

The Bonnyman Gazette

Monthly Detachment Newsletter

www.mclknnox.org

May 2009

Commandant's Corner



-by Jeff Tegzes

Greetings, Marines!

Another busy Memorial Day Weekend will have come and gone by the time that many of you read this. I hope that all of us have had a chance to remember and talk about Marines that we have known and lost over the years. I am looking forward to our annual Memorial Day ceremony in Farragut. Our Young Marines always do us proud and it is especially important that the next generation learns to remember those who gave their lives for our future. Many of you will be there or at other events. Wherever you are, make sure that you wear your League colors!

The Safety Break is also a great way to spread the word

(Continued on page 3)

Bonnyman Gazette items are due to Editor Virgil Young (call 675-4004 or e-mail to vlyoung@chartern.net) by the 15th of each month.

Maj. Gen. Albert C. Harvey to be Guest of Honor at Department Convention

Our Detachment is hosting the 2009 Tennessee Department Convention from 19-20 June at the Holiday Inn Select off the Cedar Bluff Exit of I-40. We are pleased that Maj. Gen. Albert C. Harvey, USMCR (Ret.) will be our Guest of Honor at the Saturday night banquet. Gen. Harvey was born in Knoxville and got both his undergraduate and law degrees from UT. He received his Marine Corps commission through the Platoon Leaders Class Program in 1961. Early in his career, Gen. Harvey served with the Marine Reserve unit in Knoxville. When he became the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Division in 1993, he was in command of the combat arm of the Marine Reserves with over 18,000 Marines in 38 states. At the time of his retirement in 1997, Gen. Harvey was serving as the Vice Director of the Operations Directorate (J-3), US Atlantic Command, Norfolk, VA. He was activated for Operation Joint Endeavor (Bosnia) in the summer and fall of 1996 and served as Director of the European Theater Command Center, which included Operation Desert Strike (Northern Iraq.) Gen. Harvey retired from the Marine Corps after 39 years of service, active and reserve. In his civilian life, Gen. Harvey is a partner in a large Memphis law firm and specializes in civil and criminal litigation.

We obviously want to have a great turnout of Detachment and Auxiliary

(Continued on page 5)

Detachment/Auxiliary Meeting on 5/26/09

The next monthly meeting will be at the Navy Operational Support Center/Marine Corps Reserve Center, 2101 Alcoa Hwy., on Tuesday, 5/26/09, beginning at 1730.

Before the business meeting begins, we'll have a short memorial service

for deceased Detachment members Neil Wilson and James Dahl.

During the business meeting we'll discuss the Rifle Shoot, the Department Convention in June and other activities.

Odds & Ends

2009 Marine Mud Run - This year's Mud Run won't take place until Saturday, 19 Sept., but we've already started to get on-line registrations. We've set a limit of 1,400 runners this year (200 more than last year) and are requiring that they register on-line - that will simplify our paperwork and save a lot of time, as well. Now is the time to get out and contact possible sponsors for the race. We already have a few sponsors, including Coca-Cola for drinks, but we need many more. Sponsor forms showing the various sponsor levels

2009-2010 Detachment Officers (with contact phone #)

Commandant

Jeff Tegzes (865-988-6247)

Junior Past Commandant

David Hatfield (865-577-7303)

Senior Vice Commandant

Lee Rhinemiller (865-458-2550)

Junior Vice Commandant

Lloyd Morris (865-717-9250)

Adjutant

Virgil Young (865-675-4004)

Paymaster

Laimon Godel (865-690-1272)

Chaplain

Leroy Brown (865-806-2837)

Judge Advocate

Bud Fitzgerald (865-966-5879)

Sergeant-at-Arms

Bill Ackerman (865-806-9868)

and what the sponsor receives for his or her support are available for downloading from our website.

Annual Rifle Shoot on 30 May

- The 2009 MSgt. William H. "Bill" Gerst Memorial Rifle Match will be held at the Volunteer Range in North Knoxville on Sat., 30 May. Again this year, we'll be shooting on the 300-yard bullseye target from the 200-yard line. Registration will begin at 0700 and shooting will begin at 0800.

The cost will be \$20.00; there is no cost if you just want to come out to watch. Shooters competing for the trophy must use M1

or M1A service grade Garand rifles. Of course, if you just want to shoot for fun, you can shoot any rifle you want to bring to the match.

