



The Gator ALMAR



<http://gatordet.tripod.com>

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

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Next Meeting February 24, 2004

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

2003: IT WAS A GOOD YEAR

Commandant's Message:

As we approach the new year, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your contributions to our very successful Gator Detachment in 2003. I say successful because we have achieved many of our objectives and exceeded others.

We are getting more calls than ever to participate in civic and patriotic programs. In particular, our Young Marines have been in the homecoming parade, Veterans Day ceremony, helped with the County Fair booth, assisted with the Bikers' Parade and performed in several flag folding events. We can be very proud of their progress and look forward to even greater achievements in 2004.

Our Toys for Tots program helps hundreds of children to find a new joy in Christmas as our outreach has expanded far beyond last year's efforts. A new golf tournament to benefit Toys for Tots was initiated this year and our Birthday Ball was one of our most successful. The honor guard training is well under way and we have provided many boxes of clothes and food to the needy children of our community.

Attendance has been good at our monthly detachment meetings (usually over 40) and we continue to grow with new members being sworn in. Working in conjunction with VFW Post 2811, we have established a military history library and made Flag Day (June 14) an meaningful occasion; as over 500 worn out flags were burned ceremoniously on Flag Day 2003.

We coordinate the annual Memorial Day program held at the VA Hospital and with Post 2811 provide for the patriotic segment of the ever popular "Fanfare and Fireworks," held annually on July 3rd of each year with over 15,000 in attendance.

Our accomplishments have been significant and as we look forward to the challenges of 2004, let us never forget our commitment to the honored traditions of our beloved Marine Corps. We, the few and the proud, embrace honor, courage and commitment as our detachment moves forward leading the way to a new year of accomplishment and success.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a very safe and prosperous new year. Semper Fi. - Bob Gasche.

ADJUTANT ELECTED; PAYMASTER APPOINTED

At the November staff meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the interim appointment of **Jamie Hill** as Paymaster and **Greg Williams** as Adjutant. Then at the November general meeting, Marine Williams was elected and installed in a special election. Following the election, both he and Jamie Hill were sworn to their posts.

CEREMONIAL UNIT NEWS

Under the direction of ceremonial unit commander Dick Lester, the newly formed unit will be posting colors at our meeting in January 2004. These men have volunteered to represent us at parades, funerals, meetings and other occasions that require their services.

The ceremonial unit consists of **Dick Lester** (commander), **Emory Gouge**, **Cary Hill**, **Zaldy Aquinde**, **Ray Guyette** and **Ray Harper**. We are proud of each of these men and look forward to their participation in our many patriotic events.

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS ANNOUNCED

It is announced that the following amendments to the GatorDet bylaws will be voted on at the January general meeting.

Gator Detachment Bylaws

Article IV, Section B. Election of Officers

5. Elected Officers

Line 6 - delete "Detachment Paymaster"

6C. Preparation of Ballots

Line 1 - delete "March" and insert "February"

6D. Election'

Line 1 - delete "March" and insert "February"

6E. Absentee Ballots

Line 2 - delete "March" and insert "February"

Line 4 - delete "March" and insert "February"

6F. Run Off Elections

Line 2 - delete "April" and insert "March"

6G. Installation of Officers

Line 1 - delete "April" and insert "March"

Section C. Appointed Officers

Line 2 - (end of line) delete "May to May" and insert "April to April"

Line 3 - above "Detachment Chaplain" insert "Detachment Paymaster"

If passed by a two-thirds vote of voting members present, the change will become effective immediately. Any amendments are subject to review by the Department of Florida.

YOUNG MARINES

The Milton Lewis Young Marines were in action once again, this time they were assisting the Gator Detachment in the preparation in our Toys For Tots effort. On December 6th, it was Young Marines and their families making up a good portion of the crowd as preparation day had them counting, sorting and bagging toys. Then on December 13th, the Young Marines were once again a vital part of the volunteers involved in setup and cleanup, as well as the program itself.

Welcome aboard to Sean Morrison, a Marine veteran and new staff member. Sean is a Desert Storm veteran and has an extensive background in law enforcement.

It is encouraging to see that Marines from the GatorDet are taking time to work with these Young Marines. In addition to Bob Gasche and Scott DuPree, Sr. Vice Commandant Richard Lester is a staff member, and Marines Chuck Talton and Zaldy Aquinde are also on staff. Associate member Jennifer Talton is an organizational lifesaver for whom we

are grateful. Associate member Anne Zecca has been our Female Staff Advisor for quite some time.

If you are interested in helping this unit, or you have other questions or want information, call Young Marines Adjutant **Jennifer Talton** at 386-418-4185, or see our site at www.miltonlewisyoungmarines.com.

TOYS FOR TOTS

So many smiles, so many happy children - these are the reasons we put forth the effort necessary to make our contribution to needy children a meaningful one. Around 4,000 new toys were collected along with 14 reconditioned bicycles to make this a special day for about a hundred children that would have done without these gifts. There was pizza, candy canes, chili, colas, good music, Santa and lots of Christmas cheer that combined to make the occasion one of which we can all be proud.

Our own Milton Lewis Young Marines turned out on both Saturdays to provide much needed help. We are very proud of all of them. Many others contributed to the success of the party. In particular I want to thank Cary Hill and his wife Jamie for coordinating our Toys for Tots program; Ray Guyette as Santa (good job, Ray); Dick Lester for all his help in restoring all of the bicycles; VFW Post 2811 for the use of their facilities; Commander Gary Powers for making the excellent chili; parents of the Young Marines who pitched in and helped with refreshments and clean up; the Fellowship Band that provided us with beautiful Christmas music; Publix, Dominoes and Mancinos for donating pizza and refreshments that were enjoyed by all.

This united expression of giving is what makes our detachment the best there is and must be a source of pride to each contributing member. Semper Fi. Commandant Bob Gasche.

(If anyone wants to information or wants to help with Toys for Tots, contact Marine Cary Hill 495-2710 or email him at usa056@aol.com)

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Dues are **\$30.00**. They are due on the anniversary month of your enrollment in the League. Failure to pay your dues could result in your being dropped from the Marine Corps League roster. If you are unsure about when your dues are due, please inquire to the Commandant at 376-0402. **Semper Fi.**

ELECTIONS COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

Your annual staff elections are coming up in February. Begin thinking now if you would like to serve in a leadership position in this organization. Currently, the elected positions are Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant, Judge Advocate, Adjutant and Paymaster. Job descriptions for each of these is available upon request. In

February, we will entertain nominations and conduct elections in the same meeting. Ask what you can do to help.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS OF ELECTED OFFICERS:

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.

This speech was given by Rear Admiral Stark, USN, President of the Naval War College. He called the speech, "Why I Like Marines"

So what I really like about Marines is that first to fight isn't just a motto, it's a way of life. From day they were formed at Tun Tavern 226 years ago, Marines have distinguished themselves on battlegrounds around the world. From the fighting tops of the Bonhomme Richard, to the sands of the Barbary coast, from the swamps of New Orleans to the the halls of Montezuma, from Belleau Wood, to the Argonne Forest, to Guadalcanal, and Iwo Jima, and Okinawa and

Inchon, and Chosin Reservoir and Hue City and Quang Tri and Dong Ha, and Beirut, and Grenada, and Panama, and Somalia and Bosnia and a thousand unnamed battlefields in God-forsaken corners of the globe - Marines have distinguished themselves by their bravery, and stubbornness and aggressive spirit, and sacrifice, and love of country, and loyalty to one another.

They've done it for you and me, and this country we all love so dearly. They asked for nothing more than the honor of being a United States Marine.

That's why I like the Marines.

WWW.SNOPE.SCOM

For interesting information about stories and rumors around the military, go to www.snopes.com and click on the "military" icon. There you will find some interesting reading.

WWW.GRUNT.COM

This is Sgt Grit's website where you will find everything from articles on military subjects to a store to buy your favorite items. You can also send e-cards for free.

WWW.HARDCHARGER.COM

This is a site where you can order a variety of specialty unit shirts or other miscellaneous items.

WWW.MCLFL.ORG

This is the official site for the Department of Florida, Marine Corps League. Visit to see rosters of detachments and Department staff throughout Florida.

WWW.MCLEAGUE.ORG

This is the official site for the National Headquarters of the Marine Corps League. There is always some news there about what is going on with the League. Go there and look around. They, too, have a ship's store where you can buy a variety of items, from coffee mugs to polo shirts to uniform items. Check it out.

Upcoming at Gator Det ...

January 22, 2003 - 6:30pm - SFCC Downtown Conf Rm - Staff Meeting

January 27, 2003 - 7:00pm - VFW Post 2811 - General Meeting

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

Greg Williams - Adjutant

Jamie Hill - Paymaster

Ray Guyette - Quartermaster

Norm Froscher - Public Affairs Officer

Alan Gray - Military Historian

Ann Zecca - Photographer/Librarian

Bob Casey - Americanism and Education Officer

Cary Hill - Toys for Tots Chairman

Kirby Stewart - Special Projects Officer

Scott DuPree - Newsletter/Birthday Ball Chairman

Mary Hildebrand - Telephone Tree

Ray Harper - Sergeant at Arms

Ben Kinard - Chaplain