



GatorDet Staff

- **Commandant**
Dick Lester
- **SrVice Cmdt**
Bob Curti
- **JrVice Cmdt**
Michael O'Brien
- **JrPast Cmdt**
Scott DuPree
- **Adjutant/Paymaster**
Bob Curti
- **Judge Advocate**
John Murdoch
- **Sergeant at Arms**
Eric Kidwell
- **Chaplain**
Mary Hildebrand
- **Quartermaster**
Tom Sklens
- **Public Affairs Officer**
Nicholas Rucarean
- **Historian**
Steve Homewood
- **Librarian**
Anne Zecca
- **Social Director**
Sandy Golden
- **MCL Web**
Scott DuPree
- **Master Chef**
Michael O'Brien

GATOR ALMAR

Gator Detachment 990, Marine Corps League
PO Box 358772, Gainesville FL 32635-8772



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Commandant Message

NOW HEAR THIS

The Marine Corps Birth-day Ball is 12 November at the Paramount Plaza Hotel and you must purchase your ticket before the Ball. We have to let the hotel know in advance as to how many will come so they can have enough food. We only have a 2% leeway and we will not pay for more than that. So tickets at the door will be nil. You can get your tickets by coming to the meeting or online at—<http://www.gatordet.com/ball2011.html>

Another subject: From time to time we have problems with our server and change that server. Please put us on you list to notify when you do this so we can update our files and get you the information needed as to the Detachment. Also, if you move or change your phone # please let us know. We have been trying to update our files so we can keep you informed when things are going on.

Another subject: It has been brought to my attention that maybe another date or time for our meeting may be helpful due to members with night vision problems going out late at night. One idea was to have it on the last Saturday of the month after the Young Marines Fund Raiser Breakfast. You can have breakfast, get your car washed, and have the meeting all in one morning. I have talked with other groups and they have a better attendance with day meetings. Send me your ideas on this. Semper Fi, Dick





FUTURE MEETINGS

OCTOBER

16 / Liberty Fest Auction
18 / MCL Staff Meeting
20 / Military Support Group
Dinner & Auction
25 / MCL Regular Meeting
29 / ML Young Marines
Breakfast

NOVEMBER

6 / Liberty Fest
12 / MC BALL
15 / MCL Staff Meeting
22 / MCL Regular Meeting
26 / ML Young Marines
Breakfast

DECEMBER

****No Meetings****

President Barack Obama presented this brave young American with the Medal of Honor for his exploits two years ago in an Afghanistan valley that had become a valley of death for his brothers-in-arms caught in an ambush. His courage during a six-hour fight against Taliban insurgents was extraordinary. Just 21 and a corporal at the time, he is credited with saving 36 comrades, American and Afghan, and killing at least eight Taliban attackers. From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette -

September 18, 2011

Lt. Gen. John W. Bergman (Retired) Guest of Honor

Lieutenant General Bergman was commissioned in the Marine Corps Reserve under the Platoon Leader School program after graduation from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1969. In addition to attaining an M.B.A. degree from the University of West Florida, his formal military education includes Naval Aviation Flight Training, Amphibious Warfare, Command & Staff, Landing Force Staff Planning, Reserve Component National Security, Naval War College Strategy & Policy, Syracuse University national Security Seminar, Combined Forces Air Component Command, LOGTECH, and CAPSTONE.

He flew CH-46 helicopters with HMM-261 at Marine Corps Air Station, New River NC and with HMM-164 in Okinawa / Republic of Vietnam. Assigned as a flight instructor, he flew the T-28 with VT-6, NAS Whiting Field FL. He left active duty in 1975 and flew UH-1 helicopters with the Rhode Island National Guard, Quonset Point, RI. Following a 1978 civilian employment transfer to Chicago IL, he served in several 4th Marine Aircraft Wing units as NAS Glenview IL (HML-776, flying the UH-1; VMGR-234, flying the KC-130; and Mobilization Training Unit IL-1). He was selected to stand up the second KC-130 squadron in 4th MAW and, in 1988, became the first Commanding Officer, VMGR-452, Stewart ANGB, Newburgh NY. In 1992-1994 he commanded Mobilization Station, Chicago IL, largest of the 47 Marine Corps Mobilization Stations.

