



The Straight Skinny



Detachment #482

May 2017

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Olympia, WA

Commandant: Jim Sims (360) 432-8195, **Sr. Vice Commandant:** John Moysiuk (360) 584-8373, **Jr. Vice Commandant:** Billy Smith, **Quartermaster/Supply Sergeant:** John Moysiuk (360) 584-8373, **Sergeant At Arms:** Eric Rathke, **Detachment Armorer:** *position vacant*, **Paymaster:** *position vacant*, **Judge Advocate:** Ryan Johnston, **Adjutant:** Bryson Langel (360) 352-9912, **Chaplain:** Daun Lenz (360) 493-2297, **PAO/Editor:** Ken Clark (253) 964-8326. **COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: BOY SCOUTS** – John Sager, **COLOR GUARD** – Russ Russell and Jim Deacon, **PARADE MARSHAL:** Ken Clark (253) 964-8326, **ROSE PROGRAM:** Alan Hoover - (360) 491-7735, **AWARDS COMMITTEE** – Tim Collins, **FUNERAL COMMITTEE** - Dick Marcelynas (360) 352-4314, **Dept. of WA Representatives to the WA Veterans Legislative Coalition: Primary** – Dick Marcelynas, **Secondary** – Ev Brown, **Toys For Tots** – John Moysiuk, **Web Sergeant** – David Ball.

Website: www.olympiamarines.org

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It is with great pleasure and respect that today I pass on the mantle of the Chaplain to Daun Lenz! Daun is a Paris Island Marine and a former nun. She is eminently qualified to fulfill the position of Chaplain. Please give her the support and information she needs to do the job.

This has been a difficult month with the death of "J.D." Augsberger. As we all face the end of our service, let us be prepared and keep the MCL informed.

Let us continue with our prayers for those who fight for our country and the families who give so much in support of them!

John C. Britcher, Ph.D.

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE - May 2017

Last week we laid to rest an outstanding Marine, a wonderful friend, a devoted father. JD Augsberger was the polite, patriotic, professional individual we all hope to be remembered as. JD left us too soon; a reminder of how fragile life can be. Please continue to keep him and his family in your prayers.

Daun Lenz has graciously agreed to replace John Britcher as our Detachment Chaplain. Thank you, Daun, for your continued service and support.

We still need a volunteer to work with and replace John Britcher as Paymaster. The duties are not that tedious and not very time consuming, but absolutely essential to the continued success of our Detachment.

If you have not seen the recent news, another retired Marine has been appointed to a key role in the administration - as Director of the Secret Service. This fabled organization is in need of a serious "clean up" and a Marine is certainly a great choice for housecleaning.

Semper Fidelis
Jim Sims
Commandant

MINUTES

Minutes of May 6, 2017:

We mustered at the VFW post at 2902 Martin Way East in Lacey.

Commandant Jim Sims opened the meeting at 0832. Acting **Sergeant At Arms Ken Clark** secured the quarters and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Chaplain John Britcher** offered an opening prayer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **Commandant** announced that this was the last invocation by **Chaplain John Britcher**, as he is stepping down from his positions as Chaplain and Paymaster.

Report of the Paymaster. **John Britcher** passed a cross on to **Daun Lenz**, who will be taking over as Detachment Chaplain. John received the cross in 1966 and wore it on his uniform through all of his many campaigns.

Commandant's Update. **Commandant Sims** reported that Marines got all of the publicity from the battle of Belleau Wood in 1918 and that the Army was still angry about that into the 1940s. On this day in 1942 at Corregidor the 4th Marines had to surrender and burned their colors so they would not be captured by the Japanese. These Marines were part of the Bataan death march.

"Pogey Rope". **Bill Greenwood** mentioned that members of the 5th and 6th Marines were awarded a "pogey rope", a braided rope that was awarded by France to those Marines who fought at Belleau Wood. I believe Bill said he had a pogey rope.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report of the Commandant. **Commandant Sims** had several items to report. 1) Jim has received the entry form for the 4th of July Parade in Tumwater; he will fill out and return the form. Jim added that we had a good turnout last year, about a dozen Marines plus some Boy Scouts. 2) Jim announced that **Marine JD Augsburger** passed away several weeks ago, and that JD was quite a guy who will be missed. **Jim, Dick, Cecil, George, Doc Britcher,** and **Paul** went to the funeral ceremony. Many didn't know about the ceremony, and the Commandant said we need to clean that up. 3) **Bill Watkins** is very ill. 4) **Ernie Elmore** wrote to say that he and **Bobbie** are now in assisted living, probably the Centralia-Chehalis facility. Ernie was the Commandant when the Detachment was re-started in 2001. 5) We need a Paymaster, as **John Britcher** is stepping down. He ask that we please consider taking the position and talk with him and John after the muster. 6) Three months ago Jim sent a letter to the Department Commander inviting him to visit our muster; he has yet to receive a response. Even the Department Adjutant, **John Moysiuk**, doesn't hear from him.

JD Augsburger. We returned to the topic of **JD Augsburger's** death and funeral ceremony. Some never heard about JD until weeks later, and there was a feeling that we need better communication. **John Britcher** objected, saying that he sent an email to everyone on his mailing list. John offered our services to JD's family but they weren't interested. He gave them his card but received no response. The upshot of it is that it isn't the fault of the Detachment that we weren't there for the ceremony; the family had their own plans. The Navy put together the funeral ceremony. **Joe Coorough** suggested that we each put together a folder that will establish who is to be contacted when we die.

Honor Guard. **Russ Russell** is going to take charge of the Honor Guard. He will need people to step up to serve with the Honor Guard, as we usually only get 2 or 3 days warning.

Funeral Committee. **Dick Marcelynas** volunteered to be a contact person to pass on information about those who are ailing, and he will take charge of the Funeral Committee. **John Britcher** has a sheet he uses to organize funeral ceremonies; he will pass it on to Russ.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- **Alan Hoover** asked for contributions of pants that he will take to the Union Gospel Mission.

- **Bill Greenwood** said we need to get young fellows involved or our organization will crumble. If you don't give someone a job to do they won't do anything. He urged the younger members present to take on a job. Following a prayer from **Chaplain Daun Lenz** and a rousing verse of the Marines Hymn, the **Senior Vice Commandant** thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 0900. **Our next Breakfast/Muster will be held at 0800 at the VFW Post at 2902 Martin Way East in Lacey on June 3, 2017.**

Marines and Associates, please feel free to contact me with any short articles or items of interest that you would like to post in the Straight Skinny. Also, if you would like me to include a story from your time on active duty let me know and we will meet for coffee and get your story posted here.

Semper Fi!

Respectfully submitted, PAO Ken Clark

UPCOMING EVENTS

The following events are fast approaching. Please try to fit these into your schedule.

Sunday May 14, 2017. MOTHERS' DAY – Fly the Flag!

Monday May 15, 2017: Funeral Service for **Marine Bill Watkins** - see *SHORT ROUNDS* below.

Monday May 15, 2017. PEACE OFFICER'S MEMORIAL DAY – Flag at half staff.

Saturday May 20, 2017. ARMED FORCES DAY – Fly the Flag!

Monday May 29, 2017. MEMORIAL DAY – Fly the Flag!

Saturday June 3, 2017. Breakfast/Muster at 0800 at the VFW.

SHORT ROUNDS

As most of you know by now, our friend and fellow **Marine Bill Watkins** passed away on May 7th. Bill's wife **Sun Hui** sent out an obituary and a notice of the upcoming funeral service. The service will be held next Monday, May 15, at 1030. The ceremony will take place at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington.