



November 2011
Volume 1, Issue 1

Happy 236th Birthday Marine Corps~

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Middle Peninsula Detachment #1317
Po Box 1930
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www.MarineCorpsLeagueMiddlePeninsula.org

Middle Peninsula Detachment #1317

Inaugural Newsletter

by Associate Member, Jodey Clements

Congratulations Detachment #1317!

- An "OOHRAH" Corner- highlighting one of your own.

What is expected from you!

Each and every member of Detachment #1317 will have the opportunity to write an article or make a suggestion about something they would like to see in **YOUR** newsletter.

Continued on page 2...

What you can expect to see in this and ALL future newsletters will be your choice.

Some things will appear in "EVERY" newsletter which are:

- Letter from the Commandant of Detachment # 1317
- Letter from the Vice Commandant of Detachment #1317
- Monthly Calendar of events
- List of upcoming events
- News from most recent events
- News from our State Commandant Bruce Steely (if applicable)
- News from National
- List of Birthdays for that month
- List of members or members families in need of our prayers
- Fallen brethren.



Toys for Tots – New twist on an old favorite!

By Jodey Clements, Associate Member

October 1st, kicked off this season's Toys for Tots campaign!

Old favorite

The Marine Corps Reserve Program, Toys for Tots, was founded in Los Angeles in 1947 by Major William Hendricks and a group of reservists.

Toys for Tots, was inspired by Major Hendricks wife who attempted to donate a doll to a needy child through a local charity and found that there were none. Boxes were placed at every Warner Brothers Movie Theatre and by December 1947, *continued on page 2..*

Inaugural Newsletter

Cont'd...

Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to interject your "journalistic" side!

Keep in mind that your newsletter is NOT for internal purposes *only*!

Your newsletter will be provided to every other detachment throughout the Marine Corps League in Virginia as well as to other Military "affiliated" organizations in our area.

This is YOUR time to shine! ♦

Toys for Tots

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with the organizational help of a fellow reservist LtCol John Hampton, over 5000 new toys had been collected!

By 1948, the Toys for Tots program was launched as a nationwide campaign. Major Hendricks used his position as Director of Public Relations at Warner Brothers Studios to solicit advertising help from celebrities AND the Toys for Tots logo still in use today was created at his request by Walt Disney Studios!~ *Courtesy of www.ToysforTots.org/history*

We are proud to continue this outstanding tradition of our Corps under the direction of the Marine Reservist Station located in Newport News, Virginia.

Recent History

Detachment #1317 has participated in the Toys for Tots program every year since our first year in existence.

Each year we have done so with extraordinary results.

Being that we live in such a "Military" rich area, one problem if that's what you can call it; that has plagued the Toys for Tots program in the Middle Peninsula is "too many participants".

Every organization (both military affiliated and not) and there are many, seemed to sometimes "cross paths" or confuse locals and business owners as to who was running what.

The Detachment's Past Commandant Dave Clements along with the Toys for Tots campaign Director for Detachment #1317 and other members decided that a meeting was necessary with the Reserve station in Newport News.

An initial meeting was initiated in 2010. Ground rules and expectations were laid out and the program commenced on time that year as expected. Each group left with the understanding that ongoing meetings would be necessary in order to grow an "orderly" program for our growing Middle Peninsula.

Commandant Frank Garvey met with the Reserve Unit in August to establish the "order" for 2011.

New Twist

Since the Toys for Tots program is a Marine Corps affiliated and run

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Letter from the Commandant of Detachment #1317, Frank Garvey, USMC Ret

Detachment #1317 Members;

It is with much happiness that I welcome our Detachment's newsletter. I encourage each and every one of you to participate in its perpetual success. I know that with the hard work and determination of the members of Detachment #1317, this newsletter will grow to become an integral part of our existence. The newsletter will allow a place for each member to participate on a monthly basis, provide us the opportunity to recruit new members AS WELL AS for us as a Detachment to get the word out to other organizations both internally and externally... showing just how WONDERFUL a Detachment we are!

Please let us not undervalue this opportunity for growth. I wish you all a very "Happy Fall" and as we move into our "busy season" look forward to seeing more of our members becoming involved in one of the "many" events we have going on this time of year!

Semper Fi,

*Commandant Frank Garvey, USMC Ret
Middle Peninsula Detachment #1317*

Toys for Tots...

Cont'd from page 2...

Program; Detachment #1317 believes very strongly in its participation.

This year, Middle Peninsula Detachment # 1317 will be responsible for the placement and collection of toys for the program on the entire Middle Peninsula.

Other organizations will handle different aspects of fundraising endeavors for the program.

Commandant Frank Garvey is in receipt of at least 75 additional boxes that need placement along with an inventory of others already in storage.

Since there is no longer a "Director" for this endeavor it is imperative that information be supplied to the Commandant about placement of the boxes, in the interim.

There are STRICT recording guidelines that must be met each week. Scheduled "routes" will be established once all boxes have been placed.

New Recording Guidelines

New this year, each time a pick-up is done weekly, toys must be sorted by category, counted and recorded BEFORE delivery.

The categories are:

1. Toys
2. Books
3. Stocking Stuffers

If you are unsure of where to correctly count a piece that was collected, contact Commandant Garvey for clarification.

Detachment members are asked to please remember to wear their Detachment Covers OR Base Ball Cap

and carry their League ID's when conducting Toys for Tots or ANY fundraising endeavor.

Upcoming plans to be a part of this year's Gloucester Christmas Parade are now undergoing. We will have the opportunity as a Detachment of Marines to not only get our name out to the Community but promote the program as well.

Looking for a few good men..and women!

If you are interested in helping with parade arrangements, the toys for tots program or any other event, you are encouraged to contact a member of the detachment or the Commandant directly.

The volunteer position of DIRECTOR of the Toys for Tots Program for Detachment #1317 is available. For more info or with any questions, please contact Commandant Frank Garvey..

Timeline

"Toys for Tots", runs from October 1st thru December 15th of this year! ♦

Parks & Rec Soccer Event

Sponsored by Detachment #1317

By Jodey Clements, Associate Member

The Middle Peninsula Detachment will once again participate as a sponsor in the Parks & Rec annual Soccer Event.

This event is scheduled to be held at Ark Park in Gloucester on 5 November, from 0830 to 1700.

Volunteers are needed.

Soccer...continued on page 4...

Calendar of Events~

01 November 2011

1800-20:30-Village Lanes Bowling Center, Gloucester, Va. Membership Meeting
For more information about our regular membership meetings call Commandant Frank Garvey at: 804-815-2205 OR visit us at: www.MarineCorpsLeagueMiddlePeninsula.org

05 November 2011

0830-1700- Parks & Rec Fall Soccer Tournament. FAST Company Marines will be supporting us with this event. Contact Jim Harvell @ 804-693-5718 or Commandant Garvey @ 804-815-2205 to volunteer for this event.

06 November 2011

1200-1400-Veteran's Day Brunch- St. Therese Catholic Church- Free to all Veteran's and their families.

09 November 2011

1000-1300- Invitation from 2nd FAST Company to attend Lunch and 236th Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony @ Mess Hall, NWS Yorktown.

10 November 2011

Happy 236th Birthday USMC! OOHRAH! November 10, 1775

1900- Detachment Dinner- Rosemary & Wine Restaurant- Rt.17 White Marsh

11 November 2011

1300-1500-Veterans Day Memorial Service-Gloucester Courthouse. More info at November meeting.

12 November 2011

0930-?- American Legion Post 75 and Detachment #1317 sponsoring Toys for Tots Ride and Cookout. 2nd Fast Marines are supporting event.

13 November 2011

1400-1530- LtGen Chesty Puller Memorial and USMC 236th celebration at Christ Church Parish-Christ Church, Virginia.

29 November 2011

1900- Village Lanes Bowling Ctr- Staff Mtn

Soccer...continued from page 3...

There are 7 teams and 90+ players scheduled for this year!

Players that "excel" will be awarded the distinguished "Devil Pup" Middle Peninsula Detachment #1317 Award! Please contact Jim Harvell to volunteer



Letter from Vice Commandant, Mike Gilberti~

This is a busy time for Detachment # 1317. We have started the Toys for Tots campaign for 2011. Over the last 3 years we have done well and expect that our neighbors will again, open their hearts and "fill the boxes". Every toy that is collected by our Detachment is given to children in Gloucester, Mathews, Middlesex and West point, exclusively! We look forward to putting smiles on the faces of many children in our community again this year.

I thank you all again for your hard work and determination in insuring this program is a success!

Semper Fi,
Mike Gilberti
Vice Commandant



New Members

Welcome to all new members of Detachment # 1317~ We welcome you and your family into OUR family!! OOHRAH!

- George J Gates- USN Ret
- Col Nicholas Paul Svetahor-USMC Ret
- Manwell Lacy Norman
- William T. Connaughton



Then.... Now... SGT Ronald L. Cook USMC, Captain, US Army Ret

Ronald Cook celebrated his 18th birthday on 5 May 1942, five days later on 10 May 1942 he had graduated from high school and enlisted in the Marine Corps. He attended Boot Camp at Parris Island, Weapons School in Great Lakes and was sent by Troop Train to San Diego California. Unfortunately, sunny days in California were short lived as he was deployed by Troop Ship to New Caledonia, near Australia. New Caledonia was the staging area for troops being sent into Guadalcanal... a trip in which he would make with his unit by LST.

Ronald's unit received little opposition to their landing on Guadalcanal in August 1942, as the Japanese had not expected them. They established defenses along the Tenaru River and although they suffered many casualties...their line held.

Ronald spent the better part of 1943 along the Solomon Island chain helping to establish defenses as well as the now famous Marine's Invasion of Bougainville in December 1943. Ronald was sent home "quickly" from Bougainville because of a law passed by Congress. FIVE brothers from one family (Sullivan's) were all killed on one ship off the coast of Guadalcanal prompting Congress to pass the "Sole Surviving Son" Law.

It wasn't until after Ronald was sent home from Bougainville that he would learn of the new law and begin to understand why he was "whisked" away so quickly. Ronald's ONLY brother was killed during combat in Africa, thus making him the "SOLE SURVIVING SON" of his family and unable to be in a combat zone!

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November Birthdays!

- 04 November- Judge Advocate, Brian Denhart
- ♥ 10 November- 236th USMC
 - 12 November-Troy Wyne
 - 15 November- David Gawryluk
 - 20 November- Cheryl Mann

Prayers for the following:

- Chaplain Lewis McPherran
 - Paul Isaksen
 - Fr. Leo Guarnieri
- Frank Fleming and Family
 - Russ Fenn

Happy 236th Birthday Marines!!



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

For ten years now, our Corps has been engaged in continuous combat operations against those who threaten the security of America and our allies. We turned the tide in the Anbar province of Iraq and continue to see success today in southwest Afghanistan. While it has come at a cost... we have much to be proud of.

This past year in operations around the world including humanitarian disaster relief, counter-piracy, theater security cooperation, special operations, counter-insurgency and many more, you continued to solidify our place as America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness. Since the Continental Congress created two battalions of Marines 236 years ago, our legacy as an ever-ready, ever capable, victory producing organization remains intact.

Our rich heritage of selfless service and fidelity to Nation and to one another lives on in all who currently wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor – those who have answered the clarion call to duty with remarkable courage, dedication and unshakable resolve that Marines are so well known for. To all Marines – past and present – and especially to our families... I extend my deep gratitude for all you have done and all you continue to do.

As we celebrate our 236th birthday, let us look forward to future challenges – whatever they may be – and reaffirm our pledge to be America's premier crisis response force; to be the first to fight... Always ready for the toughest and most challenging assignments.

Happy 236th Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James F. Amos', is written over a circular stamp. The stamp contains the text 'JAMES F. AMOS' and 'General, U.S. Marine Corps' below it.

JAMES F. AMOS
General, U.S. Marine Corps

Please join in celebrating with your Detachment the

236th Birthday of the Marine Corps

We will celebrate on:

10 November 2011
Rosemary & Wine Restaurant
Main Street, Gloucester Va.
1900-?

Please RSVP to: Commandant Garvey @ 804-815-2205



Then.... Now... SGT Ronald L. Cook USMC, Captain, US Army Ret Cont'd....

Ronald remained at Marine Bases on the East Coast until the end of WWII and was discharged at Quantico in October 1945.

After the Marine Corps, Ronald attended West Virginia University and received both a bachelor and master's degrees. He attended ROTC while in college and was able to receive a commission in the Army when he volunteered for service again in 1951. Before being sent to Japan and joining the 1st Calvary Division for Korea, Ronald had to sign a "Sole Surviving Son" waiver that would allow him into a combat zone.

Ronald served as Company Commander and Battalion Staff Officer with the 1st Cav Division in Japan and Korea from 1951-1953. He attempted to attend Reserve meetings however re-acclimating to civilian life made it difficult to continue so in 1960, he retired at the rank of CAPTAIN from the US Army.

In his 35 year "civilian" life, Ronald was a High School History Teacher, High School Principal, County Supervisor as well as an elected official to the School Board for four years.

Ronald was born in Oceana, West Virginia. He married Betty Ann Claypool in 1946 and they have two daughters. Virginia (Ginny Lynn) a Registered Nurse and Nursing Home Supervisor and Colleen Kaye who is a University of Georgia Alumni and practicing Veterinarian here in Gloucester. Ronald and Betty Cook have 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. They moved to Gloucester in 1996 after Ronald's civilian retirement and share their daughter's estate on Rt.17. Ronald and his wife attend Bellamy United Methodist Church and are active in the Adult Choir there.

Ronald is a proud "CHARTER" member of our Middle Peninsula Detachment #1317 and remains a very dedicated Patriot.

They are a wonderful couple who you should spend time talking with! Ronald, you are a *precious commodity* in today's society...we can never imagine what you saw or dealt with nor should we want to....on behalf of the Commandant and your Detachment # 1317...we are *PROUD* of you and your careers...and **THANK YOU** humbly for defending OUR freedom during WWII and Korea! Thank you also for being such a *good friend* to everyone! Semper Fi!

For copies of this transcript as well as personal memoirs of Ronald's accounts during Guadalcanal.....please contact Commandant Garvey....

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