



# BUNKER TALK

*God Country Corps*

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

★ ★ ★  
**June 2017** ★ ★ ★

## Detachment Officers

### MEETINGS

Day & Time:  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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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### Senior Vice Commandant

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### Judge Advocate

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### Junior Past Commandant

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### Adjutant/Newsletter

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### Chaplain/Visitation Chair

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### Admin Officer (S-1)

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### Logistics Officer (S-4)

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### Webmaster (S-6)

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### Public Affairs Officer

Ed Rouse  
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850-393-3507

### Service Officer

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562-230-2379

### Sgt-at-Arms

Hiram Johnson  
850-453-4521

## ***A Message from the Commandant***

*Our kick-off to our flagship Heroes Among Us Speaker Series last month was AWESOME beginning with the reception for our guest speaker Medal of Honor recipient Donald "Doc" Ballard at Grover T's Restaurant in Milton on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The donated chow was delicious and Co-Owners Mike Thomas and Rodger Head were gracious hosts. The weather cooperated and Doc Ballard gave a splendid talk taking questions from the audience of over 200 at Veterans Memorial Park on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Doc Ballard did the Classic Muscle Car Raffle drawing with Dean-O Fournier winning the 1972 Dodge Challenger, Mack Strange winning the \$1,000, and Mike Fowler winning the Autographed Country Fest Fender Guitar. All of the raffle tickets were sold with the proceeds going into our "Veterans in Need" Fund. My personal thanks to everyone that sold and/or bought tickets!*

*This month our Heroes Among Us Speaker Series' theme is "Defensive Perimeter Night" with our own Sergeant Major Ralph Hyatt, USMC(Ret.), at Pensacola Veterans Memorial Park on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1800. Mark your calendars so we have a great showing, and remember to bring a chair.*

*Also this month, we have the absolute E-A-S-I-E-S-T event for our members to participant in – our "Rock-A-Thon" fund raiser at Cracker Barrel off Pine Forest Road and I-10 on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. All you have to do is show up and sit in a rocking chair on the "veranda" and open an occasional door. The fun begins at 0800 and runs to the early afternoon.*

*We continue the 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. This continues to be an exciting time for the League; so, please Join the Excitement. As you know, if you invest in something, you reap the rewards of feeling part of a team.*

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

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### ***Minutes of the 9 May 2017 Detachment Meeting:***

Commandant Holzworth called the meeting to order at 1901 at the National Guard Armory, 8790 Grow Drive, Pensacola, FL.

There were 41 members and 4 guests present.

Opening ceremonies and rituals were conducted.

Commandant Holzworth discussed the upcoming start of the Heroes Among Us (HAU) Speaker Series. There will be a HAU Action Team Meeting on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Goat Lips to go over final arrangements for the first HAU event this season on May 25<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned our other two flagship events, the Semper Fi 5K Run on September 9<sup>th</sup>, and the Car Show on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Additionally Commandant Holzworth briefly outlined a vision of the future initiative to develop a Service Division as a separate entity with its own IRS Non-Profit designation, defined structure with billet descriptions, and an SOP for processing Veterans in Need requests.

The reading of the April Meeting Minutes was waived without objection; and, approved as disseminated in "Bunker Talk" and posted on the Detachment website.

The Paymaster's Report was received subject to audit. MCL has changed the dues renewal procedure, all yearly memberships will now run 1 September to 31 August. To make the transition easier on our members, those with renewals now through August, the Detachment will collect all dues and send one transmittal to MCL HQ in September. The Detachment will cover any late fees incurred by those members during this transition. Also, two new tents were purchased and now they need to have the logos put on them. The cost was less than purchasing through the MCL.

Ken Morrow, S-3, discussed all of the events occurring in May, June and July. The planning meetings for the Semper Fi 5K run and the Car show are held at 1400 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at Goat Lips, everyone who is interested are invited to attend. (See "Mark Your Calendar" or the Detachment website). Our next fund raiser is the "Rock-a-Thon" on June 11<sup>th</sup> which is the easiest participation event of the year. Additionally, there are plans for a social event on June 17<sup>th</sup>, more to follow. Looking farther ahead, a Project Officer and Action Team are 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. Also, "Wreaths Across America" will be December 16<sup>th</sup> at Barrancas National Cemetery.

Ed Rouse, PAO, gave updates on the raffle for the 1972 Dodge Challenger. To date, there have been 280 Raffle tickets for the car purchased and we need to push the remaining 70 tickets to get sold prior to the drawing at the HAU event on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Twelve tickets have been sold on-line via our website. There will be a kick-off event Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, at Grover T's Restaurant with free food and a cash bar to honor MOH recipient "Doc" Ballard who is the first 2017 HAU Speaker. He will be in Pensacola for the entire week. So far this year we are \$15,000.00 ahead of last year from sponsors, gifts-in-kind, grants, and donations. He moved the HAU financial report be included for the record. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

Bob Rivera (for the S-4) stated that the gray Detachment T-shirts have been ordered and should arrive soon. Also, the manager of the Cracker Barrel is looking forward to our "Rock-a-Thon" on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Senior Vice Commandant reported that the sponsor drive for the Car Show (October 21<sup>st</sup>) will begin in September.

