



BUNKER

TALK

God

Country

Corps

J. R. Spears Detachment #066
Pensacola, FL
Founded January 19th, 1984 by
William D. Carter



July 2017



Detachment Officers

MEETINGS

Day & Time:
2nd Tuesday of each month
at 1900

Location:

National Guard Armory
8790 Grow Drive in the
Ellison Park Industrial

Contact Us:

J. R. Spears Det. 066
Marine Corps League
P. O. Box 3491
Milton, FL 32572
850-712-0210

Detachment Website:

<http://pensacolamcleague.com>

Department of FL Website:

<http://mclfl.org>

Southeast Division Website:

<http://sediv.org>

MCL Website:

<http://mclnational.org>

Commandant

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Junior Vice Commandant

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850-485-8280

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Junior Past Commandant

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850-293-7881

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850-400-0165

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850-725-0034

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850-393-3507

Service Officer

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whiteantelope1945@gmail.com
562-230-2379

Sgt-at-Arms

Hiram Johnson
850-453-4521

A Message from the Commandant

The “Rock-A-Thon” fund raiser at Cracker Barrel last month on June 11th was a great success! We had a total of 20 members show up between 0800 and 1300 to sit in a rocking chair on the “veranda” and open an occasional door. Ron Smith brought his Jeep which attracted a lot of attention, especially among “future” Marines. My thanks to all!

Our HAU Action Team handled the elements well, re-locating from Pensacola Veterans Memorial Park to Rosie O’Grady’s in Seville Quarter our inclement weather venue. Sergeant Major Ralph Hyatt, USMC(Ret.), a three-war veteran, gave an inspirational talk about his personal experiences in Vietnam for our “Defensive Perimeter Night” in the tradition of our Heroes Among Us Guest Speakers on June 29th.

We kick-off this month with a fund raiser at the “Riverfest 2017” at the River Walk in Milton, FL on Tuesday, July 4th, 0900-Dark, set-up at 0700. On July 27th our Heroes Among Us Series features Sergeant (Rev.) John Phillips, USA, a veteran of the infamous Pork Chop Hill, for “Korean War Remembrance Night”. It begins at 1800 at the Marine Aviation Memorial Tower Plaza in Pensacola Veterans Memorial Park. Mark your calendars so we have another great showing, and remember – we provide light refreshments, you bring a chair or blanket.

We continue planning for our other two Flagship events, the Semper Fi 5K Run in September which is followed by the MCL Car Show in October. The planning meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at Goat Lips (2811 Copter Road) beginning at 1400.

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of our events, and at our monthly Detachment meetings. The willingness of our members to volunteer and participate continues to contribute to the success of our events, and is greatly appreciated.

Semper Fi, Caveman Holzworth, Commandant, CPL J. R. Spears Detachment, Pensacola, Florida

Minutes of the 13 June 2017 Detachment Meeting:

Commandant Holzworth called the meeting to order at 1900 at the National Guard Armory, 8790 Grow Drive, Pensacola, FL.

There were 27 members and 6 guests present.

Opening ceremonies and rituals were conducted.

Commandant Holzworth discussed the successful kick-off to the Heroes Among Us (HAU) Speaker Series with Doc Ballard. There will be a HAU Action Team Meeting on Monday, June 26th at Goat Lips to go over final arrangements for the HAU event on June 29th.

Ed Rouse, HAU Project Officer, gave a final report on the Car Raffle. All 350 tickets were sold, and the 2nd Prize winner donated the \$1,000 back to the Veterans in Distress Fund. The Detachment’s own SgtMaj Ralph Hyatt will be the guest speaker for the June 29th HAU event at Pensacola Veterans Memorial Park.

The Commandant introduced COL Forbush, USMC(Ret.), who gave a presentation on the LEAD Academy Classical School in Pace. It is a Christian-based school here in Pensacola that opened four years ago. There will golf tournament fund raiser for its expansion in Chumuckla on September 15th. Moved by Hiram Johnson, seconded by Rob Fernandez, to provide \$2,500 at the Trackman Level for sponsorship. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Pete Southerland introduced Connie Bookman from “Pathways for Change” and presented her with a \$5,000 donation for the residence house for women veterans.

The reading of the May Meeting Minutes was waived without objection, and approved as printed in “Bunker Talk” and posted on-line.

The Paymaster’s Report was received subject to audit.

Ken Morrow, S-3, reported on the successful “Rock-A-Thon” held on Sunday, June 11th and thanked all the members that showed up. He discussed the “house warming” party at Rob Fernandez’ new home on Saturday, June 17th beginning at 1200 until “whenever”. We will be having another fund raiser at the “Riverfest” in Milton on Tuesday, July 4th. Volunteers are needed for our two flagship events, the Semper Fi 5K Run in September and the Car Show in October. Looking farther ahead, a Project Officer and Action Team are still needed for the Marine Corps Ball to be held in November which can be a stand-alone event or in combination with another group as was done last year as well as the Veterans Day Parade on November 11th.

Bob Rivera discussed the upcoming grand opening of the new Outback Restaurant located on the corner of Airport Boulevard and N. Davis Highway on July 12th. They are looking for local groups to sponsor, so members are encouraged to show up at 1300 wearing MCL Red Cover/Cap and red polo shirts. It is an excellent opportunity to garner another sponsor for our programs.

Ralph Koeniger, S-6, aka Web Gunny, briefly addressed the delay in the Detachment's new website.

The Adjutant discussed up dating and correcting the Detachment's Roster; and, DAV Chapter 23 is hosting a cook-out at the VA JACC on Friday, June 23rd beginning at 1100. All are invited.

Ed Rouse, PAO, discussed hosting the Japanese Consul General for an event to be held on October 7th at the National Museum of Naval Aviation. More to follow as plans are known.

Sergeant-at-Arms addressed the need for members to pick up their nametags, and the need to purchase more items for our fund raising. New items are being purchased by S-4.

Good of the League:

- 1) Recently retired SgtMaj Stacy Pruitt was introduced by Ebbie Jermyn.
- 2) Clifford Zack announced that last month they had two graduates, and on June 24th the Young Marines are having a picnic at Big Lagoon Park at Pavillion #46. One YM is retiring and another being discharged. Their Birthday Ball will be held November 4th at the VFW in Elberta, AL and everyone is invited and encourage to attend.
- 3) The Commandant introduced three new members Robert Flanagan, Matthew Kopcsak, and Robert Taylor.
- 4) Mr. Neal Bookman stated he would donate \$1,000 to the Veterans in Distress Fund.
- 5) Rod Miller brought up a veteran in need which will be researched for more specific information to better assist.

The 50/50 (\$10.00 collected) was won by Chuck Miller (\$5.00).

Closing ceremonies and rituals were conducted.

The meeting was adjourned at 1958.

M. A. Kilgore, Adjutant

Mark Your Calendars

{Check Our Website for More Info on Events}

July 2017 Events

- 04 July – "Riverfest" (Milton) {0900-Dark}
- 11 July – Detachment Monthly Meeting (National Guard Armory) {1900}
- 12 July – Outback Restaurant Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting (Airport Blvd & N. Davis Hwy) {1300-1330}
- 16 July – Semper Fi 5K Run & Car Show Meeting (Goat Lips) {1400}
- 27 July – Heroes Among Us – "Korean War Remembrance Night" (Veterans Memorial Park) {1800}

August 2017 Events

- 08 August – Detachment Monthly Meeting (National Guard Armory) {1900}
- 13-19 August – MCL National Convention (Overland Park, KS)
- 19 August – Marine Aviation Memorial Bell Tower Brick Dedication (Veterans Memorial Park) {TBA}
- 20 August – Semper Fi 5K Run & Car Show Meeting (Goat Lips) {1400}
- 31 August – Heroes Among Us – "Marine Aviation Night" (Veterans Memorial Park) {1800}

September 2017 Events

- 09 Sept – MCL Semper Fi 5K Run
- 12 Sept – Detachment Monthly Meeting (National Guard Armory) {1900}
- 17 Sept – Car Show Meeting (Goat Lips) {1400}
- 28 Sept – Heroes Among Us – "USN Carrier Flight Operations Night" (Veterans Memorial Park) {1800}

"Rock-A-Thon"

Cracker Barrel – Pine Forest Road & I-10
June 11, 2017



Did You Know. . .

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's addresses changed effective May 1, 2017. The old addresses are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis. The new addresses are:

Retired Pay: Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

Annuitant Pay: Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

The old PO Boxes in London KY will remain open and all mail will be forwarded to the new address for one year. However, sending mail to the old addresses will add three to five days to the normal processing time.

The telephone and fax numbers are not changing. Please copy and paste the following web address into your web browser for additional contact information: <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

Retired Pay
DFAS-Cleveland

VA Says Veterans May Now Apply in Advance for Burial in a Veterans Cemetery

While most civilian cemeteries have long offered individuals the opportunity to buy a burial plot ahead of time, the VA has required that the families of veterans must wait to apply for burial until after the veteran has passed away. This policy has added to the stress families face when a loved one dies, even if the death was anticipated.

Finally, last week the VA announced it has changed its policy and will now allow veterans to apply prior to their deaths for burial in a veteran's cemetery.

According to a VA press release, "Interested individuals may submit VA Form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery, and supporting documentation, such as a DD Form 214, if readily available, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299; email to Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151".

"VA will review applications and provide written notice of its determination of eligibility. VA will save determinations and supporting documentation in an electronic information system to expedite burial arrangements at the time of need. Because laws and personal circumstances change, upon receipt of a burial request, VA will validate all pre-need determinations in accordance with the laws in effect at that time."

It was noted that this does not allow veterans to choose a particular plot within the cemetery, but only the cemetery where they wish to be buried. In addition, this does not apply to Arlington National Cemetery, which is run by the Department of the Army, not the Department of Veterans Affairs.

As a reminder, eligible individuals are entitled to burial in any open VA national cemetery, opening/closing of the grave, a grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, and a government-furnished headstone or marker or niche cover, all at no cost to the family. Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

Veterans are also eligible for a burial flag and may be eligible for a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, from the Internet at www.cem.va.gov, or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000. To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) finalized a new rule on 13 January 2017 to consider eight diseases as presumptive for service connection. This presumptive service connection provides VA disability benefits for veterans who have one of eight diseases and have served for 30 days or longer (consecutive or nonconsecutive) on permanent or temporary duty at Camp Lejeune, NC between 1 August 1953 and 31 December 1987. The eight diseases covered under the new rule are: adult leukemia; aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes; bladder cancer; kidney cancer; liver cancer; multiple myeloma; non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; and Parkinson's disease.

The rule became effective 14 March 2017 following Congressional review. In accordance, the Marine Corps will mail registrants pertinent information and updates about the VA's new rule.

Congress granted the VA the authority to prescribe all rules and regulations presumptively connecting a disease to service. We appreciate efforts by the VA and Congress to support our Marines and their families.

To contact the Department of Veterans Affairs to learn more about health care benefits, please **visit their website at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/**, or call (877) 222-8387 (Healthcare), or (800) 827-1000 (Benefits).

The health and welfare of our Marines, Sailors, their families and our civilian workers are top priorities for the Marine Corps. We continue to work diligently to identify and notify individuals who may have been exposed to the chemicals in drinking water at Camp Lejeune. For more information about these efforts, or to update your contact information, please see: www.marines.mil/clwater/ or contact the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Call Center at (877) 261-9782, or e-mail clwater@usmc.mil. Please share this information with anyone that may have been at Camp Lejeune between the dates noted and encourage them to register with us.

Sincerely,

The Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Program

Heroes Among Us

“Defensive Perimeter Night”
SgtMaj Ralph Hyatt Jr., USMC Retired
Rosie’s at Seville - June 29, 2017



Detachment Commandant Holzworth (Left) with Don Roe (Center) and SgtMaj Hyatt (Right) welcomes the audience at our foul weather venue Rosie's at Seville.



