



**Eugene Sara Detachment
Marine Corps League**

PO Box 2051
Billings, MT 59103

WEB www.eugenesara.com

Newsletter

May, 2021

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Editor - Tim Bender

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Commandants Message



Good Day Marines,
Memorial Day—Who we Honor

As I was contemplating this months newsletter, Memorial Day and those we honor was fresh on my mind. Memorial Day is a federal holiday for honoring and mourning those military personnel who have died in the performance of their duties while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Between 2006 and 2020 a total of 17,645 active duty personnel have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Of those that died 26% were killed in Overseas Contingency Operations. The remaining 74% died during operations classified as Non-Overseas Contingency Operations. A Congressional Research Service Report shows that over a fourteen year period, the number of service members killed in accidents is double the number of those killed in action. In fact , accidental deaths account for one-third of all active duty deaths from 2006 to 2020. Approximately 13,068 service members have died in circumstances unrelated to Overseas Contingency Operations . On Average, this amounts to approximately 913 non-war related deaths a year. Personnel perished in more than 70 countries (and at sea), with the majority (93%) of deaths occurring within the United States. It should be noted that training kills more troops than war. As I read these statistics I was reminded of the tragic death of a young Marine that occurred at Camp Lejeune. As a Regimental Security Officer my unit was charged with providing security of our Regimental area including everything from weapons storage areas to areas containing nothing but old wall lockers. Our young Marines carried M16s and combat shotguns.



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On a day like any other I was advised that a young Marine in another Regimental area, while walking his post accidentally dropped his weapon causing it to discharge , killing him on the spot. The fact that he should never have had a chambered round, while true was in large measure beside the point. As a young Officer in training our instructor made a point of telling us, never, ever get complacent and that every day, 365 days a year a Marine dies in the service of their country. In July 2020 eight Marines and a Navy Corpsman tragically died when their Amphibious Assault Vehicle sank off the coast of San Clemente island.

Chaplains Report:



Marines & families,

We are headed into spring tasks. Memorial day will be here before we realize it. We have a funeral on the 14th of May. Family requested Marine Chaplain, can't imagine why. I will meet with family this evening to reassure them that everything will be fine. I will make this short for other officers

will address further information. I would just like to ask inactive members to give us a call, for we would like to know how you are doing. God bless all and this finds you well.

Semper Fi,
James Borner, Chaplain
(406) 598-9733
jborner@gmail.com

Paymasters Report:



It's a New Year Marines!


Welcome Aboard to our newest members Steve Gonzales, Samantha and Matt Jee, Corey Lengkeek and Travis Hannon!

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

You may wish to consider Life Membership, rates are as follows:

AGES	65+	\$200
	51-64	\$300
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Simply send your check to the detachment at:
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Jr. Vice Commandants Report:



Marines,


Well another late newsletter due to work conflicts, but the good things are worth waiting for. The awards dinner was held at 4Bs in Billings and attended by seventeen members & spouses. Awards were given to many of the attendees and others in absentia. I would like to say

Thank You very much to those who elected to award me the marine of the Year for 2020, it is much appreciated.

Summer is coming up and its time to think about Patio Parties. If you are interested in hosting one please let me know.

Think of your Mother this Mothers Day and appreciate all that the mothers in your life have done for you!

Semper Fi,
Tim Bender, Jr Vice
(406) 697-5968
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Senior Vice Commandant Report:



We need to change the Convention date as Butte has Graduation that weekend and all hotels and rooms are taken. I took the liberty to have Mike move our date to the following week-end which would be June 18 -20, 2021. This date still has us in compliance with National guidelines. Please get the word out to our members. A big thank you as I already have several

award submissions today and am waiting on more. Please contact me with any questions and keep those award recommendations coming - be sure to use the award forms and send the recommendation letter also.

