



# GATOR ALMAR

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2015

## GatorDet Officers

- **Commandant**  
Jim Yakubsin
- **Sr Vice Commandant**  
Vernon Kisling
- **Jr Vice Commandant**  
Bob Gasche
- **Jr Past Commandant**  
Dick Lester
- **Judge Advocate**  
John Murdoch
- **Adjutant**  
Martha Brown
- **Paymaster**  
Martha Brown
- **Sergeant at Arms**  
Bill Beck
- **Chaplain**  
Bob Wright
- **Quartermaster**  
Scott DuPree
- **Veteran Service Officer** Bob Wright
- **Public Affairs Officer**  
Steve Homewood
- **Historian**  
Steve Homewood
- **Librarian**  
Bob Gasche
- **Social Director**  
Sandy Golden
- **Grants Manager**  
Peter Briggette
- **Web Sgt.**  
Scott DuPree
- **Color/Honor Guard**  
Dave Nettles



Marine Corps League Gator Detachment 990  
 PO Box 358772, Gainesville FL 32635-8772  
[www.GatorDet.com](http://www.GatorDet.com)



### Commandant

Jim Yakubsin / [yakmarine@aol.com](mailto:yakmarine@aol.com) / 352-222-8837

### Sr Vice Commandant

Vernon Kisling / [vkisling@ufl.edu](mailto:vkisling@ufl.edu) / 352-727-1961

### Editor

Vernon Kisling / [vkisling@ufl.edu](mailto:vkisling@ufl.edu) / 352-727-1961

FOR OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION USE THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

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## 2015 MEETINGS & EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 V-J Day
- 11 Patriot Day
- 15 MCL Staff Meeting
- 18 POW & MIA Day
- 22 MCL Regular Meeting
- 26 MLYM Breakfast
- 27 Gold Star Mothers Day

### OCTOBER

- 20 MCL Staff Meeting
- 24 Yard Sale Workday
- 24 MLYM Breakfast
- 27 MCL Regular Meeting
- 29-1 NOV FL Fall Conf
- 31 Yard Sale Day

### NOVEMBER

- 8 Alachua Fall Festival
- 11 Veterans Day
- 11 Veterans Breakfast
- 14 MC Birthday Ball
- 17 MCL Staff Meeting
- 24 MCL Regular Meeting
- 28 MLYM Breakfast

### DECEMBER

- NO MCL Staff Meeting
- NO MCL Regular Meeting



## 2016 MEETINGS & EVENTS

### JANUARY

- 19 MCL Staff Meeting
- 23 MLYM Breakfast
- 26 MCL Regular Meeting

## Gator 990 Detachment Activities

**Storage Facility** - We are now down to THREE storage units (down from around 20) which we will continue to maintain. Much of the items in storage have been given to organizations helping veterans. An Oak Hammock transfer / workday will take place October 24 at 11:30. The **YARD SALE** will take place October 31 starting at 6:00.

**Our MCL GatorDet 990 has donated a U.S. flag** to the First United Methodist Church (where we meet). There will be a flag raising ceremony but the date has not yet been determined. Watch for this date on the Detachment website and participate if you can. In addition, our Detachment is purchasing a new **ceremonial bugle** which will be able to play several service function tunes. This will replace the one Dick Lester has worn out due to its extensive use.

**Stand Down 2015** on September 11 was a success. We pledged \$1500 and Hitchcock's matched this so we provided a great deal of nutritious food to the homeless veterans. Martin Luther King Center at Waldo Road behind Citizens Field 7:30-2:00 (thank you to our volunteers).

The **MC Birthday Ball** is November 14. Tickets and hotel reservations are available on our website. The hotel this year is the Best Western Gateway Grand at I-75 / 39th Avenue. \$35 for prime rib, chicken bruschetta, seared Mahi-Mahi OR vegetarian. Social starts at 5:00, ceremonies at 6:00, and dinner at 6:45. This will be the 240th Marine Corps birthday and the 50th anniversary of the start of Viet Nam combat operations. **Make your plans to attend now—seating is selling out fast this year.**

### Commandant's Message:

**WE STILL NEED** members to get involved with our activities and services. In particular, see the open positions on page 3. I encourage our members to do what they can to help the Detachment fulfill its obligations and to be more active. And a big thank you to those members who have been helping.

If you perform any **SERVICES** on behalf of the Detachment, please let our Sr. Vice Commandant know so that we can keep up our record of service hours.

If you have any changes in your **CONTACT INFORMATION**, please let our Adjutant know so we can maintain our membership database.

Your Commandant, Semper Fi

## Gator 990 Detachment Information

### Gator 990 Detachment Service

In the **January - March** quarter we provided **168** (revised) service hours.

In the **April - June** quarter we provided **193** (revised) service hours. This included: Alachua Spring Festival, Hot Rods for Heroes, Relay for Life Cancer Walk, War Dog Memorial Service (Color Guard), Dwayne Dewey Award, Gainesville High School ROTC Award, Hague Dedication, a garage sale work day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, and VA services.



In the **July - September** quarter we have (so far) provided **96** service hours.

Our next big event is YARD SALE workday on October 24 and the sale day on October 31.

In July our **Color Guard** provided service at the Babe Ruth Championships July 30th.

### Gator 990 Detachment Positions Needed

- Color Guard Alternates (contact Dave Nettles)
- Memorial Bricks Assistance (contact Jim Yakubsin)
- Eagle Scout Council Liaison (contact Scott DuPree)
- Veterans Court Mentors (contact Jim Yakubsin)



### GatorDet Regular Meeting

**First United  
Methodist Church  
14805 NW 140 St.  
ALACHUA**

**SEPTEMBER 22**

**6:00  
Social & Supper**

**7:00  
Meeting**

**Dinner will be  
BBQ PORK CHOPS  
Bring Side Dishes**

## History & General Information

### Marine Corps History - SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER



24 September 1873 / Marines and seamen from the USS Pensacola and Benicia landed at the Bay of Panama, Columbia to protect the railroad and American lives during the revolution.

2 September 1945 / Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies on board the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay. The senior Marines Corps representative at the ceremony was Lt Gen Roy S. Geiger, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

15 September 1950 / The First Marine Division landed at Inchon and began the Inchon-Seoul campaign. On 25 September the 1st and 5th Marines attacked Seoul and the city was captured on 27 September.

5 October 1775 / Word "Marines" used on the earliest known occasions at a meeting in Philadelphia during second Continental Congress. General George Washington gave orders for the "proper encouragement to the Marines and seamen" for their service on U.S. armed ships..

6 October 1945 / Major General Keller Rockey accepted the surrender of 50,000 Japanese troops in North China on behalf of the Chinese Nationalist government.

11 October / A Marine Battalion was flown to a frontline combat position for the first time during Operation Bumblebee, northeast of Yanggu, Korea.

28 October 1962 / One week after the Marine Corps was put on alert, the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade left Camp Pendleton for the Caribbean during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Also, the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions were sent to Guantanamo Bay to reinforce those already there. Other units were deployed to Key West, Florida.

23 October 1983 / The BLT headquarters building was destroyed in Beirut, Lebanon killing 220 Marines as well as others

### Milton Lewis Young Marines

**Cary Hill, Commanding Officer**  
**Dick Lester, Executive Office**  
**Col. William Davis USMC (Ret.), National Executive Director / CEO**  
**[www.YoungMarines.com](http://www.YoungMarines.com) / [www.MiltonLewisYoungMarines.com](http://www.MiltonLewisYoungMarines.com)**

The 1st Florida Regiment Young Marines Adult Leaders Conference & Senior Young Marines Symposium will be held in Gainesville during 23-25 October 2015 at the Paramount Plaza Hotel.

**MILTON LEWIS YOUNG MARINES**  
**NATIONAL UNIT OF THE YEAR 2009**  
*"Strengthening the Lives of America's Youth"*  
*Pursuing excellence through Honor, Courage and Commitment*  
Southeast Division Unit of the Year 2008    First Florida Regiment Unit of the Year 2006 & 2008

The award banner features the Milton Lewis Young Marines logo on the left, which includes the text "MILTON LEWIS YOUNG MARINES", "GAINESVILLE FL", and "SEMPER PARATUS". On the right, there is a portrait of a young man in a Marine uniform, with the text "Sponsored by:" and the National Unit of the Year award logo below it.

## Local Veterans Activities

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER



Stand Down September 2015.

The Colonel Charles D. Young VETERANS DAY BREAKFAST will be held November 11 at 8:30 AM in the Martin Luther King Center (1028 NE 14th Street). It is sponsored by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Contact Major Craig Roberts / 352-955-6684 / [craig.a.roberts@us.army.mil](mailto:craig.a.roberts@us.army.mil)

The Florida Women's Veterans 2nd Annual Conference was held in Tampa. Coming soon will be a Women Veteran license plate.

Veterans Memorial Park has replaced the old name (Kanapaha Veterans Memorial Park).

### ALACHUA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES

Kim Smith, Director / 352-264-6740

[www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/CSS/Veterans/Pages/VeteransServices.aspx](http://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/CSS/Veterans/Pages/VeteransServices.aspx)

### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS \* VFW Post 2811

Dick Lester, Commander / [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) ([www.vfwpost2811.org](http://www.vfwpost2811.org) / not up)

### AMERICAN LEGION Haisley Lynch Post 16

Victoria Van Buren, Commander / [www.amlegionpost16.org](http://www.amlegionpost16.org)

### VIET NAM VETERANS OF ALACHUA COUNTY Chapter 1092

Forest Hope, President / [vva1092.org](http://vva1092.org)

### KOREAN WAR VETERANS

[df.kwva.org](http://df.kwva.org)

### MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

[www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org) ([www.mophchapter0823.org](http://www.mophchapter0823.org))



**ALACHUA  
COUNTY  
VETERANS  
EVENTS,  
ACTIVITIES,  
AND  
ORGANIZATIONS**





[www.mclfl.org](http://www.mclfl.org)

#### DEPT STAFF

**Commandant**  
**William Cona**

**Sr. Vice Commandant**  
**Ronald Ashley**

**Jr. Vice Commandant**  
**Mike Stewart**

**Judge Advocate**  
**George LaMont**

**Jr. Past Commandant**  
**Lou Calleja**

**Paymaster**  
**Al Tamburrino**

**Adjutant**  
**Andy Smith**



**DISTRICT 2**  
**District 2 VCMDT**  
**John Murdoch**

**District 2**  
**Asst. Vice Commandant**  
**Scott DuPree**

**District 2 includes**  
**Gator Detachment 990**  
**Tri-County Detachment**  
**1086**  
**St Maj Briggs Detachment**  
**1018**

## MCL Department of Florida Information

**Fall Conference 2015** 29 October - 1 November 2015 at Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

There are currently 50 Detachments. Our District 2 includes three Detachments: Gator Detachment 990, Tri-County Detachment 1086, and St. Maj. Briggs Detachment 1018.

The Department has 672 delinquent members (although some of these may be from reporting problems as our Detachment has experienced). The Junior Vice Commandant is working on preparing Recruitment Retention and Mentoring Program Guidelines.

There are now 46 Detachments with a Boy Scout / Eagle Scout program. So far this year, 402 certificates have been presented.

Lou Calleja (Jr. Past Commandant) is to be Director of the Leadership School. This Fall's Leadership class had 110 students (80% new students).

Scholarship Fund 2014 had \$1,700 and 32 applicants. The Fund for 2015 was below what was expected.

Detachments have given \$72,000 to the Injured Warrior Fund of Florida. So far, \$58,000 of that has been paid out.

Florida drivers licenses will now spell out the word Veteran on the license instead of just having the letter V. These licenses must be requested and a DD-214 is required.



## MCL National Information

The NEW national website is up, but still under construction.

NEW Officers were elected at the National Convention held 9-15 August 2015 in Scottsdale Plaza Resort, Scottsdale AZ and are listed in the sidebar.

The NEW national Veterans ID Card law (P.L. 114-31) passed both houses of Congress and was signed by President Obama July 20. It is intended to be a more convenient form of proof of service than having to carry around the DD-214 and will not be used to obtain any VA services. To receive this ID Card you have to provide a DD-214 or other military service record and be honorably discharged. There will be a fee. As yet, they are not ready for distribution. The MCL will need to determine if the new ID Card will be an acceptable alternative to the DD-214 for membership. Our Gator Detachment Officers have decided to continue requiring the DD-214.

Camp Lejeune water contamination health benefits are available if you served there between 1 August 1953 - 31 December 1987. This includes service members and their families. A number of medical conditions qualify. If you want more information or help with qualifying, you can contact the VA or the Alachua County Office of Veterans Services (352-264-6740).



U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs / [veterans.house.gov/](http://veterans.house.gov/)

U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs / [www.veterans.senate.gov/](http://www.veterans.senate.gov/)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs / [www.va.gov/](http://www.va.gov/)



[www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org)

### NATIONAL STAFF

#### National Commandant

**Richard Gore**

#### National Sr. Vice Commandant

**Wendell Webb**

#### National Jr. Vice Commandant

**Denis Tobin**

#### National Judge Advocate

**Johnny Baker**

#### Jr. Past National Commandant

**John Kovalcik**

#### Executive Director

**Thomas Hazlett**

#### Adjutant/Paymaster

**Meg Thoburn**

#### SE Division VC

**James Hackbarth**

#### President, MCL Auxiliary

**Deborah Evans**



[www.GatorDet.com](http://www.GatorDet.com)

### MCL Mission Statement

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps.

Banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy.

Voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines and former Marines and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.



Founded in 1923 by Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune (13th Commandant, 1920-29), the Marine Corps League is the only federally chartered (1937) Marine Corps related veterans organization in the United States.

#### **Marine Corps League**

Gator Detachment 990  
PO Box 358772  
Gainesville FL 32635-8772