

Jan & Feb 2009

Vol. 7 No. 01

**Commandant:
Cliff Handerhan Jr.**

**Editor:
Joe Motes**



ROLLCALL Newsletter

TAMARAC DETACHMENT 755



Roster of Officers and Committee Chairperson 2008-2009

Commandant	Cliff Handerhan	Chanderhan@aol.com	954-721-7511
Sr. Vice Commandant	John Palermo	semperfi54@aol.com	561-716-2334
Jr. Vice Commandant	Joe Motes	joemotes@aol.com	954-441-8735
Judge Advocate	Joe Mirsky	N/A	561-488-1167
Jr. Past Cmdt.	Jim Ruggiero	commandant755@aol.com	954-857-9136
Adjutant	Cathy Pacini	NHPAULJ@aol.com	954-977-8843
Paymaster	Jim Ruggiero	commandant755@aol.com	954-857-9136
Chaplain	Trevor Wharton	trev466@yahoo.com	954-270-3029
Historian	Trevor Wharton	trev466@yahoo.com	954-270-3029
Youth Activities	looking for a volunteer	N/A	N/A
Sgt At Arms	Jeff Morgan	marinem77@bellsouth.net	954-597-2232
Public Relations	looking for a volunteer	N/A	N/A
Ship Store	Joe Motes	joemotes@aol.com	954-441-8735
Webmaster	Joe Motes	joemotes@aol.com	954-441-8735
Fund Raiser	Angelo Noberto	N/A	954-683-8525
VAVS	looking for a volunteer	N/A	N/A
Roll Call Editor	Joe Motes	joemotes@aol.com	954-441-8735
Color Sgt	Angelo Noberto	N/A	954-683-8525
Assistant Color Sgt	Trevor Wharton	trev466@yahoo.com	954-270-2039
Veteran's Coalition	Marvin Schentzel	N/A	954-718-0572
Toys for Tots	Joe Motes	N/A	N/A

A COMMITTEE REPORT IS REQUESTED AT EVERY MEETING!

January 2009							February 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10 Exec Meeting	11	12	13	14
11	12	13 Exec Meeting	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18 MCL Meeting	19	20	21
18	19	20	21 MCL Meeting	22 Devil Dogs	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							



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From the Commandant

I hope you have all enjoyed the Holidays. It is always a busy time of year with not enough time in the day to get it everything done. I hope you were able to attend our HOLIDAY party at the December meeting, it was well attended and a good time was had by all. Thanks to the generous response from our members we were able to put out a good spread and Santa was there to join in the festivities. We received several cards from troops deployed overseas thanking our Detachment for sending Troop Packages. They were very happy to get these packages and they wanted everyone to know that our effort are appreciated.

We are on our way to the second half of the year with a lot to do before we can start to think about resting. We will be having our school graduations coming soon. This is a great program our Detachment runs honoring the 28 JROTC groups as well as 3 CAP's, and the Sea Cadet program. Thanks to Chairman Joe Motes the program is flourishing. If anyone is interested in helping out please see Joe or any of the Officers at a meeting. If you want to see what shape the new generation is, come out to one of these presentations. It will make you proud.

If any of you can give some time from your busy day I would like to recommend volunteering your services at the new Veterans Affairs Clinic located between Nob Hill Rd. and Pine Island Rd. (88th St) off of Commercial Blvd. It is a state of the arts facility. I and several other members were present for the Dedication and tour. I can't think of a better way to spend your time then helping at this site. For more information see Joe Motes or drop by the Clinic to offer your service.

Last month I had to go into the garage for my 50,000.00 mile check up, I am feeling fine now and good for another 50,000.00 according to the Corpsman. (Thank the Good Gunny.)

I'll close for now and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Remember everyone is a recruiter, sign up a friend or neighbor and help our Detachment grow.

Walter Smolka and William Smith were awarded life memberships in the last issue, not Richard Smith.

Cliff Handerhan Jr.
Commandant



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The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)

Founded in 1946 to provide for our nation's veterans while they are cared for by VA health care facilities
One of the largest centralized volunteer program in the Federal government, over 350 organizations support VAVS.
Volunteers have provided over 676 million hours of service since 1946.

Community Assistance

Assist veteran patients by augmenting staff with end of life care programs, foster care, community-based volunteer programs, hospital wards, nursing homes, and veteran outreach centers.

Contributions

Annual contributions over \$50 million in gifts and donations volunteers contributed a more than 13 million hours of service to veterans in FY2005

VAVS volunteers are a priceless asset to America's veterans and to VA

How do I sign up to be a VAVS Volunteer? You have two convenient ways:

1) Contact the Department of Veterans Affairs facility nearest you. Ask for Voluntary Service. Tell their staff of your interest in becoming a VAVS Volunteer. The staff will take care of everything else including your interview, orientation, and assignment! Locate the VA facility nearest to you.

2) Or Volunteer NOW at the following website: www1.va.gov/volunteer/volnowDB.cfm

MEMBERSHIP DUES

New members pay \$50.00 for the first year.
Renewal Dues \$45.00 per year.

*You must be a MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING
in order to be eligible for Life Membership.*

2009 Life Member Dues rated by age as follows:

1974 and after —	\$500.00
1959 to 1973 —	\$400.00
1949 to 1958 —	\$300.00
Before 1948 —	\$150.00

The following members dues are now past due, please bring your membership up to date.

Renewals are \$45.00. Thank You for your participation and cooperation.

Kevin O'Callaghan	12/08	Milan Soule	05/08
Evelyn Morgan	12/08	Francis Murphy	05/08
Richard Davitt	11/08	Jory Dillingham	05/08
Harold N. Berke	11/08	Dick Lee, Jr.	05/08
Robert W. Terry	11/08	Edward Kiernan	03/08
Harold Loewy	10/08	Trevor Wharton	03/08
Joseph C. Aiello	09/08	Evelyn Morgan	03/08
Eduardo Lombardo	08/08	Harry Quinones	02/08

If you have already paid,
Please ignore this notice.

Please check this section periodically to see when your dues are up for renewals. Thank You!

Jan 2009 Renewals	Feb 2009 Renewals	Mar 2009 Renewals
Jeffrey Morgan	none	none



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UPCOMING DETACHMENT 755 MEETINGS

JANUARY 13TH 2009
1930 HRS
EXECUTIVE MEETING

JANUARY 21ST 2009
1930 HRS
REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 10TH 2009
1930 HRS
EXECUTIVE MEETING

FEBRUARY 18TH 2009
1930 HRS
REGULAR MEETING

**WE MEET AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 157
IN MARGATE**

Next Growl Dates for Pound 192:

January 22, 2009

Location: Post 222

April 23, 2009

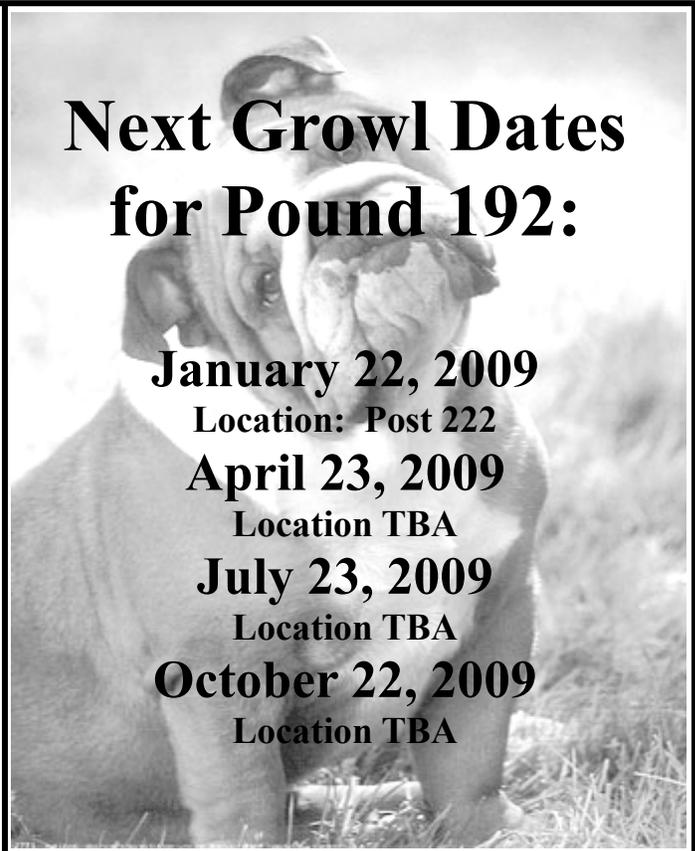
Location TBA

July 23, 2009

Location TBA

October 22, 2009

Location TBA



VA TINNITUS CARE: Hearing loss is presently the most common veterans' disability with tinnitus (i.e. persistent ringing in the ear) ranking second. In fiscal 2007, VA dispensed nearly 350,000 hearing aids to veterans. Nearly 850,000 veterans receive compensation for service-connected hearing disabilities. Tinnitus is the number one service-connected health condition for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, with nearly 70,000 diagnoses. Defective hearing ranks third, with almost 60,000 cases. One of VA's 14 Centers of Excellence, the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) at the Portland OR VA Medical Center, conducts research to support hearing rehabilitation, education, professional training, and technology development. NCRAR researchers are working on more than 30 hearing loss and tinnitus projects, including the connection between traumatic brain injuries and hearing loss. Researchers are also working with engineers to develop a portable ototoxicity measuring device. The hope is that this device will improve the ability to detect and monitor hearing loss among soldiers in the field and that resulting from treatment with some medications.

VA MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT: Veterans traveling to and from Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities started being reimbursed for their travel at a higher rate effective 17 NOV. The increase, from 28.5 cents per mile to 41.5 cents per mile, was mandated by law this year, and Congress provided funding for the increase. Veterans who have service-connected disabilities, receive VA pensions or have low incomes are eligible for the reimbursement. The deductible that applies to certain mileage reimbursements will stay the same for now, at \$7.77 for a one-way trip and \$15.54 for a round trip, with a cap of \$46.62 per month. On Jan. 9, these deductibles will decrease to \$3 for a one-way trip, \$6 for a round trip, with a maximum of \$16 per month.

REMINDER!

Your \$10.00 PLM are due in January. Thanks.



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Application to Join



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning _____
 Date of Discharge/Separation/ Retirement _____ SSN# _____
 Type of Application - () Renewal - () Associate - () Regular - ()
 Phone (____) _____

() I hereby apply for membership in the Tamarac Detachment 755 Marine Corps League and enclose \$50.00 for one year's membership.*

-OR-

() I hereby apply for membership in the Marine Corps League as a Member-at-Large, and enclose \$25.00 for one year's membership.*

* Includes free subscription to MARINE CORPSS LEAGUE MAGAZINE

I hereby certify I have served as a U.S. Marine for more than 90 days, that the character of my service has been honorable, and if discharged, I am in receipt of an honorable discharge. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable discharge/service upon request.

(Sponsor—where applicable) _____

Applicant's Signature _____

Upon completion turn in to your detachment sponsor with your payment

FROM YOUR ADJUTANT

Please include your

Date of Birth

&

Extended four-digit zip code

on all membership renewals.

This is now a requirement from

National Headquarters.

Remit your dues to the
 Detachment Adjutant
 at our P.O. Box Address:



**Post Office
 Box 26023
 Tamarac, Fl.
 33320-6023**

GET INVOLVED!

We look forward to meeting our new members at our regular monthly meetings.

We are always seeking new members.

If you don't have a blank membership application you will be fined one dollar. To benefit youth activity programs.

Editors Note:

If you find an error in this publication, please feel free to bring it to the my attention. I will be happy to make any necessary corrections in the next edition.

Thank You!

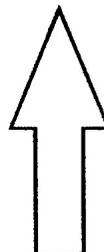
Your Editor,

Joe Motes or email: joemotes@aol.com

We meet on the
 3rd Wednesday of each month
 at the American Legion Post #157,
 1791 Meers Parkway
 Margate Florida.
 The meetings start at 1930.

Royal Palm Blvd

Copans Rd.



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N
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7

NW 19th St.

Meers Pkwy

Coconut Creek Parkway



954- 971-0882

Visit our website: WWW.TAMARACMCL.US VETERANS HELPING VETERANS



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PERMANENT LIFE MEMBERS

HELP SUPPORT YOUR DETACHMENT

REMINDER

YOUR \$10 PLM DONATION EXPIRES THE END OF DECEMBER, DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR \$10 DONATION WHICH COVERS JANUARY THRU DECEMBER 2007

BOOSTERS

HAVE YOU DONATED FOR A BOOSTER AD, COST IS \$20 FOR COUPLES A YEAR PLEASE SUPPORT OUR DETACHMENT

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO MCL DET #755 & MAIL TO

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
TAMARAC DETACHMENT 755
PO BOX 26023
TAMARAC FL 33320-6023

January & February



John Cipriano	01/01	Stephen Pollock	01/07
John O. Deitle	01/15	Raymond White	02/03
Dennis West	02/06	Harold Berke	02/08
Verna Metivier	02/14	Michael Burns	02/20
Jacob J. Mirsky	02/25	Richard Franchino	02/27
James T. Tremblay	02/27		

I would appreciate everyone who receives this newsletter to email me or call me with your Date of Birth if it did not appear here, we are trying to update our records, Thanks!



