



BUNKER

TALK

God Country

Corps

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



May 2017

MEETINGS

Day & Time:
2nd Tuesday of each month
at 1900

Location:

National Guard Armory
8790 Grow Dr. in the
Ellison Park Industrial

Contact Us:

J. R. Spears Det. 066
Marine Corps League
P. O. Box 3491
Milton, FL 32572
850-637-8385

Detachment Website:

<http://pensacolamcleague.com>

Department of FL Website:

<http://mclfl.org>

Southeast Division Website:

<http://sediv.org>

MCL Website:

<http://mclnational.org>

Detachment Officers

Commandant

Chris Holzworth
cavemanholz@gmail.com
850-463-2494

Senior Vice Commandant

Rob Fernandez
w5.usmc@gmail.com
850-712-0210

Junior Vice Commandant

Chuck Lea
clea56@cox.net
850-485-8280

Judge Advocate

Tom Fitzgerald
fitzgerald346@aol.com
850-206-6873

Junior Past Commandant

Clifford Zack
zaksweski@yahoo.com
850-917-8526

Adjutant/Newsletter

Mark Kilgore
bingowidower@cox.net
850-293-7881

Paymaster

Ben Sandoval
bensand48@hotmail.com
850-572-0554

Sgt-at-Arms

Hiram Johnson
850-453-4521

Chaplain/Visitation Chairperson

William Broach
jet727@gulftel.com
251-961-7272

Admin Officer (S-1)

JoAnn Lee
joannlee1983@gmail.com
850-791-7089

Ops Officer (S-3)

Kenneth Morrow
good2015year@gmail.com
850-288-1097

Logistics Officer (S-4)

Kaci Sloan
mrsalismom@gmail.com
850-400-0165

Webmaster (S-6)

Ralph Koeniger
ralphkoeniger@att.net
850-725-0034

Public Affairs Officer

Ed Rouse
erousecpa@bellsouth.net
850-393-3507

A Message from the Commandant

Elections are over, officers installed, now we are ramping up for the Spring, Summer, Fall seasons of MCL activities for our community. The 2017 season will prove to be a great opportunity for us as a League and a group of Veterans to give back to a benevolent community which has done so much in supporting training of Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen for our nation's operational forces.

This month we kick off our 2017 Heroes Among Us Speaker Series with Medal of Honor recipient, Donald "Doc" Ballard, at Pensacola Veterans Memorial Park on Thursday, May 25th beginning at 1800. Mark your calendars so we have a great showing.

We are also in the planning stages for our two other Flagship events, the Semper Fi 5K Run in September which is followed by the MCL Car Show in October. These events give our Detachment the opportunity to show the League's Esprit de Corps, as well as our passion and desire to serve to the greater good of our community and nation. Besides these wonderful events, we have smaller events and socials coming up to grow our Detachment's camaraderie and spirit.

I am asking all the Marine Corps League Members/Warriors to get involved in the planning and organization of these events. Dates and times of planning meetings are elsewhere in this newsletter. JOIN US and JOIN THE FIGHT as these events are not only great for contributing to our community...they are just plain FUN to organize, be a part of, and grow together in the spirit of our beloved Corps. This is 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

Minutes of the 11 April 2017 Detachment Meeting:

Commandant Holzworth called the meeting to order at 1905 at the National Guard Armory, 8790 Grow Drive, Pensacola, FL.

There were 37 members and 5 guests present.

Opening ceremonies and rituals were conducted.

Past Detachment Commandant Pete Southerland installed Commandant-Elect Holzworth as Detachment Commandant for the ensuing year.

Commandant Holzworth installed Junior Vice Commandant Chuck Lea and Staff Judge Advocate Tom Fitzgerald. Senior Vice Commandant Rob Fernandez was excused and will be officially installed next month.

Commandant Holzworth announced his Staff Appointments: Adjutant, Mark Kilgore; Paymaster, Ben Sandoval; Sergeant-at-Arms, Hiram Johnson; Chaplain, William Broach; S-1, JoAnn Lee; S-3, Ken Morrow; S-4, Kaci Sloan; S-6 (Web Gunny), Ralph Koeniger; PAO, Ed Rouse; and Service Officer, George "Doc" Dodge.

Sgt-at-Arms reported that SgtMaj Ralph Hyatt will be having knee surgery.

Commandant Holzworth recognized Maggie Rogers, out-going Adjutant, for her service and numerous contributions to the success of the Detachment during her tenure as Adjutant.

The Adjutant's Report for March was not available.

The Paymaster's Report was received subject to audit. MCL has changed the dues renewal procedure, more to follow at May's meeting.

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 MCL Car Show will be held at 1400 on the 3rd Sunday of the month at Goat Lips. (See "Mark Your Calendar" or the Detachment website).

Ed Rouse, PAO, gave updates on the raffle for the 1972 Dodge Challenger (Flyer on Page 6) and the "Heroes Among Us" program. Raffle tickets for the car can be purchased on-line at our website for your convenience. Over the past four years the Detachment has

raised almost \$100K through corporate sponsors, gifts in kind, grants, and donations. He stated that he is working on setting a time and date to present Mayor Hayward with a framed HAU poster as this year's Honorary Chairman. Also there will be a full-page ad placed in the Pensacola News Journal sometime in May.

Ralph Koeniger, S-6, briefly addressed the Detachment's website which is a new platform and 90% complete. He gave kudos to Dave Glassman for his input and work on developing the state of the art website. Moved by Dave Glassman, seconded by Ken Morrow, to expend \$12.00 to purchase a new URL for the Detachment's website. The current URL is not exactly "search-engine friendly" often directing inquiries to "Master of Ceremonies" websites. Voice vote taken, motion carried.

George "Doc" Hodge, Service Officer, announced there is a new Director for the VA Joint Ambulatory Care Clinic (JACC) on Hwy 98; and discussed the apparent success of the VA's "Veterans Choice" Card Program in getting more expedient medical care for veterans. He introduced his guest, Marvin Merillatt, Escambia County Veterans Service Officer, who briefly addressed the members about services he offers.

Good of the League:

- 1) Commandant Holzworth swore in new members Ted Bizko, Mike Hammac, and Wayne Sasser.
- 2) Judd Richardson thanked the Detachment for their concern and assistance over the holidays.
- 3) Bill Bledsoe briefly discussed the Santa Rosa County Fair held in April and our booth and the need for better communications and earlier planning for better participation.
- 4) Bob Burge briefly addressed last month's Mission of Mercy Dental Program. He moved to have the Detachment present two plaques to the lead dentists in charge of the event, seconded by Ken Morrow. Voice vote taken, motion carried.
- 5) Mark Kilgore reported briefly on the recent MCL Southeast Division Convention he attended last month and presented the Detachment with an "attendance" streamer for the Detachment Colors. Also he reported that the 10,000 USMC 16mm and 35mm films have been turned over to The University of South Carolina Library for archiving and preservation. In the future the library hopes to convert many of the films into a digital format for viewing on-line. Anyone interested in attending the Department of Florida Convention in June should contact either the Paymaster or Adjutant to be placed on the Registration Form.

The 50/50 (\$38.00 collected) was won by Marvin Merillat (\$19.00).

Closing ceremonies and rituals were conducted.

The meeting was adjourned at 2012.

M. A. Kilgore, Adjutant

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; 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, 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/, 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/ or contact the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Call Center at (877) 261-9782, or e-mail 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

Mark Your Calendars

{Check Our Website & Attached Flyers for More Info on Events}

May 2017 Events

21 May – Semper Fi 5K Run & Car Show Meeting (Goat Lips) {1400}

25 May – Heroes Among Us - Medal of Honor Night (Veterans Memorial Park) {1800}

June 2017 Events

11 June – Rock-A-Thon (Cracker Barrel) {0800-1400+}

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}

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}



2017

HEROES AMONG US

Sponsored by: Marine Corps League
Corporal J. R. Spears Detachment 066
Pensacola, Florida

SPEAKER SERIES

Representing those who have
distinguished themselves in
combat from every generation and
branch of the Armed Forces.



HEROES AMONG US:
awarded the 2015
George Washington Honor Medal
by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

WHERE:

Pensacola Veterans
Memorial Park
[Bayfront Parkway
near 9th Avenue]

WHEN:

May – October, 6 pm
See schedule for dates

2017 Season Scheduled Events

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|
|  | MAY
25 | Medal of Honor Night
<small>Guest of Honor</small>
Doc Donald Ballard , Hospital Corpsman Second Class, USN,
Medal of Honor, Republic of Vietnam |
|  | JUN
29 | Defensive Perimeter Night
<small>Guest of Honor</small>
Sergeant Major Ralph Hyatt , USMC,
Bronze Star, Republic of Vietnam |
|  | JUL
27 | Korean War Remembrance Night
<small>Guest of Honor</small>
Sergeant (Rev.) John Phillips , US Army,
Bronze Star, Battle of Pork Chop Hill, Republic of Korea |
|  | AUG
31 | Marine Aviation Night
<small>Guest of Honor</small>
Colonel Chuck Lea , USMC,
Republic of Vietnam |
|  | SEP
28 | USN Carrier Flight Operations Night
<small>Guests of Honor</small>
Rear Admiral Don Quinn , USN
Operation Desert Storm, Kuwait & Iraq |
|  | OCT
26 | First Responders Night
<small>Guests of Honor</small>
Chip Simmons
Chief of Police, City of Pensacola (Ret.) |

Water and light refreshments provided • Bring chairs and blankets for seating • Rain Venue- Rosie's at Seville Quarter

HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
The Honorable Ashton Hayward
Mayor of Pensacola

Donations for the "Veterans in Distress Fund" can be sent to:
EDWARD M. ROUSE, CPA, 6825 Oak Street, Milton, FL 32570.

Checks payable to: MCL DET 066.



CLASSIC MUSCLE CAR RAFFLE

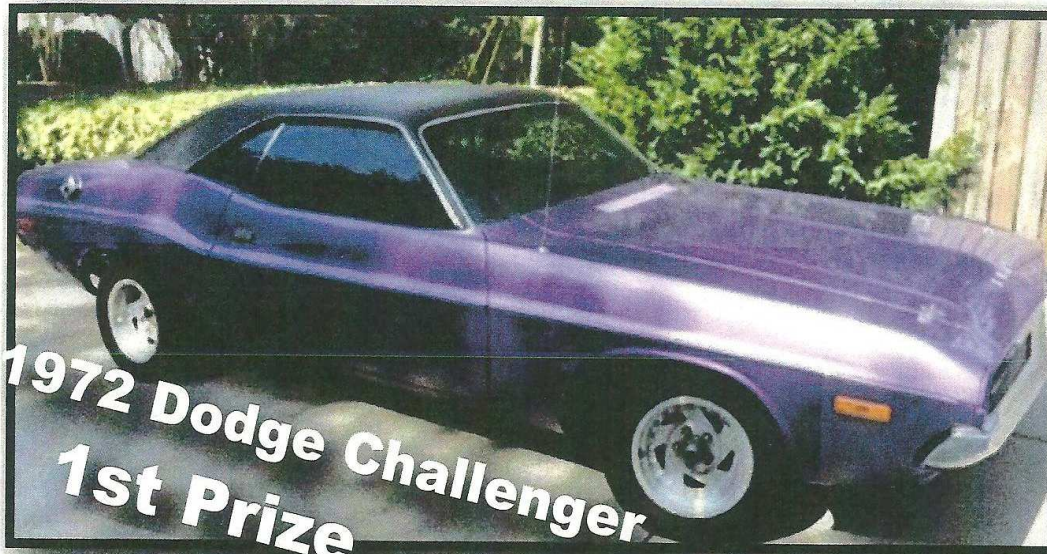


Only 350 Tickets Will Be Sold
\$100 each

All proceeds going to MCL Veterans in Distress Fund



Excellent
chance
to win!!!



- V8
- 360 CID Engine
- 12,820 Miles
- Automatic
- A/C
- Power Steering
- Purple Paint
- Black Vinyl Top
- Black Interior
- Bucket Seats
- Rally Gauges

Condition #2 Fine
Value \$20,750.00

Contact: erouse@bellsouth.net or web.pcolamcleague@gmail.com to get copy of appraisal.

2nd Prize
\$1,000!!!



3rd Prize
Autographed
Country Fest
Fender Guitar



Drawing to be held at an Heroes
Among Us (HAU) event as soon as all
the tickets are sold. HAU events are
May to October at the Pensacola
Veterans Memorial Park.

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.



Wreaths Across America



They accept donations year around. Visit their website 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 DD1172 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
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