. A few of our honored guests, were the family of Medal of Honor recipient, Capt. Ed.(To Tall To Fly) Freeman, who I had the honor and privilege to know for several years before his untimely passing. →

(MOH, Vietnam), Col. Bernard Fisher, USAF, Kuna, Id. and Capt Art Jackson, USMC, (MOH, WWII) from Portland, OR



L-R. Ralph Elston, Adjutant/Paymaster, TVD, Capt Art Jackson and Don Griffith, TVD Editor/Publisher

Capt Art Jackson was serving with the 3rd Bn, 7th Marines, 1st MarDiv on the island of Peleiu during WWII...At the time he was a PFC and 19 years old. His platoon ran into approximately 50 or more Japanese held up in several fortified bunkers, on his platoon's left flank. Pfc Jackson immediately took the initiative and went after the first pillbox housing over 35 enemy soldiers. Firing into the gun ports and throwing in WP grenades and then a satchel charge he destroyed everyone inside the pillbox. Still being fired upon he went after two more smaller pillboxes and destroyed them and their occupants. Pfc Jackson had destroyed 12 pillboxes and 50 Japanese soldiers. He finally got the left flank of his platoon under control and safe from further enemy fire. What an honor to be standing by one of our finest Marines and being able to wish him the best.....God Bless our Marine Corps and the men and women who are serving today and years past.

Then to top off my day's events I had the distressing encounter with a young former Marine from, I believe, *Desert Storm* era. Arnie Strawn, our Vice Commandant and myself were greeted by this fellow Marine who started to sob and tears were falling down his cheek. We asked if he was okay. He stated he just got a little emotional. We greeted him a "Semper Fi" and shook his hands again. It brought tears to his eyes again and again he had to turn away feeling embarrassed. I looked to his young wife and little child. I asked her if he's like this all the time and she replied; Yes. Clearly this young Marine is suffering from PTSD. I felt helpless and yet I wanted to do more to comfort his pain. But like most PTSD veterans they're in denial or don't want to talk about it. Arnie and I invited him to have coffee with us on Saturday at Quinn. He stated he would look into it, but not now. We parted company and later as I walked to the buses for departure from the day's ceremony, I met the young Marine's wife. I asked her again is he always like this and she said most of the time. It clearly showed this young lady was suffering along with her husband, but in a different way. She was helpless and could not connect with his feelings. I tried to give her some encouragement by telling her that half the battle with your husband is under control. As long as →

you and your children, (One son going into the Marines) stand by his side and support him.... Hopefully he'll survive. But it'll be a long slow process. I encouraged her to try and get him to come to our coffee klatch on Saturday at Quinn's when he has the time. With that I parted company with her and prayed they both will survive. My thoughts and dreams of Vietnam came back to me that night and of this young *Desert Storm Marine*. I was back in Vietnam and the thought of my team members and my LT who was killed later in life performing his duties as an LAPD rescue unit. When his helo crashed and burned, killing all onboard. Wondering how my team members are surviving today.... How hopeless I felt not to be able to embrace this young Marine and tell him everything will be alright. Just hang in there Marine.... just hang in there.



Business Meeting For June 2009



May's business meeting was a successful turnout

We had 18 members and 3 guests present to discuss our upcoming bid for the 2011 *Marine Corps League National Convention*, hopefully here in Boise, Idaho. From the Commandant and Staff Officers..... Thanks to everyone for showing up for this very important staff meeting. Our next meeting is for June 18th, (Third Thursday of the month) at the Pavilion bldg on Gowen Field. Time; is 1900. Unless I'm stepping out of line I will also add an announcement from May's meeting. We are asking for a donation of \$325.00 by July 10th. More details on this during our June's meeting. Please be there and let's have another great turnout....Semper Fi Marines.

"One Shot, Twelve Kills-Marine Artillery."



Idaho Dept, Marine Corps League Convention



Swearing in of Idaho Dept Officers....From L-R
John Walker, Legislative Officer; Bobbie Lee, Judge Advocate & far
right Arnie Strawn, Sgt of Arms



L-R, Nolen McCormack, Outgoing Cmdt; Bob Gilmore, Division and



June Birthdays

Melba Butler

Priscella Dunn

Barbara Elston

Nancy Grigsby

Annette Rogers

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 !

"Death Smiles at Everyone-Marines smile Back."

