



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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JUNE 2010

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Marines & Auxiliary Members:

JUNE MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, 3 June 2010 at 2000 Hours. This is the same time and date for the Detachment and Auxiliary.

Both meetings will be held at the American Legion, Post 351, 46146 Cass Avenue located in Utica.

The telephone number to the Post is: (586) 731-9833.

MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL

March Renewals:

Michael H. Burnett

Your annual membership dues of \$31.00 (checks payable to: Macomb County Detachment, MCL) should be mailed to the Adjutant/Paymaster at: 6388 Old Coach Trail, Washington, Michigan, 48094-2148 or in person at the General Membership Meeting.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

For those members that pay their membership on an annual basis, maybe you should think about Life Membership.

For the Life Membership Option: you pay one time and are a member for life. Life membership fees are based on age and are as follows:

Age Up to 35	\$500.00
Age 36 to 50	\$400.00
Age 51 to 60	\$300.00
Age 61 and up	\$150.00

With your Paid Life Membership, you will receive a metal Life Membership Card, Lapel Pin and a Certificate suitable for framing. You may select Life Membership at any time as long as you are a member in good standing (dues up-to-date).

The Detachment currently has 117 Paid Life Members. This represents 80% of our paid membership.

We have a payment plan for those that do not have the money available for a lump sum payment for Life Membership.

If you are interested in Life Membership under this plan, or have any questions on membership dues, contact the Adjutant/Paymaster for details.

"They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist...."

- Major-General John Sedgwick, 9 May 1864.

Killed by a sniper during the battle of Spotsylvania.

DETACHMENT & AUXILIARY HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR JUNE



Jerry E. Allen
David J. Auwen
Clifford G. Babbitt
John D. Bishop
Lawrence M. Byer
Raymond J. Cynar
Jason E. Daniels
Carol Dysarczyk
David G. DeBlauwe
Richard D. Flynn, Jr.
Randy A. Hayes
Stephen R. Malak
Gerald Mize
Ronald E. Roman
Anthony Rusnak
Guy R. Serafino

MAY MEETING

At the May General Membership Meeting, Marine John Polanco would have won the Attendance Raffle of \$13.00 had he been present and paid his 25¢. The next attendance raffle will be approximately \$22.00 (depending on the number of members present). Another good reason to attend the meetings!

The Detachment also holds a 50/50 Raffle at each meeting. The amount of winnings depends on the number of tickets sold. Tickets are priced at \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. Winning \$61.00 at the May meeting was Marine Mark Spooner. This raffle supports the publication and mailing of this newsletter.

There were thirty-seven members present at the meeting.

Question:

On what day are more collect calls made than any other day of the year?

Answer: Father's Day

AUXILIARY NEWS

We held an informal meeting in May since there weren't enough officers for a quorum. Despite that, we did have a good discussion on a number of issues.

The Young Marines will be placing the flags at Sacred Heart Cemetery during Memorial Day weekend. We all appreciate their help. Our Auxiliary plans to remove the flags on Flag Day, Monday, June 14, 2010. Anyone interested in helping can sign-up at our June meeting. Besides removing the flags from the grave sites, we want to make sure they are properly stored. We also want to sort out any flags in poor shape and see they are properly destroyed.

We'll be having an installation of a new member at our next meeting. All of us want to welcome Shirley Cichoski into our unit. Her husband, Leonard, is a member of the League. It's a wonderful thing to see our numbers grow.

As a reminder, the 2010 Department Convention is being held June 24-27 at the Double Tree Hotel in Bay City, MI. This year's convention is being hosted by the Flint Detachment, Auxiliary and MODD. Bay City is a beautiful setting for this year's convention with some great activities to enjoy when not involved in convention-related events. Time is short to register by June 3, so consider attending. Call Double Tree Hotel, 989-891-6000.

We are continuing to discuss fund raising projects, but need your input to really get some of these ideas rolling. Attend the next meeting to see what's going on. The more us working together, the more successful we'll be. See you at the next meeting on June 3, 2010 at 8:00 p. m.

*Irene Spooner, President
Macomb County Unit
Marine Corps League Auxiliary*

DETACHMENT HIGHWAY CLEANUP

On Saturday, 22 May 2010, the Detachment participated in its Annual Highway Cleanup.

Representing the Detachment were: Gerald Mize, Norman Pfaff, John Sottrel, Charles Brown, Gary Titus and George Wittstock.

A **BIG Ooh-rah** to the Macomb County Unit of Young Marines of the Marine Corps League for assisting the Detachment in this event. Representing the Young Marines were: Travis LaForest, Ashton Sebell, Michael Festion, Chris Overby, Jesse Hernandez, Patrick Flaherty, Alex Piletravtqi, Peter Saond, David Dale, Kyle Aysilio, Cody Lymatto, Brent Macleod, Dimitri Bless, Austin Bless, Jerry Holley, Christopher McIntre, Donell Starbalk, Hallie Williams and Joshua Williams.

The next Detachment Highway Cleanup will take place in the month of July. There will be further details in the next Detachment newsletter.

I AM THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

My name is Old Glory.
I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.
I stand watch in America's halls of justice.
I fly majestically over institutions of learning.
I stand guard with power in the world.
Look up and see me.
I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.
I stand for freedom.

I am confident.
I am arrogant.
I am proud.
When I am flown with my fellow banners,
My head is a little higher,
My colors a little truer.
I bow to no one!

I am recognized all over the world.
I am worshipped - I am saluted.
I am loved - I am revered.
I am respected - and I am feared.
I have fought in every battle of every war
for more than 200 years.
I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg,
Shiloh and Appomattox.

I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the beaches of Normandy. Guam, Okinawa, Korea and Khe San, Saigon, Vietnam know me.

I'm presently in the mountains of Afghanistan and the hot and dusty deserts of Iraq and wherever freedom is needed.

I led my troops, I was dirty, battle worn and tired,
But my soldiers cheered me and I was proud.

I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of
countries I have helped set free.
It does not hurt for I am invincible.

I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled in the
streets of my country.

And when it's done by those whom I've served in battle,
it hurts.

But I shall overcome - for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stood watch over the
uncharted frontiers of space
from my vantage point on the moon.

I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours.
But my finest hours are yet to come.

When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my
wounded comrades on the battlefield,

When I am flown at half-mast to honor my soldier,
Or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the
grave of their fallen son or daughter,
I am proud!



**FLAG DAY IS JUNE 14TH
FLY IT PROUDLY!**

FOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR IT,
FREEDOM HAS A FLAVOR THE PROTECTED WILL
NEVER KNOW.

HISTORY AS IT HAS NEVER BEEN TAUGHT

Editor's Note- Near the end of his life the great science fiction author Isaac Asimov wrote a short story about the four stanzas of our national anthem. However brief, this well-circulated piece is an eye opener from the dearly departed doctor.....

I have a weakness -- I am crazy absolutely nuts, about our national anthem. The words are difficult and the tune is almost impossible, but frequently when I'm taking a shower I sing it with as much power and emotion as I can. It shakes me up every time.

I was once asked to speak at a luncheon. Taking my life in my hands, I announced I was going to sing our national anthem -- all four stanzas. This was greeted with loud groans. One man closed the door to the kitchen, where the noise of dishes and cutlery was loud and distracting. "Thanks, Herb," I said. "That's all right," he said. "It was at the request of the kitchen staff."

I explained the background of the anthem and then sang all four stanzas. Let me tell you, those people had never heard it before -- or had never really listened. I got a standing ovation. But it was not me; it was the anthem.

More recently, while conducting a seminar, I told my students the story of the anthem and sang all four stanzas. Again there was a wild ovation and prolonged applause. And again, it was the anthem and not me.

So now let me tell you how it came to be written.

In 1812, the United States went to war with Great Britain, primarily over freedom of the seas. We were in the right. For two years, we held off the British, even though we were still a rather weak country. Great Britain was in a life and death struggle with Napoleon. In fact, just as the United States declared war, Napoleon marched off to invade Russia. If he won, as everyone expected, he would control Europe, and Great Britain would be isolated. It was no time for her to be involved in an American war.

At first, our seamen proved better than the British. After we won a battle on Lake Erie in 1813, the American commander, Oliver Hazard Perry, sent the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours." However, the weight of the British navy beat down our ships eventually. New England, hard-hit by a tightening blockade, threatened secession.

Meanwhile, Napoleon was beaten in Russia and in 1814 was forced to abdicate. Great Britain now turned its attention to the United States, launching a three-pronged attack.

The northern prong was to come down Lake Champlain toward New York and seize parts of New England.

The southern prong was to go up the Mississippi, take New Orleans and paralyze the west.

The central prong was to head for the mid-Atlantic states and then attack Baltimore, the greatest port south of New York. If Baltimore was taken, the nation, which still hugged the Atlantic coast, could be split in two. The fate of the United States, then, rested to a large extent on the success or failure of the central prong.

The British reached the American coast, and on August 24, 1814, took Washington, D.C. Then they moved up the Chesapeake Bay toward Baltimore. On September 12, they

arrived and found 1,000 men in Fort McHenry, whose guns controlled the harbor. If the British wished to take Baltimore, they would have to take the fort.

On one of the British ships was an aged physician, William Beanes, who had been arrested in Maryland and brought along as a prisoner. Francis Scott Key, a lawyer and friend of the physician, had come to the ship to negotiate his release. The British captain was willing, but the two Americans would have to wait. It was now the night of September 13, and the bombardment of Fort McHenry was about to start.

As twilight deepened, Key and Beanes saw the American flag flying over Fort McHenry. Through the night, they heard bombs bursting and saw the red glare of rockets. They knew the fort was resisting and the American flag was still flying. But toward morning the bombardment ceased, and a dread silence fell. Either Fort McHenry had surrendered and the British flag flew above it, or the bombardment had failed and the American flag still flew.

As dawn began to brighten the eastern sky, Key and Beanes stared out at the fort, trying to see which flag flew over it. He and the physician must have asked each other over and over, "Can you see the flag?"

After it was all finished, Key wrote a four stanza poem telling the events of the night. Called "The Defense of Fort McHenry," it was published in newspapers and swept the nation. Someone noted that the words fit an old English tune called, "To Anacreon in Heaven" -- a difficult melody with an uncomfortably large vocal range. For obvious reasons, Key's work became known as "The Star Spangled Banner," and in 1931 Congress declared it the official anthem of the United States.

Now that you know the story, here are the words. Presumably, the old doctor is speaking. This is what he asks Key:

*Oh! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous
fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
Oh! say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

"Ramparts," in case you don't know, are the protective walls or other elevations that surround a fort. The first stanza asks a question. The second gives an answer:

*On the shore, dimly seen thro' the mist of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream
'Tis the star-spangled banner. Oh! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

"The towering steep" is again, the ramparts. The bombardment has failed, and the British can do nothing more but sail away, their mission a failure. In the third stanza, I feel Key allows himself to gloat over the American triumph. In the

aftermath of the bombardment, Key probably was in no mood to act otherwise.

During World War II, when the British were our staunchest allies, this third stanza was not sung. However, I know it, so here it is:

*And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

The fourth stanza, a pious hope for the future, should be sung more slowly than the other three and with even deeper feeling:

*Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation,
Blest with victory and peace, may the Heaven - rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, for our cause is just,
And this be our motto -- "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

I hope you will look at the national anthem with new eyes. Listen to it, the next time you have a chance, with new ears. And don't let them ever take it away.

HISTORY OF THE SMOKEY



There is one distinction that separates a Drill Instructor from all other Marines...the "Smokey" cover. Wearing it is part of the prestige that comes with training recruits, but it wasn't always limited to DI's.

The campaign, or 'field' hat was first used in the late 1800s. The original design was more egg-shaped than the current hat, but not significantly different. Officers wore the same hat as enlisted men did, with the addition scarlet and gold cords with acorns encircling the crown.

All Marines at that time wore only two covers: A dress cover and a Civil War-type "kepi" undress cover. Although the "kepi" didn't even remotely resemble the cover Drill Instructors wear today, it was replaced by the "Smokey's" close cousin - the Campaign Hat.

The Campaign Hat, which resembled a cowboy hat, was introduced in 1898 to protect Marines from the sun and rain. It was worn in the field and in garrison, when ordered. A slit down the center made the top slouch, so it was often called a "Slouch Hat."

In 1912, the Marine Corps replaced the Campaign Cover with the style of cover Drill Instructors wear today - the Field Hat. Many Drill Instructors mistakenly call the Field Hat a Campaign Cover. This cover was distinctive because it was the first American style hat. Up to this point, the Marine Corps had patterned uniforms after other countries. This cover was worn by all Marines, not just Drill Instructors.

During World War II, the need to cut back on expenses made it necessary to discontinue some of the leather parts of the uniform. The Field Hat was one of the first to go in May 1942.

In 1943, its use was ceased; except by shooting teams who liked the broad brim. It wasn't until the summer of 1956 that General Pate authorized their use by drill instructors. The original '56 issue hats were manufactured by the J.B. Stetson Company. Male Marine Drill Instructors have continued to wear the campaign hat since 1956. However, female DI's have only worn the hat since 1996. Prior to this, they were issued scarlet shoulder cords to show their authority.

After the war, gunners at Weapons Training Battalion were authorized to wear the Field Hat. In 1956, however, the felt version "Smokey" was returned to Drill Instructors' wardrobes. This mark of distinction has now become tradition.

The Army, which copied the Marines' hat, currently wear the "This We'll Defend" drill sergeant's cap badge, whereas Marine DI's wear the emblem of the Corps.

A group of friars were behind on their belfry payments, so they opened up a small florist shop to raise funds. Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought the competition was unfair. He asked the good fathers to close down, but they would not. He went back and begged the friars to close. They ignored him. So, the rival florist hired Hugh MacTaggart, the roughest and most vicious thug in town to "persuade" them to close. Hugh beat up the friars and trashed their store, saying he'd be back if they didn't close up shop. Terrified, they did so, thereby proving that only Hugh can prevent florist friars.

What most cannot understand is the unspoken truth which exists within all prior service Marines; that is no matter how old, nor where you are in this Great Nation, we are surrounded by warriors who would still give their life for each other and their country.

Dr. William Scott Magill

A Marine may leave the Corps...

...but the Corps will NEVER

leave the Marine!

Semper Paratus!



MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
 Department of Michigan
 Marine Corps League
INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS
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 6388 Old Coach Trail
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Change of Address: Send to the Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster at:
 6388 Old Coach Trail, Washington, Michigan, 48094-2148

New Address (please print):

Name _____

Street _____

City/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ email address _____