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VA News

AGENT ORANGE EQUITY:

On 23 JUL House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Filner (D-CA) held a press conference to announce the introduction of H.R. 6562, the Agent Orange Equity Act of 2008. The bill restores equity to all Vietnam veterans that were exposed to Agent Orange. It would clarify the laws related to VA benefits provided to Vietnam War veterans suffering from the ravages of Agent Orange exposure. From 1991 to 2002, the VA granted hundreds, if not thousands of disability claims filed by Navy blue water veterans suffering from one of the many diseases that VA recognizes as related to Agent Orange exposure. These benefits were awarded based on VA rules providing that service in the waters offshore Vietnam qualified the veteran for the presumption of exposure to Agent Orange. In FEB 02 VA did an about face and required veterans to have 'actually served on land within the Republic of Vietnam ... to qualify for the presumption of exposure to' Agent Orange. As a result, all pending and new disability claims filed by Navy blue water veterans for an Agent Orange-related disease were denied unless there was proof that that the veteran actually set foot on Vietnamese soil. In addition, the VA began to sever benefits that had been granted to Navy blue water veterans prior to the 2002 change in VA rules.

In order to try to gain a better military vantage point, Agent Orange, which we now know is a highly toxic cocktail of herbicide agents, was widely sprayed for defoliation and crop destruction purposes all over the Vietnam War Battlefield, as well as nearby nations. It was also stored on U.S. vessels and used for vegetation clearing purposes around U.S. bases, landing zones and lines of communication. Currently, VA requires Vietnam veterans to prove "foot on land" in order to qualify for the presumptions of service-connection for herbicide-exposure related illnesses afforded under current law. This issue has been the subject of much litigation and on 8 MAY, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals upheld VA's overly narrow interpretation. Congress clearly did not intend to exclude these veterans from compensation based on arbitrary geographic line drawing by VA.

If enacted every service member awarded the Vietnam Service medal, or who otherwise deployed to land, sea or air, in the Republic of Vietnam is fully covered by the comprehensive Agent Orange laws Congress passed in 1991. It will make it easier for VA to process Vietnam War veterans' claims for service-connected conditions that scientists have conclusively linked to toxic exposures during the Vietnam War and that are identified in current law. Chairman John Hall who leads the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, the subcommittee with jurisdiction over these issues stated, "With this legislation, Congress will leave no doubt that the 'Blue Water Navy' and all combat veterans of Vietnam are intended to be covered and compensated; thus ensuring that these veterans will receive the disability benefits they earned and deserve for exposure to Agent Orange. This is the cost of war. We asked these brave men and women to fight for us and serve their country, and it is a grave injustice that they have had to wait this long for treatment. We must place care of our soldiers among our top priorities. This applies for all past, present, and future conflicts."

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VA News

VA RETRO PAY PROJECT :

The Pentagon's accounting unit agreed 16 JUL to double-check requests by more than 25,000 veterans who were turned down for back benefits, concurring with U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich that "a veteran deserves better." Kucinich, head of a domestic policy subcommittee House panel that found flaws in the military benefits system, also got the Pentagon's acting inspector general to order an audit. This will help determine whether more than 60,051 veterans who were approved for back benefits got the right amounts. The head of the Pentagon's Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) said at a hearing that he thinks the error rate in granting benefits was less than 1%. And an executive of a DFAS contractor, Lockheed Martin, said past problems were caused by automation and data flaws that are now resolved. But DFAS director Zack Gaddy also disclosed at the House hearing that a high-level management team was sent to Cleveland two weeks ago to review DFAS operations. That would coincide with work by Kucinich's staff on the domestic policy subcommittee of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, looking into denial of veterans' benefits.

