



The Gator ALMAR



BEST NEWSLETTER 1999, 2000, 2001

<http://gatordet.tripod.com>

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

352.222.7704

Commandant: Bob Gasche 376-0402 JUL/AUG 2003
Editor: Scott DuPree - ssgtd@bellsouth.net 336.5822

Next Month's Meeting 26 August 2003

Food will be available. As always, if you want to share a dish, bring it.

BALL TICKETS \$15.00

The Birthday Ball is on schedule for November 1st. Tickets are on sale now for \$15.00 each. We may have to limit the number of tickets, so don't wait until the last minute. Get yours now. If you need them via mail, send payment and name to Gator Det at the address in the heading of this newsletter.

CORRECTION TO A CORRECTION

In the last issue, I corrected a previous error and announced that Associate member **Betty Griffith** was the person who coordinated the Blood Drive in April, but I misspelled her name in the "correction" and my apologies for such. - editor

IT'S BINGO TIME

Do you want to help your detachment in a BIG way? We need volunteers to work BINGO. Anyone interested in helping please contact the Commandant at 376-0402.

YOUNG MARINES

The Milton Lewis Young Marines graduated five more "boots" on June 21st with our Judge Advocate, **Ralph Lewis**, as the guest speaker. The ceremony also included promotions and presentation of awards and ribbons. This unit is becoming even more active and organized, with trips planned this summer and fall to air shows, museums, parades and an outing at Camp Blanding, in addition to other events and training. The next "boot camp" will begin September 6th. We have formed an affiliation with the Alachua County Girls Club which has about 700 members and we are seeking the same with the Boys and Girls Club. We are getting permission from the School Board to attend open houses at local elementary schools to advertise the program. If these recruiting efforts are successful, we will be needing additional help from Marines to manage our program.

Marines **Dick Lester** and **Ralph Lewis** were at a recent training session. Dick Lester, a certified NRA Instructor, will be teaching rifle safety to the Young Marines. Ralph Lewis is lining them up for a weekend trip to Camp Blanding. Ask these Marines about the program. If you have other questions or want more information, call Young Marines Adjutant **Jennifer Talton** at 386-418-4185 or see our site at www.miltonlewisyoungmarines.com.

Charter Member Roy Totten critically ill

Marine **Roy Totten**, 68, is critically ill in the hospital in his home town of Lake City. Roy's signature appears on the detachment's charter, as he was driving for each meeting from Lake City during our formative days. His ability to drive at night became a limitation a couple of years ago but he has remained a member of our detachment. His doctors gave the Marine about one week after he was removed from dialysis. That was two weeks ago. Marine Totten has shown incredible courage in dealing frankly with his pending demise and has made many of the arrangements himself.

He called me (Scott DuPree) as his past Commandant to ask if the Gator Detachment would ensure there was a military portion of his funeral. Commandant **Bob Gasche** has visited Roy, along with our Chaplain **Ben Kinard** (Roy has asked Ben to sing God Bless America at his funeral) and arrangements have been made. I would ask that any GatorDet member that gets a funeral notice, try to attend this one. Roy Totten is a good man and a Gator Det brother. May we all have the courage and grace to face our own final days as this Marine. Semper Fidelis. For info, call Bob Gasche 376-0402.

BIRTHDAY BALL - 2003

WHEN: Saturday, 1 November 2003

Cocktail hour begins 1700

Ceremony/Banquet begins 1800

WHERE: VFW Post 2811

MENU: Buffet of Prime Rib, Smoked Turkey, Vegetables, Creamed Mashed Potatoes, Salad, Beverage and Dessert.

TICKETS: \$15.00 Each

SELL ADS AND WIN FREE TICKETS!! If you collect the most money for advertisement sales, you will receive 6 free tickets. Second place will get 4 free tickets and third place will get 2 free tickets. Advertisement sales will be final 21 October 2003. Go Get 'Em!!

Report from the State Convention

At the State Convention, the Gator Detachment was represented by Commandant **Bob Gasche**, Adjutant/Paymaster **Fredrick Peterkin** and Past Commandant **Scott DuPree**. During the business portion on Saturday, June 28th, the Department of Florida presented two special tricycles for handicap children to a central Florida school. Several awards were given to individuals and detachments for their achievements. Department officers gave their reports. National Commandant **John Tuohy** and National Senior Vice Commandant **Helen Hicks** were in attendance and gave their remarks. A few bylaw modifications were made (at the state level) and then elections of officers was held. **Ken Travis** of Port Charlotte was elected Commandant. **Dale Condy**, the current Commandant of the Suwannee Valley Detachment, will serve as your District 2 Vice Commandant for 2003-2004. GatorDet Past Commandant **Scott DuPree** was appointed Department Internet Communications Officer.

It was noted that the Department of Florida has 49 detachments with at least 2 charters pending signature. The national membership now exceeds 55,500 with 27 detachments added in the previous 10 months.

From the Adjutant: Let's Pass The Word!

In the Technology Age it helps an organization to conduct its' members business more efficiently and with less expense if it uses e-mail instead of the telephone and US Postal Service. Gator Detachment would be able to expand many of its services, increase its efficiency, and enhance the sentiments of brotherhood among its' Marine Veterans. To aid the Detachment in its objectives please send your e-mail address to FredricP@aol.com. Semper Fi!

The GatorDet now has a ceremonial unit. Participants will be able to wear the khaki shirts and work with M-1 rifles. This unit will play a major role in serving our community. If you want further information, please contact Dick Lester at 386-462-1192.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Dues are \$30.00. Members, please give consideration to a LIFE MEMBERSHIP. Fees are:

Age 40 and below: \$250.00

Age 41 to 50: \$200.00

Age 51 to 60: \$150.00

Age 61 and up: \$75.00

IMPORTANT NOTE: IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A LIFE MEMBERSHIP, DON'T WAIT. THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN AUGUST WILL BE CONSIDERING A MOTION TO DOUBLE THE PRICES!

If you are not a Life Member, membership dues are payable annually on the anniversary of your joining the League. Failure to pay on time puts you in Delinquent status. If you are not sure when your dues are to be renewed, please call the Paymaster, Fredrick Peterkin, at 222-7704.

Below is a listing of web sites from *Defend America*, a DOD news page at <http://www.defendamerica.mil> that have programs to support the troops.

Please visit these sites to see if there anything that interests you and that you may want to participate in.

For instance at <http://www.commissaries.com/> you can purchase Gift Certificates and have delivered to specific service personnel.

<http://www.libertyunites.org/>

<http://www.redcross.org/>

<http://www.1.salvationarmy.org/>

http://www.uso.org/pubs/8_13_18.cfm?CFID=992234&CFTOKEN=99094581

<http://www.commissaries.com/>

<http://www.fisherhouse.org/>

Mary Hildebrand - Telephone Tree
Scott DuPree - Newsletter/Birthday Ball Chairman
Kirby Stewart - Fund Raising Chairman
Cary Hill - Toys for Tots Chairman
Bob Casey - Americanism and Education Officer
Ann Zecca - Photographer/Librarian
Alan Gray - Military Historian
Norm Froscher - Public Affairs Officer
Ben Kinard - Chaplain

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
Ray Guyette - Quartermaster
Dan Brinsko - Sergeant at Arms

Upcoming at Gator Det ...
August 21, 2003, 6:30 p.m. - SFCC Downtown Conference Room - Staff Meeting
August 26, 2003, 7pm - VFW Post 2811 - General Meeting

GATOR DETACHMENT 990

P.O. BOX 5845

GAINESVILLE FL 32627-5845



“ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE”
