

The Straight Scoop
"Once a Marine, Always a Marine!"



Bradley A. Stephens
Commandant & Editor

James Proffitt
Sr. Vice Commandant

Katherine A. Stephens
Co-Editor



This Month in History

★ **5 Apr 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 Marine Division and Communist forces occurred shortly after withdrawal and redeployment plans from China were issued for the 1st Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on 1 April.

★ **12-13 Apr 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 containments in which they were sleeping.

★ **15 Apr 1962:** Marine Corps operational involvement in the Vietnam War began on Palm Sunday when HMM-362 with its Sikorsky UH-34s arrived at Soc Trang in the Delta south of Saigon.

The task unit was called "Shufly" and its first operational employment involved lifting Vietnamese troops into battle.

★ **18 Apr 1983:** One Marine Security Guard was killed and seven were wounded when a large car bomb exploded just outside the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. Lance Corporal Robert McMaugh was standing guard at Post 1, just inside the front entrance when the bomb exploded outside the door. The explosion killed 61 people including 17 Americans. Lance Cpl. McMaugh was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 26 April.

★ **28 Apr 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.

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Or you can log onto:

<http://www.osotil.org/mainpage.html>

★ At our March meeting we recognized Don Haines, 2nd District Commandant. He is proud that MCL of Chicago land is sponsoring Marine Week (see Dept. of Illinois article). Volunteers are needed for a variety of activities.

★ In a unanimous vote, BoB will contribute \$25 a month for 10 months to benefit the Viet Now Homeless Run that is coordinated by Marine Proffitt.

Commandant's Message★★★★

★ Possibly we should schedule an impromptu meeting to discuss Band of Brothers recruitment and bringing back non-participating members. We could hold this meeting at a restaurant or other place as you wish so we can brainstorm. It seems that our finances are sound. We have a couple of fund-raisers in the future in the form of flag sales, so we should remain financially sound and able to help other veterans.

★ Be advised that **Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band** will have their usual concert on 18 July as a fund-raiser for **Operation Support Our Troops, Illinois, Inc.** Right now you can purchase tickets at these Jewel Food Stores:

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★Our own, Sr. Vice Commandant, James Proffitt, will be present at this year's Stand Down. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jim Proffitt. Jim, along with Lou Rociola, and many fine volunteers give of themselves every Sunday making lunches, which they pass out to the homeless in downtown Chicago. Then they go to Pacific Gardens to serve dinner.

Semper Fidelis!
Commandant
Bradley A. Stephens

Note from the Editor:



★BoB members: Here is an opportunity for you to have your 15 seconds of fame. Contribute a historical account or article of interest and your name will be printed as the contributor. We want to hear from you.

★Band of Brothers detachment regularly meet the fourth Monday of each month at 1930 hrs, unless otherwise notified.

★All Chairs and Committee Heads should submit their report to me, at the latest, the 2nd Friday of the month so that the newsletter can be in the mail on the 3rd Monday of the month when possible.

★Did you move? Do you know someone who's not receiving their newsletter? Let me know ASAP.

★Newsletter via E-mail: Let me know if you prefer receiving this newsletter via e-mail. It's in Word format.

Semper Fidelis!
Brad & Kathy Stephens
Editor & Co-Editor

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Department Information



Senior Vice Commandant ★★ ★

★POW/MIA Report
 MIA families are still searching for answers.

Janice Stoms was eleven years old when her father disappeared, U.S. Army Capt. Wayne Pitcher. Pitcher's plane went down at sea near Taiwan during the Cold War in 1958. Still no answers.

One family finally got closure, for the family of Sgt. 1st Class Patrick J Arthur, U.S. Army of Broken Bow, Neb. Arthur was captured on May 18, 1951, marched to northern Korea. Where he died in July of malnutrition and disease. Arthur was mass buried in Suan Miming POW camp near Pyongyang. In 1991-1994 North Korea gave the US 208 boxes of remains to ID. There were remains of 200-400 servicemen

in those boxes; among them was Sgt. Arthur's ID and denture fragment. Arthur will be put to rest on May 1 at Arlington National Cemetery.

If you want more info about the Defense Department Mission to account for missing Americans contact DPMO's web site; www.dtic.mil/dpmo or call 703-699-1169.

There are estimated 1,700 missing from the Vietnam War, 8,000 MIA's from the Korean conflict, and more than 70,000 American service personnel who were never accounted for at the end of World War II.

Let's take the time to remember those who didn't come home and thank those who did!

Till that time, Semper Fi
Sr. Vice Commandant
Jim Proffitt

Jr. Past Commandant

After the April meeting we will be having an audit. I would like all of the trustees present. It is important that we monitor our books in a more timely fashion. For one thing it prevents a small error from becoming a catastrophe.

Semper Fidelis
Jr. Past Commandant
Martin Wezeman

Sergeant-at-Arms

The Band of Brothers detachment will once again participate in the Villa Park 4th of July parade. Volunteers are needed to march. Please contact me ASAP.

Semper Fidelis
Sergeant-at-Arms
Howard Burke

Sick, Lame & Lazy:
 ★Marine Murray suffered an injury on the job. He is much better now.
 ★Marine Rociola's mother had surgery and is recovering slowly.
 ★At the March meeting, Marine Proffitt was home ill.

Members call these Marine brothers or family members just to wish them well and to say you're thinking of them.

We wish all are well and our prayers are with them as well as with our POWs and MIAs.

Detachment Activities



We are talking about a 16 May flag sales. Presently we plan to sell flags on 27 June. Place TBA and Volunteers are needed. Please contact Jim Proffitt or Marty Wezeman.



Calendar of Events

- ★5 Apr Palm Sunday
- ★8 Apr Passover begins
- ★9 Apr Passover
- ★10 Apr Good Friday
- ★12 Apr Easter
- ★16 Apr Passover Ends
- ★19 Apr Orthodox Easter
- ★27 Apr BoB meeting at 1900 hrs. Bring your ideas and smiles! ☺

IMPORTANT DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

- ★16 May Tentative Flag Sales Day
- ★27 Jun Flag Sales Day
- ★4 Jul 4th of July parade in Villa Park

Chaplain/Historian Corner



A prayer by an American Confederate soldier seriously disabled in the Civil War is a beautiful example of the depths of discovery of the gifts of suffering that a wound can bring:

*I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
 I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
 I asked for health, that I might do great things,
 I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
 I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
 I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
 I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
 I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
 I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
 I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
 I got nothing that I asked for-but everything I had hoped for.
 Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
 I am, among all men, most richly blessed.
 Amen*

Chaplain/Historian
Norm Mareci



Happy April Birthdays

Waltz With Beloved Earth

I hear the song that I belong
My heart is swept up by the wind
The way that its breeze has opened...

The silence at ease as the branches and leaves
Twist and bend to reach my hands
I listen to its beckoning calls
Poised to dance in an Earthly Waltz

The air it breathes and softly
Leaves you enraptured as twilight falls

Come let us dance with what was
Wrought in God's hands
All human beings, plant life and animals
Spilling blessings like moonbeams and waterfalls

Like the glint of rainbows in grassy knolls

Come be romanced by the joy that's enhanced
By the mirth of an earthly waltz
All existence enchants and calls
Abound and dance in an Earthly Waltz.

Author: Katherine Scorzo

Membership/Renewals:

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>As of 01/01/2009</u>
0 - 35	\$500
36 - 40	\$400
41 - 50	\$400
51 - 60	\$300
61 - Over	\$150

To become a Life Member, you must already be a "Member in Good Standing". That means becoming a member and paying your initial dues first. Yes, according to the Bylaws, you could join the League, pay your dues and then pay your Life Membership Dues all in the same day.

The Bard's
Line:



Concord Hymn

Sung at the completion of the Battle Monument, April 19, 1886

Author: Ralph Waldo Emerson
1803-1882

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard 'round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On the green bank, by this soft stream,
We set today a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those spirits dare
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and these.



Other Newsworthy Items

How news of the Holocaust fell through the cracks during WWII

4/23/2009 **By Lance Cpl. Chris Kutlesa, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni**

For one week in April every year, the Department of Defense observes Holocaust Remembrance Week. It is a chance to remember the horrific tragedy of the Holocaust. Holocaust Remembrance Week is also an opportunity to educate and remind ourselves of lessons learned.

Today, wars dominate headlines next to genocide and disasters. Our minds are constantly riddled and bombarded with information from every direction. With so much negative news entering our world, it can be easy for some reports to slip through the cracks. Missing a few stories is forgivable, but missing an entire genocide is a disgrace. Thus was the case in the 1940s when the world ignored the Holocaust.

In the summer of 1941, the Nazis began their "War on the Jews" by aggressively killing them via firing squads. Six months later, firing squads became too expensive, prompting the Nazis to look for other options. After a few trial runs the Nazis began using Zyklon B, a cyanide-based insecticide which the Nazi's initially tested on Russian prisoners of war. The large communal shower type room killed larger amounts of people for less money. By 1942, the Nazis had killed an estimated one million Jews, leaving one-sixth of the old world's Jewish population dead.

Unfortunately, most civilians and service members in the United States and deployed overseas knew little if not nothing about the Holocaust.

"As a unit, we knew nothing about the Holocaust," said Rudy Schneider, an Army

infantryman during World War II. "We were 20-30 miles away from a concentration camp and had no idea. We suspected something was going on, but no one wanted to believe it."

The public's lack of knowledge was a result of insufficient coverage from the media, which at that time, was primarily newspapers. During World War II, many newspapers knew about the genocide occurring in Germany but consistently placed reports on back pages with small headlines. Some historians say small headlines and the lack of coverage was a result of the lack of photos and a level of disbelief and validity of early reports.

"Even though we were fighting the Germans many still didn't believe they were capable of such atrocities," said Schneider.

It was not until after the war that the general public began to realize what the Nazis had done to the Jews.

"After the war, we started seeing footage of the Holocaust in the movie theaters," said Norma Curtis, a singer during World War II. "I couldn't believe my eyes. The entire event was unfolding right there in front of me. The dead bodies, the crying people, it was all plastered on the big screen. The whispers of what the Nazis had done were louder than ever. People could no longer deny it, but they certainly wanted to forget about it as soon as possible."

To this day, people still argue whether or not the Holocaust ever occurred. The danger in forgetting and ignoring this tragedy is the danger of letting it happen again.

George Santayana, a Spanish-born American author of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries once said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

The mistakes we made during the Holocaust, failing to publicize it and talk about it, is one of the most important lesson we can take away from this moment in history. By remembering and recognizing where we went wrong and where we could improve can only better us as a nation. Educating ourselves through the past can help propel us into the future and help us combat the current war against evil.

(Editor's note: If you want to know more of what the Marines are actively doing go online: www.usmc.mil.)



MCL - National Information

★FALLS CHURCH, VA. Since launching Aug. 5, 2008, Afterdeployment.org has grown to provide more information and resources for service members returning from deployment - as well as for their families.

"It's a free resource that can be very helpful for veterans transitioning back from their deployment," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director for TRICARE Management Activity.

The site provides change strategies and educational materials that address combat stress and triggers; conflict at work; re-connecting with family and friends; depression; anger; sleep problems; substance abuse; stress management; kids and deployment; spiritual guidance; living with physical injuries; and health and wellness.

The updated Web site at <http://www.afterdeployment.org> features workshops in the "Improving Relationships" program. These workshops provide service members with valuable tools for overcoming the tendency to isolate from friends and family, building relationship skills and reconnecting with partners following a deployment.

Afterdeployment.org also added self-help workshops and activities in the "Helping Kids Deal with Deployment," "Seeking Spiritual Fitness," and "Controlling Drugs and Alcohol" sections of the Web site.

"The diversity of registered users on Afterdeployment.org is a testimony to how wonderful the site is. Users report very positive feelings about the usefulness and quality of information available on Afterdeployment.org," said Granger. "We've received great feedback, and we expect the Web site to offer even more assistance to families and veterans," Granger added. "Statistics indicate that there is a balance of families, providers, veterans, and active duty service members registered on the site." The "Explore the Site" box on the top right of the page is a gateway to the site's many materials. Anonymous registration is required only for the

workshops. For transition behavioral health help, go to <http://www.afterdeployment.org>. For info on how TRICARE can help behavioral health, go to <http://www.tricare.mil>.

About TRICARE Management Activity and the Military Health System: TRICARE Management Activity, the Defense Department activity that administers the health care plan for the uniformed services, retirees and their families, serves more than 9.4 million eligible beneficiaries worldwide in the Military Health System (MHS). The mission of the MHS is to enhance Department of Defense and national security by providing health support for the full range of military operations. The MHS provides quality medical care through a network of providers, military treatment facilities, medical clinics and dental clinics worldwide. For more about the MHS go to www.health.mil.

★Time to act regarding the 86th National Convention for Marine Corps League & MCL Auxiliary. This will run from 2 August thru 8 August, 2009. Below is the hotel information to reserve your room. The schedule will be announced at a later date.

PROUDLY WELCOMES NATIONAL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION JULY 31, 2009 ~ AUGUST 9, 2009

The Kahler Grand Hotel
Overflow hotel – Kahler Inn & Suites
20 Southwest Second Avenue
Rochester, Minnesota 55902
www.kahler.com
Room rate = \$89.00 plus 11% tax
Reservations call 800-533-1655

MCL - Department of Illinois

★5/11-17/2009 - "MARINE CORPS" Marine Week is coming to Chicago. Silent Drill Team, USMC Band, Aircraft, Ground Equipment, New Technology Equipment, Boxing Team, Martial Arts Team, Fun Run, Displays at Navy Pier, Arlington Park, numerous schools in the Chicago land and suburbs. **The Department of Illinois Marine Corps League** is hosting a VIP Reception during Marine Week on Saturday May 16th. The Guest speaker will be General James Jones, National Security Advisor and 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps. We will be looking for Corporate Sponsors to help host the VIP Reception. Interested Sponsors can contact Mike Ruffner at ruffnermb@aol.com or call 847 370-4107. Link to the Marine Week site is www.marines.mil/marineweek

★There is still a need for volunteers on Saturday May 16th at Navy Pier. Please contact Mike Decker if you or anyone from your detachment can volunteer some time - decker.m@comcast.net or 1 847 489-4769

Don Haines
2nd District

★Marine Corps Launches Inaugural Marine Week in Chicago, May 11-17

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS (April 6, 2009) – The United States Marine Corps launches its inaugural Marine Week in Chicago, May 11-17, 2009 when the city opens its doors to the nearly 2,000 Marines who will participate in various community activities throughout the Chicago land area.

"Established to recognize the contributions of local Marine heroes, their families, and the cities from which they came, Marine Week also showcases the rich history and traditions of our beloved Corps," said General James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps. "This is the first of many celebrations honoring country and Corps in cities across the nation."

Nearly 11,000 service members from Illinois are deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, thousands of who hail from Chicago. Marine Week Chicago will honor these brave men and women as well as the many citizens of Chicago who have provided their support from the home front.

Throughout the week, Marines will work alongside Chicago citizens volunteering at food kitchens and community parks; sharing stories of service to their nation with local students; conducting musical performances at area landmarks; encouraging children to become active through physical fitness challenges; and showcasing the Marine Corps' cutting-edge technology at venues such as Navy Pier and Arlington Park racetrack.

The schedule of events will include:

Monday – May 11

★Marines volunteer to restore Levin Park (8:00 A.M.)

★Marine Week Dedication Ceremony at Daley Plaza (10:00 A.M.)

Will feature the 29 Palms Marine Band and Color Guard, Brigadier General Melvin G. Spiess (Chicago native) and a pinning ceremony to honor Marine families and veterans

Tuesday – May 12

★Marines volunteer to restore Riis Park (8:00 A.M.)

Performances by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, "The Commandant's Own" The Marine Drum and Bugle Corps at Oak Park and River Forest High School Stadium (6:00 P.M.)

The Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Aircraft Demonstrations (12:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.)

Events are free and open to the public. For a complete schedule, visit www.Marines.mil/MarineWeek.

Wednesday – May 13

★Marines volunteer at Cornerstone Community Outreach Center (8:00 A.M.)

Performances by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, "The Commandant's Own" The Marine Drum and Bugle Corps at Soldier Field (3:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.)

Thursday – May 14

★Marines volunteer with Habitat for Humanity

Friday – May 15

★Marines at Navy Pier (All Day)

Will feature robotics, technology and vehicle displays, Martial Arts and Combat Fitness demonstrations, and the 29 Palms Marine Band

★Marines at Arlington Park racetrack (All Day)

Will feature aviation, technology and vehicle displays

Saturday – May 16

★Marines at Navy Pier (All Day)

Will feature robotics, technology and vehicle displays, Martial Arts and Combat Fitness demonstrations, and the 29 Palms Marine Band

★Marine Band Concert at Navy Pier, Skyline Stage (8:00 P.M.)

○

★Marines at Arlington Park racetrack (All Day)

Will feature aviation, technology and vehicle displays

Sunday – May 17

★Marines at Navy Pier (All Day)

○ Will feature robotics, technology and vehicle displays, Martial Arts and Combat Fitness demonstrations, and the 29 Palms Marine Band at Skyline Stage (3:00 P.M.- 4:30 P.M.)

★Marines at Arlington Park racetrack (All Day)

○ Will feature technology and vehicle displays, performances by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, "The Commandant's Own"

★6/17-21/2009 - The Department of Illinois MCL Convention will be held at the Crystal Lake Holiday Inn. Call 815 477-7000 for reservations. Banquet information - Deadline is June 12, 2009 with payment in advance. Meal price - \$35.00 with your choice of Tournedos of Beef (Duet of Filet of Beef with Merlot and Roasted Garlic Demi-Glaze) or Champagne Chicken (Sautéed Breast of Chicken Served with a Champagne Cream Sauce) or Pesto Crusted Salmon (A Filet of Salmon served with Beurre Blanc.) Checks should be made payable to "Dept. Conv. Committee" and mailed along with your choice of dinner to: Barb Klapperich, 4414 Poplar Leaf Dr., Johnsburg, IL 60051. The 2009 Convention Credentials Forms are available on the "Forms" page.