The controversy stems from a decision by Congress in 2003 and 2004 to allow veterans to collect their military disability pay as well as their veterans pensions. Previously, the amount of their disability pay was deducted from their pensions on retirement. The change created thousands of claims for retroactive payments -- and to what Kucinich says may have been the improper denial of checks for more than 28,283 veterans, as well as errant payments to many others. Gaddy put the number of denials somewhat lower, at 25,448. Kucinich's subcommittee staff reviewed thousands of pages of records and e-mail and determined that DFAS and Lockheed Martin only brought the backlog of 133,057 cases to date last month. After growing frustrated by numerous delays, DFAS lent its own federal workers to help Lockheed Martin with its Cleveland benefits call center, which freed up more of the contractor's employees to clear the veterans backlog. That raises questions, Kucinich said, about whether taxpayers were billed for Lockheed Martin's call center work even though federal workers were the ones performing it. The Pentagon audit will attempt to answer the question.

In helping its contractor, DFAS also reduced its oversight, Kucinich said, failing to double-check or audit Lockheed Martin decisions on benefits as frequently as it should have. The problem now, Kucinich said, is that no one knows whether the decisions on granting retroactive pay and benefits were proper. Even the ranking Republican on the subcommittee, Darrell Issa of California, agreed that a 100% review of all denials should be done, "so that if one case falls through the cracks, another doesn't." Joseph Cipriano, president of Lockheed Martin Business Process Solutions, blamed the problems on poor or incompatible data. A database from the Department of Veterans Affairs was inadequate for the new task, he said. Additional factors such as changes in veteran's disability status and deaths complicated efforts, and a lot of information had to be input manually before it could be processed. Kucinich cited the case of a retired Army sergeant major, Harold Lewis, who appealed after his denial and ultimately got \$15,000 in retroactive pay. This suggested the system was error-prone, Kucinich said. But Cipriano said Lewis case was one of the earliest ones handled. After realizing there was a problem, Lockheed Martin updated the data and fixed the problem, Cipriano said.

DISABLED VETERANS MEMORIAL:

Congress approved legislation which the president signed into law requiring the U.S. Mint to issue 350,000 silver coins to raise money for a memorial near the U.S. Capitol honoring disabled veterans. Across Independence Avenue from the U.S. Botanic Garden are two acres dedicated to the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, but raising the \$86 million for design, construction, maintenance and outreach has been a campaign for supporters. A \$3 million pledge from H. Ross Perot earlier this year put the total collected near \$70 million. The House and Senate authorized the minting of 350,000 \$1 coins, which will be sold with a \$10 surcharge. The proceeds of the surcharge will be paid directly to the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation. The foundation was incorporated in 1998, but fundraising did not begin in earnest until 2002. The memorial will honor 3 million veterans currently living with a disability as a result of their military service. The design, approved by the Commission of Fine Arts in 2004, features a star-shaped reflecting pool, an everlasting flame and grove of trees. The memorial is designed "not just to show all of the veterans how much we care about them and honor them but also to remind future Congresses that freedom is not free, that a price is very high when the president calls on our armed forces to deliver, and when they do, we honor them and will always remember their memory," Rep. Mark Steven Kirk, R-Ill., said recently on the House floor. The coins will be issued in 2010, weigh 26.73 grams, be 1.5 inches in diameter and contain 90% silver and 10% copper. For more information refer to <http://www.avdlm.org>.

COMBAT ACTION MEDAL:

If a nationwide veterans' group gets its way, sailors and Marines who see combat would be decorated with a new Combat Action Medal, instead of the Combat Action Ribbon for which they're currently eligible. The members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars adapted a resolution 17 AUG at their national convention in Orlando FL calling for Congress and Navy Secretary Donald Winter to create a Combat Action Medal to augment the existing ribbon. Retired Florida attorney Patrick Guarnieri, a former Seabee who served in Vietnam, drafted the resolution this winter after he realized that, of all the military services, the Navy Department's was the only personal combat decoration without a medal or badge. He pointed to a decision by senior Air Force officials in early 2007 to create a Combat Action Medal, designed to recognize the growing numbers of airmen seeing action on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan, as opposed to in the skies above. If the Pentagon is interested in keeping awards consistent across the military services — to the point that commanders changed the wording on four medals earlier this year and changed the size of eight others — it's only fair that sailors and Marines be eligible for a combat medal, Guarnieri said. The VFW resolution calls on Congress to pass a law directing Winter to create a Combat Action Medal that would be retroactive to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Every sailor or Marine who had received a Combat Action Ribbon would be authorized to wear the medal — including Guarnieri, who said he received the CAR for action in Vietnam.



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Social Security Alert

Please share this with anyone who's had active duty service prior to January 2002 and planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this: You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your military service, for active duty any time from 1940 through 2001 (the program was done away with in January 2002). Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application - which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office - and you must ask for this benefit to receive it! Soc Sec website:

<http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

This is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road. It is NOT just for retirees, BUT anyone who has served on active duty prior to January 2002.

FYI - this benefit is not automatic, you must ask for it!

We've all been on active duty between 1940 and 2001!

Passing on good information for all you military folks when you apply for social security. I know this may be too early for some of you to think about social security but, keep living and you will reach that age.

Special Extra Earnings for Military Service

Since 1957, if you had military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training), you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security.

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit. Special extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings credits are **not** granted for inactive duty training.

If your active military service occurred

- **From 1957 through 1967**, we will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
- **From 1968 through 2001**, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.

After 2001, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Service in 1957 Through 1977

You are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

Service in 1978 through 2001

For every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security for details.



Commandant Cliff Handerhan accepts a check for \$150 from Opal and Ed Spencer, Advisors from the Swamp Fox Society Children of the American Revolution. In the past 2 years they have collected over 70 Post Office boxes and over \$250 to help for the postage to send them to Iraq and Afghanistan.



LCpl. Andrew T. Renna now serving in Iraq, his father, Marine Todd Renna just joined our Detachment. Welcome Aboard!



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The Marine Corps Version of Genesis 1

In the beginning was the word, and the word was God. In the beginning was God, and all else was darkness and void, and without form. So God created the heavens and the Earth. He created the sun, and the moon, and the stars, so that light might pierce the darkness. The Earth, God divided between the land and the sea, and these he filled with many assorted creatures.

And the dark, salty, slimy creatures that inhabited the murky depths of the oceans, God called sailors. And He dressed them accordingly. They had little trousers that looked like bells at the bottom. And their shirts had cute little flaps on them to hide the hickies on their necks. He also gave them long sideburns and shabby looking beards. God nicknamed them "squids" and banished them to a lifetime at sea, so that normal folks would not have to associate with them. To further identify these unloved creatures, He called them "petty" and "commodore" instead of titles worthy of red-blooded men.

And the flaky creatures of the land, God called soldiers. And with a twinkle in His eye, and a sense of humor that only He could have, God made their trousers too short and their covers too large. He also made their pockets oversized, so that they may warm their hands. And to adorn their uniforms, God gave them badges in quantities that only a dime store owner could appreciate. And He gave them emblems and crests... and all sorts of shiny things that glittered... and devices that dangled. (When you are God you tend to get carried away.)

On the 6th day, He thought about creating some air creatures for which he designed a Greyhound bus driver's uniform, especially for Air Force flyboys. But He discarded the idea during the first week, and it was not until years later that some apostles resurrected this theme and established what we now know as the "Wild-Blue-Yonder Wonders."

And on the 7th day, as you know, God rested. But on the 8th day, at 0730, God looked down upon the earth and was not happy. No, God was not happy! So He thought about His labors, and in His divine wisdom God created a divine creature. And this He called Marine. And these Marines, who God had created in His own image, were to be of the air, and of the land, and of the sea. And these He gave many wonderful uniforms. Some were green; some were blue with red trim. And in the early days, some were even a beautiful tan. He gave them practical fighting uniforms, so that they could wage war against the forces of Satan and evil. He gave them service uniforms for their daily work and training. And He gave them evening and dress uniforms...sharp and stylish, handsome things...so that they might promenade with their ladies on Saturday night and impress the hell out of everybody! He even gave them swords, so that people who were not impressed could be dealt with accordingly.

And at the end of the 8th day, God looked down upon the Earth and saw that it was good. But was God happy? No! God was still not happy! Because in the course of His labors, He had forgotten one thing: He did not have a Marine uniform for Himself.

He thought about it, and thought about it, and finally God satisfied Himself in knowing that, well....

Not everybody can be a Marine!

Interesting Prayer!

'Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done.

We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.

We have abused power and called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!'



ROLLCALL *Newsletter*

TAMARAC DETACHMENT 755



SENATORS INTRODUCE BIPARTISAN BILL TO GUARANTEE ADVANCE FUNDING OF VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

September 18, 2008

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, was joined by a bipartisan group of Senators in introducing legislation today to secure timely funding of veterans' health care, through a process known as "advance funding." Senators Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Tim Johnson (D-SD), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Russ Feingold (D-WI), Ted Stevens (R-AK), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and John Thune (R-SD) joined Akaka as original cosponsors.