HAU Master of Ceremonies Don Roe (Left) introduces the guest speaker three-war veteran and Marine Corps League member Sergeant Major Ralph Hyatt, USMC(Retired) (Right)



The crowd at Rosie's at Seville enjoy the sub sandwiches donated by Firehouse Subs while awaiting the start of the program.



Don Roe listens as SgtMaj Hyatt answers a question from a member of the audience.

Announcements

Yearly Dues

For members who pay their dues annually the dues are now \$45 for renewals and \$52 for new members. The \$52 includes the cost of the name tag.

New Members

There is a change in procedure for new members in that they will receive a membership packet when they provide a copy of their DD214. Then they will be sworn in at the following monthly meeting.

Life Membership Dues

AGE GROUP	As of JAN 2014
0 - 35	\$500
36 - 50	\$400
51 - 64	\$300
65 - Over	\$200

Ship's Store

Members wishing to purchase MCL merchandise, including covers, may do so by contacting the Marine Corps League Ship's Store at 800-625-1775 or visit www.mcleague.org.



Wreaths Across America



They accept donations year around. Visit their website www.wreaths-across-america.org for further information and consider making a donation to help them continue this outstanding program. The Young Marines of Pensacola are selling wreaths locally for \$15 each.



In Remembrance

William C. Bledsoe Jr.
March 24, 1930 – May 25, 2017

PSD ID Card Processing Hours and Information

ID CARDS and DEERS ISSUES are handled between 0730 HRS and 1600 HRS, Monday through Friday. The Customer Line may be tagged prior to 1600 hrs to accommodate the volume of customers.

If you require an ID card, you must have 2 forms of identification. In addition, military dependents must be accompanied by the sponsor or have a Power of Attorney for the sponsor AND a DD-1172 signed by the sponsor and an ID Verification Official. Please bring any required documentation needed for the requested service.

To assure that your ID CARD and DEERS issues are handled in a timely manner, it is suggested that you make an appointment at the following website:

<http://appointments.cac.navy.mil>

Please contact our office if you have questions.

PSD Pensacola, Bldg 680
421 Saufley Street, Suite B
850-452-3617

Businesses supporting the J.R. Spears Detachment of the Marine Corps League

Detachment Member Owned Businesses



Steve Sanderson
Automotive Alternative
6426 Pensacola Blvd.
Pensacola, FL 32505
850-857-1222

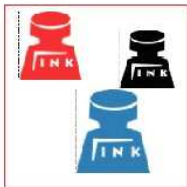


Earl Wright.
Alarm Direct
850-776-7873
Smart Security and
Surveillance Solutions



Roy M. Kinsey, Jr.
Attorney at Law
438 E. Government St.
Pensacola, Florida 32507
850-434-5267

SMITH FAMILY CARPETS
7865 Pine Forest Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
850-944-5888



Tom Armstrong
More Ink For Less
120 Chief's Way, Suite 1
Pensacola, FL 32507
850-455-1234

Community Owned Businesses



Del Lozano
T&D Gallery of Gifts
Pea Ridge FleaMarket
5186 Hwy 90 Booth #33 & 34
850-450-7825



Medals to Honor, Inc.
"Honoring Those Who Serve"
www.MedalsToHonor.com
910-326-4275



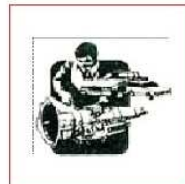
Ed Rouse
Ducker & Company
6825 Oak Street
Milton, FL 32570-0889
850-623-3250



BK Inflatables, Inc.
Let Us Inflate Your Next
Party
850-324-1812



Frenchy LaFountaine
Ultra Marine Productions
9810 Indian Ford Rd.
Milton, FL 32570
850-957-9069



Hirst
Transmission Specialist
8415 N. Palafox St.
Ensley, FL 32534
850-478-3395



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Attorney at Law
714 N. Spring Street
Pensacola, Florida 32501
850-438-1220



**Petrick Custom
Cabinets**
Free Estimates
850-492-5480



**Cantonment Building
Materials & Hardware**
990 Hwy 29 North
Cantonment, FL 32533
850-968-6639