



# MIZZOU MARINES

The official newsletter of the Mizzou Marines, Marine Corps League Detachment 828 2011 Volume 4, April

**DETACHMENT MEETINGS ARE HELD THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 1900 HOURS AT THE VFW POST 280 HALL LOCATED AT 1509 ASHLEY, COLUMBIA MISSOURI**

## **DETACHMENT OFFICERS**

### **COMMANDANT**

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### **PAST COMMANDANT**

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### **SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT**

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### **JUNIOR VICE COMMANDANT**

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Jglynn0741@centurytel.net

### **Adjutant**

Vacant

### **Paymaster**

Bill Ridge 573-239-0712  
Bkridge3@centurytel.net

### **Sergeant-at-Arms**

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### **Chaplain, Judge Advocate**

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### **VAVS Representative**

John Glynn

### **Web Master**

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### **Detachment Photographer**

Dannie Weddle

### **Newsletter Editor**

John Glynn

## Commandant's Corner

As this is being written April is coming to a close and I think most of us will be glad to see it end. It was nice of the IRS to give us an additional three days to write those checks and get that last minute post mark or e-mail date stamp. But as nice as the IRS was, Mother Nature has used April to show us just how powerful she is. Is there any portion of the earth that has not been wracked by some natural disaster or near disaster?

I like to think I'm a "glass is half full" kind of guy and a firm believer in human resiliency and capacity for adapting and overcoming diversity. That is why I think that even though the election of officers for the 2011/12 year is still in limbo the election will be resolved at our May 4<sup>th</sup> Detachment meeting. While a group of Past Commandants have proposed a slate of officers, as is their responsibility, this does not close the nomination process. Wouldn't it be great if we had a few more of our members come to the May meeting open to being nominated for one of the officer positions. I'd like to see a little competition for these leadership positions. With all due respect to our Past Commandants and their service to the Detachment, rubber stamping their slate of officer nominees needs to be challenged from time to time.

We have to admit though, that the Past Commandants have to pick from among those who have shown some regularity of attendance. Of the 10 or 12 marines who attend regularly eight are past Commandants. This makes putting together a slate of officers ridiculously tough.

Mike Hatchett has, this year, reached out to some of our newer members asking that they consider nomination to an officer position. I've reached out and am waiting a reply. Regardless of the outcome of those queries I'm thinking we may need to shake things up a bit at our next meeting. It could be an interesting election.

I'm still kind of a "new guy" at meetings. I've been a member of the League for a lot of years and am a life member, but I've only been with this Detachment for three years so I'm not that clued in to some of the organizational or personal history that impacts our meetings and actions. When a member brings an idea for a project or activity we should be respectful, hear that member out and if it is a good idea let that member take point and ask how we can support that idea. Sometimes I think we may not listen to each other as well as we might. And sometimes we impose our support rather than asking what is needed of us. Anyone who has been part of a fire team knows what I'm talking about.

Semper Fi, John Glynn, Junior Vice Commandant

## MIZZOU MARINES TO PARTNER WITH CULVER'S RESTAURANT TO HONOR ARMED FORCES

Mike Niess, operator of the local Culver's (Home of the Butter Burger) recently shared a vision with Mizzou Marine Richard English that would have his restaurant posting pictures of members of the Armed Forces engaged in various activities and events. He sees having these pictorial displays ready to mark Memorial Day 2011.



Richard pitched Mike's idea at the Detachment's March meeting and got a thumbs-up to pursue the project with Mike. Richard agreed to take point and has been in contact with Mike and getting specifics as to what Mike needs from Mizzou Marines to bring the vision to fruition. An e-mail with criteria for submitting pictures went to all Mizzou Marines on April 18<sup>th</sup>. We've already gotten some really good pictures submitted for the display.

So dig around in your old albums or in that footlocker tray and send in some of your Marine Corps history to celebrate this coming Memorial Day. Here is what we need:

- ✓ Pictures of Marines in a variety of situations and settings. For example, a pilot with his aircraft; on the line at a rifle range, unit/platoon pictures, pictures from deployments in all wars - your own, your fathers or mothers, grandfather, other relatives; anything that represents what Marines do.
- ✓ The pictures should be 5x7 or 8x10 (some exception for platoon/unit pictures). If you have a picture but it isn't this size we'll scan and get it the desired size for you.
- ✓ Don't worry about frames; Richard is handling that so we have uniformity. You will not be charged for the frame(s).
- ✓ We need enough photos submitted so that Mike can periodically "refresh" his walls, we can't really get "to many".
- ✓ When submitting a picture - or several pictures - include a note that tells when and where the photo was taken and who is in the photo. It is not necessary to identify the individuals.

- ✓ If you can make the May Detachment meeting (May 4th) you can bring the photos you want to submit to the meeting. If you can't make the meeting you can drop them in the mail or send them via e-mail to either Richard or me.

Richard English, 5115 Brock Rogers Road, Columbia, MO 65201 or [englishr@missouri.edu](mailto:englishr@missouri.edu)

John Glynn, 3206 Red Bay Creek Road, Columbia, Mo 65203 or [jglynn0741@centurytel.net](mailto:jglynn0741@centurytel.net)

One more note: be sure to let us know if you want your picture(s) back. If you do we'll make a copy and send the original back to you.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> DETACHMENT MEETING



- ✓ Sixteen members were present.
- ✓ 2011 Department of Missouri State Convention to be hosted by the Lake of the Ozarks Detachment #1137 at Camden on the Lake, Lake of the Ozarks May 20, 21 and 22. Questions about the convention or requests for registration forms can be addressed to Dan Ferral at 573-964-6949 or by e-mail to [bigdanatthelake@hotmail.com](mailto:bigdanatthelake@hotmail.com).
- ✓ Letter received from the Chief, Voluntary Service, Truman VA Medical Center acknowledging the Detachments support and the donation of refreshments and prizes for VA BINGO on February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Paymaster's report received and approved.
- ✓ Sergeant at Arms Knox reviewed exits with members present. Fortunately he did not conduct a fire drill.
- ✓ Toys for Tots final report. Member Weddle asked that report be deferred. He will submit prior to the next meeting.
- ✓ Detachment Tuesday night BINGO had a better financial split. Proceeds are up and the horse racing game is doing well.
- ✓ Look forward to the Detachment Annual Picnic after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Plans to be forthcoming.

- ✓ Richard English presented a proposal to partner with Culvers in creating an armed forces photo display.
- ✓ Discussion continues on a Detachment meeting place.
- ✓ The LCpl Leo B. Deraps Memorial Scholarship Fund 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 5 Mile walk/run/ride will be held Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM at Jamestown, Missouri. Early registration is closed but you can register the day of the event. Registration fee is \$30.00. Walk/Run registration will be at Cedron Church off of Hwy D. Bike/Motorcycle registration at Advanced Chimney, 365 West Row, Jamestown.
- ✓ Election of Officer for 2011/2012 was deferred to the April meeting. Below Commandant Griggs discusses the coming election with Tom Quintana, nominee for Junior Vice-Commandant.



- ✓ Uniforms were discussed. The Commandant will appoint a group to review uniform criteria and propose a standard uniform for events and color guards.
- ✓ The Detachment will provide a color guard for the Memorial Day parade. Gary Ledbetter, Danny Weddle, Cathy Griggs and Greg Knox have volunteered.
- ✓ John Glynn was named Marine of the Month for April. He received the Golden Knocker from Danny Weddle – That's John on the left below.



## CAMP LEJEUNE, TARAWA TERRACE II, JACKSONVILLE RIPPED BY TORNADOS



Shortly after 8:00 PM on Saturday, April 16 a tornado formed over New River and took aim at Camp Lejeune and Tarawa Terrace causing heavy extensive damage to Tarawa Terrace II (TT2) and extending itself nearly four miles through Holiday City Mobile Home Park and into Jacksonville. Ten TT2 residents were air lifted to Pitt County Memorial Hospital. As of April 18 nine had been released. The tenth, a toddler was admitted in critical condition, his condition has been upgraded to serious. Major General Carl Johnson, CG, Marine Corps Installations-East (on left in lower right hand photo above) explains the tornado's path to General James Cartwright, vice chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff during his visit to Tarawa Terrace II on April 18. Vic Voltaggio, National Commandant, Marine Corps League asks those wanting to make a donation to assist Marine families affected by the tornado contact the USO of Jacksonville at 910-445-3411 or the Camp Lejeune ASYMCA at 910-451-9569.

## BEWARE OF SCAMS

Recently I got an e-mail from someone identifying himself as MSgt Michael R. Driggs claiming to be serving in Afghanistan with 3/4 as Weapons Opns Chief and permanently assigned to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, California. This person also claimed being a life member of the Marine Corps League since 2001. This person is soliciting funds, \$200-300,000 dollars for a project he says will benefit young Marines at Twenty-nine Palms. His e-mail asks that donations be made by cash or a check made out to him. That alone had the smell of scam to it.

A little research has discovered that Driggs did join the Marine Corps League in 2001 but dropped out that same year. He never renewed his membership and is not a life member of the MCL. This should be enough to make us question the over-all honesty of this person and for us to keep our hand on our wallets.

This is not the first scam (okay, alleged) I have seen recently that plays on patriotism or our hearts when it

comes to our service men and women deployed throughout the World.

When it comes to e-mail requests for money from people you don't know or for events you cannot verify as real, close the checkbook and delete the e-mail or shred the letter. You may even want to alert local authorities.



Babs Blackman, Marine Parents Outreach Program Coordinator has let us know that there are three more packing days this year. Packing days are April 30<sup>th</sup>, July 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 29. They can always use a helping hand on packing day. They start at 8:00 AM. They can also use help on the Thursday and Friday prior to each packing day to sort and prep for packing day. The Thursday sort and prep goes from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM; the Friday sort and prep goes from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. You can work the all or part of the day and they provide lunch.

## MARINES TO GET NEW SILK SKIVIES AND METAL CUPS

Not to be outdone by the Army's push to design uniforms and combat protective gear specifically for female troops, male Marines serving in Afghanistan will soon receive specially designed underwear to provide protection against improvised explosive devices. The new underwear, which resemble cyclists shorts will not stop bullets or shrapnel but are designed to prevent dirt and other debris from entering wounds to the genitals or femoral arteries and causing infections. The underwear is made of sturdy silk and have been dubbed "ballistic boxers". The underwear is treated with antimicrobial agents to prevent infections. The ballistic boxers are a response to an increase in wounds to the genitals and urinary tract from roadside bombs in the past 18 months. The Corps has ordered 25,000 pairs of the boxers at a cost of 2 million dollars (\$80 a pop). Next on the R&D radar is the possibility of outfitting personnel with metal cups. The Army is planning to add the silk skivvies to the soldier's wardrobe as well. The British military has been using similar gear for several years. The standard clothing allowance for Marines with more than 3 years service is \$608 a year. Let's hope that the new skivvies are "organizational issue"!

## PAT MURRAY NAMED CHAIRPERSON FOR SENATE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



Senator Pat Murray, (D-Washington) serving her 4<sup>th</sup> term has been named Chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. Murray is the daughter of a disabled WWII veteran. Contact Murray at 448 Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington D.C. 20510

## UNIVERSITY TO CLOSE MONK DRIVE – ACCESS TO THE VA PARKING LOT TO BE AFFECTED

The University of Missouri will be closing Monk Drive to allow work on storm drains that run under Monk Drive and the Southeast corner of the Truman VA Medical Center. The date for the closing has not been determined yet. Monk Drive runs along the East border of the VA parking lot between Stadium and Hospital Drive. While closed, the parking lot can be accessed from Hospital Drive on the North and a temporary access will be constructed on the South off Stadium. Entry off Stadium will be from the East with exit to the West. More information will be provided by e-mail as it becomes available from the VA.

## VA PARKING GARAGE DESIGN FUNDED

Truman VA Medical Center has received funding to pursue design of a 500 space parking garage to be located on the site of the current VA parking lot. Design funding does not guarantee funding for the garage.

## IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION

The heroic actions of Cpl Jonathon Yale (2/8) and LCpl Jordan Haerter on April 22, 2008 while standing post at the entry control point of Joint Security Station Nassar, in the Sophia section of Ramadi, al Anbar, Iraq was described by LtGen John Kelly in an article in the May issue of the American Legion Magazine as six seconds that saved the lives of 33 Marines and 21 Iraqi police. Jordan and Yale's orders were to "let no unauthorized personnel or vehicle pass" their post. Shortly after being posted a large blue truck entered the alleyway and sped through the serpentine concrete Jersey walls. The truck stopped just short of the Marine's position and detonated collapsing a mosque a 100 yards away. The trucks engine came to rest 200 yards away. The blast, caused by 2000 pounds of explosives killed the two Marines. Witnesses told how Yale and Haerter stood their ground, opened fire on the truck, stopping it before it could reach the compound housing Marine and Iraqi forces. LtGen Kelly's depiction of the last six seconds of two gallant Marines: A second or two for the Marines to come to the same conclusion about what was happening, no time to call the Sergeant of the guard, only an instant to reflect on his words, "let no unauthorized..." Another two seconds to present their weapons, take aim and open fire on the truck that was halfway through the physical barriers and gaining speed. For the next two seconds the Marines are firing their weapons nonstop, their bullets shattering the windshield and tearing into the body of the driver. In the sixth second the truck explodes. In the face of death the Marines never hesitated, never stepped back. One of the Iraqi witnesses told Gen Kelly, "In the name of God, no sane man would have stood there and done what they did. They saved us all." Both received the Navy Cross. General Kelly's article was an excerpt from a speech he gave to the Semper Fi Society of St. Louis on November 13, 2010, four days after learning that his son, 1stLt Robert Kelly had been killed in Afghanistan.