



The Gator ALMAR



BEST NEWSLETTER 1999, 2000, 2001

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, FEBRUARY 26, 2002

ELECTIONS APPROACHING

Remember that we have several officer positions that are elected. The Commandant, the Senior Vice Commandant, the Junior Vice Commandant, the Judge Advocate, and the Adjutant are elected positions. See their job descriptions on the next page. **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS** will take place at the **FEBRUARY** general meeting. Those elected will be installed at the **March** general Meeting. Please consider taking part in your detachment affairs, either as an elected officer or in one of many positions that are appointed.

FROM THE COMMANDANT:

We begin 2002 as a somewhat different nation since September 11th has left a horrific scar on the entire world. Terrorism has become the operative word than now spreads fear and concern among millions of caring citizens. We have felt the shock, prepared ourselves for battle and are presently taking the fight to those that would promote and initiate bioterrorism or other means of hurting people.

Our detachment will continue to recognize citizens who make patriotic contributions, participate in events that promote our Marine Corps League goals, lead the way in community outreach and carry on the honored traditions of the United States Marine Corps.

We are well under way with plans for this year's **Birthdays Ball, Toys for Tots, field trips, Memorial Day, Fanfare and Fireworks, Homecoming Parade and Veterans' Day**. This year we plan to combine our **Memorial Day** program with the **Veterans' Administration Hospital** and hold it on the hospital grounds. More news will be forthcoming about this event that is scheduled for **May 27th**.

On **March 14th**, we plan to participate in the **V.F.W. Post 2811 Awards Dinner** which will be catered by the **Hungry Rams of Eastside High School** (a culinary school program).

This dinner will recognize public servants who have served our community in an outstanding manner. I encourage all of you to attend this meaningful program and if you are eligible, to join the V.F.W. as our local post, which works so closely with us, is undeniably the number 1 post in the State of Florida. They are lead by V.F.W. National Aide-de-Camp Gary Powers, who is also our Gator Detachment Junior Vice Commandant.

Our detachment will again raise the Marine Corps flag over the City of Gainesville on **November 10th**. Also, we continue to be recognized by the City Commission as the Mayor presents us with proclamations on patriotic holidays.

Our goals are worthy, and significant, as they continue to help make the Gainesville area a better place to live. All detachment members are encouraged to participate in our many programs throughout 2002 as we embark on our crusade with courage, honor and commitment. This is our way - this is the Marine way. **Semper Fi - Bob Gasche**

MILTON LEWIS YOUNG MARINES UNIT

The Gator Detachment continues to press forward in the formation of the Milton Lewis Young Marines. Aside from the paperwork drill, the Commandant met with officials from the Reichert House Program to explore our common goals and consider a unification of resources and efforts. Standing by in the wings is Justin Nelson, our Young Marine Adjutant. He will play a key role in developing our training program. As the formation of this program nears completion, we will be asking for Gator Det members to step forward and help out with these kids. This is going to be a great program and we all look forward to getting the first call to attention.

MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE NOTE: Membership Dues are \$30.00.

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 (DICK LESTER 462-1192) 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!!

QUARTERMASTER: CALL HIM AT WORK!

Our Quartermaster, Stephen Homewood, owns Gator Outfitters. The Gator Det supplies and uniform items are available through him. If you need anything from merchandise to uniform items, call him at 336-3216.

Update on USAF Memorial

After several years of debate between predominantly retired Marines and Airmen regarding the location of a proposed USAF memorial, a site has been chosen at the Navy Annex hill overlooking the Pentagon. The Marine Corps has long recognized the need for a memorial to recognize the contributions of those who have served their nation in the U.S. Air Force. The site selected for this memorial offers an excellent location with a commanding view overlooking the Pentagon and the Washington basin. This is truly a win-win outcome as it allows each service an appropriate area to honor its service members.

COMMANDANT: Directs all Gator Det activities within the community, conducts all Gator Det meetings, and serves as advisor to all committees. Administers the oath to all new members and conducts installation of new officers. Ensures all activities of the Gator Det comport with the goals and mission of the Gator Det.

SR. VICE COMMANDANT: Assists the Commandant in all his duties. In the absence of the Commandant, takes over those duties necessary for normal function of the Gator Det. Performs such other duties as required by the Commandant.

JR. VICE COMMANDANT: Creates and promulgates such programs and incentives as are necessary to ensure the growth of the membership of the Gator Det. Be prepared to assume the role of the Sr. Vice Commandant or Commandant if the need arises. Performs such other duties as required by the Commandant.

JUDGE ADVOCATE: The official interpreter of all bylaws from the Gator Det, Department or National organizations. Shall advise the commandant on all issues of procedure or regulation. Shall act as investigator or judge as provided in the bylaws. Performs such other duties as required by the Commandant.

ADJUTANT: Shall keep a true record of all meetings. Shall keep record of all correspondence of the Gator Det. Shall assist the Paymaster in compiling membership roles and records. Shall maintain a Table of Organization including all officers and committees. Performs such other duties as required by the Commandant.

FORMER JUDGE ADVOCATE CHECKS IN

The charter Judge Advocate of the Gator Detachment, David Maier, now resides in the Orlando area. I received email from him recently. He and his family are doing well and his wife, Connie, underwent some surgery and was recovering nicely. Good to hear from you, David.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL 2002

The 2002 Birthday Ball plans are already being laid out. The site, the Tower Club (where it was held in 2001), is already reserved for Saturday, November 9th. Birthday Ball Chairman Alan Gray is now forming the Ball Committee. As soon as the organizational structure is in place, we will ask for Marines to lend a hand. Be ready to step up to make the 2002 Birthday Ball the best one yet!!

JOB DESCRIPTIONS OF ELECTED OFFICERS:

Upcoming at Gator Det ...

February 21, 2002, 6:30pm - SFCC Downtown Center - Officers Meeting

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

Your Gator Det Staff 2001 - 2002

Bob Gasche - Commandant

Maj. Shawn Engel - Senior Vice Commandant

Gary Powers - Junior Vice Commandant

Scott DuPree - Past Commandant

Ralph Lewis - Judge Advocate

Fredrick Peterkin - Adjutant

Dick Lester - Paymaster

Dan Brinsko - Sergeant at Arms

Ben Kinard - Chaplain

Norm Froscher - Public Affairs Officer

Stephen Homewood - Quartermaster

Alan Gray - Military Historian and

Birthday Ball Chairman

Patti Bartlett - Photographer

Bob Casey - Americanism and Education Officer

Cary Hill - Toys for Tots Chairman