



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE TREASURE VALLEY**  
**DETACHMENT #878 NEWSLETTER-SEPTEMBER 2012**  
**BOISE, IDAHO**



**OUR OFFICERS**  
**AND STAFF**  
**2011 & 2012**

**\*COMMANDANT\***  
**GARY RANDEL**

**SR. VICE CMDT**  
**ART KILTON**

**JR. VICE CMDT**  
**JACK CUNNING-**  
**HAM**

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**  
**FRANK PARTRIDGE**

**IMMED. PAST**  
**CMDT.**  
**ARNIE STRAWN**

**ADJUTANT**  
**CHRIS**  
**CHRISTOPHER**

**PAYMASTER**  
**DAVID SWICKARD**

**SGT AT ARMS/WEB**  
**MASTER**  
**WALT MODLER**

**CHAPLAIN**  
**RON BLAKELEY**

**NEWSLETTER**  
**EDITOR**  
**BOBBY LEE**

*For information or to  
submit articles to be  
published/reviewed for  
this Newsletter please  
contact:*

*[bobbyjleeusmc@gmail.com](mailto:bobbyjleeusmc@gmail.com)  
1-208-880-5097*



**A note from the Editor:** As we kick off the fall season after a nice summer break for most of us, I would like to bring to your attention that we have a new Website dedicated to the TVD members, detachment's activities, and it now has a calendar where current events are listed. Walt Modler has done a beautiful job of putting this together for you and you can access it by clicking this link: <http://tvdmccl.org/> It's a **MUST** see! **To contact Walt about the site:** Walt Modler [wmodler@q.com](mailto:wmodler@q.com) or 208-941-1390

**Got an article or picture that might be of interest to others? Details for submission of articles to the Newsletter Editor.**

**All detachment Officers** are requested to submit articles about the subjects of their office. As officers I encourage you to submit something pertaining to your responsibilities so that the membership is aware that you are doing something. It need only to be a paragraph but if you have more, great!

All submissions to the newsletter must be received before the second Saturday of the month. The delay is to include info from the Board of Trustees meeting. I try to publish the Sunday/Monday before the business meeting. It must be typed or printed from a printer, hand delivered or e-mailed, questions ... contact me. If it is a clipping from a newspaper I need the name of the paper, the date the article was published, and the author of the article. This is due to copyright laws. Please document your submissions so they can be verified.

Members who attended events and took pictures please submit those pictures with details of the event, a story is not required but would be helpful, captions are sufficient. Remember; who, what, when, where, how and why can all be used to tell what happened. Also, very important, a method by which you may be reached, i.e. phone, e-mail or whatever works best for you, in case there are questions or I need clarification on something.

All of this information is also available on the Webpage by clicking:

**[http://tvdmccl.org/?page\\_id=138](http://tvdmccl.org/?page_id=138)**

For information or to submit articles to be published/reviewed for this Newsletter please contact:

**[bobbyjleeusmc@gmail.com](mailto:bobbyjleeusmc@gmail.com)**  
**1-208-880-5097**

**FOR ALL OF OUR BIRTHDAY GIRLS IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER**  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!**

**[Barbra Baron-Marilyn Burke-Kathy Erickson-](#)**  
**[Marykay Jost-Jennette L'Abbe-Ginny Ohls-](#)**  
**[Frances Smith-Barbra Smith-Taylor Yost .....](#)**



**MANY HAPPY RETURNS!!!**



## COMMENTS OF THE COMMANDANT GARY RANDEL

Following our “Doughnut Brigade” work at the annual Veterans Olympics event held on the Veterans Hospital grounds Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup>, I drove to the home built in Kuna for LCpl Randall Wright, where nearly 100 volunteers were completing the landscaping for the home. LCpl Wright should occupy the home soon, but I don’t know what date that will be.

Then, at 1:00 PM Saturday I attended a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park where a specially designed Wake Island Flag was raised at the Wake Island Memorial. Three survivors, all Morrison-Knudson employees, of that noteworthy World War II battle were present at the ceremony along with numerous family members of M-K employees killed and/or captured at Wake Island. I spoke with one lady who traveled here from Huston, TX. for the event.

The next non-meeting detachment activity will be the Veterans Home Parking Lot cookout on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

As some of you know the Homes for our Troops organization plans to build another home in our area next year. This home will also be built for a former Marine and double amputee who currently lives in Star, which is where his home will be built. Homes for our Troops are working to secure property for this build project, which should begin in either the spring or early summer of 2013. Unlike the current project, we should receive information early enough to support the effort in a more complete way than we were able to with LCpl Wright’s home.

On Monday September 10<sup>th</sup> I attended the Northwest Division Staff Conference in Post Falls, Idaho. Perhaps the most significant item I brought back from the conference was the updated Marine Corps League Professional Development CD, that I will begin distributing to the membership at our next detachment meeting.

At our next regular meeting, which will take place at Fuddruckers’ in Meridian on September 23d, we will formally present the revised detachment bylaws to the membership for their examination. It is my intent that the detachment will vote to either adopt or reject these bylaws no later than our regular 2012 November meeting. The proposed bylaws are available for review on the detachment’s web site: <http://www.tvdmcl.org>

## **Valor Website Now Includes Service Crosses**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1, 2012 - A website launched last week that lists recipients of the military's highest awards for valor for actions since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks has been updated with service cross recipients.

The site -- at <http://valor.defense.gov> -- is designed to raise awareness of service members' heroism and to help deter those who falsely claim military honors officials said.

The site launched with the names of Medal of Honor recipients for actions since 9/11, and now lists recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross and Navy Cross. The services are continuing to compile the lists of Silver Star recipients to add to the site, officials said.



COMMENTS OF THE SR. VICE  
ART KILTON

I took most of the summer off to travel the 6 western states and British Columbia. It was a great trip, something I may never do again; At least not in the near future. Now that I'm back on duty, I'd like to encourage our members to attend the business meetings once a month. We are now meeting at Fuddrucker's restaurant on Eagle Rd. near Ustick. The September meeting is on the 23rd. A no host dinner is at 6 PM and the meeting starts at 7 PM. Come out and enjoy the good fellowship and participate in the League's activities. You won't be disappointed. You'll also have an opportunity to vote on the recently revised By-Laws. First reading is next week. Your vote is important.

The MCL just had a wonderful picnic at member Stan Meholchick's ranch. If you didn't attend, you missed some good times. The fishing (no license needed) was great. The fish are large and seem quite willing to bite. The steaks were tasty as were the extras. Stan and Jeannie are particularly good hosts. They regularly support our Veteran's home, bringing the resident's to his ranch for a day of fishing and a chili feed. This is an activity that our members can participate in. Once again, you won't be disappointed.

Plan to attend the Veteran's Day parade in November. We usually have a vehicle to ride in, so you don't have to walk the entire route. The citizens are most appreciative of our veteran's. Detachment Commandant, Gary Randel, is Parade Chairman. His hard work should be supported by our members. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

The Marine Corps birthday ball is also coming up in November. This can be a really great outing. The fee is \$50 per person. Consider this activity and place it on your calendar. Best wishes to all members. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Fuddrucker's on Thursday the 23rd.  
Semper Fi, Art Kilton, Sr. Vice Commandant.

## House Tries Again, Passing New Stolen Valor Act

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

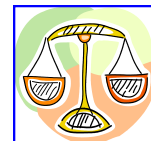
Published: September 14, 2012

Those who lie about military service or about receiving medals with the intent of benefiting from those claims would be committing a crime under legislation passed by the House on Thursday. The House's 410-to-3 vote on what is known as the Stolen Valor Act came less than three months after the Supreme Court struck down the original act on the grounds that it violated First Amendment free speech rights. The new bill tries to get around the court ruling by making clear that it applies only in cases in which people lie about a military record with the aim of obtaining payment or other benefits; such an action could bring a one-year prison sentence. The new measure exempts those who simply wear military medals or decorations that do not belong to them.

Anyone who wants to weigh-in on this matter should contact directly Senators Crapo and Reich to support the Senate version of this effort; which is Senate Bill 1728. Remember, always be civil in your correspondence!

Senator Crapo: <http://www.crapo.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm>

Senator Reich: <http://www.risch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Email>







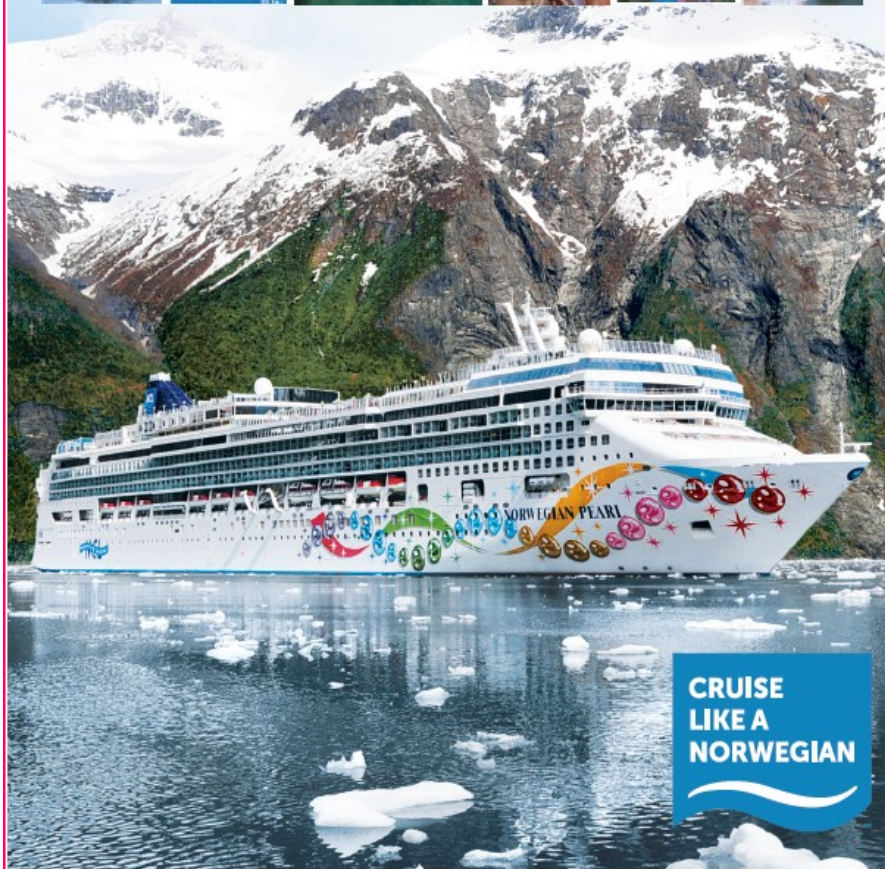
# EXPLORE ALASKA, THE NORWEGIAN WAY

ABOARD NORWEGIAN JEWEL OR NORWEGIAN PEARL.

An extraordinary ship makes for an extraordinary vacation and with Norwegian Jewel and Norwegian Pearl, your clients can explore Alaska The Norwegian Way aboard the two newest ships sailing to Glacier Bay and Sawyer Glacier.

These sister ships sail for 7-days from the convenience of Seattle departing on either Saturday or Sunday. And with Freestyle Cruising, guests will have the freedom to do as they please, on their own schedule. Enjoy dinner at one of the many specialty restaurants or dine in the privacy of their stateroom, the choice is theirs. And with award-winning entertainment including The Second City plus our exclusive Nickelodeon programming, there is always something for everyone.

Both ships also feature amazing accommodations. From the luxury of The Haven by Norwegian offering a private enclave at the top of the ship, to Balcony staterooms perfect for viewing the beauty of the Alaska coastline and everything in between including connecting staterooms perfect for families, our staterooms fit any size group.



**Treasure Valley  
Detachment**  
Marine Corps League  
P. O. Box 45874  
Boise, ID. 83711



## *Cruise ship Raffle* FUNDRAISER FOR Treasure Valley Detachment Marine Corps League activities

As follows:

Injured Marines Semper FI Fund  
and support of unit activities  
Young Marine (Youth Groups)  
ID State Veterans Home, Boise  
Veterans Medical Center, Boise  
(for activities and Hospice)  
Idaho Wounded Warriors  
(Sports)

1. The cruise is on the Norwegian Jewel or Pearl included is one cabin for two people, seven days 6 nights.
2. \$1,000.00 cash for use on the cruise expenses e.g.:
  - a. Airfare to & from port city.
  - b. Upgrades on ship
  - c. Transfer fees & extras
  - d. Costs acquiring passports
  - e. Expenses aboard ship and in ports of call.

Ports of call depending on cruise you choose, could be...

1. Seattle, WA.
2. Ketchikan, AL.
3. Juneau, AL.
4. Skagway, AL.
5. Victoria, BC
6. Prince Rupert, BC.
7. Vancouver, BC.

Offered through  
Vista Travel  
1001 Vista Ave.  
Boise, ID. 83705  
208-343-9413  
Cathy Evans  
[cathy@vistatravel.biz](mailto:cathy@vistatravel.biz)

*The above Cruise/Raffle is being chaired by Activities Chairman Arnie Strawn. For information, Tickets or comments call Arnie at 1-208-454-8295 or e-mail [arnieaws@cablone.net](mailto:arnieaws@cablone.net) Drawing is Dec. 20th 2012*

***TICKETS ARE \$10.00 ea. and only a limited amount will be sold***

## These men fought in WWII, Korea and Vietnam



By **TOM BERG** / THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

*LEONARD ORTIZ, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER*

**MISSION VIEJO** – They are a two-man band of brothers – on a final mission.

Both joined the Marines at age 16. Both stormed the beaches of Guam in 1944. And both got wounded.

Longtime friends Jerry Hanson, 87, left, of Boise and Tom Spry, 86, of Mission Viejo, laugh as they recall their adventures as young Marines.

[MORE PHOTOS »](#)



Later they fought in Korea; and in Vietnam.

For more than 50 years, they've stayed friends. Through marriages and births, heart attacks and the loss of their wives.

Almost every day, they call to say hi.

"He's my best friend," says Tom Spry, 86, of Mission Viejo.

"He's like a brother," says Jerry Hanson, 87, of Boise Idaho.

Recently they got asked to help again. So they did what they always do. Said yes.

**One last time.**

It's easy to remember their names. Tom and Jerry; like the old cartoon. Tom's the funny one, cracking jokes after everything Jerry says. Jerry's the tough one, an infantryman wounded three times in three wars.

Says Tom: "I introduce him to everyone: 'This is my best friend, but if you have to go to war, stay as far away from him as you can!' "

They laugh.

Jerry recalls the time he was shot by a sniper in Guam; the time he was hit by a grenade in Korea; and the time he was hit by a mortar in Vietnam. These stories, however, don't make him blink. It's the story about Paul Nye that puts a hitch in his voice and draws a tear. After a long pause, he says:

"I don't know if I can go back up there."

But up there – Guam's Fonte Hill – is where he's going.

It was 68 years ago this month, July 21, 1944, when these two landed on Guam with 25,000 other Marines.

Their mission: retake the 30-mile island from Japanese occupiers as the U.S. pressed its war in the Pacific toward the Japanese mainland.

This was Tom's first and Jerry's second beach landing, running past dead and wounded comrades into the face of gunfire, mortars and artillery explosions.

"If anybody ever says they weren't scared," Tom says, "I'll show you a complete idiot."

"Or someone who wasn't there," adds Jerry.

"When you know you're going into action, you're scared as hell. When the shooting starts, your training takes over. Then, when it's over, the fear takes over again."

By day's end, the Marines had secured a beachhead. But this battle wasn't about the beach.



It was about what loomed 1,200 yards away, just beyond the beach and bomb-cratered rice paddies. That's where Japanese Lt. Gen. Takeshi Takashina waited with nearly 20,000 troops in a fortified command post – looking down over the field of battle.

From atop Fonte Hill. Fonte Hill was the key to Guam.

