



The Gator ALMAR



BEST NEWSLETTER 1999, 2000, 2001
EMAIL EDITION

Gator Detachment of the Marine Corps League, Inc.
P.O. Box 5845, Gainesville FL 32627 352.376.1774

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NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2002

INSTALLATION, COVERED DISH ON MARCH 26TH

The General Meeting on March 26th will be a covered dish social. We will also conduct our annual installation of officers, where your leadership staff for 2002-2003 will be put into place. Please bring a covered dish. Also feel free to bring family and friends to share as we enjoy the company of each other and plenty of good food. We are fortunate that Publix has been so supportive of our detachment through the years. If you shop at the Main Street Publix, don't hesitate to let the management know how much we appreciate their generosity. Please remember to bring a covered dish and a potential member - we need both. See you there.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

Webster's Dictionary defines success as: favorable or desired outcome.

We are very fortunate that our detachment is inundated with Marines that know success in combat and have brought this winning mentality to the meetings. Our 100 plus member detachment is strong, capable and growing every month.

We have made Gainesville a better city through our efforts and this year's objectives embrace even more worthwhile and enjoyable events. Helping the needy, participating and leading in patriotic events, bringing the Marine pride and tradition to the fore; all of these should make each one of us proud to support our detachment functions whenever possible.

More requests are coming in for us to give talks to schools and civic groups. This is indications of success in our mission so Mr. Webster was right, we are seeing favorable outcomes to our efforts. Let's make 2002 our most successful year ever!

Semper Fi, Bob Gasche

Memorial Day

Plans are already under way to commemorate this year's Memorial Day on May 27th in conjunction with the VFW and the VA Hospital. We will be holding a combined program at the VA Hospital starting at 10:00 a.m. We welcome any suggestions you may have that would make this even more memorable. The Gainesville Community Band has been invited again and our well received flag folding ceremony will again be presented. As plans finalize we will keep you informed.

MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE NOTE: Membership Dues are \$30.00.
WIVES: YOU MAY NOW BECOME ASSOCIATE MEMBERS!! Members, please give consideration to a **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**. Upon payment of Life dues **anytime after submitting your initial dues**, you become a member for the rest of your life. **You can pay at any time, as long as you are a member in good standing.** The fees are determined by age group.

Age 40 and below: \$250.00
Age 41 to 50: \$200.00
Age 51 to 60: \$150.00
Age 61 and up: \$75.00

GOOD NEWS! YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY ALL AT ONCE. TALK TO THE PAYMASTER ABOUT MAKING INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS TOWARD YOUR LIFE MEMBERSHIP!

If you consider the price of dues for the future years, this is a smart investment and you will always be in good standing with the Marine Corps League. The Gator Det has more than 20 Life Members now. Join the ranks!!

DELINQUENT MEMBERSHIPS - The following members are shown to be delinquent in paying their dues. If delinquent, send your \$30.00 renewal fee to PAYMASTER, P O BOX 5845, Gainesville FL 32627. If you believe you name appears in error, please write to the same address and we'll review our records.

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|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Randy Atkins | Robert Behl | Glenn Busby |
| Don Dennis | Shawn Engel | Matt Folk |
| Diana Frank | Norm Froscher | Dalton Harrison |
| John Jenkins | Hank Korreca | Rich Lalonde |
| Ronnie Marston | John Murdoch | David Nicholson |
| Glenn Nordquist | Ken Overstreet | Andrew Stevenson |
| Dan Stout | Michael Weiss | Joyce Weiss |

ALMAR BY EMAIL: Do you have an email address? If so, email me at ssgtd@bellsouth.net to receive your ALMAR via email. It can contain more information than the hardcopy version.

VFW RECOGNITION BANQUET

Seven outstanding public service persons were recognized by VFW Post 2811 on Thursday March 14th. Each of the seven chosen received a check for \$200.00, a VFW certificate, a trophy and a special VFW pin. The banquet was well attended as 97 people enjoyed a great catered meal prepared by the Hungry Rams of Eastside High School.

Several city and county dignitaries were present with the mayor and the chair of the county commission making brief speeches.



Commandant Bob Gasche congratulates Gainesville Police Officer of the Year Robert Kohler, with VFW Post 2811 Commander Gary Powers, in background on the right.

Essay contest winners were also recognized with the first place winners (8th graders) reading their essays to the audience.

Many thanks to Commander Gary Powers for promoting such an outstanding event. It is proposed that this become an annual program.

8th AVENUE CLEANUP CONDUCTED

Hub caps, styrofoam cups, beer bottles and numerous other items of trash no longer litter Northwest 8th Avenue between 34th and 22nd Streets.

Saturday, March 9th, found Ann Zacca, Glenn Nordquist, Dick Lester, Tom Ford and Bob Gasche picking up six bags of litter that was strewn along both sides of 8th Avenue. The mindless littering by passing motorists not only desecrates our city but encourages others to commit the same thoughtless act. Many

thanks to those detachment members who responded to the call and helped to make our city a little cleaner place in which to live.

FLAGS RESET AT VFW POST 2811

Using a very manueverable bucket truck, Gary Powers and Dick Lester were able to reset the flags on the flagpole located in the front of the VFW post property.

We are indebted to Dick Lester for working on the 8th Avenue cleanup, then driving home to pick up the bucket truck used to untangle the lanyards on the flagpole, which flies the American standard as well as each service flag.

Ann Zacca and Bob Gasche took photos of this "high level" activity. Pictures will be passed around at our next detachment meeting and mounted in our detachment album as well.

Please notice how much better these reset flags look at your next visit to the VFW.

GATOR DETACHMENT ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF CLOTHES

We are continuing our latest community service programs that will provide clothes and shoes to needy people in our community. **FOR THE CHILDREN:** a program for homeless children. Clothes and shoes should be the sizes for elementary school children in grades kindergarten through sixth grade. Ralph Lewis will be coordinating this project and delivering your contributions to the elementary school children that are in need. **FOR THE VETERANS:** Men's clothing of all sizes accepted. A program coordinated at the VA Hospital will donate these items to homeless veterans receiving outpatient treatment. **FOR THE WOMEN:** Women's clothing of all types and sizes are being donated to the Peaceful Paths program, which shelters battered women and runs a thrift store. **BRING ALL OF YOUR DONATIONS TO THE DETACHMENT MEETINGS.**

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM BEING PLANNED

Please mark you calendars now to attend the Memorial Day Program at the VA Hospital on May 27th at 10:00 a.m. Gator Det Commandant Bob Gasche is coordinating the event which will incorporate participation from several veteran organizations as well as the VA Hospital.

VFW Post 2811 will host a lunch at the post around noon. Commander Gary Powers is looking for anyone who would like to assist in the preparation of hamburgers and hot dogs. If interested, contact the VFW at 376-7660.

APRIL MEETING WILL ALSO BE COVERED DISH! BE PREPARED!

Upcoming at Gator Det ...

March 26, 2002, 7pm - VFW Post 2811 - General Meeting

April 25, 2002, 6:30pm - SFCC Downtown Center - Officers Meeting

April 30, 2002, 7pm - VFW Post 2811 - General Meeting

May 27, 2002, 10am - Memorial Day ceremony, VA Hospital

Your Gator Det Staff 2002 - 2003

Bob Gasche - Commandant

Gary Powers - Senior Vice Commandant

Richard Lester - Junior Vice Commandant

Scott DuPree - Jr. Past Commandant

Ralph Lewis - Judge Advocate

Fredrick Peterkin - Adjutant/Paymaster
& Quartermaster

Dan Brinsko - Sergeant at Arms

Ben Kinard - Chaplain

Norm Froscher - Public Affairs Officer

Alan Gray - Military Historian and
Birthday Ball Chairman

Patti Bartlett - Photographer

Bob Casey - Americanism and Education Officer

Cary Hill - Toys for Tots Chairman

“ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE”