



Newsletter

May, 2019

**Eugene Sara Detachment
Marine Corps League**

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WEB www.eugenesara.com

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Commandants Message



Marines,

Spring has sprung to spite the forecast for more snow in the area. Schools have closed and so have some highways. I guess we shouldn't be surprised, it has happened before. That being said, Its time we think about helping at the cemetery with the headstones and being available for Memorial Day ceremonies. I will have details on what we are doing at the May meeting.

I spent all of last week on the convention. Greg Hunt, the national convention coordinator, was here and we toured all of the venues for activities. We went over in detail what we have to offer for the guests. He seemed to be pleased with where we are in the planning stage and told me that everywhere he has been with the membership, it appeared that we will have a great turnout. We have a great number of registrants for this time of year. I am having to watch some of the venues as we near the capacity for some of the events. We are receiving more daily. We also interviewed on a statewide and a local radio station telling about the all week event and the reception on Monday that is open to the public.

The idea of allowing the public hasn't been done at past conventions, but seems to be going over well. The sponsors are also looking forward to taking advantage of the event to meet and mingle with the members. We need to have a good turnout as well to not only welcome marines from all over the US, but to thank the sponsors for their support.



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Without their support, this would have been very expensive for the membership, and we wouldn't have had the participation. Greg Hunt also told me that the national Young Marine staff was very pleased that we are including the local Young Marines in the event. If you haven't been to the web page, please do so and register if you plan on coming. I think it will be a lot of fun and it won't be any closer. If you have any questions, I will be at the Department meeting with a report, or you can contact me through the "contact us" tab on the web page or call me 366-1347.

Thanks to everyone who have assisted so far. It will be a busy next three months, and I'm sure it will go fast.

Tom Lowry, Commandant
(406)366-1347

¹severn@midrivers.com

Chaplains Report:



To all league members,
May is soon upon us, so as summer approaches and Memorial day will be here, let us be available for upcoming events. We provide several firing details **and help is needed**. Ralph McKinney has started the Riverside Cemetery headstone project by locating all the grave sites. I have been active in this

project for many years, but due to some health issues I will be limited in what I can do. I will try and assist with my pickup, but the transmission is slipping so we need to keep in mind an alternative if needed. The month has been somewhat uneventful which in many cases is a good thing. As move forward let us keep the Lord in our hearts and our members in our thoughts. God Bless all, stay in touch.

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

Jr. Vice Commandants Report:



League Members,

It is almost may and we are still having winter, what the heck! Now that said, since it's May it's time to start thinking about Memorial day on the 27th. We always have members at the services across billings and the National Cemetery in Laurel. We

need your help to get these details done. Please help if you can. Haven't had too much going on the month of April, besides the officer installation at the regular meeting. The oath administered by Jim Benner from Great Falls. Thanks for coming down Jim! Not sure on Patio Parties for the summer yet, that will be discussed at the upcoming meeting on the 13th. Another reminder, the National Convention is in August, If you can assist in anything or plan to attend any events, let someone know.

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

Paymasters Report:



I submitted the charter application to establish the Military Order of Devil Dogs. The group that was able to assemble to discuss the name of the pound was able to settle on the name Gale's Growlers. Kind of a fun name, inspired by the 4th Commandant of the Marine Corps Anthony Gale.

A few more tasks to complete, such as Incorporation papers and a bank account I imagine I will keep you all updated as it progresses. I would like to thank everyone for their participation and submitting their ideas for the Pound's name. I have ordered and received 5 pup kits. They are available for purchase, please let me know when you would like to get yours. They come with your lanyard and dog tag as well as the history booklet and manual and of course your passport. As soon as we kick this off, many of you will be eligible for your upgrade from Pup to Devil Dog. That should be fun.

As of this date I have yet to convene the finance committee to complete an audit. This will happen here in the next week. We gained a new member last month, Doug Wood, welcome aboard sir. I do have an application on hand for another to be voted on at the next meeting. RAH!

Scott Dunlap
Adjutant/Paymaster
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Senior Vice Commandant Report:



Marine Corps Leaguers,
The last Gun Show was very successful bringing in over \$1400.00. I want to thank Pete Siegel, Dennis Sitzler, Tim Bender & Mike Wyrwas for helping me out. It makes my job a lot easier. I'm Going to start mailing out renewal notices.

