



**HUBERT J FALTYN**  
**Marine Corps League Detachment 881**

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\*\*\*\* New!! 541-505-6671

*Mail Call*  
*March 2007*

**COMMANDANT'S CORNER**

The Mid-Winter Conference is behind us and I want to thank, Coralee, David, Mark, Barbara, Del, Jennifer, Tina, Jim, Claudia, and Warren for all the hard work they put into making our hosting the conference a complete success and I want to thank Dennis for keeping the records updated so we did not run out of funds to support this event.

I am sure all of you heard from John Woods our Oregon Department Commandant and Bob Gilmore Junior Vice National Commandant how pleased they were and thankful for all the hard work our detachment members did during this past year. Your hard work will not go unnoticed.

With the Mid-Winter behind us, it's now time to look ahead at our next event to raise funds to support our troops. I still have 500 pair of Dark Glasses we will start shipping to Iraq and we need to raise enough funds to buy an additional 1000 pair. I would like to look at April to host a Garage Sale to see if we can raise an additional \$4000.00 using the newspaper, television and radio to ask for donations. Our timing should be at the end of April giving us enough time to line up the advertising and assembling all the stuff along with the books that we have in our garages. This will be an agenda item for our next meeting.

We will also have some new possible members at our next meeting please take the time to welcome them to our meeting and help them understand what the Marine Corps League is all about.

Some of you who attended the conference may not know that Tina made all those baskets for our raffle. I was thinking maybe we could provide Tina with some funds to make some additional baskets for our Garage Sale. These ideas are what make the so called "Next Step". We need to look ahead to find ways to increase our traffic and advertising. This will make our events something to remember and will bring people back when they know it is the Marine Corps League's Event.

One of our goals is to double our membership by the end of this year. Therefore, each of us should be working to make this happen. I will make a strong effort this year to bring in at least 10% of our current membership. Remember, each of us should carry an application with us at all times. Thinking along these lines, don't forget that on Fridays we should wear our Red Polo Shirts, not only to advertise the Marine Corps League, but to show our support of our troops.

I am looking forward to our next meeting at Denny's across from Costco.

## **JUDGE ADVOCATE**

### **AGENDA FOR March 21st MEETING \*\*\*NEW LOCATION\*\*\***

**THE FIRST MEETING AT DENNY'S WILL BE MARCH 21, 2007 AT 6:30 PM. DENNY'S IS LOCATED AT 3155 RYAN DR. SE., SALEM, OR 97301. THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBER IS: (503) 585-8424. THIS DENNY'S IS ACROSS FROM COSTCO. THE CROSS STREET IS MISSION. The conference room will be open at 5:00 pm for dinner prior to the meeting - for those interested. Uniform for the meeting is: Long Sleeve shirt with tie.**

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#### **Marines Make a Corps, Not an "Army Of One."**

(The following was written to commemorate the 226th birthday of our Marine Corps)

How many times have you been asked, "What is it about you Marines?" This may help you explain what we share that is so special and what we have lived that makes us remember. To understand, you have to live our experience, share what we have all shared, and feel what we have all felt. It is about Corps values, and honor. It is about character. It is about a shared experience that changed our lives.

The common experience starts with DISORIENTATION. The Corps creates a vacuum in your life, it takes away your hair, clothes, and friends, and fills it with a drill instructor. He says things like "get off MY bus" "do it NOW" -- and as you stand asshole to belly-button on the yellow footprints, your identity disappears. The D.I. gives you a short lesson on the UCMJ -- and you learn that rights belong to the institution, not to the individual. You will live in a squad bay and you will march everywhere. He speaks to you in the future imperative -- he says "YOU WILL" and you do! He gives you a new language -- "deck, hatch, head." It is a language that is steeped in a tradition you don't understand yet. He takes away your right to speak in the first person, and he takes away your first name. Your platoon number is what's important now.

Before your first meal you get 20 seconds to stow your gear, and you learn that the only way to get it done within the time limit is to help one and other... The TRANSFORMATION begins. This is the culture of the Group, and its members are anonymous.

Although you don't know it, your drill instructor will become the most important person you will ever meet, and your weeks of boot camp will become the defining cultural experience of your life. For the first time in your life you encounter absolute standards of right and wrong, success and failure. When you screw up, everyone stops, and they penalize you, immediately, so you won't forget.

Disorientation and Transformation are followed by TRAINING.

The rules are simple:

Tell the truth

Always do your best no matter how trivial the task

Choose the difficult right over the easy wrong

Don't whine or make excuses

Judge others by their actions

and above all,

Look out for the group, before you look out for yourself

During your training you are pushed beyond your limits, and you achieve. You learn to make excellence a habit. The common denominator among you and your fellow recruits is pride and accomplishment. Through your training you develop spirit, and you develop self-discipline.

You learn the ingredients of CHARACTER: Integrity, Selflessness, and Moral Courage. And you learn the Corps Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. These are your roots. The Corps is a rigid code that will stay with you forever. It will define your character, and it will guide you for the rest of your life. This is why there are no EX-Marines.

Once you can appreciate what you are about to become, you learn about those who have gone before you. You study our history, and learn the lessons of countless heroes who acted not for self, but for comrade, Corps, and Country. Marines are about taking care of each other, always have been, always will. It is our culture and it holds us together. As you learn the history, you become part of the tradition. You have a new appreciation of your God, your Country, and your Corps.

One final element completes your training -- you become a rifleman.

The magnitude of what you have accomplished becomes apparent to you at graduation, when, you finally earn your title and are called Marine. What you know then, in your heart, but what you can't put into words, is that there is something very special about this organization that is unlike any other organization you ever have been a part of. What you can't put into words, but what you know in your heart is that the essence of the Marine Corps resides with the lowest in rank; "The Marine is the Corps, and the Corps is the Marine." Your uniform says it all. When someone looks at you they don't see the name of your ship, a unit patch, or a branch insignia...what they see is a MARINE. That's all that counts! You are a Marine! It is what matters to you, and it is what matters to every other Marine. You know that you may never feel this important again, and you will spend the rest of our life living the code, and holding on to the feeling. That every Marine is a rifleman, and that the essence of the Corps resides with the lowest in rank, is the reason that the Corps bestows its name on its enlisted. No other service does this, they don't even understand.

But there is more to our story than our boot camp experience. There is our experience of sacrifice and our participation in the history & tradition of the Corps. We share stories and tell of the humor that got us through the tough times, but we also have stories we keep to ourselves, hiding the painful memories too personal to share.

Shared experience and personal sacrifice are reasons the Marine Corps is a Band of Brothers. It is the reason we celebrate today. The feeling you have when you become a Marine lasts a lifetime. Whether you serve 3 years, or 30, your experiences will never be forgotten. You will never work as closely, or depend on others more, then you did in the Corps. The Corps is your family, you can never leave, and you are always welcome back. You are EXPECTED to come back!

This shared experience, and personal sacrifice is our common bond. It is why we love each other and our country so much, and why we cling to our traditions. Our celebration preserves and honors the memory of all who have gone before us and it is an example, and a standard, for all who follow.

In a time when there are so few proud and good examples to follow, when so little seems to count, our views, our beliefs, our PRACTICE of our tradition is, by others standards, EXTREME. We are perhaps all our country has left to guarantee that the principles upon which this nation was founded will survive.

Many presidents, and congressmen, have tried to do away with the Marine Corps, but we are still here. Why? The answer is simple -- America doesn't need a Marine Corps, America WANTS one! Marine, you are the reason she feels that way. Remember that, and feel good about it, especially today!

Happy Birthday!  
HANK DETERING  
Lt. Col, USMC Retired

## **WHAT IS NEW FROM THE DEPT OF OREGON VETERAN'S AFFAIRS:**

The **2007 Edition** of VA's *Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents* booklet is now available on-line. Printed copies will be available from most VA facilities sometime in April. You may download the entire book instead by going to [www.va.gov/opa/feature/index](http://www.va.gov/opa/feature/index) . You must have PDF on your computer or you may download it from this web site.

## **MEMBER SPOT LIGHT: James Swogger Sr.**

I signed up to go into the Marine Corps on June 6th, 1966. I went into the Marine Corps because no other family member had gone before me. My Father was in the army in the artillery and was on Corregidor when it fell after MacArthur left them. He survived the Bataan Death March and was a POW for over 7 years. I served roughly seven months of active duty in the Republic of Viet Nam where I served with the 3rd battalion 26 Marines in K Company as a 3.5 Rocket team leader, before being hit for the last time. I spent several weeks on a hospital ship before being sent state side. This would be my third purple heart. I was offered a medical discharged when I was declared fit for duty. However, this gung ho Marine wouldn't think about it and asked to be put back on duty.

Once clear of the hospital which was on December 7th, 1967, I was sent to 3/28, until they were told to saddle up as they were heading overseas. I was transferred to the 3rd Battalion 27th Marines, until they too were shipping out for Nam. After that I was with a guard detachment at Lake Mead base, Las Vegas Nevada. When the base closed in 1968 I was transferred to Hawthorne NAD in Hawthorne Nevada and was there until I was received a honor discharged in October 1969. I was a Lance Corporal when I left the service. After leaving the service and got older, I have kicked myself for not taking the 100% disability. However, back then, it was a sign of weakness and it was frowned upon for a Marine to take that. It took me over 30 years of going through the system and my wife, Tina, for pushing and supporting me to get that disability.

## **EDITOR'S NOTES:**

It has been a couple of weeks now since the Marine Corps League Mid-Winter conference that was held at Chinook Winds. The weather was wet and wild, but who cared. We were on the coast.

All I can say is how impressed I was with Chinook Winds taking such good care of us. The meeting room and the dinner room were set up with all of the tables, center pieces, dinnerware, and wet bar when we arrived on Friday. I noticed some of the center pieces for dinner tables were these beautiful votive dolphins and I asked if they would consider donating a couple for our raffle. Dawnielle, Banquet Manager, never hesitated and brought me two in their boxes. Then, while I was doing registration, Mary Carlin, Hotel Restaurant Food and Beverage Manager, donated a really nice bottle of wine for the raffle as well. I will be contacting them again in June for items for another one of our events that I'm sure Wayne will suggest soon. I heard that the Commandants' social was a huge success. I was too tired and went to dinner, then back to the room. There was food, liquid refreshment and music provided by Del, Terry and James Swogger. Claudia had quite the dance partner that night and must

have had a wonderful time. The participants of the conference showed up in their "dress of the day" and wow! Now I know why I love Marines. They were sure squared away. I was in and out most of the day and evening taking the following pictures. I especially enjoyed the "puppies" having to wear their dog collars, chains and dog bones. James did not loose a single bone, but Wayne wasn't so lucky, nor was Del. The dinner was really nice and it appears most winners of the silent auction, 50/50 raffle and ticket raffle were pleased with what they won. On Sunday the Grawl was held and James was finally able to go through initiation and remove the dog collar. I had threatened Wayne that I was going to lock it on and give Barbara the key. I still plan to do it to James, but for now, dinner was kibbles and bits with a bowl of water. I asked several individuals who attended the conference how it was going, and I only received good reviews. There were a couple of individuals who expressed a dislike for the shirts, but most were accepting. It was a lot of work, but the end result out-weighed the few issues that came up. It was wonderful meeting such wonderful individuals, sharing some laughter, and listening to some awesome stories. I look forward to the Summer Convention in Springfield in June. Enjoy the pictures. More are on our website.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Check out these cool websites: [togetherweserved.com](http://togetherweserved.com) and [Marines.com](http://Marines.com)

## **JOKES**

The elderly American gentleman arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he fumbled for his passport. "You 'ave been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically. The old gent admitted that he had been to France previously. "Zen, you should know enough to 'ave your passport ready for inspection." The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it." "Impossible. You Americans always 'ave to show your passports on arrival in France!" The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach in '44 I couldn't find any Frenchmen to show it to."

Furnished by LCpl Randall Alspaugh

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