



GATOR ALMAR

APRIL - MAY 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 & Editor

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

Jr. Vice Commandant

Bob Gasche / 352-376-0402

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

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2016 MEETINGS & EVENTS

APRIL

- 2 Garage Sale Pickup
- 7-10 FL Spring Conference
- 15 MCL Social
- 16 MCL Garage Sale
- 17 Alachua Spring Festival
- 19 MCL Staff Meeting
- 23 MLYM Breakfast
- 26 MCL Regular Meeting

MAY

- 7 District 2 Meeting
- 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

AUGUST

- 16 MCL Staff Meeting
- 23 MCL Regular Meeting
- 27 MLYM Breakfast

- 16 SEP Stand Down
MIA-POW Day

- 5 NOV MC Bday Ball

Gator 990 Detachment Activities

Mary Hildebrand's Memorial Service was held APRIL 13 and her Funeral Service was held APRIL 23.

DISTRICT 2 MEETING [Gator, Tri-County & Sgt Maj Briggs Detachments] will have a joint meeting here in Alachua [First United Methodist Church] on May 7 (SAT), 11:00-1:00. All detachment members are welcome to attend.

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.

RELAY FOR LIFE Cancer Walk

➤ EVENT 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/alachuaf1, then Find a Team (our team is Marine Corps League), then click the Donate text.

➤ You can also give cash to me, or write a check made out to the American Cancer Society at our meeting - this is the LAST MEETING for you to donate.

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



Bill Griggs

We were honored to have Bill Griggs, Iwo Jima veteran (USMC 3rd Division), visit with us at our March meeting.

Our two Iwo Jima vets Bob Gasche and Bill Griggs, along with Sandy Golden.



GatorDet Regular Meeting

First United Methodist Church
14805 NW 140 St.
ALACHUA

APRIL 26
MAY 24

6:00
Social & Supper

7:00
Meeting

Dinner will be

LASAGNA

Side Dishes
needed.

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.

ELECTION was held at our February Meeting. Above nominees were elected.

INSTALLATION: Postponed to April 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]

History & General Information

Marine Corps History - APRIL



27 April 1805 / First Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon, along with seven other Marines, together with a force led by American Consul William Eaton raised the U.S. flag over a the conquered fortress of Tripolitan pirates.

12-13 April 1918 / Marines suffered first gas attack from mustard gas bombardment near Verdun. Nine officers and 305 enlisted Marines were evacuated and 30 died from the effects of the gas.

3 April 1945 / Marines on Okinawa made good progress clearing Zampa Misaki and seizing the Katchin Peninsula, cutting the island in two.

21 April 1951 / Marine carrier based planes made their first aerial contact with enemy planes over the Korean front lines.

15 April 1962 / Marine operational involvement in the Vietnam War began on Palm Sunday when HMM-362 Sikorsky UH-34s arrived at Soc Trang in the Delta south of Saigon.

18 April 1983 / One Marine security guard was killed and seven wounded when a car bomb exploded outside the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. The explosion killed 61 people, including 17 Americans.

Milton Lewis Young Marines

Cary Hill, Commanding Officer

Jamie Hill, 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.

Several Milton Lewis Young Marines were featured in their recent magazine [*Young Marines Esprit*, v. 4 2015]: Talla Aasved, Abigail Islam, and Nathan Crawford. In addition, Cary Hill, Dick Lester, and Bob Gasche were recognized for their support of this Young Marines unit.

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", "SEMPER PARATUS", and "GAINESVILLE, FL". On the right, there is a portrait of a young man in a Marine uniform, with the text "Specialist by:" and a small Marine Corps League logo below it.

Local Veterans Activities



ALACHUA
COUNTY
VETERANS
EVENTS,
ACTIVITIES,
AND
ORGANIZATIONS

APRIL / MAY

Victor Whiskey, a group for military veteran writers, will hold a meeting on April 10 at 1:00 at the downtown library (meeting room B / 401 E. University Avenue). Veterans of all ages are welcome to attend and no writing experience is needed to attend.

UF Navy ROTC Duane Dewey Award ceremony was held April 19. John Murdoch presented the award.

Gainesville High School NJROTC Award ceremony will be May 14 and Sandra Torres-Pintos will present the award.

Memorial Day ceremonies will be held May 30, Forest Meadows East, Hawthorne Road.

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

df.kwva.org

IWO TRIO, Inc.

Bob Gasche, President / 352-376-0402

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Tom Hennessey, Commander / 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
Sgt Maj Briggs
Detachment 1018**

MCL Department of Florida Information

The INJURED WARRIORS FUND OF FLORIDA has now disbursed over **\$65,000** to needy combat injured warriors.

The SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM this year has now awarded **\$450** each to over 40 recipients.

The LEADERSHIP PROGRAM at the 2015 Fall Conference had nearly **40** participants.

The BOY SCOUTS (EAGLE) PROGRAM will award **156** Good Citizenship Awards.

Department of Florida membership stands at over **3,700** with an additional 630 delinquent members. A major effort will be made this year to reduce this number. **Our Gator Detachment has already made significant progress - we now have no delinquent members.** Also, the Department of Florida was awarded the **Tom Perrone Award** for having the most new members.

The FLORIDA SUMMER CONFERENCE will be held at Altamonte Springs on 16-19 June 2016. Refer to the Department of Florida website for further information.

DIVISION 2 MEETING will be held May 7, 11:00-1:00 at the First United Methodist Church, Alachua.

A Florida Women Veterans License Plate is now available.



MCL National Information

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.

VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry is now open to veterans who served after August 1990 in Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Djibouti, or Africa. (For respiratory and related health conditions.)

MCL has instituted a new **Honorary Active Duty membership category**. Active Duty Marines, FMF Corpsman, and FMF Chaplains can now become Honorary Active Duty members (free) of the MCL for the duration of their enlistment. They will have all rights and privileges of a regular member, except for voting or holding elective office.



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

U. S. Marine Corps / www.marines.mil



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

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PO Box 358772
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