



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
MELVIN M. SMITH DETACHMENT #586
MCL AUXILIARY UNIT #305
JIM CHAMBERLAIN POUND #185
SPOKANE, WA
June, 2011**



COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Greetings Marines, Corpsmen & Associates!

Well, the time has come to say thanks for allowing me to serve as your Commandant. The past 24 months went by too fast, but I will remember and appreciate the experience forever. We have had some great experiences, Barbeques, Breakfasts, conventions, veteran's service projects, and social gatherings.

How many times we have shared adventures, sea stories, triumphs and heart rendering times. The Toys for Tots program is unique in concept and operation. It has been a pleasure to share this time with you. Each member of Melvin M. Smith brings special talents to the table. I look forward to many years of continued service. As Bob Hope used to say, "Thanks for the memories."

Jim Bennett

Commandant 2009-2011 Melvin M. Smith Det. Marine Corps League

Semper Par

**"ONCE A MARINE ~ ALWAYS A MARINE"
"Official Motto of the Marine Corps League"**

A note from our Senior Vice Commandant...

JUNE'S MEETING AGENDA

DINNER, OFFICER INSTALLATION & AWARDS

On June 9th at 18:30, we will have all you can eat pizza & salad for \$ 5.00. Bring your family or a new member. We will install our new slate of Officers and give out awards to our dedicated volunteers.

Come and join us for a good time and camaraderie.

Please RSVP to Randy, 998-9031 by June 7th to ensure we have enough food & drink.



Semper Fi
Hank Melanson
Sr. Vice Commandant



We've lost a great member

**Loren K. Morse
May 18, 1930 - May 16, 2011
Captain, USAF, Retired**

Chaplain Town respectfully requests that you think of Kay Morse's family & friends as we mourn the loss of a great member. Kay has been a member since November 1992. He & Joan volunteered at many of the Detachment functions including Toys for Tots, coffee stops, breakfasts, dinners and Ride the West Horse shows. He was there when needed and stayed late to make sure things were cleaned up and finished. Not to mention the many stories he shared. Kay was a wonderful listener. His contributions to the Det. include being the Secretary/Historian for over 15 years. He was green before it was cool to be green. He took on the task of Aluminum Recycling to generate money for our Relief Fund to help those in need.

Services will be held at Heritage Memorial at 508 N. Government Way, Spokane on June 4th at 2pm. Your attendance is greatly appreciated as would a story about Kay. Following the service will be a Pot Luck dinner at VFW Post 51 from 5pm until 7pm. If you would like to bring a dish to pass, please feel free to do so.



From the desk of Doug

Greetings to all.

Attended the Department of Montana convention in Great Falls, they haven't had any summer there yet either, rained for two days. Had a good time with an excellent meal. Did sell quite a few of the 9/11 shirts to the Marines in Montana. Short sleeves are now running low; still have quite a few of the long sleeve. If you need MCL clothing see Randy who now/still has a few new/used items in the locker. Now on to the important stuff as in coffee stops. This one will be at Sprague Lake westbound. Still have a couple of vacancies on the sheet for July 12 & 13. On the 12th the 3 to 7 shift and on the 13th the 11 to 3 shift. I will have the signup sheet available at the June meeting. At present we have enough coffee, creamer and sugar. Still need cups (12oz), powdered orange drink and cookies, monetary donations will be accepted to purchase supplies, so you don't have to shop. If you want to sign up for a shift and can't make the meeting call me (509) 328-5837

Your thought for the month -

Why some athletes can't hold regular jobs.

Lou Duva, boxing trainer, on heavyweight Andrew Golota: "He's a guy who gets up at 6 am, regardless of what time it is."

**Semper Fi!
Doug**



Battery "P" is holding a Family Day. June 12th, 2011. All Marine Corps Leaguers & Families are invited. Please wear your red windbreakers and cover to show your support.

**NOSC
5101 N. Assembly St.
North of the VA Hospital**



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- June** 8th VA Bingo, 19:00-20:00 at the VA Nursing Unit.
9th MCL/MCLA Dinner, Officer Installations & Awards, \$5.00 for all you can eat Pizza & Salad, at 18:30 - TBD, VFW Post 51. Families welcome! New Members too!
12th USMC Family Day at NOSC, 12:00-16:00, Bring your family to share some time with our "P" Battery Marines & Corpsmen.
17-19th Dept of WA Convention in Yakima
- July** 11, 12 & 13th Coffee Stop, Westbound I-90 at Sprague. We need volunteers to open & close.
13th VA Bingo, 19:00-20:00 at the VA Nursing Unit.
14th MCL/MCLA Meeting, 19:00 @ VFW Post 51.
16th MODD Growl at Perkins on 5903 N. Division 08:00 to 10:00.
- Aug** 5, 6 & 7th Coffee Stop, Eastbound I-90 Sprague. This is National Convention week, so please volunteer to set up...
10th VA Bingo, 19:00-20:00 at the VA Nursing Unit.
11th MCL/MCLA Meeting, 19:00 @ VFW Post 51.
22, 23 & 24th Coffee Stop, Westbound I-90 at Sprague.
- Sept** 8th MCL/MCLA Meeting, 19:00 @ VFW Post 51.
14th VA Bingo, 19:00-20:00 at the VA Nursing Unit.
19, 20 & 21st Coffee Stop, Eastbound I-90 Sprague.



KEY VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS ARE: Doug Shurtleff, Dennis Dressler, Jim Bennett, Randy Ott, Hank Melanson, Jim Brown or Pat Rowand. Just call one of them to find out what's happening.

A very hearty thank you to the following volunteers for stepping forward at our recent VA BBQ. They did this on short notice and even had smiles on their faces. The team appreciates your support.

Jim Bennett, Hank Melanson, Doug Shurtleff, Renee Weimer, Judi Bennett, Mary Lou Nelson, Jim Eggers, Mike O'Flaherty, Jim Brown, Bill Town, Jerry Masgai & Doc Dave.



MEMORIAL DAY was May 30 and our Detachment held a wonderful ceremony as our "Time for remembrance". Our volunteers stepped up and made it a smooth operation. The VFW hosted the lunch afterwards and served a great meal. Mr. Randy Shaw gave a fabulous speech. We hope you make it to next year's Ceremony.



OHHRAH!!! The Jamieson Military Service Legacy

My mother, Marie Jamieson, represents many of the parents whose sons and daughters served to preserve our great country's freedoms. Marie was more fortunate than many other parents whose children never returned. Her Five sons that served during the period from 1951 through 1980 all came home.

Marie's five sons served one year shy of three decades during the Korean and Vietnam wars. 1961 saw Richard (Dick) join the Marine Corps. Dick saw action Korea. Russell also joined the Marine Corps in 1951. He saw action in Korea and later in Vietnam. Russell suffered shrapnel wounds in Korea. I (Walter) joined the Marine Corps in 1954 and served in Korea and Vietnam. Jerry joined the Marine Corps in 1960 during the Vietnam War. Jerry made the military his career and retired in 1982. Douglas also served during the Vietnam War during his tour with the Army in 1967.

Today we honor those who served. We especially want to remember the fallen and their parents in our thoughts and prayers. Theirs was the ultimate sacrifice! Those of us that were fortunate enough to return, like myself and my brothers, had the opportunity to enjoy firsthand what all of those that went before and after us were protecting.

There are those that would say our country isn't perfect but in spite of our imperfections- there is no other country on earth that provides the opportunity and the freedom to determine our own destiny and for our future generations to do the same.

Let us not forget what this great country made up of one diverse populace stands for and the enormous part those who served had in making it that way!

Thank you
As narrated to Gil S. Arredondo by Walter Jamieson 5/28/2000

Sick List

Chaplain Town reports that the usual suspects are doing their usual best.



The following members have dues renewals before the end of the June:

John Stevens
Ron Garnes
Norm Rubin
George Gilmore

Ray Miller
Don Peters
Terry Bush
Art Greene

Jim Stailey
Alan Siguaw
Pete Denman

If you turn 61 this year, you may apply for a Life membership for \$150.00.

You should receive a renewal letter from MCL National with a stamped return envelope with my address. Make checks payable to: **Marine Corps League Spokane**

If you **do not receive** a renewal notice from National, then please send your check to:

**MCL SPOKANE
C/O Randy Ott
3924 N. Sunderland Rd.
Spokane, WA 99206**



June Birthdays

**Walt Mabe Wayne Mauer
Jamie Williams Art Stelting**

**Our wonderful Chaplain, Bill Town and
our newly elected Commandant,
Hank Melanson**

Congratulations!!!

Marine Corps League Minutes for May 12th, 2011

The meeting was brought to order by Commandant Jim Bennett at 19:05.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS revealed that present were: Sr. Vice, Hank Melanson; Jr. Vice, Pat Rowand; SJA, Jim Brown; Chaplain, Bill Town; Adj/Pay, Randy Ott; Sgt-At-Arms, George Barnett,; Past Commandants present were: Jr. Past Randy Ott, Dick Jamieson, Doug Shurtleff, Dennis Dressler; National; Marksmanship, Doug Shurtleff, By-Laws, Dennis Dressler; Det. MOYS: Bill Town, Randy Ott, Dick Jamieson, Dennis Dressler, Doug Shurtleff, Pat Rowand, Walt McKee; Dept. MOYs, Dennis Dressler, Dick Jamieson, Doug Shurtleff, and Bill Town. Also recognized were WA Pack Dog of the Year, Sr. Vice, Hank Melanson.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP: Pat Rowand brought forth and introduced was James Ritter, Val & Sandy Ritter's Son. His membership was voted on and accepted as an Associate Member. He was then sworn-in.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: Published online and mailed. Motioned to accept as read by Dennis Dressler. Doug Shurtleff seconded. Motion carried.

OFFICER CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PAYMASTERS REPORT: Read in full beginning Checking Balance: \$519.03, income \$910.50; exp \$931.90; ending balance, \$497.63; Savings Account: \$956.43, deposits: \$ 35.05, expense \$.00, ending balance \$991.52. Paper copy turned into the Commandant, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, SJA, and Past Commandants present. We currently have 113 Members, 60 are life members with Ed Thew becoming our newest Life Member, 53 regular members, 11 members due by the end of June. Motioned to accept as read by Dennis Dressler. Seconded by Jim Brown. Approved as read.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT: An abbreviated report was given by Chaplain Town. The following have passed away since the last report: Dave Clark, 81; Robert L. Davis, 87. A moment of silence was held.

REPORT OF OFFICERS: None.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VAVS: BBQ Report from the VA Nursing Unit was outstanding and much appreciated. **Awards:** None

Membership: None. **Coffee Stop:** Doug Shurtleff passed the sign-up rosters at the meeting for the upcoming stops in July, August and September. **Veterans Day:** None. **Calling Committee:** None

Newsletter: None. **Americanism:** None.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Breakfast: Navy Week will be hosted at the VFW on May 21 at 0900 till 1200. We are cooking the meal and it is free to military and their families. **Toys for Tots:** None. **Homeless Veterans:** None. **Aluminum:**

None **Birthday Ball:** None **Memorial Day:** Adj/Pay Ott shared the update that the Ceremony is progressing nicely. Kay Morse gave an update on the silk wreath that will be used to save money over the next few years.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: N/A Coming at June's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Dennis Dressler stepped forward to take the votes for the new slate of officers. They are: Hank Melanson for Commandant, Pat Rowand for Sr. Vice, Jim Brown for Jr. Vice, and Mike O'Flaherty stepped up to take on the position of SJA. Unanimous Votes were taken and the new slate will be installed at June's meeting. Adj/Pay Ott brought forward the need to turn in ads for MCL National. He moved that we do a 1/4 page ad for \$50. Seconded by Jerry Masgai. Motioned Carried. Adj/Pay Ott motioned that we pay the delegate fee of \$35 for National. Seconded by Dennis Dressler. Motioned Carried. Adj/Pay Ott motioned that we donate \$100 to the awards dinner to be shared by the MCLA. Seconded by Dennis Dressler. Motioned carried. Adj/Pay Ott motioned that we donated \$100 to the Family Day activities that will be held at the NOSC & Battery "P" on June 12th from 1200-1600. Seconded by Doug Shurtleff. Motioned carried. Mike O'Flaherty talked about the Popcorn sales at the VA. He is looking for other volunteers

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: Adj/Pay Ott gave an update on the new movement within the VFW tenants called Operation Re-Post. He shared that it is a social gathering/updating/membership committee to help all organization at the VFW become better. Marine Gene Zanck offered his gracious thanks for the birthday card he received from the Det. Larry Fitzgerald brought forth an article about news and the Vietnam War memoirs of a Vietnamese General. Chaplain Town shared about how the VFW has a box for cell phone donations for our troops. Java for Joes was closed by Schwan's, but the coffee will be delivered to our troops.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: June's meeting will be the 9th starting at 1830 for dinner, awards and installation of officers. Bingo is on the 8th.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned at 20:15. There were 22 attendees.
Respectfully Submitted, Randy Ott, Adjutant/Paymaster

Marine Corps News by Sgt. Michael S. Cifuentes

ARLINGTON, Va. -- Gunnery Sgt. Brian M. Blonder shot and killed an insurgent who was aiming a rocket-propelled grenade at his Marines. After that, Blonder and his Marines averaged killing one insurgent about every 10 minutes. At the end of an all-day fight, more than 50 Taliban were dead, scores were retreating, and the Marines took control of a key supply route through the village of Shewan, Afghanistan. Blonder said it was what he came to do, and it's what Marines do best – kill the enemy. And his unit did that exceptionally well that even though the Taliban outnumbered the Marines roughly eight to one.

For thriving in the face of danger, Blonder, a native of Deer Beach, Fla., was awarded the Navy Cross during a ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., May 10. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus presented the award and said Blonder is “one of the most selfless and disciplined Marines” he's ever met. “He'll be remembered for this for generations,” Mabus said. “His attack was relentless. The insurgents grew afraid.”

Blonder deployed to Afghanistan in the summer of 2008 with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. As a reconnaissance Marine by trade, he was serving as platoon sergeant for Force Reconnaissance Platoon, a group of 30 Marines, who were attached to the battalion's Company G. The firefight began when Marines and Afghan National Police were patrolling in Shewan, Afghanistan, a desert village in southern Afghanistan closer to the Iranian border, late morning Aug. 8, 2008. Blonder and Force Recon Platoon, along with an equal-sized element from Company G, were patrolling the village streets, anticipating enemy activity. Blonder and his Marines entered the village from its eastern border, while the Company G Marines entered from the North. Taliban insurgents had control of the village and were known to man fighting positions along Route 517, a major roadway in southern Afghanistan.

Force Recon Platoon patrolled for three hours before the first shot was fired. Taliban fighters, who were hidden in a drainage trench, fired an RPG at Blonder and his crew. Chief Petty Officer Joe Martin, the platoon's Navy corpsman, spotted the enemy through the smoke trail of the RPG. Blonder and Martin dropped into the trench, which the three-man enemy RPG team used as a getaway path, and pursued the attackers. “At one point, one of them kind of popped up and silhouetted himself. So, I shot that guy and killed him. The other two continued on down the trench line,” Blonder said.

A four-man team of Marines, lead by Gunnery Sgt. Garrett Dean, supported the pursuit by flanking the enemy's escape. The pursuit ended in minutes when the two insurgents were killed by Dean's team. When intense small arms fire and explosions erupted nearby, Blonder and his men moved to the sound of the fight. Taliban had ambushed the Company G Marines and were in multiple fortified fighting positions firing a barrage of RPGs. Blonder's team rescued a destroyed humvee's occupants and withdrew to a safe area away from Taliban gunfire. Blonder repositioned his outnumbered Marines, and in direct, close combat, maneuvered against the enemy.

Through Blonder's order, the aggressiveness of the Marines, and their leaders' selfless actions and initiative, a unit of approximately 30 Marines ousted a force of an estimated 250 Taliban combatants – some intelligence reports claimed there were as many as 500 insurgents. Blonder's planned flanking attacks slowly but surely gained more and more territory that was once occupied by Taliban insurgents earlier in the day. The Marines' assault was also bolstered by mortar and air support. Several 500 to 1,000-pound bombs were dropped on enemy positions. “Our goal was to push the enemy out of their trenches,” said Blonder. “We kept pressing the attack until we did just that.”

More than 50 insurgents were confirmed dead and numerous more were wounded, while the Marines suffered no losses. Blonder was personally responsible for killing at least three that day. Fighting ceased by sunset when the enemy had either fled or were killed. Blonder said he was happy to be victorious. “When it was all over with, and I was standing on the battlefield and the enemy was gone, I had a great sense of pride and accomplishment,” Blonder said. “When you're not standing on the ground of the enemy at the end of the day,

the enemy won. Instead, we took the stand, we drove the enemy out of their homes, and then we left on our own terms when we were ready to.” Many Marines who participated in the battle were awarded with medals for valor. “When you inflict that number of casualties on the enemy and none of us were killed, that’s a pretty successful fight,” said Martin. “The more chaotic things got, the more calm and on point [Blonder] was. I don’t think I’ll ever have another platoon sergeant like Gunny Blonder.”

Blonder remembers the triumphant and tiring day vividly. From the rifle fire Sgt. Frank Simmons bestowed upon the enemy, killing “countless” insurgents with single shots to the head or chest, to the accurate sniper fire of Staff Sgt. Richard Powell, Blonder said he’ll wear the Navy Cross as a representation of the Marines he fought alongside that day. “It was a busy day,” Blonder said. “Every Marine out there was a huge part of that fight. From the NCO leadership all the way up to the officer leadership – everyone contributed all they had to that fight.” US Marines - No better friend; no worse enemy



Veterans Court is looking for a few good Mentors. They really like Marines & Corpsmen. They also like Soldiers and Airmen, but hey let’s put them all to shame and make this happen. They are asking for Honorably Discharged Vets to step forward and volunteer as a mentor for their court. It is a new system just for Vets with various court issues.

Judge Vance Peterson gave a great presentation at our last meeting. Let’s give them some time and make a difference. Contact Dennis Dressler for more info about the courts and what is involved. 509-477-4905

Navy Week in Spokane and Armed Forces Parade was May 16-21th. The breakfast was a huge success thanks to our dedicated cooks and servers. Thanks for putting on a great breakfast.



Your newly elected Junior Vice Commandant, Jim Brown, issues a challenge to all members of this fine detachment. I know you are ready...so...

Recruit a new member!

If you do this, you will be awarded a New USMC Ball Cap. Hurry! I only have Seven (7) new caps. Our June meeting would be a great time to start. First come, first serve!



June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Kay Morse's Funeral & Dinner 1400 @ Heritage, then VFW 51 @ 1700
5	6	7	8 Bingo, VAMC 7:00 p.m.	9 Awards & Installation Dinner @ 1830 \$5 for all U can eat PIZZA & Salad	10	11
12 "P" Btry Family Day 1200 -1600	13	14	15	16	17 Dept of WA Conv Yakima	18 Dept of WA Conv in Yakima
19 Dept of WA Conv Yakima	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Return services requested:
Marine Corps League
Melvin M. Smith Detachment
300 West Mission Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201-2366