



SCUTTLEBUTT

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE
SKAGIT VALLEY DETACHMENT #1043
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 2292
MOUNT VERNON, WA. 98273



Your Best Friend—Your Worst Enemy-US Marine

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Colonel Ed McMahon USMCR Ret.

COLONEL ED HAS DIED

He wanted to be a Marine fighter pilot. The US was building up their military force, but they were not at war yet and the Navy required all its potential Navy and Marine pilots to have two years of college. So Ed started classes at Boston College. When Pearl Harbor was attacked the Army and the Navy both dropped the college requirement and Ed applied to the Marines. His primary flight training was in Dallas and then he went to Pensacola, Florida. He was carrier qualified, which means he knew how to perform a controlled crash of his single engine fighter, onto the rolling deck of a Navy floating runway. It took Ed almost two years to get through all the Navy flight training. His problem was he was a very good pilot and the Marines needed flight instructors. He had a great command presence and public speaking ability, which landed him in the classroom, training new baby Marine pilots. His orders to the Pacific fleet and the chance to fly combat missions off a carrier came in the spring of 1945, on the same day the Atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Of course his orders were changed. He never went to sea and he was out of the Marines in 1946. Ed stayed in the USMC as a reserve officer. He became a successful personality in the new TV medium, after the war. His Marine command presence helped. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. He never got to fly his fighter aircraft, but he saw his share of raw combat. He flew the Cessna O-1E Bird Dog, which is a single engine slow-moving unarmed plane. He functioned as an artillery spotter for the Marine batteries on the ground and as a forward controller for the Navy & Marine fighter / bombers who flew in on fast moving jet engines, bombed the area and were gone in seconds. Captain Ed was still circling the enemy looking for more targets, all the time taking North Korean and Chinese ground fire. He stayed with the Marines as a reserve officer and retired in 1966 as a Colonel. The world knows Ed as Ed McMahon of the Johnny Carson, Tonight Show. One night I was watching the show when the subject of Colonel McMahon earning a number of Navy Air Medals came up. Carson, a former Navy officer, understood the significance of these medals, but McMahon shrugged it off, saying that if you flew enough combat missions they just sort of gave them to you. McMahon flew 85 combat missions over North Korea; he earned every one of those Air Medals. The casualty rate, for flying forward air controllers in Korea sometimes exceeded 50% of a squadron's manpower. McMahon was lucky to have gotten home from that war. Once a Marine, always a Marine. When the public was spitting (taking their personal safety into their own hands) at Marines on the streets of Southern California during Vietnam,

Meeting: July 21, 2009 at 1900.

Colonel McMahon was taking Marines off the streets and into his posh Beverley Hills home. I spoke to a retired Marine aircrew member the day Colonel McMahon died and he personally remembered seeing McMahon at numerous Marine Air Bases in California in the 1960s. He was known for going to the Navy hospitals and visiting the wounded Marines and Sailors from this country's conflicts, even in the last years of his life. Colonel McMahon presented awards and decorations to fellow Marines and attended many=2 0a Marine ceremony and the annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball. He stayed true to his Corps as a board member of the Marine Corps Scholarship Fund and as the honorary chairman of the National Marine Corps Aviation Museum. After retiring from the Marine Reserve, one night on the Johnny Carson show, members of the California Air National Guard came on stage. Colonel McMahon was commissioned a Brigadier General in the Air Guard in front of millions of Americans who watched it happen live. You will not see anything like that on TV anymore. The three core values of a United States Marine are; honor, courage and commitment. This is what a Marine is taught from the first day of training and this is what that Marine believes. That was Colonel Edward P. McMahon Jr. USMCR Retired. Before he was a national figure he was a true combat hero and a patriot the nation needed then and this country needs now. Your war is over. Thank you Colonel McMahon. Semper Fi sir.

23 June 2009

Major Van Harl USAF Ret.



RAFFLE EVENT SCHEDULING

I'm looking for members who would be able to attend the following events to sell raffle tickets. It would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me by phone or email , telling me the dates and times you could volunteer.

Semper Fi

Tim Brown

360-708-9199

tt.brown@comcast.net

August 1 Skagit Speedway 1700 hrs- 2100 hrs

August 12,13,14,15 Skagit County Fair (in conjunction with the Toys for Tots exhibit)

August 18 Cascade Days 1000-1600

September 19 Skagit Speedway-1700hrs-2100hrs

September 27 Oyster Run all day

**SKAGIT VALLEY DETACHMENT #1043
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
MINUTES
16 June 2009**

OPENING CEREMONY: 1903

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Sr-Vice Shane Inman excused—Marine Bill McCutchin standing in

**CEREMONY OF INITIATION: None/Visitor: Terry Kiser
MINUTES OF May MEETING: MSP**

CORRESPONDENCE: JROTC Donation letter from Snohomish HS read. Advised that this situation had been resolved

Boys & Girls Club contribution Thank You letter read

REPORT OF PAYMASTER: MSP; MSP

REPORT OF ANY MEMBER OR MEMBERS FAMILY SICK OR INJURED: Merlin Granberg ongoing. Members advised to make their visitation ASAP

Bobby Rivas: undergoing dialysis

Jeff Murphy: doing better as long as he doesn't get excited

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

Commandant--none

Sr-Vice--none

Jr.-Vice--none

Sgt-At-Arms--none

Paymaster--none

Adjutant-New Web site being worked on- Hopefully it will be up and running before the end of the summer.

Judge Advocate--none

Jr-Past Commandant--none

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

QUARTERMASTER --None

MESS OFFICER (RIVAS)-Marine Murle Brown has stepped up to do the monthly Legion dinners. Need someone to step up for the meeting dinners. Due to new Legion edict (no refrigeration available to us) the thought was put forth to try to find an alternative meeting location. No action taken at this time

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB:--None

SCHOLARSHIP: None

BOY SCOUTS:--Court of Honor to be held on 27 June. Announced that Marine Ripley has decided to present Certifications rather than Flags due to expense. After discussion it was decided to continue with presenting Flags.

HISTORIAN: none—

TOYS FOR TOTS:--Reminded members of July 4th Sedro Woolley parade. Also passed around a sign-up sheet for the Skagit County Fair to be held on Aug 12 thru Aug 15. Pocket calendars also passed around

FLAG FOLDING—Marine Wachsmuth thanked those who showed up and participated in the Memorial Day Flag ceremonies at the various cemeteries.

PARADES AND FAIR—July 4th parade Sedro Woolley

CASUALTY OFFICER—None

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL (MCDANIELS) – Will be held at the Tulalip Casino and Hotel this year

HONOR GUARD (INMAN)—none

VETERANS ASSISTANCE—Need a replacement for Jeff Murphy on the Veterans Affairs committee. Marine Larry VanDyke stepped up to be the MCL representative.

26 July will be Doyle Guffy's Veterans fund raiser at Sedro Woolley Riverfront Park from 0900-1600. League members needed for assistance.

26 July. MCL will be conducting a Salmon Bar-B-Que in conjunction with the Veterans funds raising event. Marine Jack Bowen organizing

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Local USMC Recruiter present and given a donation for "Poolie" Tee shirts.

Discussion conducted regarding the re-instituting of the Detachment Phone Tree.

Planning is now underway regarding the 2010 Department of Washington Convention to be held at the Mount Vernon Cotton Tree Inn

Help requested for the sale of Detachment Raffle tickets.

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: The 10th Anniversary of this Detachment will be in September.

CLOSING CEREMONY: 2013

This is written by a young man serving his third tour of duty in Iraq. Thought you might find his take on the Michael Jackson news interesting.

Okay, I need to rant.

I was just watching the news, and I caught part of a report on Michael Jackson. As we all know, Jackson died the other day. He was an entertainer who performed for decades. He made millions, he spent millions, and he did a lot of things that make him a villain to many people. I understand that his death would affect a lot of people, and I respect those people who mourn his death, but that isn't the point of my rant.

Why is it that when ONE man dies, the whole of America loses their minds with grief. When a man dies whose only contribution to the country was to ENTERTAIN people, the American people find the need to flock to a memorial in Hollywood, and even Congress sees the need to hold a "moment of silence" for his passing?

Am I missing something here? ONE man dies, and all of a sudden he's a

freaking martyr because he entertained us for a few decades? What about all those **SOLDIERS** who have died to give us freedom? All those Soldiers who, knowing that they would be asked to fight in a war, still raised their hands and swore to defend the Constitution and the United States of America. Where is their moment of silence? Where are the people flocking to their graves or memorials and mourning over them because they made the ultimate sacrifice? Why is it when a Soldier dies, there are more people saying "good riddence," and "thank God for IEDs?" When did this country become so calloused to the sacrifice of **GOOD MEN** and **WOMEN**, that they can arbitrarily blow off their deaths, and instead, throw themselves into mourning for a "Pop Icon?"

I think that if they are going to hold a moment of silence **IN CONGRESS** for Michael Jackson, they need to hold a moment of silence for every service member killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. They need to **PUBLICLY** recognize every life that has been lost so that the American people can live their callous little lives in the luxury and freedom that **WE**, those that are living and those that have gone on, have provided for them. But, wait, that would take too much time, because there have been so many willing to make that sacrifice. After all, we will never make millions of dollars. We will never star in movies, or write hit songs that the world will listen too. We only shed our blood, sweat and tears so that people can enjoy what they have.

Sorry if I have offended, but I needed to say it.
Remember these five words the next time you think of someone who is serving in the military;

"So that others may live..."

Isaac

Vietnam Veterans
Welcome Home Ceremony
Fort Campbell, Kentucky
1400H 16 August 2009

MG Jeffrey J Schloesser, CG 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) has announced a Welcome Home Ceremony for Vietnam Veterans during the Week of the Eagle at Fort Campbell Kentucky on Sunday 16 August 2009.

Vietnam Veterans from ALL units, branches and services are invited to participate in this very special opportunity. Vietnam Veterans will have the rare privilege of receiving the same welcome home that every member of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) receives when they return from the war on terrorism.

To participate, everyone is to enter Fort Campbell, KY at Gate 7 on Sunday 16 August 2009 and assemble in casual patriotic attire no later than 1400H CST (2:00 PM) at the Freedom Fighter Gymnasium near the 4th BCT (506th Currahee) headquarters.

Buses at the Freedom Fighter Gymnasium will transport everyone to and from Hangar 3. At Hangar 3, family and friends will assemble inside while the Vietnam Veterans form and “dress right dress” outside the hangar.

The grand moment will be when the hangar doors open to the sound of patriotic music, banners, cheers and tears. The Vietnam Veterans will be greeted by our new Commanding General, MG John F Campbell (former Commander 1st Bde 82nd Abn Div), families, friends and other patriots. What a memorable moment! I am a veteran of the Vietnam War and it touches me deeply to know that our Commanding General has made this special effort to include the Vietnam Veteran in the same honors given to our active duty Soldiers.

After the Hangar 3 ceremony, buses will return everyone to the Freedom Fighter Gymnasium (air-conditioned) and a sit down free Bar-B-Q meal for the Vietnam Veteran and one guest. The Golden Rule Smokehouse Restaurant is donating the meals.

To confirm (1) how many will attend the ceremony (2) to reserve a meal for yourself and one guest, (3) your branch of service and (4) handicap needs, please call the Hopkinsville-Christian County Chamber of Commerce at (270) 885-9096 or email akrohn@hopkinsvillechamber.com NLT 9 August 2009. Also, please show your appreciation to the Golden Rule Smokehouse Restaurant (<http://www.goldenrulebbq.com/stores.php>) for their generosity to the Vietnam Veterans. The website listing the Week of the Eagle activities is www.fortcampbellmwr.com/woe/.

While at the WOE, be sure to visit the 101st Airborne Division Association office at 32 Screaming Eagle Blvd near Gate 4

So, plan your trip, confirm your attendance, come to Fort Campbell, visit the 101st Airborne Division Association office and celebrate the Week of the Eagle with other veterans and members of our active duty Screaming Eagle family.

Joe R Alexander, President

101st Airborne Division Association

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Corporal Aaron M. Gilbert
United States Marine Corps
USS Saipan
January 7, 2003

Aaron writes: I, Aaron M. Gilbert, authorize others to make copies and distribute these works freely, and that no money can be made from the sale or distribution of these works without the Author's expressed written consent. Corporal (now Sergeant)

Aaron M. Gilbert is a United States Marine
He served in Iraq in 2003

FREEDOM

In my life, I have had wanted nothing more than what I now am, a Marine. A single, six letter word that speaks volumes to multitudes. Just the name, Marine, carries pride, honor and courage. Many men join for many different reasons, but they all start off with the same goal along the way, to become a Marine. To be one of the few, the proud. Proud, pride, strength when united. Every background, every creed and every color. All come together under the same promise. The promise to protect this country against all enemies, foreign and domestic. All who join have accepted this price, this calling. The price of having to leave all behind, to journey to a country where people hate you, and all you stand for.

The American Dream, Martin Luther King Jr's Dream and the Dream of our Forefathers. This dream of freedom and the right to preserve it. And who is called upon to undertake this task, the United States Marines. We rise to the call to lay down our lives. We fight and die for the freedom that some people cherish, some people spit upon and the very freedom that most people think they deserve. But who really deserves this freedom, the People or the Patriot.

Thomas Jefferson said it best when he said, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time, with the bloodshed of patriots and tyrants."

But how many really understand and believe that statement. How many know what it is like to sleep alone, cold, humbled and unappreciated. How many know what it is like to lose a friend or loved one who fought and died for the freedoms you were given. And how many have received a folded American flag, followed by a 21 Gun Salute. How many, we don't know. But whatever the number, they are the ones who gave so much for their Country and freedom that they lost it all.

Our Nation will see our conflicts on T.V., they will see our men and women, our sons and daughters who have openly accepted the possibility of death, and they will turn the channel without a second thought.

But you remember this. While you sleep at night with your parents, your wife, your children, there are always men out there awaiting the call to lay their lives down, and as J.F.K. said in his Inaugural Speech, "In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility - I welcome it..."



Preparing for July 4, 2009 Sedro Woolley Parade



A large group of Taliban soldiers are moving down a road when they hear a voice call from behind a sand-dune say, "One Marine is better than ten Taliban."

The Taliban commander quickly sends 10 of his best soldiers over the dune whereupon a gun-battle breaks out and continues for a few minutes, then silence.

The voice then calls out, "One Marine is better than a hundred Taliban soldiers."

Furious, the Taliban commander sends his next best 100 troops over the dune and instantly a huge gun fight commences. After 10 minutes of battle, again silence.

The Marine voice calls out, "One Marine is better than one thousand Taliban."

The enraged Taliban commander musters a thousand fighters and sends them over the dune. Cannon, rocket, and machine gun fire rings out as a huge battle is fought.

Then silence. Finally one wounded Taliban fighter crawls back over the dune and with his dying words tells his commander, "Don't send any more men, it's a trap. There are two of them."



MEMBER INFORMATION

Monthly calls are again being made, but we have encountered a problem. Several members have moved and/or changed phone numbers. We are asking that you take a moment and contact either myself or Bob McDaniels with your updated information. If you fail to do this you only have yourself to blame if you are not contacted.

If it is easier, fill out the form located below and drop it into the mail to either myself or Bob McDaniels. Our address is listed on page one of the newsletter. It is your responsibility to keep the Detachment updated, not ours to track you down.

Please, Please PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____

Cell: _____

e-Mail: _____



**MEETING: July 21, 2009
1900**

WEB Site: Under construction

Richard L Crossley
Marine Corps League
1602 E. Hazel Ave
Burlington, Wa. 98233