Volunteers on Duty With The Coffee Wagon

Here's old Roy waiting for the road runners to stop by for a cup of coffee, cookies and some BS. Those who have not volunteered in the past should give it a try. You meet a lot of nice folks and they all have good stories and adventures to tell you. You also meet a lot of former Marines and other Veterans. I guarantee you will not be bored. You'll meet folks as far away as Maine, Florida & Midwest, going or coming from Oregon, California and Washington. Our next coffee wagon day is July 4th. Contact our Commandant or anyone of our Staff Officers listed on the front of this newsletter to set up a date to work the coffee wagon. We always have two people working the wagon. So you will not be alone.



Spring Parking Lot Party



L-R; Roy, John, Walt and Don.... "Come and get it."

The Spring Parking lot Party at Idaho State Veterans Home kicked off at 1000. It was a great success. So much, we ran out of almost everything by 1330. The TVD Young Marines helped the handicap Veterans unable to walk by serving them and escorting them in their wheelchairs.



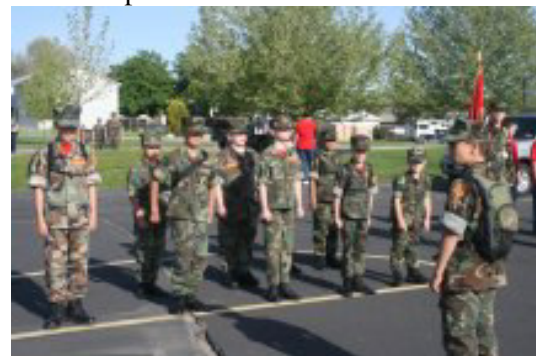
Gem State Young Marines Parade America- Nampa, Idaho



Gem State Young Marines participated in the annual Armed Forces Day Parade in Nampa. Our unit consisted of 40 Young Marines, 7 Staff members and 18 parents. The parade was a total success as seen on TV and local news papers covering the events. After which the Staff families, Young Marines and guest enjoyed each others company where all participated in games, conversation and plenty of good food.



Gem State Young Marines, top and bottom, preparing to march in the parade.



"Dress right dress" !



Dates of Interest for June

- 1st....1918- "*Retreat Hell ! We just got here.*" The 5th Marine Regiment during WWI
- 2nd ...1918- The French Croix de' Guerre awarded those at Belleau Wood, France, 2-13 June
- 5th....1944- LtGen H.M. Smith was designated the first FMFPac Commander
- 12th...1948-President Harry Truman authorized the first women Marines in the regular Corps
- 13th...1991- Marines from Okinawa & MB, Subic Bay, Philippines helped evacuate 20,000 Americans after Mt Pinatubo erupted.
- 18th...1945-MajGen Roy S Geiger assumed command of the 10th U.S. Army after LtGen Buckner, USA was KIA
- 22nd ...1954-President Dwight D Eisenhower authorized the use of the first official Marine Corps Seal
- 25th... 1950- Korean War began
- 26th....1891- The Corps established its first post at Port Royal, SC later to be known as, Parris Island
- 30th....1834-Congress placed the Marine Corps under Navy Jurisdiction.

VA Medical Centers. From 2004 the cases has doubled from approximately 6,800 to nearly 15,000 patients a year. Only a fraction are from Iraq or AfghanistanInstead most are Vietnam veterans. Why? Some say due to the economy. Other experts say due to the aging of the veteran and changing of the rules are making it easier to qualify. Many Veterans are developing illnesses that have been linked statistically to the notorious herbicide "*Agent Orange*". This is another reason to check into your local VA Medical Center and if anything to just get register for Agent Orange if you were in an area of Vietnam that had used the herbicide.

Independent Survey Ranks TRICARE Tops

An independent survey ranked TRICARE as number one among 22 of the largest healthcare and health insurance plans in 2008. The Wilson Rx Survey, conducted annually reported that TRICARE as number one in nearly 40 categories, including overall health plan category, plan coverage, costs, service delivery quality and prescription drug coverage.

Other News around the Nation

House OKs Special Pay For Merchant Marine Veterans

Merchant Marine Vets who supported the US military during WWII will receive a \$1,000.00 monthly special pay for the rest of their lives under HR 23. By a voice vote that was kept from the public and Veterans organizations. However the *National Association for Uniform Services*, which represents active, reserve & retirement members of all branches of the services supported the bill, saying it was giving something that Merchant Marines were promised at the end of WWII but was never delivered.