I know this membership period does not end until 1 September but we can send in membership renewals at any time and it will be added on to what ever has been paid for. This way Scott is not going to be hit with over 40 renewals in one month.

Semper Fi.

Tom Jones, Sr. Vice

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Gregory Hunt & Tom Lowry discuss the National Convention on the radio show Voices of Montana on Northern Ag Network

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**Marine Corps League
Eugene Sara Detachment #418
Meeting Minutes
April 8th, 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 Douglas Wood, DD214 verified. Dues were paid and membership voted to accept Doug Wood as a new member, Welcome aboard!

Last Meeting Minutes: Read and approved.

Miles City Squad minutes: See Miles City Page

Correspondence: Received information on the newsletter competition The Semper Fi Magazine would like a story on Eugene Sara and the founding of the Detachment. Information on May Conference. A motion was made to take out a 1/2 page convention ad in the May 17/18 conference booklet, motion 2nd & approved. **Captain Leishman : None** **Paymasters Report:** 33 current yearly members, 50 life members, 1 past due and 3 associate members.

Chaplain: Riverside Cemetery coming up soon need to have others to step up and help

Senior Vice: Next Gun Show is September 12, 13, 14. We will need help on this. **Junior**

Vice: Installation Dinner at 3 North at Acton on March 24th was well attended, also talked to Bill Simmons of Billings Masterlubes about possible Convention Sponsorship. **Jr. Past Com-**

mandant: None **Adjutant:** None **Judge Advocate:** None

Detail Commander: April—none, May—Roberts, MT Veterans event Color guard / USO show and Memorial day events

Report of any member or family member's family sick or in distress: - None

Standing Committees:

Riverside Cemetery Detail / Friends of the Cemetery — FOC meeting is coming up the last week of April, Tom Lowry will attend. In June plans are to have another unclaimed remains service at the cemetery. **Toys for Tots —** None **Finance Committee —** Go Fund Me is now shut down. Finance committee setting up for audit of the books for new year.

Young Marines — None **Birthday Ball —** Meeting for the Ball is coming up. Location is set at the Northern Hotel and price will be \$60-\$65 per person, prospective date of November 2nd.

Old Business — None

Good of the League — On the convention front, Pledges from sponsors are coming in, we are looking for more. National says we are looking good for where we are at in the run up. Gordon Blake wants to personally sponsor up to \$1500 towards a band for one of the evening events (Wed/Thu). Check out the webpage at : mclnationalconvention2019.com.

New Business — Awards were presented to the following Individuals who were unable to attend the dinner: Pete Siegel— Individual Merit Commendation, Gordon Blake — Community Service Award. Also, discussion was held about creating a recruiting poster with information on the league & the convention.

Meeting suspended at 1943 for installation of officers by Jim Benner of Great Falls.

Meeting closed at 1954hrs.

Next meeting will be @ 1900 on May 13th, 2019

Judge Advocates Report:



In the last newsletter, I introduced myself and my family and sent out a Call To Arms recognizing that while we have approximately eighty-four current members only about twelve of which are pulling the laboring ore. In reading our national publication I note that this is not an uncommon problem. there are a

variety of stated reasons. some members are limited by their age others live outside the Billings area making it hard for them to make it to town and of course, work and family takes precedence over league activities. that being said I have noted that factoring in driving time to an event, color guards or funeral details take approximately two hours out of one day other activities like fundraisers, Toys for Tots, our involvement is only limited by what you can do. While some can devote four hours to an activity. An hour here or there can be just as important. Every Marine is part of a team and every marines contribution to accomplishing our mission is critical to its ultimate success.

On another note, some may wonder just what the heck a detachments Judge and Advocate does. it is the duty of the Judge Advocate to interpret the controlling Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of National Department and Detachment regulation, and advice, construe, council and render opinions on questions of the MCL, Bylaws and Administrative Procedure to the Detachment Commandant, Detachment Board of Trustees, and Detachment Committees when required. it is an important part of his/her duties to the extent possible, to ensure that the "Bylaws" and administrative rules are being complied with. Finally, duly elected officers should to the extent possible assist the Commandant in fulfillment of his duties.

In the future, I will try to address more specific issues which may and sometimes do arise which are important to our membership.

Semper Fi

Mike Tolstedt, Judge Advocate

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Sergeant at Arms Report:

Marines,

Friday May 3rd National Cemetery Graveside service/Honor Guard.

Color Guard on May 19th Roberts, MT Pre- Memorial day event.

Memorial Day, May 27th will need as many people as possible for the cemetery details. PLEASE HELP if you can!!

Keith Thompson, Detail Commander

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Miles City Squad B Meeting Minutes

April 2nd, 2019

Meeting Called to order by Squad Leader Dee Murray.

All members present.

No new Members, Jim Keith is ill.

New Business — Short meeting was held, with eight members in attendance.

There was no old Business and the winter gloves that were ordered came in. John Reed made a motion to pay the bill, it was seconded by Ed Heinle, all voted in favor.

Next meeting May 7th, 2019 at the Spur

Meeting closed at 1940

Respectfully submitted by Thomas Ketchum

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.

The last edition of the Newsletter we added some new content that will be available in the digital edition only. This will help keep our 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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General Manager

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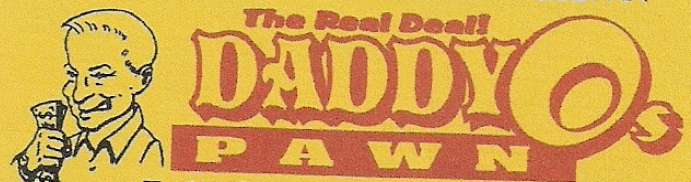


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OUR MARINES

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

Donald Jack Ruhl was born in Columbus Montana on July 2nd, 1923 and graduated from high school in Joliet in 1942.

From 1937 to about 1942 Donald worked as a general farm-hand in Joliet. Shortly before graduating from high school he went to work for The Independent Refining Company of Laurel Montana as a lab assistant. Donald loved hunting small game with his 12 gauge shotgun. He enlisted in the Marine Core Reserve on September 12th, 1942, in Butte Montana and went to MCRD San Diego. Through subsequent training, he made the grade as a "Combat Swimmer" and qualified parachutist he was later deployed on the USS Mount Vernon as a 60MM Mortar Crewman. Additionally, training followed and he was assigned to another ship, Bougainville Island. This was to be the site of his first combat. He subsequently sailed back to Guadalcanal and then returned to San Diego. Ruhl left the states once more on September 19th, 1944 where he ultimately found himself on the USS LST-481 which carried Donald and his fellow Marines the shore of Iwo Jima.



D-Day at Iwo was February 19, 1945. On that day, Ruhl single-handedly attacked a group of eight Japanese who had been driven from a blockhouse. Killing one with his bayonet, he killed another with rifle fire before the rest fled. Early the next morning, he left the safety of his tank trap and moved out under a tremendous volume of mortar and machine gun fire to rescue a wounded Marine lying in an exposed position about forty yards forward of the front lines.

The next morning, D-plus two, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines pushed forward in the assault against the vast network of fortifications surrounding the base of Mt. Suribachi. During the advance, Ruhl with his platoon guide, crawled to the top of a Japanese bunker to bring fire to bear on enemy troops located on the far side of the bunker. Suddenly a hostile grenade landed between the two Marines. Calling a warning to his senior non-commissioned officer, Ruhl instantly dove on the grenade and absorbed the full charge of the explosion with his body. His action not only saved his companion but also prevented the grenade fragments from wounding other nearby Marines. Rather than using his position on the edge of the bunker to easily drop down into a more protected spot, he sacrificed his life to save his fellow Marines.

Two days later, Company E raised the American flag on the top of Mount Suribachi. The Medal of Honor was posthumously awarded to Ruhl and presented to his parents on January 12, 1947, at Greybull, Wyoming, where they made their home. The ceremonies were conducted by the veterans' organization of Greybull.

