

THE BONNYMAN GAZETTE

October 2018

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 4

The Bonnyman Gazette is the official newsletter of the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment #924 Marine Corps League, PO Box 53293, Knoxville, TN 37950. Articles and photos are due to the Editor no later than the 15th of each month. The Editor is Jeff Tegzes, ntegzes@gmail.com, (865) 809-1585.

Detachment & Auxiliary Meetings

We meet monthly on the last Tuesday of the month at the Navy Operational Support Center / Marine Corps Reserve Center, 2101 Alcoa Hwy (Rt 129) Knoxville, TN 37920. Social hour begins at 1730 followed by a business meeting at 1830.

Detachment Officers

Commandant

Tim Eichhorn (865) 368-6559

Junior Past Commandant

Jim Williams (865) 740-4155

Senior Vice Commandant

Travis Bryan (704) 363-4395

To Junior Vice Commandant

Sam Ruble (865) 850-1326

Adjutant

Eric Nash (865) 693-5711

Paymaster

Lee Rhinemiller (865) 414-3460

Chaplain

Pearl Rich (865) 306-6744

Judge Advocate

David Cates (865) 548-4088

Sergeant-at-Arms

Stony Saathoff (865) 556-6524

Web Sergeant: mclknoxville.org

Tim Shea

Detachment Quartermaster

Larry George (865) 789-6535



OUR NEWEST MEMBER, LCPL MICHAEL BURROSS, D CO, 4TH CEB, WAS SWORN IN AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING.

COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Greetings Marines! Sometimes the middle of the month sneaks up on me and putting my thoughts together for the Commandant's Corner is a challenge. Sometimes it flows and babbles on like a Marine on liberty with some extra cash to burn when he comes back to the barracks with too many ill-advised purchases and likely a headache from too many adult beverages. This is one of those.

First let me tell you all thanks for the work, esprit and effort put into the Detachment again this year. We are dark in December so that leaves our October and November meetings as the last of the year. You have consistently shown the indomitable Marine spirit and morale in taking care of one another and getting the mission completed.

We have an innate ability as Marines to size things and each other up. To recognize who gets the job done and who is just a wind bag. To see where effort should be devoted to a task and where we need to let a sleeping dog lie. You have proven again and again this year that as Marines, we are focused on "mission first and troops always!"

So I want to say thanks, from Toys for Tots to Mud Run to funeral details to handshakes, it all gets done and in fine Marine Corps fashion because of you lending your hand to the rope and pulling your part.

Thanks and without question—Semper Fidelis.

Tim Eichhorn, Commandant

PS. I have refrained from listing any dates in this message. In the September Gazette I erroneously listed Saturday for the picnic when it should have been Sunday. Please check your calendar always over some wind bag like me writing at 5:00am in the morning! Sorry about that confusion on the dates!



100 YEARS AGO:

MARINES IN THE GREAT WAR

October 1918: In late September, the American Army launched its largest attack yet in the Argonne/Verdun sector along side the French Army attack in the Champagne sector to the west. The French Army had only limited success and asked the Americans for help to tackle a particularly tough German position on Blanc Mont Ridge. The 2nd Division, commanded by General Lejeune, accepted the task and both brigades would attack the heavily intrenched German positions on 3 October. The Marine Brigade, lead by the 6th Marines, attacked on the left side of the sector, straight at the most heavily fortified part of the German defenses. 5th Marines would follow and faced continuous fire from German forces to the west. The French Army on the left flank of the 2nd Division failed to advance along with the Americans and left them continuously exposed to German fire from their sector. In spite of the lack of French support on the left, the 6th Marines stormed into the German defenses and secured most of the ridge by the end of the day while 5th Marines moved up to protect the exposed left flank. The 5th Marines continued the attack north of the ridge on 4 October and ran into continuous heavy machinegun and artillery fire as they advanced into the next fortified German line. The attack finally ground to a halt as the Marine battalions were shot to pieces by fire from the front and flank. Although 6th Marines managed a limited attack on 5 October, the 2nd Division was a wreck and could only hold its positions. On 7 October, the 36th Division relieved the 2nd Division and continued the attack. The Marine Brigade suffered terrible losses at Blanc Mont and would take most of the rest of October to rebuild before it could rejoin the American Army in the Argonne sector.



