



Newsletter

February, 2020

**Eugene Sara Detachment
Marine Corps League**

PO Box 2051
Billings, MT 59103

WEB www.eugenesara.com

Commandant - Thomas Lowry

Editor - Tim Bender

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Commandants Message



Marines,

2020 is marching on.

Seems like we just got over the holidays. Last month we voted to support the young marines by paying a portion of their registration fee. They have a large recruit class and some single parents that can use the assistance. It feels

great to be able to assist them in their program and to see so many young folks interested in the organization.

I think the last of the certificates of appreciation and plaques have been delivered. It was tough getting on the schedules of the sponsors with the holidays etc. The response was great. It seems they get very little recognition after the check is written. Most offered their assistance if we get involved in another event. Thanks once again to all of the sponsors and volunteers at the national convention. Remember those that donated when you are out to purchase something.

This month's meeting shouldn't be very involved. We will get a report from the nomination committee. Election will be at the March meeting and installation will be within 30 days after. We will need a recommendation from squad B on their officers so the new commandant can make those appointments.

I hope all is going well for everyone and I hope to see you at the meeting February 10th.

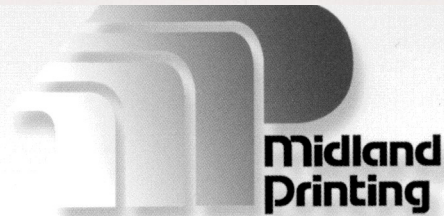
Tom Lowry, Commandant
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The Detachment Exchange

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.

Chaplains Report:



Members & families,
Greetings all, Nothing new to report, trying to keep an eye on those folks I mentioned in last letter. If you want to know more, you can contact me. My phone is below. The one thing that bothered me was the suggestion that I try and avoid certain places. I Wanted

to get over to see Becky Metcalf, but that's out for now. Tiny or Janie, I would be more than happy to talk to her if she would like. With me being on the officers election committee, As one looks at it as being an obligation, maybe you can look at it as a preservation of our Detachment. Without officers we stand the chance of losing the Detachment along with the money and goodwill that we have. So please step up, It's not that painful. We have a heck of a good Detachment, so lets not lose it. If you ask, I'm sure someone would assist you.

PLEASE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I Will cut this short, so blessings to all.

Semper Fi,
James Borner, Chaplain
(406)850-1802
jborner@gmail.com

Paymasters Report:



Hello all,

No Report

Semper Fidelis Marines,
Scott Dunlap, Paymaster
(406) 281-1271

MCL dues are \$35 please remit to the Detachment at: PO Box 2051 Billings, MT 59103. You may wish to consider Life Membership, the rates are as follows:

AGES	65+	\$200
	51-64	\$300
	36-50	\$400
	35 & under	\$500

Jr. Vice Commandants Report:



To all League Members,
Marines, as we move forward into the year 2020 we are having our first challenge of the year look us in the eye. That of the Officer elections. The last few years we had the excellent leadership of Tom Lowry, but the convention kinda slowed him down

with all of its challenges, which he performed well. We need someone to step up and take the reins. I cannot as I still need to work full time. **The Sweethearts dinner will Saturday Feb. 8th at Gusick's Steakhouse on South 20th St. W. Please RSVP on my cell (below) by text or voice only.**


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

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Senior Vice Commandant Report:



Marine Corps Leaguers,
February will be a busy month. there is a gun show 2/14, 2/15 and 2/16 and then comes the MATE show on 2/20, 2/21 and 2/22 and also on 2/22 is the Department Mid-Winter Conference. I need volunteers for the gun show and MATE to handle the rifle raffle. I will be going to the Midwinter

Conference in Butte and would welcome some company. Please contact me at (406) 670-4364 if you can help out.

Semper Fi.

Tom Jones, Sr. Vice

(406)670-4364

tcgysgt21@yahoo.com

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In previous editions 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

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**Marine Corps League
Eugene Sara Detachment #418
Meeting Minutes
January 13th, 2020**

Meeting called to order @ 1900 Ritual followed

Officers present: Tom Lowry, Tom Jones, Tim Bender (excused), Scott Dunlap, Keith Thompson, Jim Borner, Mike Tolstedt (excused).

New Applications for membership: None

Last Meeting Minutes: Read and approved with the following corrections: \$595 raised at the November Gun Show. Tom Lowry was in attendance at the last friends of the cemetery meeting. There was confusion over the next gun show dates in February.

Miles City Squad minutes: See Miles City Page

Correspondence: Thank you cards from Big Sky elementary for the flag detail and education, 2nd thank you card from the students at Big Sky Elementary. A handwritten thank you card for wreath sponsorship, 2nd card for wreath sponsorship and flag ceremony, Letter of appreciation from the National Association of the Blind for Honor Guard. **Paymasters Report:** 89 current members, 32 annual, 53 Life members, 4 associate **Chaplain:** Bill Van Wieren is doing better. Gordon Blake is on dialysis and in rehab, also doing better. Tiny's daughter Becky is also doing better. Prayers to all!! **Senior Vice:** Thanks and great job for all those that helped with the toys for tots campaign. February 22nd is the date for the State mid-winter conference in Butte. **Junior Vice:**

No Report **Jr. Past Commandant:** None **Adjutant:** All after action reports need to be turned in to be tallied up. **Judge Advocate:** None **Detail Commander:** Last rifle detail was excellent, volleys sounded great! Will need volunteers for the next Gun Show, Feb. 14,15,16 at Metrapark **Report of any member or member's family sick or in distress:** None

Standing Committees:

Riverside Cemetery Detail / Friends of the Cemetery — The Riverside detail—completed/

Friends of the Cemetery meetings are 3rd Thursday of the Month and the meeting is set for 1700 or 1800 at Bill Kennedys office on 2617 Virginia Ln. **Toys for Tots — None** **Finance Committee — None** **Young Marines —** Lorraine Wright of the Young marines brought numerous items up with the league. Riverside Cemetery— the Young Marines would like to clean headstones at Riverside Cemetery and would like to use the fire pit to retire flags and educate youth. May have to coordinate this with the VFW as the pit is no longer used. St. Patricks day parade— wondering if the young marines fall under the detachment for parade fees. The Young Marine color guard detail placement would be right behind the Detachment Color Guard at the front of the parade. They would also like to register early. Discussed a concerning letter from Lt. Col. Davis regarding young Marines being tagged in on social media posts. Discussed sponsoring the next upcoming class of 13 YM recruits. They have \$250 in expenses they need to raise funds for, currently setting up a 5K fun run with pledge sheets to raise funds from. Commandant Lowry spoke to a unit ribbon that the detachment was awarded and that it not applicable to the young marines. There was no response from the young marines on this matter. Young Marine MstSgt. Harris was in San Diego recently for young marine of the year for the west division competition and missed the title by three points! **Birthday Ball — None** **Good of the League—** Bill Bishop gave a 1.5 hour talk to 3rd graders recently. Next gun show is in February 2/15 –2/16, motion was made to purchase a Henry rifle for up to \$500 motion was 2nd and voted aye. Passed. **Old Business- Rifle purchase—** recommended to buy lever action Henry .17 cal for \$469 at Shipton's, motion made and 2nd to purchase the rifle, voted aye, passed. Motion made to cover St. Patty's day parade fees for the Young Marines, 2nd voted aye, passed. Motion was made and 2nd to sponsor \$1625 (1/2 expenses) for the young marines new recruit class. 2nd and voted aye, passed! **New Business —** Finance committee to have audit completed by March 1st. Finance committee is T. Lowry, S Dunlap, K Kuhlman and M. Wyrwas. Nominations committee is Jim Borner and Mike Tolstedt. Keith Thompson would like the finance committee to look into money market funds and Cert. of Deposit.

Meeting closed at 1952hrs.

Next meeting will be @ 1900 on February 10th, 2020

Judge Advocates Report:



No Report

Semper Fi!

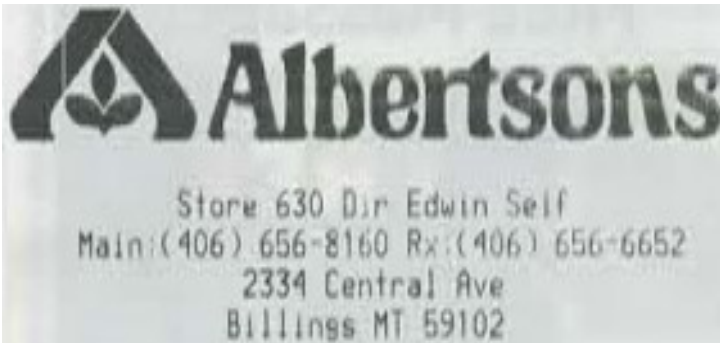
Mike Tolstedt (406)698-4965
mtolstedt@yahoo.com.



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Sergeant at Arms Report:

Marines,

January events—

February 8th = Sweethearts Dinner at Gus-icks on So.20th ST. W. 1800hrs, please RSVP

February 10th– Regular MCL Business Meeting at the heights VFW. 1900hrs.

February 14,15,16 — Billings Gun Show at Metrapark, need help all three days with rifle raf-
fle.

February 21,22,23 — MATE Show at Metra-
Park

Keith Thompson, Detail Commander



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**Thank you for
your service**

Miles City Squad B Meeting Minutes

January 7th, 2020

Regular meeting called to order by Squad Leader Dee Murray

Ritual Followed

All Officers Present

No new membership applications

No one sick or under the weather

Meeting was called to order at 1900hrs by Squad Leader Dee Murray at the VFW. A motion was made and passed to start the meetings at 1800. Old Business — John Reed has numerous boxes of shotgun ammo left over from the Boy Scouts. He is going to check with the 4-H and FFA shooting sports to see if they are interested in the ammunition. Also the 4-H shooting sports group meets twice a week to shoot air rifles & pistols. He will also see if they need any help. Next meeting will be February 4th, 2020 at the VFW at 1800hrs.

Respectfully submitted by Thomas Ketchum

William Dahl
General Manager

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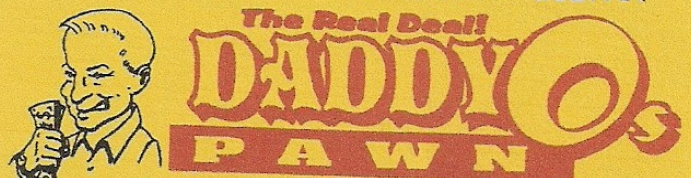


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OUR MARINES

This is a new addition to our newsletter where we will be honoring active duty and honorably discharged Montana Marines. Christian Wade is one of our highly decorated brothers who honored us as guest Speaker at the 2019 Marine Birthday Ball.

Marine Gunner (Chief Warrant Officer-5) Christian Wade (Ret.) served in the US Marine Corps for thirty years & served in all four Marine Divisions.

Gunner Wade is an Infantryman and has served as an Anti-Tank TOW Gunner, Machine Gunner, Scout-Sniper, Sniper Team Leader, Sniper Instructor, and also briefly as a Tank Crewman. As a Marine Gunner, he has served in a rifle battalion, Light Armored Reconnaissance battalion, and as a small arms developer and marksmanship trainer at Quantico, Virginia. He completed a tour as Marine Gunner of the United Arab Emirates Presidential Guard in Abu Dhabi. He has deployed 13 times; including numerous combat deployments in support of Operations DESERT STORM, UNITED SHIELD, and IRAQI FREEDOM. He has also served as a Scout-Sniper Instructor and a Recruiter in southwestern Montana. As a Lance Corporal, having detached from 3d Tank Battalion, he served with 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Light Armored Infantry Battalion, and 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, Task Force Ripper, during Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM and fought during the liberation of Kuwait. As a Sergeant he served as a Scout-Sniper attached to 3d Battalion, 1st Marines (13th MEU) and fought in Mogadishu, Somalia during Operation UNITED SHIELD. As a Staff Sergeant, Gunnery Sergeant, and Marine Gunner, he served with the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, and the 3d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion over four deployments to Iraq, including close combat during Operation AL FAJR in Fallujah, Iraq.

Gunner Wade was raised in several of the northern United States, settling in Bozeman, Montana as his home. He is a graduate of the Scout-Sniper Basic Course, Scout-Sniper Advanced Course, Maritime Special Purpose Scout-Sniper Course, US Army and USMC Foreign Weapons Instructor Courses, The Basic School, Infantry Officer Course (Marine Gunner), and the Advanced Infantry Weapons Officer Course (and others). He is married to the former Jennifer Irvine, of Bozeman, Montana, and they have no children.

During his final tour, he served as a Special Staff Officer to the Commanding General, 2d Marine Division. In that assignment, he acted as a general-purpose Warfighting advisor to the Division and II MEF Commanding Generals and to the subordinate commanders and staffs of the Ground Combat Element of the 2d Marine Expeditionary Force.

Gunner Wade has retired to Bozeman, Montana and spends his time shooting, hunting, working on a cattle ranch, and trekking in the great outdoors. His personal awards include: the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Gold Star, Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 1 Gold Star and Combat Distinguishing Device, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal with 2 Gold Stars, and the Combat Action Ribbon with 2 Gold Stars. He has also earned 11 Sea Service Deployment Ribbons.

Marine Corps History in February source - marineparents.com

February 1, 1967, Elements of the 3rd Marine Div. began Operation Prairie II in Quang Tri province, South Vietnam. The 46-day search-and-destroy operation, concluded on March 18, 93 Marines and 693 enemy troops were killed.

February 2, 1944, the 4th Marine Div. captured Roi-Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll. This was done as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the beginning of World War II.