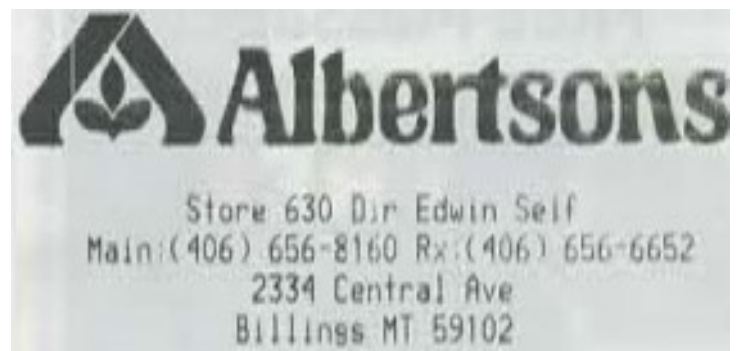
Ruhl was initially buried in the 5th Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo Jima, but was later reinterred in Donald J. Ruhl Memorial Cemetery in Greybull, Wyoming.

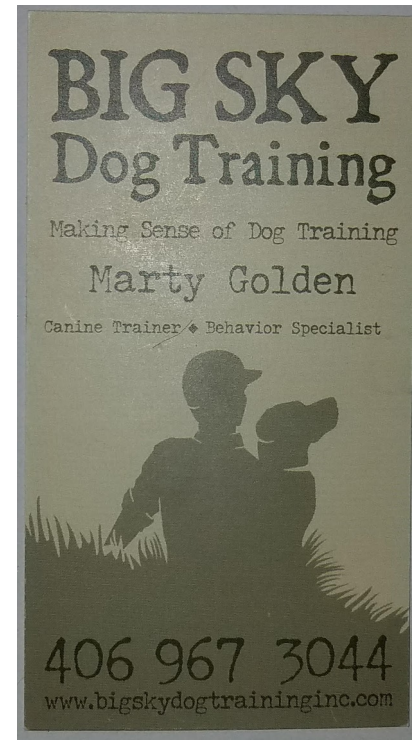
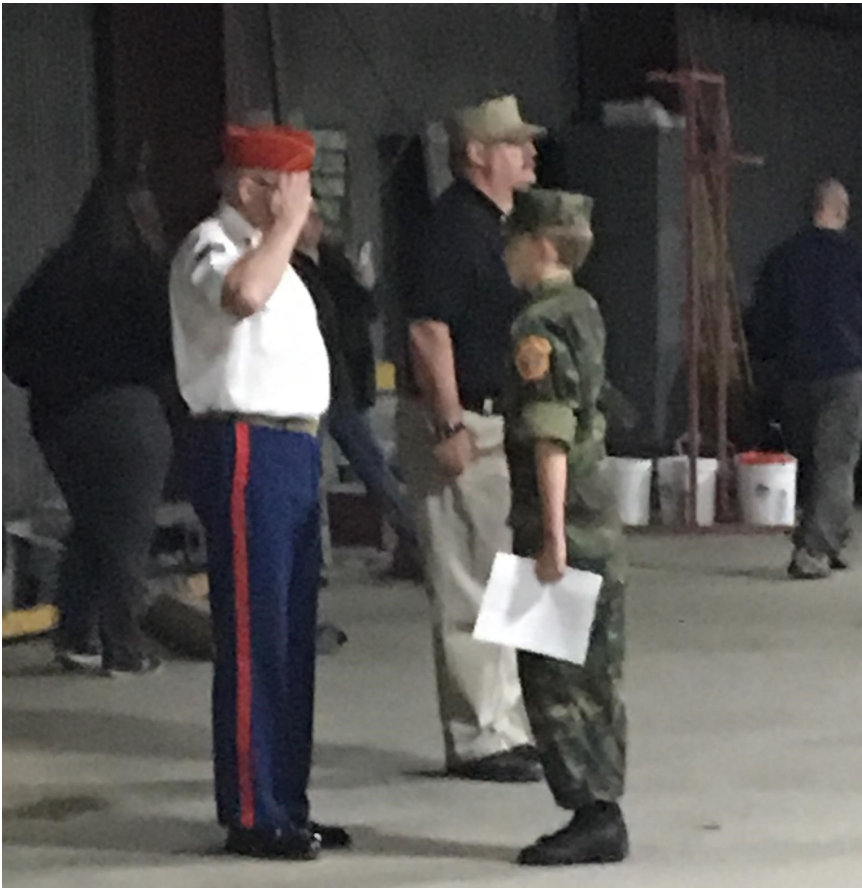
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Tom Lowry watches as a Young Marine has his new rank pinned on by his parents.