The view of Blanc Mont Ridge as seen today from the memorial tower. Most of the area has been reclaimed for agriculture although some areas, including the main German bunker complex, are off-limits to visitors (I tried!). -your editor



Hi Everyone. It's the time of year for Toys for Tots collection to get started. I have been in contact with the Marine Corps Reserve Coordinator for this year. The dates for us to volunteer our services for truck unloading, sorting, and distribution are listed below as well as each weekly activity. At our upcoming detachment meeting on October 30th, sign-up sheets will be available for you to pick the activity and time to volunteer.

November 2-5 : Unloading Truck

(the exact day the truck will arrive has not yet been determined but will let you know as soon as possible.) Volunteers will be needed any one or two of these days depending upon the number of volunteers that will be there.

December 10-14 : Toy Sorting

December 17-20: Distribution of Toys to Families

All activities will take place at the warehouse in Maryville. That address is 502 West Broadway Avenue, Maryville, TN.

I want to thank you in advance for giving time to help with this very important mission. It is so important for us to help a child have a Merry Christmas.

If you have any questions please call me at 865 306-6744 or email me at chaplain.924@gmail.com.

Pearl Rich, Detachment Chaplain



**LOOK FOR EARLY VOTING
IN YOUR AREA THIS MONTH**

MEMBER DUES PAST DUE

Twenty of our Detachment members have annual membership dues past due! Contact the Paymaster ASAP to get back in good standing.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Hi Everyone!!

As this is being written (16 October) Lee Rhinemiller was just released from the hospital after a serious traffic accident. Lee is pretty sore from the impact and the airbag deployment and it will probably be a while before he is back to 100%. Lee's daughter has also been ill. Keep both of them in your prayers.

I spoke with Marie Ashley this week to see how they were doing and if they encountered any damages because of the hurricane. Marie told me that they were doing fine health wise and was very happy to report that they received no damages from the hurricane. They send their regards and appreciated the phone call.

I had the great privilege to sit with Lois and Joe Eddlemon during lunch at the nursing home. It was really good to see Lois in good spirits and she looks great. Joe is having some problems keeping his food down. The doctor is being contacted to help with that situation. So nice to see both of them together. They are a great couple together! We love you both.

It was reported at the Officers Meeting that Gene Collins is now able to receive phone calls from our membership. I know he would be delighted to hear from you so please take a few minutes to call and let him know we are thinking of him. May we all continue to keep him in our prayers. I am sure he would also enjoy receiving cards from us as well.

I spoke to Richard Bell and his wife. Richard indicated that he had vascular surgery in July and August and is slowly recovering. He was in good spirits but is still in a lot of pain. Again, if you could call and talk to him for a few minutes or send a card or two, I feel sure he would greatly appreciate knowing we have not forgotten him.

On a final note, Ginger Huffman is still undergoing treatment and needs our prayers for her continued strength as she goes through these tough times. We love you Ginger and have you in our thoughts.

There will be free dental services including: exams, cleanings, extractions and fillings (50% discount on root canals, dentures, partials and crowns) offered to all veterans. This service will be provided by Sequoyah Dental Arts on November 15, 2018 for one day only. They are located at 2719 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN. Appointments must be reserved in advance and the number to call is 865-524-1265 to reserve your spot.

I have been going through the membership list calling members to see how they are doing. It has come to my attention that many of our members reported phone information is incorrect or the phone has been disconnected. Therefore, I would like to request that each of you review your information and if your information is incorrect please send me the corrected information. Thank you as it will be very much appreciated.

Please contact me if you know of anyone who is in need of our assistance in any way. My email address is chaplain.924@gmail.com and the phone number is 865 306-6744. May God bless and keep all of you safe.



Pearl Rich, Detachment Chaplain

MCL AUXILIARY

Greetings! I hope you are enjoying the lovely autumn weather. Get ready for the busy November and December schedules with Veteran's Day, Marine Corps Birthday events and Toys

for Tots. Check the calendar and the Gazette for dates and details.

Please offer your friends and neighbors the opportunity to support Wreaths Across America with Christmas wreaths at East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery. To make your donation on-line: www.wreathscrossamerica.org, use code TN0034P to support the Lt Alexander Bonnyman Young Marines. More than 1800 wreaths are needed for East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery on John Sevier Highway. The website allows you to specify any military cemetery where you wish to donate wreaths.

Patty Mullins volunteered to serve as Treasurer, and was elected by unanimous vote at the September meeting. Charlene, Patty, Ginger and Connie met at the bank to complete the changes in banking records.

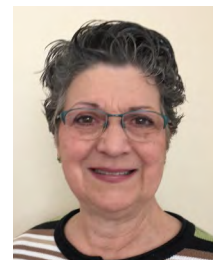
The Department of Tennessee Auxiliary Staff Conference was Oct 15 in Crossville. Charlene, Connie, Patty and Susan attended. Stay tuned for information on the 2019 Department Convention. The VAVS Council is meeting Oct 16 at Mountain Home VA Medical Center. Patty will deliver our quarterly donation and bring a report to our Oct 30 meeting.

Barbara Jean is bringing cookies on October 30. See you there!

Charlene

334-399-7096

charlenecotton839@gmail.com



November Calendar

Knoxville Veterans Day Luncheon	8
Knoxville Veterans day Parade	9
Detachment Birthday Dinner	10
Officers Meeting	12
Bonnyman Memorial Ceremony	21
Detachment Meeting	27

December Calendar

Toys for Tots Christmas Break-fast	1
Devil Dog Growl	3
Officers Meeting	10
NO LEAGUE MEETING THIS MONTH	

January Calendar

Officers Meeting	14
Detachment Meeting	29

LETTER FROM VIRGIL YOUNG

Dear Marine Corps Leaguers & Auxiliary Members,

Just wanted to let you know we are still above ground and settling in to our new home. Our new address is 230 Pinewood Rd., Fredericksburg, VA 22405 and our house phone # is (540) 940-6260 – I still use my old cell # (865) 414-9550. (You can't find the address in Google Maps but you can find it on a map searching with Bing.). My new email address is youngvirgil44@gmail.com.

We moved in on 1 July after some interesting move mishaps I'll laugh with you about over a beer some-time but we love the new house. Our daughter lives 5 minutes from us and works from home, so she's been over here most nights and most weekends helping us unpack, put up blinds, etc. Our son and his family have been down from Springfield a few times to help out, too. We've got just a few more boxes in a storage unit and some curtains to put up but we're about ready for visitors. We're really enjoying being close enough to spend time with kids, grandkids and granddogs and to attend kids' baseball games, birthday parties and other such family events with them. They all came down Friday, the 28th of Sept., to help Anne and me celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary at a wonderful Italian restaurant in Fredericksburg.

I haven't been able to connect yet in person with the Fredericksburg MCL Detachment; they've cancelled several events because of heavy rain that I planned to attend. They meet once a month on a Saturday morning and I have their Oct. meeting on my calendar. However, I'm still traveling a lot for work so I might not be able to attend but I'll try to leave that day open.

Anyway, Anne says "Hi" to everyone and we both hope everyone is doing well. I've enjoyed getting the Bonnyman Gazette and was delighted to get a call from Gene Furrow during the 15th Annual Marine Mud Run to say it was going well – I'm sorry I wasn't there to help out.

Semper Fi, Virgil Young

MCL Det. 924, Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment, Life Member

P.S. I'll be in Mexico City on 3 Nov. so will be able to attend the Birthday Ball there put on by the Marine US Embassy Security Detachment. It's the first time I've been able to attend a Birthday Ball overseas (well, except for a rainy one in the field in Vietnam) and I'm looking forward to it. I'll be proudly wearing my MCL red jacket. I may even have a shot at a piece of cake as the "Oldest Marine" among all those young kids! I'll try to send Eric a picture or two for the Americanism Book.

P.S.S. Clay Bonnyman Evans is having a book-signing/presentation at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in the afternoon of 8 Dec. and has invited Anne and me to attend as his guests. We look forward to seeing him there.

YOUNG MARINE REPORT by Kathy Winters

September and October have been busy times. The Selection Board selected our Young Marine of the Year. Much thanks to Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell and Marine Sam Ruble for their participation. It was very enlightening, especially for the Mayor, to learn about the Young Marines. That same day we highlighted Red Ribbon Week kick-off.

We held our Rifle Team practice on the 29th, with air and .22 rifles. Marine Wayne Jones has repaired the mesh on all the targets. Much thanks for his time to the program. And the next day, we were at the MCL picnic. We had 14 in attendance. Nice to have Jim's pork back on the menu.

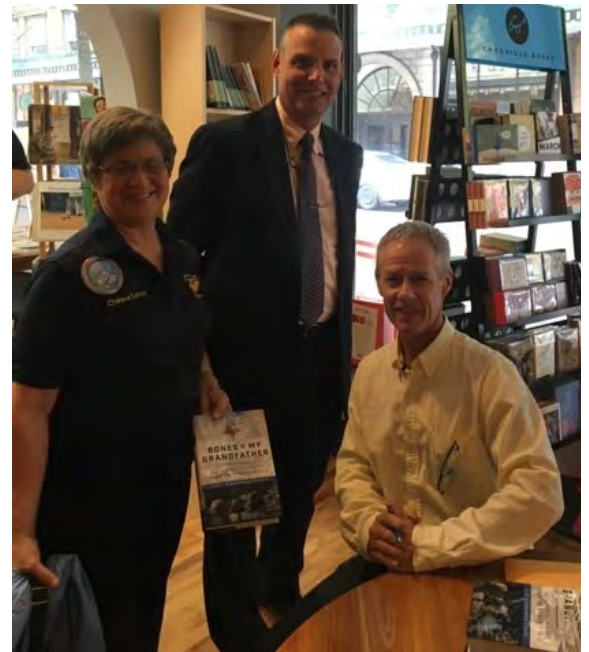
Monday, October 8th, we attended the Bridge Dedication for Marine LT Pilkington. Four Young Marines were able to participate. It's nice to be able to count on our Home Schoolers to be able to assist during the week. The next night we were at the McGhee Tyson Airport to celebrate the homecoming for Honor Air #27. That's always a great time. The crowd never seems to get smaller no matter how many times it flies. On Thursday, Mrs. Winters attended the Woman of Valor Symposium.

The Lt. Alexander Bonnyman bus left for Red Stone Arsenal to celebrate the Young Marines Birthday Ball with the Tennessee Regiment on Saturday, the 13th. There were 175 in attendance at the Ball including National Deputy Direction Joe Lusignon. After the traditional ceremony, cake cutting, and speeches, awards were given. YM SGT Robert Throckmorton was honored as the Bonnyman Young Marine of the Year, A very deserving young man. We are sure that you will hear that name again. YM Kayla Dobbins was also acknowledged for her promotion to PFC. Then came dinner and dancing. We had ten Young Marines and four adults. We had a great trip with a great bunch of Young Marines, arriving home late Sunday afternoon.

It's Wreaths Across America time! Be sure to bring your donation to the League meeting!



League members, family and friends enjoying the annual picnic at Lenoir City Park



Charlene Cotton and Sam Ruble at the book signing in Knoxville for Clay Bonnyman Evans' book, *Bones of My Grandfather*.



PILKINGTON BRIDGE DEDICATION

Detachment members and Young Marines attended the dedication of the 2nd LT Charles Pilkington Memorial Bridge at Concord Park on 2 October. Chip Pilkington was killed in action in Vietnam in 1969. He was a graduate of Bearden High School and the University of Tennessee.

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Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Det. # 924

Marine Corps League

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Have you ever been convicted of a felony? () YES () NO *If yes is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of my felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.*

I hereby apply for membership in the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment, Marine Corps League, Department of Tennessee, and enclose **\$28.00 for one year's membership that includes a year's subscription to the Marine Corps League quarterly magazine.**

I certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the U. S. Marine Corps, on active duty, for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor,* or have served or am currently serving in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Points or that I have served or am currently serving as a U. S. Navy Corpsman who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device or Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon **authorized for FMF Corpsman. If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable service." ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last Form DD 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received).** *General discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable.* By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service.

*(Korean War Era Marines See National Bylaws, Article 6, Section 600)

Sponsor where applicable)

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