

The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

April 2021 Newsletter

Editor: Ken Gysbers 201-895-3358

kgysbers@yahoo.com



Officers 2021



Commandant: Charles Huha

chuha1@msn.com

973-900-1226



Sgt at Arms : Mike McNulty

simms156@gmail.com

732-213-5264



Sr Vice Commandant: Chris Cioppa

crisciopa@gmail.com

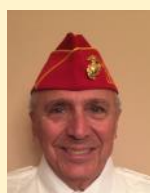
201-310-1493



Service Officer: Paul Thompson

paulcfp@aol.com

201-320-3210



Jr Vice Commandant: Len Graff

lengusmc@optonline.net

973-728-3605



Chaplain: Les Derbyshire

lesderbyshire@live.com

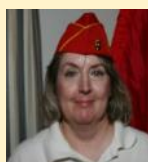
201-390-2704



Paymaster/Adjutant: Peter Alvarez

palvarez1942@hotmail.com

973-839-5693



Secretary: Theresa Muttel

thmuttel@hotmail.com



Judge Advocate/Range Officer: Ray Sears

rcsears93@aol.com

973-694-8457



Quartermaster and

Editor "The Grunt": Ken Gysbers

kgysbers@yahoo.com 201-895-3358

Mission Statement of Marine Corps League

Members of the Marine Corps League join in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving traditions. Promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service. Effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy. Voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Chaplains, and former Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Chaplains, and their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.



COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment—744 April 2021

Sir Jacob Charles Vouza—Hero of the Battle of the Tenaru River and the Battle for Guadalcanal

Jacob Charles Vouza was born in 1900 at Tasimboko, Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands Protectorate, and educated at the South Seas Evangelical Mission School. In 1916, he joined the Solomon Islands Protectorate Armed Constabulary, from which he retired in 1941 after 25 years of service, at the rank of Sergeant Major.

After the Japanese invaded his home island in WW II, he returned to active duty with the British forces and volunteered to work with the Coastwatchers' under Major Martin Clements. On August 7, 1942, he rescued a downed naval pilot from the USS Wasp who was shot down inside Japanese territory. He guided the pilot to friendly lines where Vouza met the Marines for the first time and volunteered to scout behind enemy lines for the Marines. On August 27, he was captured by the Japanese while on a mission to locate and record the location of enemy camps and lookout stations. After finding a small American flag inside his loincloth, the Japanese tied him to a tree and questioned him for hours to reveal information about allied forces, but, he refused to talk. He was tortured and bayoneted 7 times about the arms, throat, shoulder, face, stomach and left to die after passing out. Vouza revived after his captors left, chewed through the ropes and vines that bound him and crawled more than 3 miles through the jungle to American lines. He refused medical treatment until he relayed valuable information to the Marines about the strength of Japanese forces and an impending Japanese attack. The Marines had approximately 10 minutes to prepare for the attack. After receiving 16 pints of blood during his 12 days in the hospital, Vouza returned to active duty as the Chief Scout for the Marines. He volunteered to accompany Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson and the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion on their 30 day raid behind enemy lines at Guadalcanal. The vital information he relayed was a deciding factor in the Marines victory of the Battle of the Tenaru River, the retention of Henderson Airfield and subsequent victory of Guadalcanal.

After the war, Vouza continued to serve his fellow islanders. In 1949, he was appointed District Headman and President of the Guadalcanal Council from 1952-1958. He served as a member of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate Advisory Council from 1950 to 1960.

Vouza was highly decorated for his WW II service. The Silver Star was presented to him personally by then Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift, commanding general of the 1st Marine Division, for refusing to give information under Japanese torture. He was also awarded the Legion of Merit for outstanding service with the 2nd Raider Battalion and made an honorary Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. From the British he received the George Medal for gallant conduct and exceptional devotion to duty and the Police Long Service Medal. In 1957, he was made a Member of the British Empire for long and faithful government service and in 1979, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

Sergeant Major Vouza made many friends during his long association with the U.S. Marine Corps. In 1968, he visited the United States where he was an honored guest of the 1st Marine Division Association. He had many Marine friends who visited him in the islands including, author William Manchester in 1978. He asked Manchester to relay the following words to his Marine friends in the United States: "Tell them I love them all. Me old man now, and not look good no more. But, me never forget."

Until the day he died, he flew an American flag at his residence; it was the very same flag he was given by the Marines before his capture by the Japanese. He wore his Marine Corps tunic until his death on March 15, 1984 and was buried in it.

A monument in his honor stands in front of the Police Headquarters building in Honiara, the Capital of the Solomon Islands to serve as a reminder to the Solomon Islanders of the bravery of Sir Jacob Charles Vouza, the Solomon Island Hero and Valiant Warrior.

God Bless the Marine Corps League, The United States Marine Corps and
God Bless the United States of America.

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT



Chaplain's Page



What is Easter? For many, thoughts of colored eggs and bunnies come to mind. For me Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb on the third day after his crucifixion. He was persecuted and died for our sins. Remembering the resurrection of Jesus is a way to renew daily hope that we have victory over sin.

Let us pray:

Dear God, we thank you for the miracle of life. Abundant life here and eternal life with You in Heaven. Help us celebrate life every day as we seek You and follow Your plan for our lives.

Make the resurrection personal to us. Help it to inspire and change the way we live each day beyond Easter. Make us agents of Your hope by what we do for others. Strengthen our belief so that we might continue enjoying spiritual treasures from Your hand as we rest in the promise of the life to come.

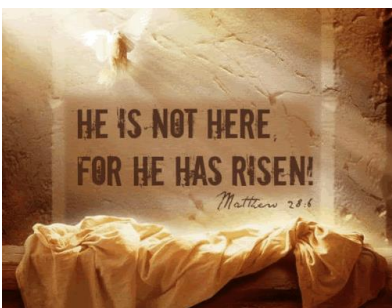
We lift our anxiety and worry to You, today, as we seek to embrace Your peace and promises. We confess our tendency to condemn, criticize, and compare instead of embracing the peace and blessings You have showered over our lives.

During trying times and relatively easy days, help us to see and remember You in all situations. We never know what our world is going to throw at us, but You do.

Holy Spirit, remind us that we are children of God, freed from sin by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Bless our minds to remember and embrace the freedom, hope, joy and peace we have in Christ.

Amen

**Submitted by:
Les Derbyshire, Chaplain**



A Passover Evening Blessing

Vay'hi erev vay'hi voker yom hashishi.

Vay'chulu hashamayim v'haaretz v'chol tz'vaam. Vay'chal Elohim bayom hash'vi-i m'lachto asher asah. Vayishbot bayom hash'vi-i mikol m'lachto asher asah.

Vay'varech Elohim et yom hash'vi-i vay'kadeish oto, ki vo shavat mikol m'lachto asher bara Elohim laasot.



Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei p'ri hagafen.

Baruch atah, Adonai, Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher bachar banu mikol am v'rom'manu mikol lashon v'kid'shanu b'mitzvotav.

Vatiten lanu, Adonai Eloheinu, b'ahavah Shabbatot lim'nuchah u mo-adim l'simchah, chagim uz'manim l'sason, et yom HaShabbat hazeh v'et yom Chag HaMatzot hazeh, z'man cheiruteinu, mikra kodesh, zeicher litziat Mitzrayim.

Ki vanu vacharta v'otanu kidashta mikol haamim v'Shabbat umo-adei kodsh'chah b'ahavah uv'ratzon b'simchah uv'sason hinchaltanu.

Baruch atah Adonai, m'kadeish HaShabbat v'Yisrael v'haz'manim.

TRANSLATION

And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The heaven and the earth were finished, and all their array. On the seventh day God finished the work that God had been doing, and God ceased on the seventh day from all the work that God had done. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because on it God ceased from all the work of creation that God had done. (Genesis 1:31-2:3)

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has chosen us from among the peoples, exalting us by hallowing us with mitzvot. In Your love, Adonai our God, You have given us Shabbatot of rest, feasts of gladness and seasons of joy; this Shabbat day and this festival of Pesach, season of our freedom, a sacred occasion, a remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt. For You have chosen us from all the peoples and consecrated us to Your service, and given us Shabbat, a sign of love and favor, and the Festivals, a time of gladness and joy.

Blessed are You, Adonai, who sanctifies Shabbat, Israel, and the Festivals.

Editor's Note: The FESTIVAL KIDDUSH: Blessing over the wine for the festival of Passover when the seder falls on Friday night. The Shehecheyanu (above) is recited after the kiddush, immediately before drinking the wine. The Passover celebration this year began on Saturday March 27 and ended on Sunday April 4th. As a point of reference, the date of Passover is always the 15th day of the Month of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar. The date of Easter is determined by the first Sunday after the paschal full moon (ecclesiastical moon) that occurs on or after the vernal equinox (calendar date March 21st on the Gregorian Calendar). In Orthodox (or Eastern Rite) churches, a similar formula is used however the calendar is different as they use the less known Julian Calendar and the astrological moon and vernal equinox dates. Blessings to all of our Jewish Brothers and Sisters during Passover.



Service Officers Report

November 2020



From Paul Thompson

This month I'm following up with everyone to an email I sent out in March. The article was from the Veterans Benefits Newsletter, and part of that article was on planning your legacy.

It offered you a kit that included a guide through possible end of life and survivors benefits eligibility. I would strongly encourage everyone to download it and print it out and have it with your important paperwork such as your will. Some of the pages in the kit are for you to put in your personal information for your use and for your loved ones.

I went to visit a friend last night, (a Vietnam Veteran) who is recovering from a stroke. Unfortunately he doesn't have the memory he had before the stroke and it was very challenging to get him to focus. His memory simply wasn't there. Fortunately, he is staying with one of his children at this point, and who is taking care of his needs.

While I was there, I was able to assist them by explaining his veterans benefits and address their questions. They had no idea what his benefits for a disabled Veteran were!

As much as some people say they're organized, if your surviving love ones don't know where your paperwork is and who to contact, it could be a real problem.

Unfortunately, a stroke (like my friend last night), heart attack or major medical event such as Dementia or Alzheimer's disease can take over before you realize it's even happening to you!

Keep organized, let your love ones know where your paperwork is, update your will, and stay healthy! Any questions, please feel free to email John Harris or myself.

Paul Thompson,

John Harris

Service Officer 201-320-3210

973-600-6409

paulcfp@aol.com

harris.john36@yahoo.com

The Chefs from Lakeland Detachment #744 Marine Corps League would like to invite you to our April 10th Grab & Go event. We are partnering with Businesses in our local area to help them promote their business from time to time. We are extremely proud to offer:



A family meal for 4 from a New local BBQ restaurant in Pompton Lakes NJ. Please welcome:
the Smoke Shack BBQ & Burgers.

They will be offering a **family BBQ Meal** for

4 ppl consisting of

1/2 lb of Pork

1 lb of Chicken

1/2 lb of Brisket

Sides - Butter smoked Corn, Baked Beans, and Mac & Cheese. The Marines will bake fresh skillet cornbread .



Family Meals are \$40 Single Meals are \$18

[Please email your order in No Later than Wednesday April 7th at 3pm to Simms156@gmail.com](mailto:Simms156@gmail.com)

Meals are paid for in person by cash, check or credit cards in the front of the American Legion entrance. Between the hours of 2pm and 5pm. Please include the TIME you wish to pick up your order. Thank you for supporting a new business and the Marine Corps League.

Weather permitting, the Lakeland Detachment 744 Marine Shop will be open outside in front of the American Legion from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Come prior to your pick up time to shop. (Note: if the weather is inclement or excessively too cold, the Marine Shop will not be open.)



Greetings Marines,

Happy Spring! Days are already starting to get longer and the temperatures are slowly getting warmer. I hope that everyone is getting out and about to enjoy the nicer weather. In addition, some Covid 19 restrictions are being slowly relaxed. Restaurants can now have 50% capacity and spacing with masks is now reduced to 3 feet. There are other restrictions that are being either reduced or relaxed. As more people get vaccinated, I urge you to make the time to get a vaccination yourself if you haven't already done so. If you are registered with the VA, by all means continue pursuing that option. However, simply registering with the state, isn't enough. Search out different vaccination sites and get on their lists. Most hospitals have their own list so you need to search out and register at different hospitals. Some pharmacies are also vaccination sites (CVS to name one). Again, go to the web sites and register. In the mean time, continue to be smart, wear a mask and stay safe.

Aside from longer days and warmer temperatures, spring brings a multitude of different things. Plants begin to bud and grow. There is a sense of new birth as many animals give birth and mother nature does her thing in making our planet a specter of beauty. In a few weeks, we'll witness a color palate of flowering plants that is unrivaled. The river will be a host to many forms of new life. On the calendar, Christians will celebrate Easter on April 4th. Our Jewish brothers and sisters will celebrate Passover from March 27 through April 4th. Spring also brings a sense of peace with it. As a fan of most types of music, the one piece that comes to mind is Beethoven's 6th Symphony which is call the Pastoral Symphony. Generally, when anyone listens to this particular piece with their eyes closed, you can almost feel and smell the sensation of spring. Beethoven's works can typically draw out many emotions but his 6th can transport you to a peaceful spring garden for the entire piece.

Peace. In these troubling times, peace is often difficult to come by. There are different kinds of peace. There is the inner peace which one tries to achieve in life in spite of the many difficulties that surround us. There is the peace that we offer to each other. Then there is the peace that can exist between nations but rarely does. Nations continue to wage war or cause strife in our world.

I enlisted in 1978 and am considered a tweenie—I served between Vietnam and Grenada. While I am not a "war time" veteran, I share a common bond that all veterans share regardless of their branch of service. All of us made an oath to protect and defend the constitution of the United States and we all trained in many ways to do that. Marines, in particular, are all trained as riflemen regardless of their MOS. While I only qualified as a marksman (and just barely due to the P.O.S. M16 I was issued - experts tried and couldn't hit the bullseye from 200 yards either), most Marines I graduated boot camp with were either sharpshooter or expert. My point is that we signed on to defend these United States and were trained to do so by Marines that knew what they were doing. We wear the uniform 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And are on call ready to go whenever and where ever we are needed. Today's Marines face a world that is significantly changed from when I served. However, while the world has changed, the threats to our country have not change.

The threats to our nation haven't changed but the sources of those threats have changed. Our oath says to protect and defend from enemies both foreign and domestic. While there are still many foreign threats that we need to face as a country, there are ever growing threats from within that are disturbing and growing constantly. Even as I write this, there are many plots and discussions that ultimately could bring the United States as we know it down.

It is up to us as Marines, to ensure that these plots and discussions never get to the point where we start to lose our freedoms. I am a firm believer in our constitution and the freedoms that we as citizens are guaranteed. Now it is more important than ever to pay attention to the what is going on in government regardless of level. We need to pay attention to the agendas of all current elected officials. My guess is that most of their agendas don't match what we value. When you look at the overall spending bill that authorized the latest round of stimulus payments and see all of the unnecessary extras that were attached to this bill, I can only hope that we'll still have the same country before the next round of midterm elections. At no time in our history, has this country been in such peril from within.

I think that the phrase, "the pen is mightier than the sword" comes into play now. Never in the course of human history has the media been granted the access to the people the way it has now. In WWI, the media access was limited to just newspapers and some radio. People found out what happened by reading the newspaper or having it read to them. In WWII, it was still newspapers, news-reels, and radio. The media had integrity and didn't publish derogatory comments or information that could damage the United States. Even during the Korean War, this still existed. Television was only in it's early stages. It wasn't until Vietnam, that the media began to mainstream the war into American households. Once the nightly news began showing segments from the war, it turned the balance of public opinion against the war. At some point network executives realized they now had the power to influence public opinion.

This continued to grow and reshape into what we have now. Now, all bets are off when it comes to media channels. The internet, which was first a way to find information and a way to electronically communicate, has become what television was in the 60's, 70's and 80's. Don't get me wrong, Tv, Radio, Newspapers and Magazines are still out there but not as prevalent as the internet is. Almost everyone today, has instant access to the internet in the palm of their hand. And those that control the media know it. The news streams that are unavoidable in most search engines, are incessantly bombarding us with opinions that don't match what we think and news as it is actually happening. In some cases, we are seeing and hearing about events as they occur and before our government officials have a chance to form an opinion or decide a course of action.

So before you react to what other people would have us believe, do some research. Find out the truth and any pertinent details in order to form your own opinions. And most of all, shut down your hand held devices for a little bit. Talk a walk on a nice day. Do something with your family. Shut off the world for a little while and let yourself have some inner peace. Then maybe you can spread a little peace on the outside.

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Editor

There was a significant event that occurred in USMC history in the month of April. This event is ever so briefly described in the first line of the Marine's Hymn - "to the shores of Tripoli". First Lieutenant Presley N. O'Bannon, who with seven other Marines was part of a force of Greeks and Arabs led by American Consul William Eaton, raised the United States flag for the first time over a conquered fortress of the Old World at Derne, a stronghold of the Tripolitan pirates. Two Marines were killed and one wounded in the assault on the walled city.

This victory, while small unto itself, is the first US Victory on foreign soil and helps to guide the beginning of US Foreign Policy. So we are going to discuss the Barbary Wars and events that lead up to Lt. O'Bannon's small but meaningful victory.

The history of the Barbary pirates in the Mediterranean Sea spanned the 1600s into the 1800's, much of it occurring during the Ottoman Empire. These pirates operated out of the many ports and cities along the coast of the Barbary States which included Algeria, Tripoli and Tunis. It was called the Barbary Coast by many of the European countries in reference to the Berbers. Their territory of operation went as far north as Iceland, south along West Africa's Atlantic seaboard and as far east as the coast of South America near Brazil. However most of their operation was in the Mediterranean sea. Aside from seizing ships, they also conducted raids on villages and towns along the European coasts and as far away as Iceland. The main purpose of the raids were to capture Europeans for the slave market in North Africa. The Barbary states were nominally part of the Ottoman Empire, but in practice they were independent and the Ottoman government in Constantinople was not involved.



British merchant ships had been attacked by the Barbary pirates since the 1600s along the North Coast of Africa. It was common practice to hold the captives for a ransom which was usually raised by the families and churches of the crews that were captured. If a ransom was not forthcoming, the captured crews were sold into slavery. Even during the American Revolution, Barbary pirates attacked both British and American ships until December 20, 1777 when Morocco's Sultan Mohammed III declared that American merchant ships would be under the protection of the sultanate and were granted safe passage in the Mediterranean. The Moroccan-American Treaty of Friendship is America's oldest unbroken friendship treaty with any foreign power. In 1787, Morocco became the first nation to recognize the new country called the United States of America.

After the US had been formally recognized as a country, the government signed treaties with all of the Barbary states where they agreed to pay tribute to stop the attacks on American shipping since at the end of the Revolutionary War, the US disbanded its navy. By 1797, the US paid out \$1.25 million or one fifth of the country's budget. Most Americans resented these payments, arguing that the money would be better spent on a navy that would protect American ships from the attacks of the Barbary pirates. On March 20, 1794, at the urging of President George Washington, congress authorized the construction of 6 heavy frigates and the establishment of the US Navy in order to stop attacks on American merchant ships. In 1800, Thomas Jefferson was elected president over incumbent John Adams in part by noting that the United States was "subjected to the spoliations of foreign cruisers" and was humiliated by paying "an enormous tribute to the petty tyrant of Algiers".





There were actually 2 Barbary Wars. The first took place between 1801 and 1805 and was also called the Tripolitan War or Barbary Coast War. The war was between the United States with its allied countries (France, the Kingdom of Sicily and Sweden) and the Barbary Coast States. President Jefferson refused to pay the tribute which had been greatly increased when he became president. On May 13, 1801, a US Naval fleet was dispatched to the Mediterranean under the command of Commodore Richard Dale. The frigates USS

Essex, USS Philadelphia, the USS President and the USS Enterprise were among the ships that we sent out on this mission. Note: The Second Barbary War took place from June 16, 1815 through June 19, 1815 lasting 3 days.

After being sent back to the US for refitting, the USS Philadelphia returned to the Mediterranean in 1803. In August, shortly after arriving off of Gibraltar, she re-captured the American brig Celia from the Moroccan ship-of-war Mirboka and brought both into Gibraltar. On October 31, 1803, while giving chase and firing upon a Libyan navy ship it ran aground on an uncharted reef two miles (3 km) off Tripoli Harbor. The crew tried everything from jettisoning its cannons, barrels of water, and other heavy articles overboard in order to make it lighter to cutting down the mainmast, but this too failed. In order to prevent the ship from falling into enemy hands, Bainbridge ordered holes drilled in the ship's bottom, gunpowder dampened, sails set afire and all other weapons thrown overboard before surrendering. The officers and men were made slaves of the Pasha.



Unfortunately her captors were able to refloat the Philadelphia. This was too great a prize to be allowed to remain in the hands of the Tripolitans, so a decision was made to recapture or destroy it. The United States had captured the Tripolitan ketch Mastico, renamed her Intrepid, and re-rigged the ship with short masts and triangular sails to look like a local ship.

A party of volunteers, led by Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, the son of Philadelphia's first master, was given the task. On February 16, 1804, under the cover of night and in the guise of a ship in distress that had lost all anchors in a storm and needed a place to tie up, Decatur sailed Intrepid next to Philadelphia. The Americans boarded the prize, and after making sure that she was not seaworthy, burned the ship where she lay in Tripoli Harbor.

Philadelphia's anchor was returned to the United States on April 7, 1871, when Mehmed Halet Pasha, the Ottoman governor, presented it to the captain of the visiting Guerriere.

1st Lt Presley O'Bannon joined the Marine Corps on January 18, 1801 and was assigned to the USS Argus which was part of the fleet under Consul General William Eaton. He was placed in charge of the 7 man Marine detachment and 2 midshipmen. On April 27, 1805, he and William Eaton led a mercenary army in an attack on the port city of Derma in Libya. Prior to the battle, the army set out on a forced march of 521 miles from Alexandria, Egypt through the desert and faced a numerically superior force. This was to restore Hamet Karamanli as the rightful ruler of Tripoli.

The mercenary army was comprised of a mix of about 400 Greek Orthodox Christians and Arab Muslims which were contracted by William Eaton. The march from Alexandria began on March 8th and had multiple issues along the way. Lt O'Bannon and his Marines had to defend the column's supply train from both the Arabs and the Greeks on several occasions and at one point had to quell a mutiny by the Arabs. Once they crossed into Tripoli, the mutiny was under control both Greeks and Arabs were ready for the task that lay ahead. They reached the port city of Bomba several miles away from Derna where they were resupplied by the US ships, Argus, Nautilus and Hornet. Eaton also receive money to pay the mercenaries.

On April 26, Eaton sent a note to Mustafa Bey, the governor of Derna, requesting safe passage through the city. Mustafa's reply is reported to have said something to the effect of, "my head or yours". Eaton was expecting this kind of reply. As he examined the fortress at Derna, Eaton observed 8 cannon. His army had 2 artillery pieces, 1 that was brought with them from Alexandria and 1 that was offloaded during their resupply at Bomba. Eaton and O'Bannon, divided their force for a 2 pronged attack on the city. Hamet would lead his 200 Arabs in a flanking maneuver around the city and attack from the west while Eaton & O'Bannon would lead the Marines and the Greeks in an assault on the fortress. The USS Argus, USS Nautilus and USS Hornet would engage the forts cannon and defenses while Eaton and O'Bannon attacked.

The Greek cannons also used the cannon offloaded from the Argus but it would become ineffective when one of the cannons left the ramrod in and fired it down range. The defenders seeing where the attack was coming from, drew re-enforcements from the western defenses of the city which had not yet been attacked by Hamet and his Arabs.

Eaton and O'Bannon quickly realized that they needed to charge the fort as several Greeks were starting to retreat due to the withering musket fire from the fort. At the beginning of the charge, Eaton was seriously wounded in the wrist by a musket ball. O'Bannon continued the charge and the Greeks Captain Hull, who was the commander of the US flotilla, saw the charge begin to unfold and seeing the quick gains that the attacking force was making, ordered a cease fire from the ships. O'Bannon, his Marines and the Greeks continued the charge and the defenders retreated leaving their loaded cannon. O'Bannon raised the Stars and Stripes above the fort, thus being the first American to raise the flag on foreign soil during a time of war.



In the meantime, Hamet's Arabs were successful in their attack on the western part of the city due to the reduction in defenders that were sent to re-enforce the fort. O'Bannon and his men turned the already loaded cannon on the city and the remained defenders retreat into Hamet's force which had captured the Governor's mansion. The city was secure and in American hands by 1600. American casualties were 2 KIA and 3 Wounded and the Greeks sustained 9 total (exact number is unknown). The casualties for Hamet's force and the defenders remain unknown and will likely never be known.

Yusuf (who had killed his oldest brother in front of their mother while Hamet was in Egypt to take over the throne) in Tripoli to the west sent a force to re-enforce the defenders but by the time they arrived the city had fallen. They dug in and waited. Eaton and O'Bannon fortified their position and Hamet's Arabs patrolled the outer limits of the city. On May 13th, Yusuf's force attacked and drove Hamet's Arabs back almost recapturing the Governor's palace. Cannon fire from the captured guns at the fort and the USS Argus forced the attackers back and both sides were in their original positions by nightfall.

For the next several weeks, there would be some skirmishes and an occasional all out attack but the city remained under American control. Eaton set his sights on Tripoli and departed on another march across the desert with the intent on attacking Tripoli. While on this march he was informed

that on June 10, 1805, a treaty between the US and Yusuf had arranged and signed by the American Emissary Tobias Lear. He was instructed to return to Egypt with his forces and Hamet who would remain in exile.

Eaton was furious over what he regarded as a sell out by the US State Department and returned to the US as a national hero. Hamet remained in Egypt and the mercenaries were never fully paid. It was reported that Hamet gave 1st Lt Presley O'Bannon a Mameluke sword as a gesture of respect for the Marines actions during the Battle of Derna on Decemebr 10, 1805. There was no official documentation of this occurring but it falls under one of our many Marine Corps Legends and Lore. When he returned to Virginia, O'Bannon received a silver-hilted sword featuring an eagle head hilt and a curved blade modeled after the original Mameluke sword from the State of Virginia.

O'Bannon resigned from the Marine Corps on March 6, 1807. He moved to Logan County, Kentucky, making his home in Russellville. He served in the Kentucky State Legislature in 1812, 1817, and 1820–21, and in the Kentucky State Senate from 1824 to 1826. Some time before 1826, he married Matilda Heard, daughter of Major James Heard and Nancy Morgan, a daughter of American Revolutionary War general Daniel Morgan, commander at the Battle of Cowpens in South Carolina in 1781). O'Bannon died in 1850 at age 74 in Pleasureville, Kentucky, where his daughter and nephew lived. In 1919, his remains were moved to the Frankfort Cemetery in Kentucky's state capital.

The Mameluke sword was adopted for wear as part of the official uniform by officers of the United States Marine Corps by Commandant Archibald Henderson in 1825. With the exception of the years between 1859 and 1875 when Marine officers were required to wear the US Army foot officers sword and WWII when the wearing swords was suspended, the Mameluke sword is part of the of the Marine Corps Commissioned Officer's uniforms except for evening dress and utility uniforms.



Today's U.S. Marine Corps officers' Mameluke sword closely resembles those first worn in 1826.

Weapons of the Marine Corps

Artillery

105MM Howitzer



US Marines fire a ceremonial 105MM Howitzer in 2005

After WWI, the US Ordnance Corps began development of the 105MM Howitzer and in 1920 began testing. The new 105MM Howitzer would be approved by 1926 and the first units began to receive the initial issue in the early 1930s. However, due to fiscal concerns, production was halted in 1933 with only 14 units being produced. In 1932, the Ordnance Corps redesigned the howitzer and approving the redesign for production as model M2A1 howitzer. Production on the new design was started in the late 30's with 48 being produced in 1939.

The US Army planned to replace all of its 75MM cannon but was unable to do so due to the fiscal and production issues in the 1930's. In 1940, the Marine re-organized its artillery battalions with 2 75MM and 1 105MM battalion per artillery regiment. In 1942, the number of 75MM battalions was increased to 3 with 1 105MM battalion per artillery regiment. In 1944, the 75MM battalions were reduced back to 2 and the number of 105MM battalions was increased to 2 with a total of 4 battalions per regiment. At the end of WWII, the artillery regiments were reduced back to per war numbers under the Luis Johnson cut backs in the late 1940s.

The 105MM participated in most of the Pacific campaigns proving its durability in harsh conditions. In Korea, the 105MM battalions of the 11th Artillery Regiment literally saved the day in the Pusan perimeter provide extremely accurate fire when and where commanders needed it. They also participate at Inchon and remained in support of the 1st Marine Div through out the war. The artillery doctrine of the Marine Corps was set up from the end of WWII and Korea and remains the same today although the weapons are different now. The 105MM was redesignated the M101A1 in 1960 and continued to see use well into the 1980s before being phased out by newer more powerful and accurate weapons. Over 10,000 units were built at the Rock Island Arsenal before production was shut down in 1953. The M101A1 stills see service today with many countries and as ceremonial units in the US Army.

Quartermaster's Report

Nothing new to report at this time. Was looking to open the ship's store for the April 10th Grab & Go Dinner but the long range weather forecast at time of publication is indicating rain for Saturday.

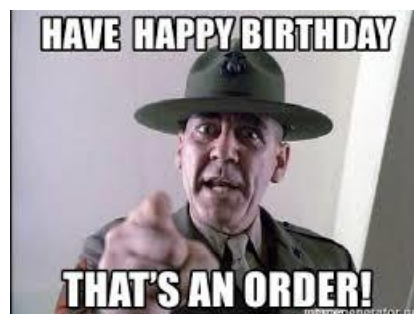
Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



- 04/05 Danny HK Jokl
- 04/16 Tom Bergen
- 04/19 John Harris
- 04/20 Nick DeAngelis
- 04/25 Dan Christian
- 04/26 Ron Frederick
- 04/30 Harrison Bruining



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 Calendar of Events

April 2021

- April 10: Drop n' Go Takeout meal program 1400 to 1700
- April 10: Leadership School: Chris Cioppa, Len Graff, Pierre Guibor, Paul Thompson
- April 13: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- April 22: Detachment Meeting 1900 Via Zoom

May 2021

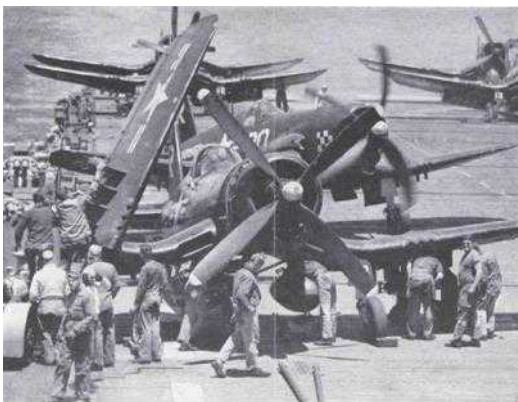
- May 8: Drop n' Go Takeout meal program 1400 to 1700
- May 11: Executive Board Meeting 1900
- May 15: Garand Rifle Shoot Cherry Ridge 0800 to 1200
- May 27: Detachment Meeting 1930 in person or zoom to be determined



15 April 1962: USMC operational involvement in the Vietnam War began on Palm Sunday when HMM-362 with its UH-34s arrived at Soc Trang in the Delta south of Saigon. The task unit was called "Shufly" and its 1st operation was lifting Vietnamese troops into battle



12-13 April 1918: Marines of the 4th Brigade suffered their first gas attack on the night and early morning hours of 12-13 April when the Germans bombarded the 74th Company, 6th Marines near Verdun with mustard gas. Nine Marine officers and 305 enlisted Marines were gassed and evacuated, and 30 Marines died from the effects of the gas shells which hit in the middle of the reserve area cantonments in which they were sleeping.



21 April 1951: Marine carrier-based airplanes made their first aerial contact with enemy planes over the Korean front lines. Captain Philip C. Delong shot down two YAK fighters and 1st Lieutenant Harold D. Daigh destroyed one more and damaged another. The pilots were with VMF-312 off of the USS Bataan.



5 April 1947: Five Marine guards were killed and eight wounded when attacked by Communist Chinese raiders near the Hsin Ho ammunition depot in Northern China. This last major clash between Marines of the 1st Marines and Communist forces occurred shortly after withdrawal and redeployment plans from China were issued for the 1st Div & 1st MAW on 1 April.



28 April 1993: The last A-6E Intruder departed from Marine Corps service. Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 332 transferred the last Marine A-6E to St. Augustine, Florida, and prepared for the squadron's transition to the F/A-18D and eventual movement from Cherry Point to Beaufort, South Carolina



Marine Corps League
Lakeland Detachment 744
Important Dates for 2021
Executive Board Meetings



7 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month (Via Zoom until Further Notice)

January 12th, February 9th, March 9th, April 13th, May 11th, June 8th, July 13th,
August 10th, September 14th, October 12th, November 9th or 17th & December 9th

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Breakfast Dates

3rd Saturday of every month

Suspended until further notice



MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Regular Monthly Meeting

1930 Hours (except for Oct Meeting which is at 1900 hours for installation of officers)

4th Thursday of the month (Except November & December)

Meetings will be conducted via Zoom unless otherwise notified.

January 28th, February 25th, March 25th, April 22nd, May 27th, June 24th, July 22nd,
August 26th, September 23rd, October 28th, November 18th & December 16th

Please mark your calendars accordingly!



Desert Storm by Jake Hayes



Marine Hornet Flyover Kuwait



Desert Storm First Offensive Ground Attack

Marine Corps Funnies

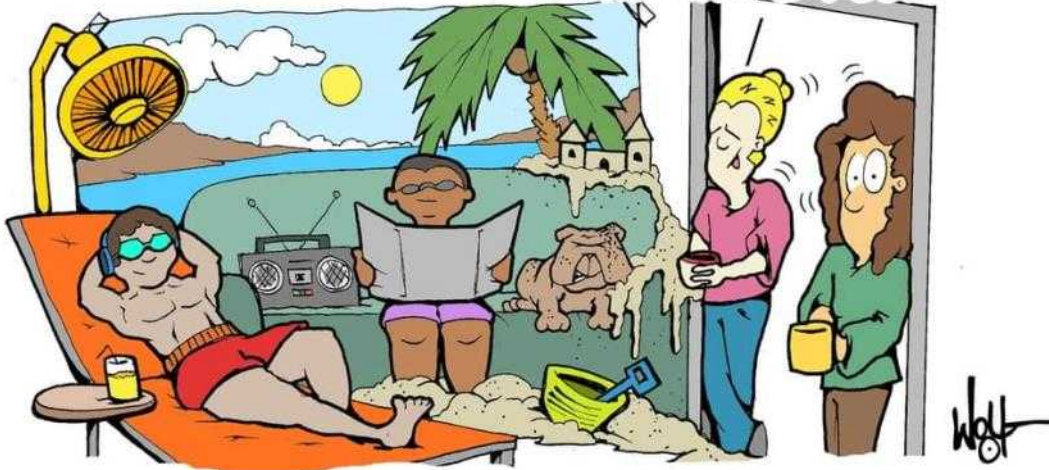
CorpsToons

"SPRING BREAK AT THE BEACH IS SO DIFFERENT THIS YEAR..."

"WHAT BEACH DID YOUR KIDS GO TO?..."



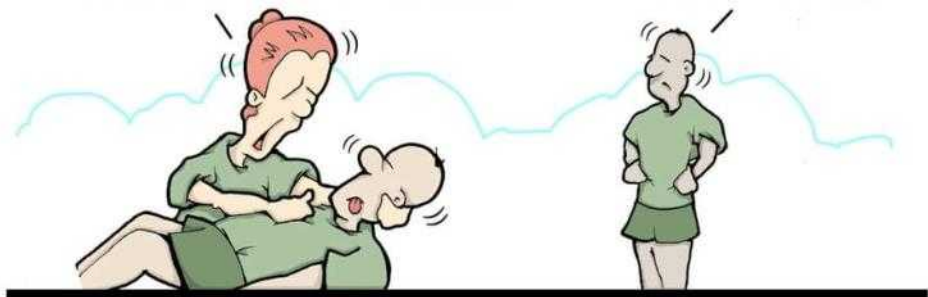
"THE LIVING ROOM!"



CorpsToons

"CORPSMAN UP!!..., GUNNY'S DOWN!!
BRING THE 'PC' QUICK!!"

"DON'T YOU MEAN 'IV'....."



"NO..., HE JUST NEEDS
A POT OF COFFEE!"



Walt



1-855-838-8255
Vets4Warriors.com

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Vets4Warriors

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- Vets4Warriors provides Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve Service members and their families worldwide with peer-to-peer support.
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- Vets4Warriors will assist you in setting a plan to overcome adversity, manage stress, and build resilience.
- Vets4Warriors provides peer support and follow up for those with ongoing concerns. For those in crisis we will connect you to the Military Crisis Line.



- Peer-to-peer support is available 24/7, and it is toll-free throughout the U.S.
- Your call is confidential. Vets4Warriors does not discuss your call with anyone and, if callers choose, they can remain anonymous.
- The Vets4Warriors call center is staffed with Veterans and family members representing all branches of the Service.
- The call center's Veterans provide information and referrals as needed.
- Vets4Warriors is available via telephone, on-line chat, or e-mail.
- For more information visit www.vets4warriors.com.



Set your course with a military connection

Vets4Warriors

855-838-8255 vets4warriors.com
Info@vets4warriors.com





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Important Numbers and Websites

	Phone Number
Health Care Benefits:	1-877-222-8388
Bereavement Counseling	1-202-461-6530
Children of Women Vietnam Veterans	1877-345-8179 (or) 1-888-820-1756
Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA)	1-800-733-8387
Dept Management Center (Collection of Non-Medical Depts)	1-800-857-0648
Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Call Center for Homeless Veterans	1-877-424-3838
Psychological Health Outreach Program Fort Devens, MA MFR-PHOP .North	east@serco-na.com
eBenefits (General Questions & Technical Issues)	1-800-983-0937
Education (GI Bill)	1-888-442-4551
Federal Recovery Coordination Program	1-877-732-4456
Foreign Medical Program	1-888-820-1756
Gulf War Veterans Hotline	1-800-749-8387
Homeless Veterans	1-877-222-8387
Income Verification and Means Testing	1-800-929-8387
Life Insurance	1-800-669-8477
Meds by Mail	1-888-385-0235 (or) 1-866-229-7389
National Call Center for Homeless Veterans	1-877-424-3838
National Cemetery Scheduling Office	1-800-535-1117
National Personnel Records Center	1-314-801-0800
National Resource Directory	https://www.nrd.gov/
Pension Management Center	1-877-294-6380
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program	1-202-565-4964
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned or Veteran-Owned Small Business	1-202-303-3260
Special Health Issues	1-800-749-8387
Spina Bifida/Children of Women Vietnam Veterans	1-888-820-1756
Status of Headstones and Markers	1-800-697-6947
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)	1-800-829-4833
VA Caregiver Support Line	1-855-260-3274
VA for Vets	1-855-824-8387
VA Inspector General	1-800-488-8244
VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs	1-202-461-7600
Veteran's ID Theft Hotline	1-800-333-4636
Veteran's Employment and Training Service (VETS)	1-866-487-2365
Women Veterans	1-202-461-1070
Wounded Warrior Resource Center	1-800-342-9647



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A hands-on physical examination is not required.

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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veteran's Information

Paul Thompson

MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

Veteran's Service Officer 201-320-3210

Veterans Administration

Department of Veteran's Affairs

20 Washington Place

Newark, NJ 07102-3174 800-827-1000

Veterans Campus Lyons

151 Knollcroft Rd

Lyons, NJ 07939

908-647-0180 (Phone)

908-647-3452 (Fax)

Veterans Service Officer

Vietnam Veterans of America

Margaret Wojciechowicz 973-297-3227

Passaic Veterans Service Officers

930 Riverview Dr Suite 200

Totowa, NJ 07512 973-569-4090

Bergen Division of Veterans Services

One Bergen County Plaza , 2nd Floor

Hackensack, NJ 07601

Richard Paul, Director

201-336-6325, 26, 28, 29 & 7406

Morris County Veterans Services

540 West Hanover Ave

Morristown NJ 07960

Michael Williams 973-285-6866

Marine Corps League Information

Marine Corps League

National Web Site:

<http://www.mclnational.org>

Marine Corps League

Department of New Jersey

Web Site:

<http://njmcl.org>

Lakeland Detachment 744 Web Site:

<http://www.usmcl744.org>

Lakeland Detachment 744 Face Book Page:

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-League-Lakeland-Detachment-744/165447603504657)

[Marine-Corps-League-Lakeland-](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-League-Lakeland-Detachment-744/165447603504657)

[Detachment-744/165447603504657](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-League-Lakeland-Detachment-744/165447603504657)