The shooting club will have some M1 rifles available but make sure you coordinate with Doug Calvert if you plan on using one of those rifles or ammunition from the club. We will shoot a total of 35 rounds, with a mix of rapid and slow fire in the prone position and the standing (off-hand) position. Shooting should be over before it gets too hot.

If you have questions about the shoot, contact Marine Doug Calvert at 482-3736.

120 Homeless Vets Attend Stand Down

Thanks to a lot of hard work by our volunteers and good preparation, the Stand Down for Homeless Veterans held on 15 May at the National Guard Armory on Sutherland Avenue was a big success.

We had a lot of homeless vets pre-registered but 58 of them didn't show up for the event. However, 120 vets did show up. In fact, the word got out about where the Stand Down would take place so we had a line of them waiting to get in starting about an hour before we were ready for them. It all came together, though, because of the

work of about 150 volunteers who helped out that day, including 15 Detachment and Auxiliary members. Our Detachment members helped with the Amnesty Trailer, with security, in the Rec Tent, and in numerous other areas while the Auxiliary members manned Volunteer Registration. Because of the work of the Young Marines the previous weekend, the clothing distribution went extremely well.

Thanks to all of you for helping our homeless vets - we believe that the assistance provided will help them get back on their feet.

Young Marine Report - by Unit Commander Virgil Young

On 2 May, the graduation ceremony for the 2009 Recruit Class was held, with LtCol Mike Kessler, the National Executive Director of the Young Marines, as the Guest of Honor. Forty-four of the 58 recruits who started as recruits in March 2009 graduated to become YM. Department Commandant David Cates presented medals from the Detachment to the three platoon honor recruits: Brandon Gilland, age 11; Patrick McFall, age 13; and, Brad Bohannon, age 17. Other awards were presented to recruits for academic achievement, physical fit-

ness, peer leadership, and "most improved." Five recruits were given meritorious promotion to PFC as a result of their superior performance during Recruit Training.

LtCol Kessler also presented honorable discharges to four YM who are graduating from high school and must leave the program. Two of them will be attending college on ROTC scholarships next fall while the other two will go to MCRD, Parris Island, SC to enter Marine Recruit Training this summer.

On 9 May, all of the YM in the unit got in some community service hours. About 25 of the YM in the unit provided assistance very early in the morning at the 2nd Annual Knoxville Law Enforcement 5K Run by setting up barriers, giving out mid-run times, and passing out water. The other half of the unit assisted at the National Guard Armory in preparing the clothing issue for the Knoxville Stand Down for Homeless Veterans on 15 May.

Our focus now is on the Memorial Day service and our June trip to Parris Island.

Commandant's Corner (Cont.)

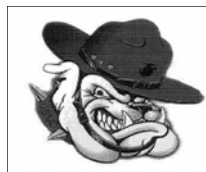
(Continued from page 1)

and cause people to think about the Armed Forces who might otherwise forget the whole point of the holiday. I can't say enough how much I appreciate those of you who take a good chunk of time out of your holiday weekend to man the League trailer at the rest stop. It is at the heart of everything that we do.

We are rapidly approaching "crunch time" for the Department Convention in June. The next League meeting will be the last prior to the convention on June 19. Be ready to sign up for shifts for registration, hospitality room, etc. Also, it is not too late to sell ads for the convention program book. There are several more

good weeks to make things happen. Don't forget to register as soon as possible to make it easier to plan the banquet and other events. I hope to see as many of you Leaguers, Auxiliaries, and Dogs as possible. See you there!

Semper Fidelis, Jeff



Membership

At the last meeting, we voted to accept the application for membership of Marine R. Ken Pelfrey. Since then, we've gotten an application from Marine Jason West, 1728 Northfield Dr., Maryville (served as enlisted beginning in 1992 and then as officer.)

The following are members due for renewal in the near future:

June - Jay Holmes, Mark Jakubowski, Jimmy Johnson, Jerry Jones, Wayne Jones, and Rodney Rockett. **July** - Bill Ackerman, Cary Arney, Robert Box, Bill Cole, C.C. Hatcher, David Hodson, Weldon Humphries, Jim Martin, Jack McGivney, Ben Redmond, Dennis Sears, Bill Todd, Mike Wise, and Ken Woods.

Recent Pictures of Interest



YM recruits work as a team to get a recruit over the 12-foot wall obstacle at the Blount County Sheriff's Office Training Center.



YM Instructor Cpl Mary Thacker shows the recruits how to clear the mud pit obstacle at the Blount County Sheriff's Office Training Center.



Dragging a 185-pound dummy is really hard, even for these four YM Recruits.



New Young Marines recite YM Obligation at 2009 Recruit Graduation.

Auxiliary Report - by Connie Sexton Dept. Convention

Greetings, everyone.

Stand Down for Homeless Veterans is scheduled for Friday, 15 May. A lot of Detachment and Auxiliary volunteers are expected. Thanks to all.

The Young Marines will be at Virtue Cemetery for Memorial Day Services. Convention plan-

ning is going ahead and we need to make sure our final plan is ready for the hospitality room and fund raising projects.

Please bring your final information for the reports; we will be turning them in by the end of the month. Cookies by Charlotte Helton. Thanks, Connie

(Continued from page 1)

members for the convention and the banquet so get your registrations in ASAP. We have included the registration forms with this newsletter. The registration deadline for our members to register has been extended to 10 June but if you want a room at the hotel, you'll have to contact them to see if the convention rates are still available. For ads or items for the Convention "goody bag" or door prizes, contact Past Detachment Commandant David Hatfield.

Chaplain's Report - by Leroy Brown

Greetings, Marines.

Marines on the Neil Wilson rifle detail received thank you notes from the Wilson family.

The Smoky Mountain Military Vehicle Club show at the Ben Atchley State Veterans Nursing Home was rained out and re-scheduled but we had four jeeps and one mule to show up. The seven club members toured the home and enjoyed nearly two hours talking to the residents.

Marine Gene Collins started

chemo on 21 May and will continue for eight months. Remember Gene in your prayers.

Brigette McMillan, the daughter of Detachment member retired Lt. Col. David McMillan, was promoted to the rank of Marine 1st Lieutenant on 11 May. She, too, is fighting cancer and started her last chemo session 20 May. We wish her all the best and will remember the McMillans in our prayers.

Semper Fi, Leroy

NEWS FLASH!

We were saddened to learn of the death on 2 May of retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Bob "Chief Q" Quesenberry. Bob had worked on many of the Homeless Veterans Stand Downs sponsored by our Detachment and "Chief Q's Tent" was always a favorite place for the homeless vets to relax during the Stand Downs. He will be remembered as a big bear of a man with a warm, generous heart. He will be sorely missed.

Upcoming Activities

June 2009

4th - YM Adult Staff Meeting
6th - YM Drill
7th-12th - YM Trip to MCRD, Parris Island, SC
16th - MCL Officers Meeting
18th -20th - TN Department Convention
27th - YM Drill
30th - MCL/Aux. Monthly Meeting

July 2009

2nd - YM Adult Staff Meeting
3rd-5th - July 4th Weekend Safety Break
14th - MCL Officers Meeting
28th - MCL/Aux. Monthly Meeting

August 2009

6th - YM Adult Staff Meeting
8th - YM Drill
11th - MCL Officers Meeting
22nd - YM Drill
25th - MCL/Aux. Monthly Meeting

Application for Membership
Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment # 924, Marine Corps League
Knoxville, TN

Date: _____

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Home Ph.# _____
Business Ph.# _____ E-mail _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning ____/____/____ Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement ____/____/____

Type of Application: () New () Renewal Type of Membership: () Associate () Regular

I hereby apply for membership in the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment, Marine Corps League, Department of Tennessee, and enclose \$35.00 for one year's membership, which includes a year's subscription to the Marine Corps League quarterly magazine. I certify that I have served as a U.S. Marine for more than 90 days, that the character of my service has been honorable, and if discharged, I am in receipt of an honorable discharge. I am attaching to this application proof of my honorable discharge/service (retired military ID, DD-214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, etc.).

(Sponsor's Name) _____

_____ Applicant's Signature

Upon completion, return to your sponsor, or mail application to **→**

LT. ALEXANDER BONNYMAN DETACHMENT #924
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
PO BOX 145
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

(Include your \$35.00 dues payment - check or money order payable to "Marine Corps League" - plus proof of honorable service, which is required by our Detachment.)

The Bonnyman Gazette

Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Det. # 924
Marine Corps League
PO Box 145
Knoxville, TN 37901

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
KNOXVILLE, TN
PERMIT NO. 549

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

