

# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



## Treasure Valley Detachment, No 878

Volume 16, Issue 11

July, 2009

# 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**



John Walker

### Marine Corps League National Convention Team

The week of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 and June 25<sup>th</sup> saw the National Convention Team visit Boise to do a site inspection. The Team consisted of John Tuohy, from Michigan and his lovely wife, Peggy Tuohy and Ken Watterson from Texas. For Ken this was his first visit to our fair city and great state. John was here 10 years ago for the Department of Idaho Convention in 1999.

Tuesday morning was spent touring the hotel and meeting with many of the Staff. One of the areas commented on was the length of time the Staff has been with the Doubletree. This was looked on with high favorability.

In the afternoon we went over to the Birds of Prey, the War Hawk museum and the Military Museum at Gowen Field.

These stops were looked on with many favorable comments and *ohs* and *ahhs*. Especially at the Birds of Prey, during the live demonstration we witnessed.

Tuesday night a reception was held at the DoubleTree for our guests. Many members of our Detachment were able to attend as well.....Finger foods and drinks were provided by the hotel. Good conversation took place and new friendships were established between our Detachment and the Convention team.. Wednesday we had breakfast at Qwinn's restaurant.

Our Commandant, Rich Erickson was on hand to join the inspection team for breakfast. While there ...coins were presented to Commandant Erickson and Jr Vice Commandant, John Walker, by Marine Ken Watterson. Once breakfast was over a trip to the Old Penitentiary was undertaken. While there we also reviewed the weapons display on hand at the location. From there we took a trip to Anne Frank 's memorial... and the Basque area rounded out our tour of Boise. In the afternoon more tours of rooms at the hotel and then a tentative contract was worked out and signed.

Thursday morning the National Convention team departed for home with what we hope was fond memories of Boise. We hope they will be back soon.....

By John Walker  
Legislative Officer, Dept of Idaho  
Jr Vice Commandant, Treasure Valley Detachment, No 878  
Boise, Idaho

### *From the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center....*

Dear Mr. Williams;

The letter says it all for the years of self-sacrifice to our beloved League member, Gordie...*(as we like to call him)*. Gordon and his lovely wife Velma have devoted their lives to volunteering their time to help out in the VA Medical Center and to make life a little more tolerable for our Veterans. Not only do they help with the resident Veterans, but also anyone who needs assistance getting around the medical center. Gordon has logged in over 3,980 hours toward the welfare of our Veterans. Among Gordon's other assignments are MOPH representative, MCL Rep, member of the VAVS Executive Committee, Recreation Therapy, and Escort & Messenger Services. Gordon was instrumental in establishing The Employee Tour Guide to train other volunteers to be guides around the medical Center. Gordon and Velma→

Together received numerous awards over the years. Both have received Volunteer of the Month Awards and also awarded the prestigious "Star Garnet Award" by the Idaho Hospital Association. Both Gordon and Velma are a credit to our Marine Corps League and especially to themselves. They uphold the highest value of our Marine Corps tradition....*Self-sacrifice devotion to duty, and love for our fellow men & women* "God Bless Gordon & Velma Williams."



Gordon H. Williams



### *Eagle Scout Court of Honor*



June 27, 2009 our Detachment was privileged to be special guests to the promotion of Scout Connor McCormack as Eagle Scout. Our Commandant, Rich Erickson and Bobby Lee, our Idaho Dept. Judge Advocate was on hand to present



Eagle Scout Connor, the "Citizen Award" and the presentation of, "Eagle" rank in Scouting and for his outstanding achievement in the community. It's always a privilege to be part of any award ceremony that recognizes and awards young men and women for their achievements within their community. With so much violence and young teens being misled it does my heart good to know we have witnessed a transformation of another young boy becoming a young man, mature, responsible and dedicated to his goals in life. The parents are to be recognized and congratulated for having an outstanding young man. The future is wide open Connors...Go for it!



### *Treasure Valley Young Marines Still Hard At It.....*

Our Young Treasure Valley Marines were busy on June 28<sup>th</sup>. At around 3:30 am.....No, this is not a typo. At 3:30 am our Treasure Valley Young Marines were up and with Channel 7 morning news, putting up the American flags along the road corridor to the VA Medical Center and to answer questions by Channel 7 reporter in preparation for the start of Saturday's "Welcome Home Veterans" .



Channel 7, Larry Gebert introducing our Treasure Valley Young Marines and their mission for this morning. The following pictures are preparation in the upcoming "Welcome Home Veterans". and clean up after the event. The Young Marines really had a busy schedule set for them. Starting at 3:30 am in the morning. Figuring when they must have gotten up and to get ready for this morning, they must have started around 2:30 am for most of these Young Marines. Continue ↓





Continue.....



Putting up morning colors



Opening ceremony by Treasure Valley Young Marine's Color Guard for the, "Welcome Home Veterans."



Closing of the ceremony and hauling down the colors. This has got to be the longest day these young Marines put in. From 3:30 am until closing, about 3:00pm... Semper Fi Young Marines. You did a fantastic job this day and made a lot of old timers, Army, Marines, Air Force & Navy smile with gratitude. →



Getting ready for the July 4th, 2009 parade.



Treasure Valley Young Marines marching in downtown Boise 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade



Passing out flags and soliciting donations as the Young Marines march pass the many spectators lining the downtown streets for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. You can't help but to admire these Young Marines and feel a sense of pride and admiration for their hard diligent work and self-sacrifices.



## Koffee Klatch

Howdy Marines. It seems our coffee klatch is growing by the week. We have been getting a lot of Marines coming in for social gathering and a lot of BS. We sure would like to see you younger Marines, (Iraqi/Afghan Vets) show up. Don't worry about war stories. We've all been there and we know when to shut our mouth and change the subject. So come on in and join us for a few minutes of BS You won't regret it. Semper Fi, Marines

are even new proud parents of sons who just joined the Corps and going off to war. If you have any questions and want to get more information about volunteering please contact any of our Officers on the front page of this newsletter.....Thank You and Semper Fi, From our Volunteers.



***"In War Everyday is Memorial Day"***



## Volunteers On Duty At The Coffee Wagon



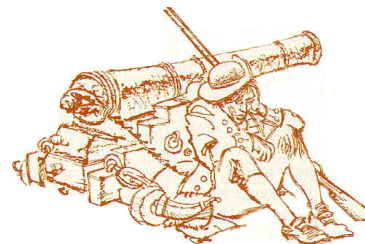
Here it is July, 2009 and we are at work on 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend serving coffee to all and any *Road Runners* passing by. Many a good stories come out of these volunteer duty assignment and four hours go by fast. But we still need help. It was brought to my attention with a little math problem involved.... We have three days, Fri, Sat & Sun...with four hour shifts starting from 0600-1000 until closing 1800--- That's two volunteers a shift X 4 shifts= 8 volunteers aday X 3 days = 24 volunteers a weekend. For those who attend coffee klatch we may have 15 plus folks. Guess what? A few of our volunteers are volunteering for Fri, Sat and Sunday. We sure could use your help. If you would like to volunteer you can contact any of our Officers for info. If you're worrying about what or how to operate the coffee wagon.....Don't worry. We'll put you with a member who knows the procedures and you'll have a good time. Some members even have their wives with them and the wives have a great time talking with the folks passing by for refreshments and a little gossip or even some up dates on the weather and road conditions. So give it a trial run. If you have nothing pressing on a weekend, this is how to end your weekend with some enjoyment and good conversation. About 40-50 percent of all *Road Runners* are military folks. Some of them→



## Treasure Valley Detachment's Upcoming Events For 2009

- Aug 8<sup>th</sup> ~Veterans Appreciation Day Saturday, 1100-1600 Green Shelter-Harmon Park
- Aug 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Conference For Women Veterans Saturday, Doubletree Riverside Hotel. (For more info call: (208-246-8761 or [gina.stamper@veterans.idaho.gov](mailto:gina.stamper@veterans.idaho.gov))
- Aug, 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Marine Corps League Detachment Picnic, Saturday, 1100-1600 approx, At Juniper Ranch in Caldwell, (See google map)
- Sep 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Next Staff Meeting, Third Thursday of the Month. 1900 at the Pavilion, on Gowen Field
- Sep 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Veterans Olympics. At VAMC, 0630-0830 We put up flags, serve coffee & donuts.
- Oct 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Fall parking lot party, Idaho State Veterans Home (ISVH), 1100-1400
- Nov 10<sup>th</sup> ~ Marine Corps Birthday at the Idaho State Veterans Home. 1100 cake cutting ceremony
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Veterans Day. MCL may host this year??
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas party, tentative date & subject to Change. More info to follow

***"Hell was so full.. I came back"***



**MARINES-Providing enemies of America an opportunity to die for their country since 1775**





## News From the Hill

**H.R. 1513: Veterans' COLA Act of 2009**....Some are predicting that the CPI will decrease rather than increase. In the event of a decrease in the CPI, Veterans and survivor Compensation will remain at last year's rate, (5.8%)

**S546: Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2009.** A bill to amend title 10, US Code to permit both disability pay and retired pay to be paid in two separate checks for those retired military personnel.

Sponsor: Sen Harry Reid (NV) Co-Sponsors (38)

**S572: Purple Heart Forever Stamp.** A bill to provide for the assurance of a "forever Stamp" to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women who have been awarded the purple heart for wounds received in combat



**New Scam:** Don't fall for jury duty scam. Hang up the phone. The caller will notify you have missed jury duty and will need some information to clear up the matter. **DON'T !!** Just hang up the phone. If you're not sure...then call the Clerk of Courts for verification.

**Presumptive Service-Connection for; AL Amyloidosis**  
Primary AL is an abnormal plasma cell in the bone marrow & sometimes occurs with multiple myeloma. On May 7, 2009 the VA approved the presumptive service-connection due to exposure to Agent Orange. Again a **REMINDER** If you have not register at the VAMC for Agent Orange do so today. Even if you're not sure of your exposure.

**Priority Group 8 Enrollment Relaxation Changes**  
VA eligibility rules changed on June 15, 2009, making it easier for more Veterans to enroll in the VA's health care system. "Check it out today !!"



## Dates of Interest for July

- July 1<sup>st</sup> ~ 1920- MajGen John A. Lejeune became the 13<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps
- July 4<sup>th</sup> ~ 1800 The Marine band played at Tun Tavern in it's first public appearance
- July 4<sup>th</sup> ~ 1834-President Andrew Jackson ordered green & buff as the Corps uniform colors
- July 6<sup>th</sup> ~ 1905- Marines escorted the body of John Paul Jones from France to Annapolis
- July 10<sup>th</sup> ~1919- A submarine chaser was turned over to The Corps with the first all-Marine crew
- July 11<sup>th</sup> ~1798-The U.S. Marine Corps was re-established by Congress, succeeding the Continental Marines
- July 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 1950- An organized Marine Corps Reserve Mobilized for duty in Korea
- July 28<sup>th</sup> ~ 1918- BrigGen John A Lejeune assumed Command of the 2d U.S. Army Div. in France
- July 30<sup>th</sup>~ 1918- The 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Aviation Force arrived in France



## Next Business Meeting Is Sep, 2009

Our next official business meeting will be on the third Thursday... September 17, 2009, at 1700 at the Pavilion on Gowen Field. There are no business meetings for July and August. The newsletter will continue for July and August as I get information to publish and keep our readers updated. **"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem."** Ronald Reagan



## July Birthdays

**Sharen Randel**

Wow !! Only one birthday for July??

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

"Semper Fi"

### Juniper Ranch History



*Juniper Ranch is owned by Stan Meholchick a “Life Member”. Stan uses his ranch to support the Treasure Valley Young Marines. Stan has graciously offered his ranch for our Detachment’s August 29<sup>th</sup> picnic. The map below should help you find his ranch. If you get lost call Stan at 454-1172. If you would like to help Stan to upgrade some of the areas, i.e. picnic tables wheel chair access, etc, Stan would be more than happy for your donated help.*

Address: 21500 Wells Rd  
Caldwell, Id 83605