Vietnam Veterans Are Falling Ill, But Why Now??

By Maura Lerner.....Star Tribune

Minneapolis~ In the past few years, Dr Michael Koopmeiners has seen an increase in the number of veterans seeking help for war-related disabilities at→



Treasure Valley Detachment's Upcoming Events For 2009

- Sep 19th ~ *Veterans Olympics. At Boise VA Medical Center , 0630-0830. We put up flags along The road leading to the hospital and serve coffee, donuts and etc.*
- Oct 4th ~ *Fall Parking Lot Party. Idaho State Veterans Home, 1100-1400*
- Nov 10th ~ *Marine Corps Birthday at the Idaho State Veterans Home. 1100 Cake cutting ceremony*
- Nov 11th ~ *Veterans Day. MCL may host this year..... If we do we need a Narrator and other help.*
- Dec 24th ~ *Christmas Parties, tentative date & subject To change. More info to follow.*

My Thought For the day

It's God's job to forgive Bin Laden-It's our Job to arrange the meeting. amen

Flag Display For June

We would like to have volunteers to help in displaying the US flag at the Veterans Cemetery on June 12th, which is Friday. We will also need volunteers to take down the flags on the 15th. I have not received the time to assemble at the cemetery. I will notify those by computer who have access to email. For those without computers feel free to call me during the week prior to the 12th for an update on the time. (My Tele# 898-0974)
Thank you all.....Semper Fi

Update on Preparation for the 2011 Marine Corps League, National Convention

First of all, before I update you readers I would like to announce on behalf of our Commandant and Staff members ***"A Job Well Done!"*** to John Walker, Junior Vice Commandant. John has been instrumental in putting into motion the plans to have our Treasure Valley Detachment as host to the Marine Corps League's National Convention. John has been coordinating with the Governor & Mayor's office and the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism department. John has recently returned from Phoenix, AZ. John has been preparing along with other representatives to place our bid for having this convention at Boise, Idaho. Phoenix, AZ is our only competition at this time. If John is successful in winning the bid for Boise, Idaho it is estimated that the outcome will generate approximately \$2 million dollars into Boise's economy. It will also generate a lot of PR for our Detachment and the Marine Corps League nationwide. When we win this bid, (Note; I said win!!) we will need volunteers to help out in many capacity. I ask you as Marines to step up to the challenge and volunteer your services and input. This is going to put a lot of stress on a very few and we need all hands to help out in this effort. So number (1); come to our upcoming meetings to stay on top of this important time in our Detachment's history. (2) Stop in at Quinn's on Saturdays during our coffee klatch to get up dated info. (3) Call any of the Officers on the front of this newsletter to volunteer your services and manpower. June 23rd we will have an informal dinner, get together with the inspection team at the Riverside, Doubletree Hotel. You are invited to attend and show your support and interest in making this an important event in our Detachment's history. Tentative time is approx 1800-1830. →

There is more to write about, but the newsletter is limited to how many pages I can use without increasing the cost of postage. That's why it is important that you come out to our staff meetings and stop by Quinn's restaurant for coffee and get the update on the National Convention. I will keep our readers posted with this monthly newsletter but participating at the meetings is where you need to get involved. Let's make an impression on National and show them our gung-ho and can do attitude. We might be a small detachment, but we have the spirit to prevail and make a name for our Detachment. Semper Fi, Marines

Other Events to Mark on your Calendars

June 27th *All Veterans Welcome Home. At VA Medical Center grounds. 1100-1400
July 10th Deadline for \$325.00 Donation needed
Aug 8th Veterans Appreciation Day Picnic, 1100-1600
Aug 29th MCL, TVD picnic at Juniper Ranch

* Check May's newsletter for details

More info to follow on these events.

Juniper Ranch History



Juniper Ranch is owned by Stan Meholchick one of our life member. Stan uses his ranch to support the TVD Young Marines. He has allowed our MCL, Detachment to hold picnics. With only his wife to help he has asked for volunteers to help in repairs of the picnic tables, walk ways for the handicap, (wheel chairs) and other repair work. You are also invited to try your hand at fishing on his pond. (Catch/Release) If you would like to help out call Stan Meholchick at 454-1172