S/F,
Dept of MT, Cmdt. Harry Armstrong

Semper Fi Marines,

Again we had a verry successful Gun Show Rifle Raffle. We brought in more then \$1,700,00 for a total of more then \$4,000.00 for the Henry .22 Mag Golden Boy.. The raffle was won by Terrence F. Tupker Jr. of Harlowton, MT. More important is that we recruited three new members, paid up and DD214s checked. Welcome aboard to Mathew and Samantha Jee and Steve Gonzales.

Tom Jones, Sr. Vice
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**Marine Corps League
Eugene Sara Detachment #418
Meeting Minutes for April 8th, 2021**

1900 Meeting Called to order- ritual followed.

Roll call of officers— Jim Borner, Tim Bender, Tom Jones, Ralph McKinney, Mike Tolstedt, Scott Dunlap and Doug Wood.

Last Minutes— Corrections as follows Scott Dunlap was not present, but excused absent Tom Jones was at the Midwinter Dept. conference, not at the County Commissioners Meeting. **The ritual was suspended not the meeting.** Tom Lowry was given an NCO sword, not an Officers sword.

Membership — New applicants Mathew & Samantha Jee and Steve Gonzales. Presented \$35 & DD214s at the Gun Show. **Correspondence—** A thank you card from the Kircher family and a pamphlet for the Motorcycle Poker run on June 12th.

Paymasters report— 52 Life members, 49 current annual, 2 associates and 1 Associate past due. Motion made and passed to accept paymasters report.

Chaplains report— Dennis Sitzler is doing good, Joe Aguilar is back to work at the Riverside Cemetery.

Sr. Vice — Sat in on a Zoom conference call with Dept. officers. **Discussion was on the three day State Convention coming up in Butte and also maintaining same elected officers as last year. Convention was supposed to be June 11-13, but had to be pushed back to June 18th-20th as it conflicted with Butte's Graduations and NO hotel rooms were available. Convention will be held at the new VFW in Butte.** Next Gun Show is April 15-17. **Jr. Vice —** Trying to arrange awards dinner with Billings Hotel & Convention Center. We actually held the dinner at 4Bs on Southgate Dr.

Past Commandant — No report **Detail Commander—** Mike Heins service on April 14 at Laurel National cemetery at Noon.

Adjutant — Cleaned up After action report forms & forwarded to all officers. **Judge Advocate —** None.

Committee Reports **Riverside Cemetery - No new news on the cemetery.**

Friends of the National Cemetery — Jim Borner attended the last meeting and the memorial benches are installed, but no word on dedication services for Herb And Ben Steele which are currently being held up by the VA, DoD and Federal Government. **Toys for Tots—** No Report **Birthday ball -** No report

Young Marines— No Report

Good of the League — The installation of Detachment officers was commenced at 1938 hours and officers were duly sworn at 1945 hours and presented to membership. The MT Dept. convention will be held June 18-20, at the new American Legion in Butte, USA. Long sleeve MCL uniform shirts are now available at the National Ships Store (MCL national) website.

Old Business — Plaques for Law enforcement Officers are being made and should be done soon. Yellowstone County Sheriffs Office sent \$200 donation to the Honor Guard fund for the Nick Reyna services. The Reyna family and Sheriff Mike Linder were very impressed and happy with the service.

New Business — The National cemetery needs new flags- Motion was made and 2nd to appropriate \$540 from funds to purchase six flags, voted aye & passed.

Meeting Closed at 2002hrs.

Next meeting will be held at the Heights VFW on May 10th, 2021 at 1900hrs.

Miles City Squad B Meeting Minutes

No Report Received



Pics of the services for Mike Heins at the National Cemetery in Laurel



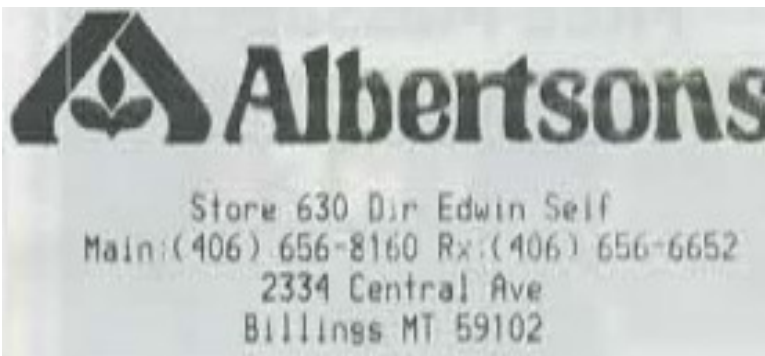
Judge Advocates Report:



Marines,
We have a busy month ahead with Memorial Day events. Hope to see a good attendance at our May meeting.

