



Newsletter

June, 2019

Eugene Sara Det. #418
Marine Corps League

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Commandants Message



Marines,

Last weekend was our Department convention in Helena. Tom Jones, Laurel Hansen, and I attended. It was a great convention and well attended from all over the state. I would like to give the Helena Detachment my personal thank you for a job well done and a special thanks for taking our rotation in hosting, so we could concentrate on the National Convention this August. They also donated all of the funds from one of their silent auction tables to the National Convention. Thank You very much. Minutes of the meetings will be available on the Department Web page. Tom Jones was elected and sworn in as Sargent-at-Arms. Congratulations Tom.

Thanks to everyone that gave us a hand for all of the Memorial Day ceremonies. Although the weather wasn't the best, I was afraid it was going to be a lot worse. The public came out in force for both the Mount View and the National Cemetery ceremonies. Thanks to all of those who came out in the weather to pay their respects. Also, it was great to see the I&I staff carry the colors at Mount View. You made us all proud to be Marines.

The work at the Riverside cemetery is coming along although the weather hasn't let the progress take shape as fast as hoped. Ralph is ready to start pouring cement as soon as the rain lets up long enough to get the job done. Be ready to help out when the call comes. The windows for work have been short.



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Thanks to the members who came to Roberts to help them celebrate the Memorial Day with a tribute to the Bob Hope USO shows. The impersonators, and format for the show was great. The talent from the Joliet High School was outstanding. They did a very good job of bringing back the sounds of the 40s and 50s. Remember they never heard them live because they weren't even born yet. For someone that got to see one of these shows in DaNang, it brought back a lot of memories. It was good to look out on the crowd and see several red jackets. Also great job with the color guard.

Our next meeting is Monday, June 10th.
See you at the meeting!

Tom Lowry, Commandant
(406)366-1347
sevens@midrivers.com

Chaplains Report:



Fellow members & families,
Had a couple funerals and one coming up the 24th. This is a little early, but the end of the month will be busy with meetings and Memorial Day details. Not a lot to report as far as illnesses with the exception of Gordon Blake, who was hospitalized for a few days. I didn't know until after the fact. It's a personal thing, but if I don't know up front you don't get to see my smiling face. Dennis Sitzler has had a few bouts with his health. but can't confirm exactly what all it consists of. We had a good turnout at Riverside cemetery so far. Don Huffman was there two- or three-days digging holes. Scott Dunlap & a friend showed up for the first pour along with Keith, Woody, Ralph, Tom Jones, and myself. If I miss wrote or forgot a name, sorry! This will be sent in before the end of the month, hope you were able to show up for Memorial Day events. God Bless all.

Semper Fi,
James Borner, Chaplain
(406)850-1802
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Jr. Vice Commandants Report:



League Members,
The beginning of Summer is here, even though it still acts like winter. Memorial day has been taken care of, thanks to all that came out to help. Not definite yet, but we may have a patio party in July. The convention plans are moving ahead and getting closer.

If you can help let someone know and be sure to register for events.

Semper Fi,
Tim Bender, Jr Vice
(406)697-5968
tim.mtlonegunman@gmail.com

Paymasters Report:



Hello all,
Thank you to the finance committee, Ralph and Mike, for making the time to help me complete an audit. We were able to audit the months of January through April.

A few tasks upcoming include entering our list of delegates for the national convention.

There maybe room for additional alternate delegates, let me know if you are interested.

There are a couple members that would like assistance getting registered for the events at the convention. I will be in contact with you shortly. If anyone else requires assistance registering on the convention website please let me know.

Lastly, our Charter for our MODD pound Gales Growlers moves forward. I do have 4 pup kits remaining for those that haven't yet gotten theirs.

Scott Dunlap
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Senior Vice Commandant Report:



Marine Corps Leaguers, Commandant Tom Lowry and myself attended the Department of Montana MCL Convention in Helena. The Helena Chapter did a good job putting on the convention. All chapters pledged support for the national convention being held in Billings. I was again appointed Sergeant at Arms.

The big weekend is over, I want to thank all who participated. Friday was a funeral at the National Cemetery. Saturday was a Color Guard at Roberts, MT. this was a pleasant surprise, that community put on a USO Show starring Bob Hope. It was a very well-done impersonation of Bob Hope. It looked like all of Roberts and the surrounding community was in that gymnasium. The worst weather of the weekend was Monday and we covered the city with Memorial Day Services. A job well done by all.

Semper Fi.

Tom Jones, Sr. Vice

(406)670-4364

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Color Guard at the Roberts MT. pre-Memorial Day/ USO show honoring veterans on May 25th. Members are L to R— Tom Lowry, Jim Borner, Doug Wood, Mike Tolstedt and Ralph McKinney.



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**Marine Corps League
Eugene Sara Detachment #418
Meeting Minutes
April 13th, 2019**

Meeting called to order @ 1900 Ritual followed

Officers present: Tom Lowry, Tom Jones, Tim Bender, Scott Dunlap, Keith Thompson, Jim Borner, Don Huffman.

New Applications for membership: New applications for membership Richard Schiltz, DD214 verified. Membership voted Aye, Richard Schiltz Welcome aboard!

Last Meeting Minutes: Read and approved.

Miles City Squad minutes: See Miles City Page

Correspondence: Received \$100 donation for the convention from Laurel Ford, Thanks Chris C and Eric H. **Captain Leishman : None** **Paymasters Report:** Having an issue with the computer program for the financial accounts, working on getting it corrected. 34 current yearly members, 50 life members, none past due and 3 associate members. Finance committee meeting set for Thursday 5/16 for audit. Report voted on and accepted. **Chaplain:** Laurel Hansen's sister passed away. **Senior Vice:** Sending out renewal statements so members can start sending them in.

Junior Vice: Approached members if we wanted to hold patio parties this with the convention coming up, it was voted on and approved to hold a Marine day party after the convention. Pete Seigel offered to host a Patio party in July. Has a lead on a handicapped van through Legacy trucking Academy. **Jr. Past Commandant:** None **Adjutant:** None

Judge Advocate: Officers list has been forwarded to National MCL.

Detail Commander: May 15th Service at Sunset Memorial Gardens, May 25th—Roberts, MT Veterans event Color guard / USO show and May 27th—Memorial day events **0800**—Riverside Cemetery, **1000**—Mountview, **1145**—National Cemetery @ Laurel.

Report of any member or family member's family sick or in distress: - Bill Van Weiren was in the hospital again.

Standing Committees:

Riverside Cemetery Detail / Friends of the Cemetery — Preparation work has begun, holes dug, forms are set and ready for cement. Pete has a trailer available for use on the detail. Ralph requested \$250 for supplies, 2nd & voted aye & approved. **Toys for Tots** — None **Finance**

Committee — Finance committee set for audit of the books. **Young Marines** — Excited to be involved at the August convention **Birthday Ball** — No new information. Location is set at the Northern Hotel and price will be \$60-\$65 per person, prospective date of November 2nd.

Old Business — The 8th & I drill team will not be at the Commissioners reception during at the convention.

Good of the League — Claire Oakley, a doctor with Riverstone Health, will have a table at the convention to visit with vets regarding the Mayors challenge to prevent veteran suicide. She is encouraging the league and other veteran organizations to get involved in helping prevent veteran suicides. **Register on the webpage at :** mclnationalconvention2019.com.

New Business - Tom is looking for volunteer help with assisting veterans with PTSD issues. Ralph presented a \$9 ball cap from ACES for convention staff. A motion was made & 2nd to purchase 20 caps for the convention from funds, members can purchase them from the detachment. Voted aye and passed. Discussion was also held on proper uniform for events. Two soft rifle scabbards are needed for the color guard rifles as the old ones are falling apart. Motion made to approve funds, 2nd, voted aye & passed.

Meeting closed at 2019hrs.

Next meeting will be @ 1900 on June 10th, 2019

Judge Advocates Report:



The first part of this is for the Judge Advocate part of the newsletter. The 2nd part is for the Our Marines section. Judge Advocate: "Gung Ho" Positive or negative? The term Gung Ho was picked up by USMC Major Evans Carlson from his New Zealand friend, Rewi Alley, one

of the founders of the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives. Major Carlson explained in a 1943 interview: "I was trying to build up the same sort of working spirit I had seen in China, where all soldiers dedicated themselves to one idea and worked together to put that idea over. I told the boys about it again and again." Later Carlson used "Gung Ho" during his (unconventional) command of the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion. The phrase became the title of a 1943 war film about the Marines raid on Makin Island in 1942. Now you may ask yourself why I bring this up? At a recent League meeting there were discussions about our League uniforms, essentially the what, where, and when we should wear them. While members are considered to be "in uniform" when they wear their red piss cutters, I suggested that we should consider wearing our complete uniform (white shirt, blue or black trousers and highly glossed black shoes) every chance we get. After all our appearance reflects upon the Marine Corp, the League, and Marines everywhere. What better way to present ourselves to the general public and our fellow Marines. Being "squared away" is part of our DNA. That being said, the term "Gung Ho" was dropped in what I hoped was a positive way. As our National Uniform Chairman correctly noted "Once a Marine Always A Marine."