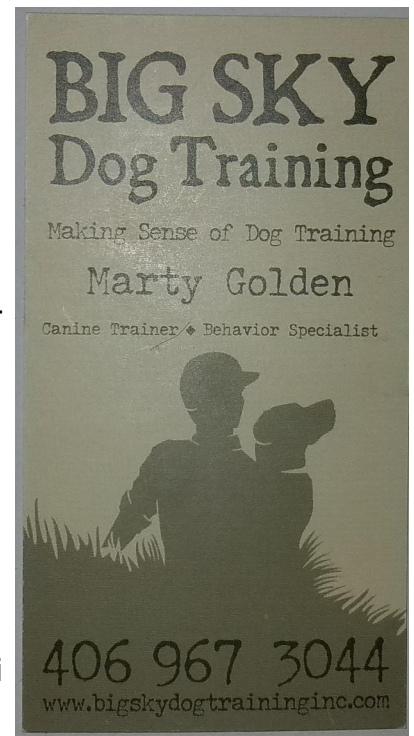
February 6, 1968, Two reduced Marine battalions, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines with two companies and 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines with three, recaptured Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house to house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured.

February 15, 1898, 28 Marines and 232 sailors were killed when the U.S. battleship Maine exploded under suspicious circumstances in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. "Remember *The Maine*" became a rallying cry and less than three months later, the United States and Spain were at war.

February 23, 1945 Marks the anniversary of one of the most iconic moments in Marine Corps history and in all of World War 2—the American flag being raised over Mt. Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

February 24, 1991, The First Marine Expeditionary Force, along with coalition forces, began a ground assault on Iraqi defense forces in the final stages of Operation Desert Storm. The First and Second Marine Divisions attacked Iraqi defenses from the front while allied armored forces attacked from the rear.

February 28, 1991, Operation Desert Storm came to an end when a ceasefire declared by George W. Bush went into effect.





GUNNY'S CORNER by Jim Sausoman



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Tire** James Horning
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Invasion of Iwo Jima

The time was 0730h, 19 February 1945 and the landing craft are circling off shore of Iwo Jima waiting for the signal to line up on the line of departure. It was two miles out and then the LST's opened the bows up to launch the LVT's. The LVT's were to hit the beach and move inland and create a ring of fire 50 yards for the following waves of Marines. By 0815h the first three waves of craft were on line while the day started to warm, it was going to be a fine day. The signal went at 0830h and the first wave of troops started for shore and the battle was on. The navy began to launch the last of barrage of 20,000 rounds before the Marines hit the beach. Then the second wave started for land while eight more waves formed up. In less than forty-five minutes 9000 men should be on the beach. The first wave hit Red beach 1 at 0859h then within the next few minutes the beach was covered from Mt Suribachi to the cliffs. Some of the vehicles were able to move inland as planned but near Suribachi the LVT's returned off shore to provide the fire support. Some of the vehicles made it through the loose sand and climbed up on the terrace to 50 and 75 yards. There still wasn't much fire coming down on the beach while the first wave moved up on the terrace in the sand. Some found it like climbing a waterfall. General Kuribayashi had planned on letting the Marines gather on the beaches then annihilate them. By 0907h the third wave hit the beach then just five minutes later the fourth landed bringing the total troops over 6000. The time had almost come for the Japs to open up on the Marines. As some of the Marines started to move inland, the 25th Marines started to move in and turned to the right toward the quarry. The 23rd Marines began the move inland toward the airfield. The 27th Marines drove inland to come around west of the airfield. The 28th Marines started to race across the island at the base of Mt Suribachi to cut the island in half then turn to take Mt Suribachi, then turn north and help take the airfield. The Japs waited and began with small arms, while the Marines moved inland clearing out pillboxes. The fire began to increase on the Marines. It took only 90 minutes to cut across the island in front of Suribachi but the cost was heavy. Lt Wright reached the other shore at 1030h; he had started with a platoon of 60 men and arrived with two others. There was only one company commander left of 1/28. The 2nd Battalion 28th Marines was ready to attack Suribachi and the Marines began to receive heavy mortar fire on the beach. They tried to move inland under the heavy fire, when Lt Col Johnson walked back and forth on top of the beach yelling "Okay you bastards let's get the hell off this beach!". The men started to move up the beach and inland. Meanwhile in 1/27 a Medal of Honor Marine was moving men inland toward the airfield. He would move a group and go back to the beach for more; the battle was only an hour and half old when a mortar shell killed Gunny Basilone and four other Marines. He was presented the Navy Cross (posthumously) for his action on Iwo Jima. The battle was just beginning for the Marines. It would last another 25 days until the island would be declared secure. During those 25 days countless heroic deeds were conducted and when the final count was done the Marines lost 5931 KIA out of 25,851 casualties which included 718 doctors and corpsmen. The Japanese had only 216 survivors.