



# 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      MAR 2003  
Editor: Scott DuPree - ssgtd@bellsouth.net      336.5822

**Next Month's Meeting March 25, 2003**

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

## OPPORTUNITIES TO STEP UP ...

### MESSAGE FROM COMMANDANT

It was around 0900 on February 19, 1945 that the landing craft carrying members of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Divisions slammed into the black volcanic ash of an island called Iwo Jima.

Months of preparation by the Japanese had turned this tiny Pacific island into a bastion of death for anyone foolish to attempt an invasion. In spite of withering fire from well fortified bunkers and pill boxes, Marines moved inland and within hours had isolated Mount Surabachi from the rest of the small island.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, members of Easy Company, 28<sup>th</sup> Marines, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division raised the stars and stripes atop the 540 foot mountain. Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal snapped the photo that catapulted the event into the pages of history. \*\* 36 days of fierce and deadly combat brought an end to the fighting that was one of the bloodiest ever fought by the United States Marine Corps.

As we commemorate this occasion in February 2003, let us never forget the many sacrifices made by our brother Marines in this and other significant battles.

Our mission is clear: to perpetuate the honored traditions of the Marine Corps and serve in a positive manner the community in which we live. We shall continue our quest, to meet these challenges as we move forward in '03.

Our detachment has attained an enviable record of service and commitment and this year promises to be even more productive as we have laid down the foundation necessary to achieve even greater goals.

These goals, however, require active participation on the part of all members. We all need to be present at each meeting, volunteer whenever possible to help with the numerous projects of our detachment and recruit new members constantly.

**OUR GOALS ARE WORTHY - WE ARE MARINES  
- LET'S DO IT! Semper Fi - Bob Gasche**

### GATORDET NEEDS ...

Some members help with their hands, but others are not able due to schedule constraints. This is an opportunity for members to help the detachment meet our needs so that we may continue to make a positive impact in our community. Our current needs focus on the ALMAR publication:

## FIRST CLASS POSTAGE STAMPS DISCOUNTED OR FREE COPYING OF NEWSLETTER

Send any items or donations to the GatorDet address listed above, or contact the Commandant for further information.

### IT'S BINGO TIME

We have a renewed interest in running the Bingo on Wednesday evenings and we need a few more members who might be able to donate a little of their time to this tremendous fund raising activity. A great **BIG THANKS** to Cary and Jamie Hill for leading this charge. Anyone interested in helping please contact the Commandant at 376-0402.

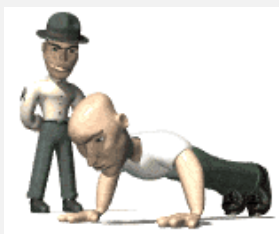
### BLOOD DRIVE TO BE HELD MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>

The combined VFW - Marine Corps League blood drive will be held on Saturday, March 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A Civitan Blood Center bus will be parked in the front of VFW Post 2811 on that date so volunteers should have adequate parking available. When donating, GatorDet members should specify that their contribution is to be credited to the GatorDet, Marine Corps League. Please consider donating as having a detachment blood supply will greatly help those needing help - particularly in a time of crisis.

### GATORDET RECEIVED PRESIDENTS' DAY PROCLAMATION FROM CITY ON FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, the GatorDet received a proclamation for Presidents' Day from the Gainesville City Commission. Accepting the proclamation, Commandant Bob Gasche asked those in attendance to remember the significant contributions of the Presidents that have served and urged all to support our President as the leader of a great nation. Also attending were Junior Vice Commandant Richard Lester, Past Commandant Scott DuPree, member Greg Williams and his father, a Marine veteran of Tarawa. After the proclamation and remarks, the GatorDet members led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. While it was a simple task, it is important to our mission and our community to ensure reminders of these patriotic

events are not overlooked. Thanks to those who participated in this event.



### YOUNG MARINES

On February 22, the Young Marines graduated the first class of recruits earning the rank of Private and the title "Young Marine." Graduating was Dakota ACKER, Shaun

CORLEY, Deborah COWAN, Donovan DUPREE, Ryan DUPREE, Martin FREESE, Heather FRIESE, Brittany HARDEN (the youngest graduate at 8 years old) and Jay HARDEN. 15-year-old Donovan DUPREE was also named Honor Graduate and was promoted to PFC meritoriously. The ceremony received many accolades for being well done and very meaningful to those involved. During the presentation, the unit was presented with its CHARTER by Battalion Commander GySgt Ricky Lay from Tallahassee. Also, the family of MILTON LEWIS was presented a plaque in memory of the Marine Corporal, and they presented us with a flag that had been given to LEWIS' mother when a ship was named in his honor in 1944. We plan to house the charter and the flag in our section of the VFW Post 2811 wall. The next recruit class will begin in March. If you want to help out, contact Bob Gasche or Scott DuPree.

### TOYS FOR TOTS MORE THAN JUST SUCCESSFUL

As we reported in the last issue of the ALMAR, the GatorDet helped more than a thousand children to have a better holiday. Our chairman, Carey Hill, reports that the National Toys for Tots Foundation posted it's **fourth most successful campaign** in the 55-year history of the program! Thanks to those who helped and to those will be helping with the 2003 season.

## **M**EMBERSHIP

**PLEASE NOTE: Membership Dues are \$30.00.**

*WIVES ARE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME ASSOCIATE MEMBERS!!* Members, please give consideration to a **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**. Upon payment of Life dues

**anytime**, 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 30 Life Members now. Join the ranks!!

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**DELINQUENT MEMBERSHIPS** - With the exception of LIFE MEMBERS, each member must pay a \$30.00 annual renewal each year. This is due during the anniversary of the month that you joined the detachment.

The following members are in delinquent status as of the month listed by their name:

Folk, John February, 2002  
 McAfee, Donald February, 2002  
 Atkins, Randy March, 2002  
 Engle, Shawn March, 2002  
 Frank, Diana March, 2002  
 Lewis, Andrew March, 2002  
 Bami, Arron April, 2002  
 Caldwell, Don May, 2002  
 Searcy, Gary May, 2002  
 Tilton, Edwin August, 2002  
 Cook, Chris September, 2002  
 Le Shore, Eugene September, 2002  
 Roberts, Nathan September, 2002  
 Di Palma, Robert October, 2002  
 Bartlett, Patti November, 2002  
 Butler, Harold November, 2002

Cason, William November, 2002  
 Totten, Joseph November, 2002

If you are in a delinquent status for one year, you will be dropped from the rolls of the Marine Corps League. If you are not sure when your dues are due or have other questions about your membership status, just pick up the phone and call Adjutant/Paymaster **Fredrick Peterkin** at 222-7704.  
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### **BIRTHDAY BALL - 2003**

**For all who want to attend a nicely appointed Birthday Ball for a very good price, I have one task:** sell an advertisement. Included with this issue is a Birthday Ball Ad Form. Take the form to a business deal with, a neighbor or a friend. Ask them for their support. Their contribution is TAX DEDUCTIBLE as we are a non-profit organization. Thanks for any help you can give.

### **Country Rib Picnic in Ocala to benefit VFW**

All veterans are invited to the 3rd Ann Country Rib picnic to be held at Ft McCoy (near Ocala national forest). The event will be held on Saturday, March 8 from 11 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Charge is \$6.00 per adult, which includes entertainment and food. All proceeds to benefit the Florida VFW Retirement home. For directions or more info, call Gary Powers at 376-7660.

### **OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKIN'...**

Most residents in the Gainesville area know about the PARADE OF HOMES which happens annually. This year, the GatorDet will lend assistance at one location for the week. We need help - the job is just to sit at a table and check people's tickets. If they don't have one you can sell them one. Easy. It's a 2-person job, so you won't be alone. Dates will be April 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. We need to provide personnel from 1245 to 1800 on weekends and 1645 to 1900 on weekdays. The detachment will receive some funds for assisting, so this helps both our organization and theirs. Anyone willing to volunteer for a while, please contact Carey Hill.

### **CEREMONIAL RIFLES FINALLY ARRIVE**

The GatorDet is now in possession of ten M-1 rifles, on loan from the Department of Defense, for the purpose of ceremonial duties. The weapons are stored in a secured area protected by law enforcement. Anyone interested in training and participating in ceremonial functions for color guards or funerals should contact the Commandant.

### **GUN SHOOT AT GAINESVILLE GUN CLUB**

A gun shoot is being planned for March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Gainesville Gun Club. The shoot will be sponsored by the Gainesville Target Association. Anyone who wants more information should contact Senior Vice Commandant Gary Powers at 376-7660.

### **UPCOMING CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION**

The state spring conference will be held April 11-13 in Lake City, hosted by the Suwannee Valley Detachment. Also, the annual state convention will be held June 26-29 in Orlando. Accommodations will be at Sheraton World (right by Sea World) at \$69.00 per night. Conferences and conventions are great places to meet other Leaguers and hear how they do things. Any member interested in attending should contact the Commandant or the Adjutant.

### **MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK**

Planning for the 2003 Memorial Day services began Monday February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Commandant Bob Gasche heads the committee which is comprised of members from both the GatorDet and the VA Hospital. As details of this venture are solidified, they will be published in your ALMAR.

### **IT'S BEEN 5 YEARS, GATORDET!**

Hey, Charter Members! It's been 5 years! We're doing pretty good, huh? We are making big steps in the community, like we said we wanted to. Keep up the good work. -Editor

### **OUR RESERVISTS ON DUTY**

GatorDet members are encouraged to stay in touch with our members who are reservists on active duty. We have the address for our Sgt-At-Arms Dan Brinsko. See below. I'm sure he would appreciate a note of encouragement from home.

Dan Brinsko  
1stSgt USMC  
B Co, 4thAABn(Hq)  
UIC-39842-Box 1708  
FPO-AP 96426-1708

### **From the Bookshelf ...Anne Zecca, Librarian**

Our library has recently received an audiocassette-based "Learning Morse Code" course, for would-be ham radio operators. Among the newest titles in the collection are: "Coral and Brass" Gen. Holland M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith's account of the Marines' advance across the Pacific during WWII; "Flags of Our Fathers" (large print edition) James Bradley's bestseller about Iwo Jima, the famous flag raising and the men who did it; and "The United States Marines, 1775-1975" A history of the USMC, written at the time of its bicentennial by Brig. Gen. Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret.).

We are also donating three W.E.B. Griffin novels and some magazines to Santa Fe Community College for their effort to provide care packages for their students who've been called to military duty.

The limited bookshelf space at the VFW Post 2811 is dedicated to our non-fiction collection (now at 106 books), plus related magazines and videos (when available). Our military fiction collection will be available for checkout at every detachment meeting.

If you have any questions, or want to donate a military-related book, let me know.

Ben Kinard - Chaplain  
Norm Froescher - 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 - Fund Raising Chairman  
Scott DuPree - Newsletter/Birthday Ball Chairman

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 ...  
March 20, 2003, 6:30 p.m.- SFCC Downtown Conference Room - Staff Meeting  
March 22, 2003 - Gun Shoot at Gainesville Gun Club (see article)  
March 25, 2003, 7pm - VFW Post 2811 - General Meeting  
April 11-13: MCL State Spring Conference in Lake City  
April 12-20: Parade of Homes (see article)



GATOR DETACHMENT 990  
P.O. BOX 5845  
GAINESVILLE FL 32627-5845

“ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE”