
Marine Corps League



Housatonic Detachment #1129

Volume 8 Issue 2

February 2010

Welcome to Housatonic Detachment 1129's Newsletter



February is an historic month for the United States Marine Corps. One of its most famous and costliest battles was fought on a volcanic ash island called Iwo Jima. It is also the anniversary of the establishment of the Women Marine Reserve. Although the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was authorized on 30 July 1942, the Corps didn't actually form it until 13 February 1943. See our pictures section for a picture of somebody you all know. There is also a few pictures from our Awards/Installation Night.

Be sure to go to the last page of this newsletter and fill out the information requested. It will help us plan future functions.



Paymaster Request:

When you make out a check to the detachment, please make it out to "Marine Corps League" as that is the primary name on our account. And, even if the check is for a Quartermaster order, make out the check to the "Marine Corps League" as quartermaster merchandise is paid for by the detachment funds. If you are reimbursing me for something that I personally fronted money for, make the check out to "John LaBrecque".

Quartermaster Stuff

Ribbon Bars: I have a number of uniform ribbon bars. Anyone that needs an upgrade can simply exchange their old ribbon bar for a new one or pay for a new one.

Membership applications can be downloaded and printed out from our website at:

<http://www.orgsites.com/ct/housatonic/index.html>

For those that are computer challenged, you can contact me to send you some or pick them up at one of our meetings. Just as an FYI, I usually have copies of

Inside This Issue

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Welcome |
| 2 | Commandant's Column |
| 2 | Detachment News & Info |
| 3 | USMC History - February |
| 5 | Pictures |
-

our applications and rituals at every meeting. Just ask me for one if you want any copy.

Some people have asked me where to get embroidery done locally (Caps, jackets, etc.). A good place is:

All League Embroidery

171 Bruce Ave
Stratford, CT 06615
203-377-7215

The above info is the updated address and name info of the same place we've had in previous newsletters. They do a decent job with our MCL caps and give us a good price.

Announcements and other info on our detachment can be found on the Marine Corps League Announcement Forum on <http://www.YellowFootprints.com>; our website at <http://www.orgsites.com/ct/housatonic/index.html> and on our webpage on National's website at <http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/userpages/HOUSATO NIC-914.php>

We also have a listing on the Department of Connecticut's website at <http://www.mcldeptct.org/pages/detachments8.html>

Jack LaBrecque – Web Sergeant.

My email address is:

JITB@att.net

Other contact info is:

Jack LaBrecque, 2288 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615

(203) 380-0303

Commandant's Column

Our Installation & Awards Night, I believe, was an outstanding event. It was rewarding to see so many detachment members & so many spouses. Thanks to Bill Pavia for the fine food & thanks to all who contributed to making the evening a success.

A big part of the MCL experience is Brotherhood & Camaraderie. Our detachment is getting better all the time. As we become closer & more supportive of each other, it becomes easier for us to carry on our good works.

I thank all of you for the opportunity to serve another year as your Commandant. Last year was a learning experience for me & I think I can do a much better job this year. This

year I may do things a little differently. Most importantly, I will expedite the planning of our major events so we will all know what is happening when & be able to plan accordingly. This should help our attendance at various functions & allow more members to get involved both in work & enjoyment.

One thing you won't want to miss this year is the Formal Mess Night Friday May 15th at the Stone Barn in Monroe. This should be the social & military event of the year.

Please keep in mind our Rose Fund & Life Member Fund - for a \$20.00 donation you will have your name listed in the newsletter for the year. Donations for this year are now due, but may be made at any time.

As we go along, it is the intention of the detachment to honor veterans of each era. As you know we honored the our WWII veterans at our 2008 Birthday Breakfast. This year, 2010, we will honor our Korean Era vets. This process will continue until all are honored for their contribution to Freedom.

Attached to this month's newsletter is a form that will give us the necessary information to continue with this process. Please complete the form & return it to Jack LaBrecque or me. It may be returned by Email, fax, regular mail or personally.

Semper Fi!
Jim Alexander
Commandant

Detachment News & Info

2010 Staff:

Commandant: Jim Alexander
Sr. Vice Commandant: Jack Dougherty
Jr. Vice Commandant: Matt O'Neil
Judge Advocate: Jim Jarusinsky
Jr. Past Commandant: Harry Howe
Adjutant/Paymaster: Jack LaBrecque
Chaplain: Bob Chenoweth
Sgt. At Arms: Bill Lamb
Web Sergeant: Jack LaBrecque
Newsletter Editor: Jack LaBrecque
Public Relations: Bob Vitale
Color Guard Commander: Jack Dougherty
Scholarship Chairman: Jim Alexander
Detachment Historian ~ Dave Schmidtko
Detachment Librarian ~ Don Pavia
VA-VAVS ~ Jim Alexander
Youth Liaison ~ Open
Marine Corps Birthday Breakfast ~ Don Pavia
Toys for Tots Coordinator ~ Jack LaBrecque
Detachment Activity Coordinator ~ Orrie Barber
Memorial Day Picnic & Parade ~ Jack LaBrecque
Quartermaster ~ Jack LaBrecque

Some of the above committee names may change in the next few months as Commandant Alexander verifies who is willing to do the job.

Detachment Address:

Marine Corps League
Housatonic Detachment #1129
Post Office Box 281
Stratford, CT 06615-0281

Detachment Meetings are at:

VFW Post 9460
100 Veteran's Blvd (Off of Barnum Avenue Cut-Off)
Stratford, CT



**Our next meeting will be
on Monday, February 8th, 2010
at 1930**



The Marine Corps League Cover

Every member should have MCL cover as it is the minimal Marine Corps League uniform. The Ship's store recently raised the price for the cap. It is now \$23, the EGA cap emblem is \$3.50 and the Associate cap emblem is \$5.50.

A Happy Birthday this month to:

Mickey Greene ~ February 5th

1 Song "Three O'Clock in the Morning" by Paul Whiteman

Dick Steele ~ February 11th

1 Song "April Showers" by Al Jolson

Bob Vitale ~ February 27th

1 Song "Blue Moon" by Glen Gray

Above indicates the # 1 Billboard Song on the date they were born

Membership Dues

Membership dues renewals should be sent to our address:

Marine Corps League
Housatonic Detachment #1129
Post Office Box 281

Housatonic Det. # 1129

Stratford, CT 06615-0281

Or to:

Jack LaBrecque
2288 Main Street
Stratford, CT 06615

You can use the Renewal Form that National sends you or the Application/Renewal form available at our website at:

<http://www.orgsites.com/ct/housatonic/index.html>

Make checks out to the "Marine Corps League". You also can just send a check with "Renewal" printed in the Memo section on the check.

Marine Rose Booster Members 2010

Jack LaBrecque ~ January
Jim Alexander ~ January

It's not mandatory that you become a Marine Rose Booster but it does focus certain funds towards worthwhile charitable projects of the detachment.

Life Member Booster 2010

Jack LaBrecque ~ January
Jim Alexander ~ January

VFW Post 9460 Events Scheduled

On February 20, 2010, the VFW Color Guard will be sponsoring a "Steak Night" at 7 PM. The charge will be \$15 per person.

On March 13, 2010, the VFW will have a Corned Beef and Cabbage Night from 7 PM to 12 AM. The charge will be \$20 per person.

Members of the Housatonic Detachment should make an effort to support the different functions of VFW Post 9460.

February USMC History

1 February 1944: The 23rd and 24th Marine Regiments landed at Roi-Namur Islets, Kwajalein Atoll (Islets secured February 2, 1944).

1 February 1967: Operation Prairie II was begun in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3d Marine Division. During the 46-day search-and-destroy operation which terminated 18 March, 93 Marines and 693 of the enemy were killed.

2 February 1944: The 4th Marine Division, as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the start of World War II, captured Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll.

2 February 1961: 1st day at sea - 3rdBn 1st Marines Transplacement Bn to Okinawa.

2 February 1968: Operation Hue City, Tet Offensive began in Vietnam.

3 February 1852: Marines landed at Buenos Aires, Argentina, to protect American lives.

3 February 1967: M16E1 introduced to III MAF - RVN. (Note: The M16E1 was designated as the M16A1 on 28 February 1967)

4 February 1868: Marines landed at Osaka, Japan, to protect foreign nationals.

4 February 1955: 3rd Engineer Bn moved from Japan to Okinawa.

5 February 1918: The 1st Marine Replacement Battalion sailed for France in WW I.

6 February 1780: Continental Marines helped defend Charleston from the British.

6 February 1832: Battle of Quallah Batto, Sumatra.

6 February 1968: Two reduced Marine battalions, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines with two companies, and 2d Battalion, 5th Marines with three, recaptured Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house to house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured.

7 February 1832: 250 Marines defeated Malay pirates in Sumatra, Indonesia.

7 February 1862: Roanoke Isle, N.C. seized by Marines and Soldiers in battle with Confederates.

8 February 1910: Boy Scouts of America founded.

8 February 1944: Kwajalein was secured; the 14th and 23rd Marine Regiments with 2/24 departed.

8 February 1955: Marines aided 300,000 refugees to escape Viet-Minh forces, North Vietnam.

9 February 1904: Captain A. W. Catlin's 49 Marines established the first permanent Marine garrison in Honolulu.

9 February 1948: The first Marine helicopters (HO3S-1s) were delivered to the Corps.

10 February 1862: Battle of Fort Cobb.

10 February 1945: Task Force 58, with Marine Fighter Squadrons 123, 216, 217, 212, and 451 on board carriers, attacked Tokyo and provided air cover support for Iwo Jima landing forces. They also bombed and strafed Okinawa.

11 February 1904: Marines landed at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

11 February 1922: BGen John H. Russell was appointed U.S. High Commissioner and personal representative of the President to the government of Haiti. This nine-year assignment placed this future Commandant in supreme command of both the occupying American force and the Haitian Gendarmerie.

12 February 1809: Abraham Lincoln's Birthday.

12 February 1918: WW I Marines landed at Scapa Flow, Great Britain.

13 February 1943: The U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve was formed.

14 February 1885: Marines were authorized to retire after 30 years of service.

15 February 1898: On this date, 28 Marines and 232 seamen lost their lives when the battleship MAINE was mysteriously sunk by an explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. Though no definitive evidence linked the Spanish with the sinking, the cry went up, "Remember the Maine!", and by late April the U.S. and Spain were at war.

15 February 1955: Green Islands Landing.

16 February 1953: Marine Captain Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox baseball legend, crash landed his F9F Pantherjet after his aircraft was shot up during a bombing raid on North Korea. Williams walked away from the wheels-up landing.

17 February 1944: Marines landed on Engibi Islet in Marshall Islands (Islet secured February 18, 1944).

17 February 1967: The first full day of Operation DECKHOUSE VI,

which lasted until 3 March, was conducted near Quang Ngai city. The Special Landing Force (BLT Y4 and HMM-363) accounted for 280 enemy killed.

17 February 1988: Marine LtCol William Higgins, assigned to the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, was abducted by pro-Iranian terrorists.

18 February 1814: The British schooner Phoenix fell to Marines of the USS Constitution.

19 February 1944: Marines joined US Army assault on Eniwetok in Marshall Islands (Island secured February 20, 1944).

19 February 1945: The 4th and 5th Marine Divisions stormed ashore at Iwo Jima (Island secured March 26, 1945).

20 February 1962: Marine LtCol John Glenn made three orbits in a manned space capsule. First American to orbit the earth.

21 February 1991: VMA-331 conducted the first combat missions for AV-8B, operating from the helicopter assault ship USS Nassau, LHA-4.

22 February 1732: George Washington's Birthday.

22 February 1943: The 3rd Raider Battalion consolidated positions on Pavuvu Island.

23 February 1945: Four days after the initial landings on Iwo Jima, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier led 40 men from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, up Mt. Suribachi to secure the crest and raise the small American flag that battalion commander LtCol Chandler Johnson had given Schrier. Within an hour, the patrol reached the rim of the crater. After a short fire-fight with Japanese defenders emerging from several caves, the small American flag was attached to an iron pipe and raised over the island.

24 February 1945: The 3rdMarDiv joined the 4th and 5th Divisions in the capture of Iwo Jima.

24 February 1991: The I Marine Expeditionary Force and coalition forces began a ground assault on Iraqi defenses in the final chapter of Operation Desert Storm. The 1st and 2d Marine Divisions stormed into the teeth of Iraqi defenses while heavily armored allied forces attacked the Iraqi defenses in Iraq from behind. In 100 hours, U.S. and allied forces defeated the Iraqi Army.

25 February 1861: The Confederate Marine Corps was organized in Richmond, Virginia.

26 February 1919: The 15th Marine Regiment landed to help quell bandits in the Dominican Republic.

26 February 1991: A Marine recon unit was the first U.S. force to enter Kuwait City and retake the American Embassy.

27 February 1991: Desert Storm offensive operations ceased. Marines captured or damaged 1,060 tanks, 608 APCs, 432 artillery pieces and two Scud launchers during 100 hours of combat.

28 February 1928: Marines participated in the Battle of Bromaderos, Nicaragua.

28 February 1968: Elements of the 1st Marine Brigade landed at DaNang.

28 February 1991: Operation Desert Storm ended when the cease-fire declared by President George Bush went into effect. I Marine Expeditionary Force has a strength of more than 92,000 making Operation Desert Storm the largest Marine Corps operation in history .A total of 24 Marines were killed in action during the Gulf War.

PICTURES



The Young Lady Marine in this picture probably stole the hearts of many Marines at Camp Lejeune in 1945.
It's our own Ruth Rosenberg



One final note: Please get those dues renewals in.

Name:

Date of Birth:

Branch of Service:

Date Entered Service:

Active:

Reserve:

Date Discharged:

Active:

Reserve:

M.O.S. (Military Job):

Highest Rank (Optional):

DOD Ribbons & Awards received:

Civilian Occupation:

Return To:

Jack LaBrecque
Adjutant/Paymaster
2288 Main Street
Stratford, CT 06615
Phone: 203-380-0303
Fax: 203-381-0625
Email JITB@att.net

Or:

James Alexander
Commandant
987 Monroe Turnpike
Monroe, CT 06468
Phone 203-261-2189
Email j.alexander360@sbcglobal.net