Whoever held it, held the high ground. The Marines were determined to take it. The Japanese were determined use it to drive the 3rd Marine Division back to the sea.

The Marines began their assault on July 25. By dusk, one battered company had reached the top – without knowing what was about to unfold. After midnight it came, as Takashina unleashed his six battalions.

Orange Japanese flares lit the night. Rifle fire and grenade concussions mixed with screams of *Banzai!* and *Marine, you die!*

"They just come at you, screaming, with everything they have," recalls Jerry, whose 21st Marine Regiment formed the center. "Waves of them with guns and swords. Some just had sticks with bayonets tied to them."

Back and forth the battle raged, at times hand-to-hand, as the Japanese launched seven banzai attacks.

By morning, the Marines prevailed – breaking the back of Japan's defense. It was a pivotal point in retaking the island but, for Jerry, it came with a cost.

"It's painful," he says, "and you feel guilty."

That's how he remembers watching Paul Nye die.

The years came and went. Tom and Jerry fought at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea. Then later volunteered for Vietnam.

Did they ever feel it was someone else's turn to fight?

"No." They look at each other: "You get in the habit."

So, naturally, in 2009, when Guam invited them back for the 65th anniversary of Liberation Day, they said yes.

They were treated like royalty, dining with the governor and honored at a parade. They also visited Fonte Hill (renamed Nimitz Hill), bearing the names of those Marines who died there.

Jerry named 15 men before reaching the plaque, then...

"I broke down," he says. "I really broke down."

The one name he was looking for was missing.

When Jerry pointed out that Paul Nye's name was missing, the tour guide asked if he was sure Nye died on Fonte Hill.

"Damn sure," Jerry told him. "He and I were carrying a wounded man up this hill. And just at the top, Nye was shot twice through the lungs. And I wasn't touched. He fell forward, trying to say something, and he died in my arms."

That's why Jerry didn't know if he could ever return to Fonte Hill. But this year, when Guam called again – inviting Tom and Jerry to the 68th anniversary of Liberation Day and the opening of a War in the Pacific museum – they did what they always do.

Said yes.

"I'm glad we went back," Jerry said after returning this week. "You bet. It felt good."

Guam loves its liberators so much that it celebrates Liberation Day each July 21, the day the Marines landed to liberate them. Tom and Jerry again were honored at parades, ceremonies and the governor's mansion.

"I expressed my deep gratitude," Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo said, "for their sacrifice and the blood they spilled for our liberty."

And there on Fonte Hill, officials expressed another form of gratitude, promising to add a name to a new plaque that'll soon go up. Sixty eight years after his death, Paul Nye finally will be recognized for giving his life to liberate Guam. Thanks to a small band of brothers, now 86 and 87, who just keep answering the call of duty. **Contact the writer:** 714-796-6979 or [tberg@ocregister.com](mailto:tberg@ocregister.com)

**(Notation by Cmdt. Randel)** The Fonte Hill battle was the action that earned the Medal of Honor for former CMC Gen. Louis H. Wilson. As he made his final worldwide trip to visit Marines as commandant, I remember reading a quote from him saying, that hill (Fonte Hill) was the whole war for him.

Gerald (Jerry) Hanson is a Life Member of the Marine Corps League residing in Boise, and a member of the TVD since 1998. Mission accomplished Jerry and Well Done!

## AN UPDATE ON L/CPL RANDAL WRIGHT

July 20th the first frame goes up



July 22nd Homes for Troops has the basics finished



Landscaping yet to be done!



### HOMES FOR TROOPS INFO

36 S. Marko Lane  
Kuna, ID 83634

Mr. Joe Taveira ... Project Manager  
Miss. Autumn Oster ... Community Outreach Coordinator

Mr. John Cotner ... Cotner Building Company ... 40  
Skilled Labors ... 400 Volunteers

Registrars ... Ms. Krista Anderson; a Marine Mom and  
Ms. Amelia Pesante; a Marine Grand Ma.

<http://www.homesforourtroops.org/site/PageServer>

The effort to build specially adapted homes for our severely injured veterans requires a passionate commitment from every American citizen. There are hundreds of veterans across the country who need our assistance now, and others in the future who will be coming home with life-altering injuries sustained while fighting to defend our country. It does not matter which state these heroes are from, or which military branch they represent, they are all OUR heroes! Together, we need to stand and offer them our unwavering support for their service to our country in protecting our freedom. Please join Homes for Our Troops in its mission to provide our most severely injured veterans with a specially adapted home at NO cost to them. Tax deductible donations are needed and appreciated.

[Click here to read more...](#)

**TO SEE VIDEO:** <http://www.homesforourtroops.org/site/PageServer?pagename=RandalWright1>

Sept 15th-volunteers from all over turn out to complete Landscaping.



Trees, sod, rock and bushes all by volunteers.



**Sept 15th..When I got to LCpl Wright's home the dust, dirt and shovels were flying and in full swing. The New home will soon be ready for him to move in ... complete with new furniture, food and everything needed!**





**Sept 15th**  
**0630 hrs**

**This crew was wide eyed and ready to serve Coffee and Donuts at the Veterans Olympics held on the V.A. grounds today! This has been a TVDMCL tra-**

**dition for many years and will probably continue for many more. As always more volunteers from the detachment would have been great but we thank and appreciate those that attended! L-R: Ron Baron, Rich Erickson, Art Kilton, Gary Randel, Maggie and Walt Modler.**



Sept. 8th:

This was a "Gathering of the Eagles" at Juniper Ranch (best known as the detachment picnic). As the pictures denote, all had a great time, many fish were caught, great food and the camaraderie was high. As always much thanks and appreciation are extended to Stan and Jeannie Meholchick by the League members for the use of these facilities.



## **Law Allows VA Health Benefits for Camp Lejeune Water Victims** (Click here)

"Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012". The law covers those with conditions linked to water contamination that occurred on Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987. If you served during this time period and were stationed at Camp Lejeune you need to read this. Click on the [above](#) link for full details and register for the news update to stay in touch.





**MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL**  
**10 NOVEMBER 2012**  
**"SEMPER FI"**



Detachment members, I urge you to consider attending this year's Marine Corps Birthday Ball hosted by "C" Company, 4th Tank Battalion.

The ball will be held on Saturday November 10th at the Grove hotel. The cost per person is \$50.00, which I anticipate that some of you will view as too much, but if you consider all that is involved in such an event \$50.00 is not an excessive amount.

1stSgt Henry has set aside one table for the MCL, and of course we could have another if we need it.

If you want, you may make your check out to "Marine Corps Birthday Ball", and then get it to me for delivery to C Company, or you may make the trip to Gowen Field yourself if that is your preference.

Semper Fi.

Cmdt. Gary Randel

## Marines Pick Colt for New Pistol



The Marine Corps has tapped Colt Defense LLC to make more than 10,000 new Close Quarter Battle Pistols for the service's elite special operations troops.

The July 19 contract, which has a total value of \$22.5 million, brings an end to the Corps' exhaustive search for the top .45 caliber, 1911-style pistol to replace the fleet of worn-out Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, or MARSOC, M45 pistols.

Read More: <http://www.military.com/daily-news/2012/07/20/marines-pick-colt-for-new-pistol.html?ESRC=marine-a.nl>

## AN ARTICLE OF INTEREST

Ever wonder how the information gathered during Census affects you as a Veteran? This Web site may of interest to you! Click on the below link to investigate!

<http://www.census.gov/how/infographics/veterans.html>

**OUR REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS AT FUDDRUCKERS' ARE EVERY 3rd THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH ... Next meeting Sept 20th 2012**

3421 N. Eagle Rd.  
Meridian, Idaho  
208-887-2194



Dinner & Social Hour 1800  
Business Meeting Starts 1900 -2030

**BE THERE!!! NEED A RIDE? CONTACT ONE OF OUR OFFICERS! GO TO : [http://tvdmcl.org/?page\\_id=81](http://tvdmcl.org/?page_id=81)**

**CLICK FOR MENU**

<http://www.fuddruckers.com/local/menu/Boise,%20N.%20Eagle-menu.pdf>