Semper Fi

Mike Tolstedt, Judge Advocate

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Sergeant at Arms Report:

Marines,
Color Guard on May 19th Roberts, MT
Memorial Day, May 27th for the cemetery details.

Keith Thompson, Detail Commander

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Miles City Squad B Meeting Minutes

April 2nd, 2019

The squad had no items for discussion as a result no meeting was held. This space holds pics from Memorial Day

Below– Lt Col. Klein (USAF, ret.) and Bugler Randy Grow perform echo taps at the 2019 Memorial day observance.

Below right - Combined MCL and VFW firing detail fires the 21 gun salute.



The Detachment Exchange

The last edition of the Newsletter we added some new content that will be available in the digital edition only. This will help keep are letter costs down and still have the best of both worlds. Contact me if you want the digital copy sent to your email.

Tim

Buy, Sell or trade you unused uniform parts or pieces in this column of the newsletter. Just send the item description to me and I will list them for you. —Tim

Tom Lowry has 2 pair of Dress shoes size 10.5 & a cover size 7 1/4.

I have numerous items from Jim Borner and Diana Schaefer for use, just contact Tim at 697-5968.

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Thanks again, to all of our members and sponsors for all of your continuing support throughout the past and current year. You are all important to our continuing programs and events.



OUR MARINES

This will be a new addition to our newsletter where we will be honoring active duty and honorably discharged Montana Marines.

Since its inception the Detachment has strived to preserve the traditions and promote the interests of the Marine Corps while welcoming all veterans-those on active or reserve status as well as those men and women who have who have been honorably discharged from all branches of the United States Armed forces. In that spirit we take this opportunity to honor Army Staff Sergeant Travis Atkins late of Bozeman, Montana. On the morning of June 1st 2007 Staff Ser-

geant Atkins and his three-man squad intercepted two suspected terrorists outside Baghdad, Iraq. One the Iraqi Staff Sergeant Atkins was searching resisted and then became violent. Travis engaged him in hand-to-hand combat. As Travis wrestled to get the enemies hands behind his back, the man began to reach for something- Travis knew what it was. He realized the man was wearing a suicide vest. In the split second before the Iraqi detonated his explosives, Travis wrapped his arms and his entire body around him and threw to the ground away from his troops who were right next to him. He put himself on top of the enemy and shielded his men from certain death. Staff Sgt. Atkins however was killed instantly. On March 27th, 2019 President Trump posthumously awarded Staff Sgt. Atkins the Congressional Medal of Honor, our nation's highest honor for valor. The University of Montana alumnus was just 31 years old, leaving behind his 11 year old son Trevor Oliver, and parents John and Elaine Atkins of Bozeman. Senator Tester said "Our nation is forever grateful for his courageous and selfless action on the battlefield and this highest honor will guarantee that his bravery will never be forgotten "Our Detachment will likewise NEVER FOR FORGET his ultimate sacrifice !

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We took great pride when we wore the Marine Corp uniform and followed its rules and regulations related to uniforms. We should also take great pride when we wear the MCL uniform and follow the rules and regulations that are outlined in our Code." So when we are wearing only our piss cutters or our complete uniform it only takes a few minutes to get squared away. If that is being "GUNG HO" then it's something we should all strive for. Semper Fi!

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Memorial Day pics above from Laurel National Cemetery. Life member Jim Sausoman watches the event.

Left — Color & Honor Guard at Riverside Cemetery.

Below — Honor Guard & Color Guard at the Montview Cemetery event.



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Top — Scenes from the Riverside Cemetery Memorial Day detail.
 Above and below — Scenes from the Roberts Bob Hope tribute program honoring military veterans. Bill Bishop and Bill Van Wieren enjoy the proceedings.
 The Color Guard L to R — Jim Borner, Doug Wood, Mike Tolstedt and Ralph McKinney.
 Below — A vehicle that most of us remember and General Quinn addresses the crowd in attendance.