During 1995 he served as a Special Staff Officer at Marine Corps Reserve Support Command, Overland Park KS. In 1996 he became Chief of Staff / Deputy Commander, I Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Command Element, Camp Pendleton CA. In 1997 he transferred to 4th Marine Aircraft Wing Headquarters New Orleans LA to serve as Assistant Chief of Staff / G-1. Promoted to Brigadier General, he became Deputy Commander, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. In 1998 he transferred to Headquarters, Marine Forces Europe, Stuttgart Germany and served as Deputy Commander.

Recalled to active duty in 1999 he was dual-hatted as EUCOM, Deputy J-3A. He then commanded II Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Command Element, Camp Lejeune NC until assuming command of 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, New Orleans LA in 2000. In 2002 he assumed command of the 4th Force Service Support Group, New Orleans LA. He also served as Chairman, Secretary of the Navy Marine Corps Reserve Policy Board, 2001—2003.

Returning to active duty in October 2003, he served as Director, Reserve Affairs, Quantico VA. He assumed command of Marine Forces Reserve / Marine Forces North on 10 June 2005.

Lt. Gen. Bergman is now retired.



MCL Related News

DETACHMENT revised by-laws were passed at the September meeting. Contact Judge Advocate John Murdoch if you have any questions about this. By-laws are posted on our website.

MILTON LEWIS YOUNG MARINES members will be attending the 70th anniversary Pearl Harbor remembrance this December. / www.miltonlewisyoungmarines.com

ALL AMERICAN LIBERTY FEST will have a silent auction on Sunday, **16 October** at the Gainesville Country Club from 4:00—7:30 PM. Contact Sandy Golden if you need tickets (\$15) or additional information.

MILITARY SUPPORT GROUP OF ALACHUA COUNTY is having their BBQ dinner and auction on Thursday, **20 October** from 6:30—10:00 PM at the Alachua Women’s Club (14656 S. Main Street). Contact Sandy Golden if you need tickets (\$50) or additional information. / www.msgfac.com

MCL / MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOGS will have their ROSE PROGRAM on Saturday, **19 November** at the Publix on 39th Avenue near I-75 from 0900– Noon. Contact Commandant Dick Lester if you need additional information.

**TIME TO BUY MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL PROGRAM ADS AND TICKETS
SEE INFORMATION BELOW**

Marine Corps Band Comes to Gainesville

Marine Corps Band, “The President’s Own” will perform at the Phillips Center for Performing Arts on Tuesday October 18 at 7:30 PM. UFPA has distributed all free tickets, but the public is invited to come to the Phillips Center the night of the show, as empty seats will be filled approximately 15 minutes before the show starts.

The Marine Band is America’s oldest continuously active professional music organization. Founded in 1798, the band has performed for every U.S. President since John Adams.

Marine Corps Birthday Ball

BIRTHDAY BALL - TIME TO BUY TICKETS AND ADS

This year’s MC Birthday Ball will be held 12 November 2011 at the Paramount Plaza Hotel.

Lt. General John W. Bergman (Retired)
will be our Guest of Honor.

Tickets \$32 **BUY BY OCTOBER MEETING OR ONLINE AT**
<http://www.gatordet.com/ball2011.html>

**BUY BALL PROGRAM ADS BY OCTOBER MEETING OR
ONLINE AT** http://www.gatordet.com/BallAdForm2011_b.pdf



**MC Birthday Ball
Paramount Plaza
Hotel is at 2900 SW
13th Street**

**Social hour starts at
5:00 PM**

**See MCL website for
additional details and
a map.**

**GatorDet
Regular Meeting
Location**

**American Legion
Post 16**

**Social 6 PM
Meeting 7 PM**

**[Fourth Tuesday
of each month]**

DIRECTIONS to
American Legion Post 16

**North Gainesville just
before NW 6th Street
meets 441 / NW 13th
Street—turn right at the
former Rancher store.
This road will curve to
the right. Then turn left
into the AL Post 16
parking lot**



TOYS FOR TOTS program is getting under way. Stay tuned for more news on this year's efforts.

Coordinator is Eric Kidwell.

www.GatorDet.com

MCL Mission Statement

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps . . .

Banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy . . .

Voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines and former Marines and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

Marine Corps League

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