Semper Fi

Ralph McKinney
ralphmckinney44@q.com



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Sergeant at Arms Report:

May Events :

May 10th MCL Regular business meeting at the Heights VFW 609 Anchor St. @1900hrs.

Memorial Day Services May31st Riverside Cemetery 0730, Mount View 1000, Laurel Noon
No other events scheduled at this time.

Doug Wood
(406)366-2209

I want to thank all you Marines that answer the call for our Honor Guards and Color Guards! Semper Fi



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.

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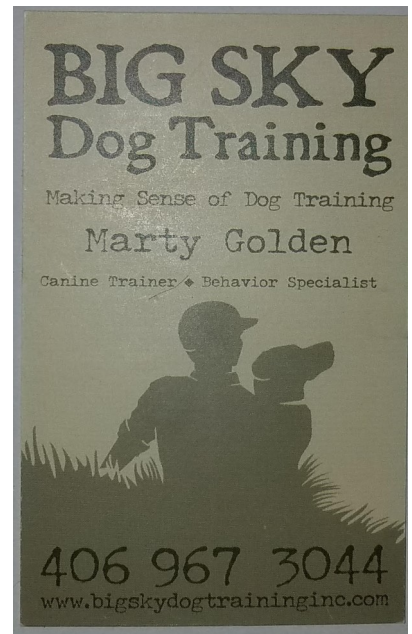
(Commandants letter continued from page one).

The fact that on duty deaths exceed military deaths in combat is a harsh reminder that the military, no matter what the MOS, is a serious and dangerous business and that those who take the Oath do so knowing that they could come home under our Nations flag. So, on this Memorial Day we honor and mourn those who have died in the performance of their duties. The Country that we serve must always remember that the freedoms we enjoy were earned by the deaths of those who chose to serve. This hit at home as my son had recently returned from a deployment as an Amphibious Assault crew member and knew several of the Marines who perished.

SEMPER FI.

Mike Tolstedt (406)698-4965

mtolstedt@yahoo.com



Marines; I have visited with Dee Dee Baker with Dog-Tag Buddies about presenting the QPR, suicide awareness class at our next meeting. She is available to do so. This presentation takes approximately one hour. In lieu of a formal meeting I would like to proceed with her presentation on the 10th. If anyone has anything that requires a formal meeting we can convene after her presentation. We do need to discuss our Memorial Day activities which can be done without a formal meeting. As of now it looks like Memorial Day activities will be similar to last year with a shoot at Riverside Cemetery at 0730, Mountain View at 10 am followed by a shoot at Laurel at noon. I will be attending another Friends meeting on the 12th to get more details. In the interim I will be talking to Doug so he can start getting us lined out for Memorial Day. Let me know if you have questions or concerns. Semper Fi; Mike

Congratulations to Tim Bender, our Detachment Marine of the Year!



At our awards diner at the 4Bs Restaurant most of those present received awards with more to be presented later, including to members of the Miles City Squad.

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.



Paymaster Scott Dunlap assists Commandant Mike Tolstedt in the presentation of awards at the 4Bs
Doug Wood, Jim Borner and Tom Jones receive awards from Commandant Tolstedt

Even our Department Commandant and his Lovely Bride celebrated with us (remotely). Harry had intended to join us at the dinner but was delayed on the trip and was not going to make it time for the presentations and returned to Bozeman and forwarded this picture showing them joining us in spirit.

OOOrah Harry, we appreciate you!!