Ralph Koeniger, S-6, briefly addressed the Detachment's website; and, Dave Glassman gave the members an excellent virtual tour of the new website and its various capabilities.

Dave Glassman reported on the August 19<sup>th</sup> brick placement dedication at the Marine Aviation Memorial Bell Tower at Pensacola Veterans Park. Bricks will be laid in memory of the pilots and crews of Vengeance 01, Pegasus 31 & 32, and Blue Angel #6. Hopefully the family members will be in attendance, and League Members will give a good showing. More to follow as details are known.

Good of the League:

- 1) Clifford Zack announced that May 21<sup>st</sup> is the Young Marines graduation at the VFW in Elberta, AL. Also their Young Marines Birthday Ball will be held November 4<sup>th</sup> also at the VFW in Elberta, and everyone is invited and encourage to attend.
- 2) Dave Glassman briefly introduced his guest, Mr. Robert Donofrio, ARNP, from POEInAction, Inc. who described services available and rendered through "Helping Others To Help Themselves" (Life Skills Coaching).
- 3) Dave Glassman reported on the upcoming "Fishing 4 A Hero" Tournament.
- 4) Bob Burge reported that SgtMaj Ralph Hyatt had his surgery later than expected and is currently in rehab.
- 5) Ed Schaier introduced prospective members Baron and Kevin Smith (Smith Family Carpets).
- 6) Mark Kilgore asked the members if anyone else beside himself would be attending the MCL Department of Florida Convention next month so that the Paymaster can mail off the Delegate Credentials Form and check. Also he showed the full page color ad for the Department Convention Journal that the Principle Staff voted to submit.
- 7) Ken Morrow led the members in serenading Joann Gossett with "Happy Birthday".

The 50/50 (\$24.00 collected) was won by Chuck Miller (\$12.00).

Closing ceremonies and rituals were conducted.

The meeting was adjourned at 2000.

M. A. Kilgore, Adjutant

## ***Mark Your Calendars***

{Check Our Website for More Info on Events}

### **June 2017 Events**

11 June – "Rock-A-Thon" (Cracker Barrel) {0800-1400+}  
13 June – Detachment Monthly Meeting (National Guard Armory) {1900}  
17 June – Social Event (TBA)  
18 June – Semper Fi 5K Run & Car Show Meeting (Goat Lips) {1400}  
22-25 June – MCL Department of Florida Convention (Orlando/Altamonte Springs Hilton)  
29 June – Heroes Among Us – "Defensive Perimeter Night" (Veterans Memorial Park) {1800}

### **July 2017 Events**

04 July – "Riverfest" (Milton) {TBA}  
11 July – Detachment Monthly Meeting (National Guard Armory) {1900}  
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}

## Classic Muscle Car Raffle Winners...



1st Prize - 1972 Dodge Challenger

*Dean-O Fournier*

2nd Prize - \$1,000.00

*Mack Strange*

3rd Prize - Autographed Fender Guitar

*Mike Fowler*

## *Heroes Among Us “Kick-Off Reception”*

Grover T's BBQ Restaurant – Hwy 90 in Milton, FL



Don "Doc" Ballard (left) with our hosts Grover T's Co-Owners Mike Thomas (center) and Rodger Head (right)



Front Row - "Corpsmen Up!" - Our League Corpsmen with "Doc" Ballard - Left to Right - Paul Orr, "Doc" Ballard, Ed Schaier, and George Dodge.

Back Row - Our Hosts - Mike Thomas (L) and Rodger Head (R).



Ed Schaier (left) presents "Doc" Ballard (right) with his special personalized "Heroes Among Us" shirt and a hand-made wooden three-cross sculpture.



Attendees pose with the Guest of Honor Donald "Doc" Ballard



# Heroes Among Us

Medal of Honor Night  
Donald "Doc" Ballard  
May 25, 2017



Colors presented by the Milton High School NJROTC Unit



"Doc" Ballard taking questions from the audience



Detachment Commandant Holzworth addressing the crowd



Great Weather!



"Doc" Ballard drawing the winning tickets for the Classic Muscle Car Raffle



"Doc" Ballard speaking with the Active Duty Corpsmen in attendance from Naval Hospital Pensacola

## ***Did You Know. . .***

### 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](mailto: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](http://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 [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/](http://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/](http://www.marines.mil/clwater/) or contact the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Call Center at (877) 261-9782, or e-mail [clwater@usmc.mil](mailto: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



## 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](http://www.mcleague.org).



### Wreaths Across America



They accept donations year around. Visit their website [www.wreaths-across-america.org](http://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.



### "Rock-A-Thon"

June 11, 2017  
0800-????

Cracker Barrel  
8050 Lavelle Way  
(Off Pine Forest Road & I-10)  
Pensacola, FL

### 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,  
AlarmDirect**  
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



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



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



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



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



**Rhett Smith, P.A.  
Attorney at Law**  
714 N. Spring Street  
Pensacola, Florida 32501  
850-438-1220

### Community Owned Businesses



**Medals to Honor, Inc.**  
"Honoring Those Who Serve"  
[www.MedalsToHonor.com](http://www.MedalsToHonor.com)  
910-326-4275



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



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



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



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