



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 **352.376.1774**

Commandant: Bob Gasche 376-0402 May 2002
Editor: Scott DuPree - ssgtd@bellsouth.net 336.5822

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2002
NEXT MONTH'S MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2002

APRIL 30 MEETING IS COVERED DISH!

The March general meeting was attended by 53 members and guests. Since it was a covered dish and everybody had a great time, we are going to do it again. So for the April 30th meeting, bring a dish to share. We'll do a little business, eat some good food and have a time. Alachua County Veteran Service Officer **JIM LYNCH** will be on hand to speak on the topic of veterans' benefits. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, TRY IT ... YOU'LL LIKE IT!

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

Syndicated columnist Richard Reeves recently wrote the following: "The United States is, in fact, now the greatest empire, militarily, economically, technologically and culturally, that the world has ever seen." Powerful words that carry global implications for all Americans. With this bountiful power comes a tremendous responsibility that organizations such as ours cannot ignore.

Our armed forces provide the military power and our many civic and social clubs perpetuate the historical and cultural heritage we so proudly cherish. Where then does all this leave the Marine Corps League and specifically the Gator Detachment?

We need to look no further than the objectives of the Marine Corps League and our own significant record of achievement. It is our detachment that stands on the threshold of the power to which Mr. Reeves refers in his recent article. Together, we carried the sword that forged great victories against enemies of our nation. We have served our country with valor and with pride as United States Marines. We continue to serve as our detachment helps to meet the needs of those in distress within our community and honors people that have served in an exemplary manner.

Let us move forward in concert as we support our country with a strong commitment and faithful participation that makes our detachment the worthy and unique organization that it is.

In the yesteryears, we defeated our nation's enemies; today we are immersed in a crusade of concern from which will emerge a stronger and greater America. We are the vital force needed to help overcome terrorism and every other threat to our national security. We are the MARINES that give credence to the two words that are respected and feared throughout the world - SEMPER FIDELIS. - Bob Gasche

GATORDET IS NOW ON THE INTERNET

Humble as it may be, the Gator Det has a web site. It can be seen at <http://gatordet.tripod.com>. Scott DuPree is managing this site as rookie Webmaster. Instead of just having a site that looks like a poster, this site will be updated regularly. The ALMAR will be published on this site. Information about the Birthday Ball will stay current on the site. And there will be a page to keep you updated on the happenings of the GatorDet's new Milton Lewis Young Marines unit. For those of you who can access the web, go see it!! If I have any qualified Webmasters out there that can offer me any helpful tips and hints, get with me. Thanks. - Scott

THE MILTON LEWIS YOUNG MARINES UNIT IS HERE!

The Gator Det is proud to announce that we have received our temporary charter for the Milton Lewis Young Marines unit. This gives us the green light to begin recruiting kids for this program. The unit is for those 8 years old up to high school seniors. The unit will be for several hours, two Saturdays per month. The first meeting will be on MAY 18TH at VFW Post 2811, where we will conduct an initial signup and take care of administrative details. If you know of anyone who would be interested in this program, let us know or give them the Detachment phone number. There is a training schedule and advancement is by promotion through the ranks. The Commanding Officer is Bob Gasche and the

Executive Officer is Scott DuPree. We will have more information at the Marine Corps League general meetings. *If you know of any company or corporation which may want to support this community program for children, please let them know about us and let us know about them.* If you are interested in being a positive influence for the kids of our community, please contact Bob at 376-0402 or Scott at 336-5822.

A Message From the Birthday Ball Committee Chairman

Greetings fellow Marines: I am very honored to be serving the Gator Detachment as the 2002 Birthday Ball Chairman. I am looking forward to working with the 2002 Ball committee as we strive for the best birthday ball ever. Already, committee members have secured the Tower Club at The Village for our event. Also, WWII veteran Mr. William Malcolm, a former US Army Air Corps pilot with over 80 combat missions and recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross will be our keynote speaker.

This year on November 10th, Marines around the world will pause to honor the birthday ball tradition, and to honor the Marines that have made the Marine Corps what it is today. We, the Marines of the Gator Detachment will not fall short of this mark. Whether we celebrate the birthday ball at a beach-landing site, in the bush, or "black-tie" style at a hotel ballroom, it is our duty to honor those gallant Marines that made the ultimate sacrifice for their corps, shipmates, country and families.

It is my honor to serve the Gator Detachment in this capacity, and this is your birthday ball. Therefore, if you have any special request or suggestions, or if you would like to assist by serving on the birthday ball committee, please feel free to e-mail me at afn01595@afn.org. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you this November 9th at the Tower Club. SEMPER FIDELIS - ALAN R. GRAY

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**, 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

HEADS UP: THESE PRICES MAY BE INCREASED IN AUGUST 2002 - YOU MAY

WANT TO GET YOUR LIFE MEMBERSHIP BEFORE THE PRICE GOES UP!!

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!!

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. 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 due, call Adjutant/Paymaster **Fredrick Peterkin** at 376-0047.

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA IS NOW #2 IN NATION

The membership of Marine Corps Leaguers in Florida numbers 3332, second only to New Jersey which has 3577. Since 1998, Florida went from 29 detachments to 46! Ooh-rah.

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.**

GATOR DET LOSES MARINE LARRY EDWARDS

Gator Detachment member Larry Edwards passed away on April 2, 2002 after nearly 19 years of battling cancer. Mr. Edwards was a highly respected community leader and active supporter in the American Cancer Society. Though weak from his illness, he continued to come to our meetings, including his last attendance one week before his passing. This Marine epitomized the principal that Marines never, never give up. There will be a brief portion of our April 30th meeting dedicated to this man who left his community a much better place than he found it. We are proud to announce that Mrs. Edwards is planning to attend this meeting. Our detachment and this community will miss Larry.

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM BEING PLANNED

Please mark your 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 and will include our Flag Folding Ceremony.

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.

BLOUNT ISLAND TOUR POSTPONED

Due to increased security at the Blount Island facility, the tour which was being planned for late May will be postponed until such time as we can gain access to the base. When we get any on when this may be, we'll pass it on to you.

GATORDET REPRESENTED AT STATE CONFERENCE

Past Commandant Scott DuPree and member Ann Zacca attended the recent state conference in Orlando. Many administrative matters were discussed, but a few items can be highlighted. ** The FLORIDA REVIEW, the Department of Florida newsletter, is published and mailed to each member in Florida. If you are not receiving this quarterly newsletter, bring this to the attention of any member of the GatorDet staff or leave a message on our phone at 376-1774. ** In the last issue of the Florida Review was a page with printed raffle tickets. If you still have this issue, consider filling out the tickets and submitting them. The money is used for a scholarship fund for children. ** A new Christmas Ornament supporting Toys For Tots is being made available for purchase. We will be providing more information on this as our program progresses. ** The GATOR DETACHMENT was recognized by the Department Commandant as being an active, positive group in the community and also for having an effective newsletter which gets the word out. ** The annual Convention will be held June 14th through 16th in Venice, Florida. Anyone wishing to attend, please see any GatorDet officer for more information.

OFFICER GRAY PROMOTED TO DETECTIVE

Recently, one of our detachment members (and Birthday Ball Chairman), Alan Gray, was promoted to Detective by the Gainesville Police Department. A well-deserved promotion. We all wish you the best in your new assignment.

WELCOME ABOARD, LADIES!

I missed putting this in the last ALMAR, but we want to extend our welcome to Eloise Lewis and Jamie Hill. They join us as Associate members and have been seen in support roles at our functions. Glad to have your names in our book!! Semper Fi.

DETACHMENT MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP - AND THE VFW LANDSCAPING

As part of the Great American Cleanup, Gary Powers, Commander of VFW Post 2811, and Commandant Bob Gasche have been working with a crew to improve the appearance of the front of the VFW post. Fertilizer has been applied, grass seen planted, bushes trimmed and transplanted, and several areas mulched. Future plans include addition plantings and mulching with a walkway to be built leading into the Milton Lewis Patio.

A larger community cleanup was held on April 20th in Gainesville. The activity was controlled by the Keep Alachua Beautiful committee, chaired by community activist Bob Gasche (where have I heard that name before?) Thousands of people participated, and we salute all the Marines who pitched in.

MANY THANKS TO PUBLIX

We continue to receive great support from the Main Street Publix as our food table at our meetings is well stocked donated by them. When you shop there, do not hesitate to thank the manager for their consideration of our detachment all these years.

BYLAWS REVISIONS UNDER WAY

The Bylaws Committee has been meeting to revise our bylaws and create Administrative Procedures to increase the quality of our detachment's administrative foundation. We will publish more on this as it is completed.

THE AREA PROVIDED BELOW IS FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL USE. YOU MAY WRITE NOTES, JOT DOWN PHONE NUMBERS, OR DRAW A PICTURE OF SOMEONE FAMOUS.

Upcoming at Gator Det ...
 April 30, 2002, 7pm - VFW Post 2811 - General Meeting COVERED DISH!!
 May 18, 2002, 9am - VFW Post 2811 - YOUNG MARINES first meeting/sign-up
 May 23, 2002, 6:30pm - SFCC Downtown Conference Room - Staff Meeting
 May 27, 2002, 10am - Memorial Day ceremony, VA Hospital
 May 28, 2002, 7pm - VFW Post 2811 - General Meeting
 June 14, 15, 16 - Venice, FL - Annual Dept of Florida MCL Convention
 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

GATOR DETACHMENT
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“ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE”