



GATOR ALMAR

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2016

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



Commandant

Jim Yakubsin / yakmarine@aol.com / 352-222-8837

Sr Vice Commandant

Vernon Kisling / vkisling@ufl.edu / 352-727-1961

Editor

Vernon Kisling / vkisling@ufl.edu / 352-727-1961

FOR OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION USE THE WEBSITE (OFFICERS)
 OR THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY (MEMBERS)

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2016 MEETINGS & EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 16 MCL Staff Meeting
- 19 MCL Social
- 23 MCL Regular Meeting
- 27 MLYM Breakfast
- 27 Vet Awards Banquet

MARCH

- 3-5 National Conference
- 12 Oak Hammock Pickup
- 15 MCL Staff Meeting
- 17-20 Gator Nationals
- 22 MCL Regular Meeting
- 24-26 SE Division Conf
- 26 MLYM Breakfast

APRIL

- 7-10 FL Spring Conf
- 19 MCL Staff Meeting
- 23 MLYM Breakfast
- 26 MCL Regular Meeting

MAY

- 13 Relay For Life
- 17 MCL Staff Meeting
- 21 Armed Forces Day
- 24 MCL Regular Meeting
- 28 MLYM Breakfast
- 30 Memorial Day

JUNE

- 21 MCL Staff Meeting
- 25 MLYM Breakfast
- 28 MCL Regular Meeting

JULY

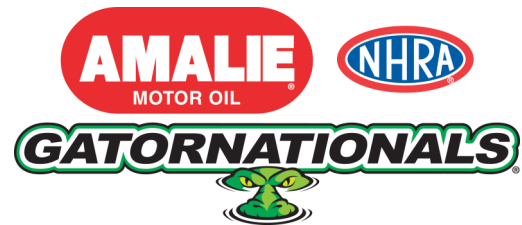
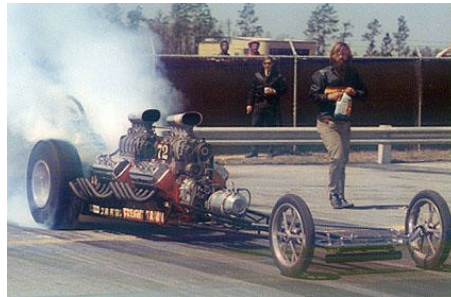
- 4 Independence Day
- 19 MCL Staff Meeting
- 23 MLYM Breakfast
- 26 MCL Regular Meeting

- 16 SEP Stand Down
MIA-POW Day

- 5 NOV MC Bday Ball

Gator 990 Detachment Activities

The **GATOR NATIONALS** on March 17-20 (Th-Su, about 7am—7pm each day) are a traditional fund raising event for our Detachment. See Scott DuPree to sign up for this event.



SCHOLARSHIP TICKETS are now on sale and our goal this year is to sell all of them. \$5 for 3. See Jim Yakubsin / Forest Hope for the tickets.

OAK HAMMOCK PICKUP will take place MARCH 12 to get items for our next GARAGE SALE (date to be announced). Be at Oak Hammock at 11:00 to help with the pickup.

RELAY FOR LIFE Cancer Walk will be held MAY 13 from 6:00 PM - 12:00 Midnight at the High Springs Civic Center. Our goal again this year is \$500. Money raised will be used for American Cancer Society projects here in Alachua and High Springs. Contributions can now be made using the website: www.relayforlife.org, then search Find a Team (our team is Marine Corps League), then click the Donate text. You can also give cash to me, or (closer to the event) write a check made out to the American Cancer Society.

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

January - December 2015 We provided **675** service hours (FINAL).

Gator 990 Detachment Elections

Elected offices include:

- Commandant (Nominated: Jim Yakubsin)
- Senior Vice Commandant (Nominated: Vernon Kisling)
- Junior Vice Commandant (Nominated: Bob Gasche)
- Judge Advocate (Nominated: John Murdoch).

NOMINATIONS were made at our January Meeting. Incumbent officers were nominated as listed above.

ELECTION: February Meeting. Final nominations will be accepted and then a vote will be taken.

INSTALLATION: March Meeting

Dress Blues Trousers are available for free if you need some. Brand new in sizes 35Wx27L, 35Wx25L, 36Wx26L. See John Murdoch if interested.

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)

DUES INFORMATION: Since 2014 our dues have been \$40 for renewals and \$45 for new members (Regular and Associate). This was done to cover increased dues at the National and State level.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP fees are: 0-35 \$500, 36-40 \$400, 41-50 \$400
51-64 \$300, and 65+ \$200 [Applies to both Regular & Associate Members]

GatorDet Regular Meeting

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

**FEBRUARY 23
MARCH 22**

**6:00
Social & Supper**

**7:00
Meeting**

**Dinner will be
Lasagna
Bring Side Dishes**

History & General Information

Marine Corps History - FEBRUARY



11 February 1922 / BGen John Russell (future Commandant) was appointed U.S. High Commissioner and personal representative of the President to the government of Haiti. This placed him in supreme command of the occupying American force and the Haitian Gendarmerie.

2 February 1944 / The 4th Marine Division, as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the start of World War II, captured Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll.

6 February 1968 / The 1st Battalion, 1st Marines and 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines recaptured Hue's hospital, jail and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house to house fighting, with nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured.

19 February 1945 / The assault on Iwo Jima (DETACHMENT) took place on 19 February 1945 by the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions. The 3rd Marine Division was held in reserve and later called into action as casualties mounted. Some 2,300 casualties occurred during the initial landing. The island was declared secure on 16 March, although cleaning up enemy resistance continued a bit longer.

28 February 1991 / Operation Desert Storm ended when the cease-fire declared by President George Bush went into effect.

Milton Lewis Young Marines

Cary Hill, Commanding Officer

Dick Lester, Executive Office

Col. William Davis USMC (Ret.), National Executive Director / CEO

www.YoungMarines.com / www.MiltonLewisYoungMarines.com

Young Marines are recruiting new recruits age 8—18. They meet every 2nd and 4th Saturday at the VFW Post on Waldo Road. Contact Dick Lester for further information.

The logo for Milton Lewis Young Marines, Gainesville FL. It is circular with "MILTON LEWIS YOUNG MARINES" around the top and "GAINESVILLE FL" around the bottom. In the center is a globe with a flag and the motto "SEMPER PARATUS".

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

A small black and white portrait of a young man in a Marine uniform, wearing a garrison cap.

Presented by:

The Marine Corps League logo, featuring a globe and an eagle.

Local Veterans Activities



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

FEBRUARY / MARCH

Veteran Recognition Day was held 4 February 2016 at the University of Florida basketball game to honor three women veterans, including Detachment member Sandra Torres-Pintos.

The Veterans Award Banquet is 27 February 2016 at the Paramount Hotel, Gainesville. Happy hour is at 5:00 and dinner at 6:00. Dress uniform or formal attire. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased from member Sandy Golden or member Dick Lester.

Detachment February Meeting Speaker

Kim Smith, Director, Alachua County Veterans Services, will be our speaker at the February meeting. She will be discussing county veterans services, benefits and activities, as well as veteran matters at the State and National level.

ALACHUA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES

Kim Smith, Director / 352-264-6740

www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/CSS/Veterans/Pages/VeteransServices.aspx

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS * VFW Post 2811

Dick Lester, Commander / www.vfw.org (www.vfwpost2811.org / not up)

AMERICAN LEGION Haisley Lynch Post 16

Victoria Van Buren, Commander / www.amlegionpost16.org

VIET NAM VETERANS OF ALACHUA COUNTY Chapter 1092

Forest Hope, President / vva1092.org

KOREAN WAR VETERANS

dfl.kwva.org

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

www.purpleheart.org (www.mophchapter0823.org)



www.mclfl.org

DEPT STAFF

**Commandant
William Cona**

**Sr. Vice Commandant
Ronald Ashley**

**Jr. Vice Commandant
George LaMont**

**Judge Advocate
Scott Westervelt**

**Jr. Past Commandant
Lou Calleja**

**Paymaster
Janis Beal**

**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 Detach-
ment 1018**

MCL Department of Florida Information

The INJURED WARRIORS FUND OF FLORIDA has disbursed over \$57,000 to needy combat injured warriors.

The SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM this year has awarded \$350 each to over 40 recipients.

The LEADERSHIP PROGRAM at the 2015 Fall Conference had nearly 60 participants.

The BOY SCOUTS (EAGLE) PROGRAM will award 70 Good Citizenship Awards in January 2016.

Department of Florida membership stands at 3,652 with an additional 711 delinquent members. A major effort will be made this year to reduce this number. Our Gator Detachment has already made significant progress in this direction.

The FLORIDA SPRING CONFERENCE will be held at Safety Harbor on 7-10 April 2016. Refer to the Department of Florida website for further information.

The SOUTHEAST DIVISION will hold its conference at Augusta, Georgia on 24-26 March 2016.



MCL National Information

NATIONAL MID-WINTER CONFERENCE will be held 3-5 March 2016 at the Fairview Park Marriot in Falls Church, Virginia. Reservations need to be made before 8 February 2016. Conference registration form is available in *Semper Fi* and on the National website. For room reservations contact the hotel at 703-849-9400.

The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to propose expanded disability compensation for veterans exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune 1953-1987. The VA is working on regulations that would establish these presumptions.



www.mclnational.org

NATIONAL STAFF

National Commandant

Richard Gore

**National Sr. Vice
Commandant**

Wendell Webb

**National Jr. Vice
Commandant**

Dennis Tobin

**National Judge
Advocate**

Johnny Baker

**Jr. Past National
Commandant**

John Kovalcik

Executive Director
Thomas Hazlett

Adjutant/Paymaster
Meg Thoburn

**President, MCL
Auxiliary**
Deborah Evans

U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs / veterans.house.gov/

U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs / www.veterans.senate.gov/

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs / www.va.gov/



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