Under the bill, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) would be funded one-year in advance. Currently, VHA is funded one-year at a time, and is too often the victim of delays and short-term budgets.

Senator Akaka said: "The Department of Veterans Affairs operates the largest health care system in the nation, but its funding is untimely and unpredictable. Advance funding for veterans' health care is better for veterans, taxpayers, and VA. Funding would be set two-years in advance, enabling VA to make strategic long term decisions. I am proud to join bipartisan Congressional leaders and many of America's veterans service organizations in seeking to provide a more secure and predictable funding system for veterans health care."

Senator Snowe said: "Healthcare funding for veterans is an issue that we cannot afford to delay with partisan politics and Congressional deadlocks. It is unacceptable that over the past six years, the Department of Veterans Affairs has not received its annual funding on average until more than three months after the start of the new fiscal year. This legislation will ensure that the brave veterans of our armed forces will receive the healthcare funding appropriated by Congress for the VA's budget on time and in full."

Senator Johnson said: "I have always been an advocate for timely and adequate funding for our veterans. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation, which is another step towards ensuring our veterans receive the health care they've earned, when they need it, and without having to worry about what is going on in Congress. While I still support mandatory funding, I believe this may be the compromise we need to gain support from those that have opposed mandatory funding in the past. I applaud Senator Akaka's efforts on this legislation."

Senator Landrieu said: "First-class healthcare for our veterans is a basic right for our returning heroes. It is critical that the VHA get advance funding, as other government programs already do, to prevent delays and holdups in care for our veterans."

Senator Feingold said: "I have been a long time supporter of mandatory funding for veterans health care because Congress is routinely unable to provide funding for the VA on time. By going the advanced appropriations route, delays in the annual appropriations process will no longer impact the VA's ability to get this critical funding to those who need it."

Senator Stevens said: "This legislation will make sure the VA gets its money on time each year, so the health care needs of our veterans are always met. While my colleagues and I have sought to make sure the VA is properly funded over the years, that funding has frequently arrived late. If this bill becomes law, the VA will always have their health care funding on day one."

Senator Murkowski said: "We demand much of the veterans' healthcare delivery system in addressing the critical health issues presented by those who have just returned from Iraq and Afghanistan while at the same time continuing to serve the veterans of conflicts past. For 19 of the past 21 years, Congress has failed to provide the VA with certainty about its funding levels at the beginning of the federal fiscal year.

There is considerable uncertainty over whether Congress will be able to conclude the VA appropriations bill before we leave this year. We expect the VA to step up and address health challenges like traumatic brain injuries, post traumatic stress disorders, the challenges of serving veterans in rural America and the unique issues that affect female veterans but make them wait interminably for the increased funding levels to which they are legitimately entitled. This is a budget process that must be reformed."

Advance funding has been used to fund programs such as Section 8 housing vouchers, and the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Under the proposed legislation, veterans' health care would go through the same process as these entities, thus securing timely funding without making VA health care an entitlement. The advance funding bill would also increase transparency in the VA funding process, by requiring an annual GAO audit and public report on VA's funding forecasts.

The proposed advance funding legislation is also supported by The Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, which includes the following veterans service organizations: AMVETS, Blinded Veterans Association, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

Visit our website: WWW.TAMARACMCL.US VETERANS HELPING VETERANS



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NATIONAL PARK PASSPORTS UPDATE 01:

The National Park Service is a participant in the new Interagency Pass Program which was created by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act and authorized by Congress in DEC 04. Participating agencies include the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation. The pass series, referred to collectively as the America the Beautiful Pass, went on sale 1 JAN 07. It replaces the former Golden Age, Golden Access, and Golden Eagle pass. The new series consist of the following:

- **America the Beautiful Annual Pass:** This pass is available to the general public at a cost of \$80. It provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity Fee for a year, beginning from the date of sale. The pass admits the pass holder/s and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas. (children under 16 are admitted free) The pass can be obtained in person at the park, by calling 1(888) ASK USGS, Ext. 1, or via the Internet at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass>.
- **America the Beautiful Senior Pass:** This is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over at a cost of \$10. The pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity. The pass admits the pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas (children under 16 are admitted free). The pass can only be obtained in person at the park. The Senior Pass provides a 50% discount on some Expanded Amenity Fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launch, and specialized interpretive services. In some cases where Expanded Amenity Fees are charged, only the pass holder will be given the 50% price reduction. The pass is non-transferable and generally does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires.
- **America the Beautiful Access Pass:** This is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities at no charge. Documentation is required to obtain the pass. Acceptable documentation includes: statement by a licensed physician; document issued by a Federal agency such as the Veteran's Administration, Social Security Disability Income or Supplemental Security Income; or document issued by a State agency such as a vocational rehabilitation agency. The pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity. The pass admits the pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas (children under 16 are admitted free). The pass can only be obtained in person at the park. The Access Pass provides a 50% discount on some Expanded Amenity Fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and specialized interpretive services. In some cases where Expanded Amenity Fees are charged, only the pass holder will be given the 50% price reduction. The pass is non-transferable and generally does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires.
- **America the Beautiful Volunteer Pass:** This pass at no charge is for volunteers acquiring 500 service hours on a cumulative basis. It provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity Fee for a year, beginning from the date of award. The pass admits the pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas (children under 16 are admitted free).

Existing Golden series passes will no longer be sold or issued, but they will continue to be honored for as long as they are valid. The Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation will honor all three passes at sites where Entrance or Standard Amenity Fees are charged. In addition, the Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Authority may honor the Senior and Access Passes. Passes cannot be replaced if lost or stolen; a new pass must be purchased. One goal of the new pass program is to install technology at each site that allows for tracking and replacements. Tattered and worn passes can be exchanged for a new one. Passes from previous pass programs cannot be exchanged or upgraded for the new passes. Bicycles are handled differently within the five agencies. Sometimes they are charged as a per person or walk-up fee; other times they are discounted at vehicle fee sites; while some sites allow them in at no charge. Because fees and rules vary regarding bicycles across the agencies and sites across the country, you should contact your site of choice directly for their regulation. For additional info refer to www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm.



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WILL UPDATE:

When you die state law will determine what happens to your property if you do not make a will or use some other legal method to transfer your property. Generally, it will go to your spouse and children or, if you have neither, to your other closest relatives. If no relatives can be found to inherit your property, it will go to the state. In addition, in the absence of a will, a court will determine who will care for your young children and their property if the other parent is unavailable or unfit to do so. If you are part of an unmarried same-sex couple, your surviving partner will not inherit anything unless you live in one of the few states that allow registered domestic partners to inherit like spouses: California, Connecticut, Maine, New Jersey, and Vermont. Any adult of sound mind is entitled to make a will. Beyond that, there are just a few technical requirements a will must fulfill:

- The will must be signed by at least two witnesses. The witnesses must watch you sign the will, though they don't need to read it. Your witnesses, in most states, must be people who won't inherit anything under the will. (If your state allows "holographic" wills, you don't need witnesses.)
- You must date and sign the will.

You do not have to have your will notarized. In many states, though, if you and your witnesses sign an affidavit (sworn statement) before a notary public, you can help simplify the court procedures required to prove the validity of the will after you die. You do not have to record or file your will with any government agency, although it can be recorded or filed in a few states. Just keep your will in a safe, accessible place and be sure the person in charge of winding up your affairs (your executor) knows where it is. A lawyer does not have to write a will, and most people do not need a lawyer's help to make a basic will -- one that leaves a home, investments, and personal items to your loved ones, and, if you have young children, that names a guardian to take care of them. Creating a basic will rarely involves complicated legal rules, and most people can create their own will with the aid of a good software program or book. But if you have questions that aren't answered by the resource you're relying on, or your situation is unusual, it may be worth it to see a good lawyer

Handwritten, unwitnessed wills, called "holographic" wills, are legal in about 25 states. To be valid, a holographic will must be written and signed in the handwriting of the person making the will; in some states it must also be dated. Some states allow you to use a fill-in-the-blanks form if the rest of the will is handwritten and the will is properly dated and signed. A holographic will is better than nothing if it's valid in your state. But a will signed in front of witnesses is better. If a holographic will goes before a probate court, the court may be unusually strict when examining it to be sure it's legitimate. And if you don't have guidance -- from a good self-help resource or a good lawyer -- it's easy to write something that turns out to be ambiguous or even contrary to what you intended. Very few wills are ever challenged in court. When they are, it's usually by a close relative who feels somehow cheated out of a share of the deceased person's property. To get an entire will invalidated, someone must go to court and prove that it suffers from a fatal flaw, the signature was forged, you weren't of sound mind when you made the will, or you were unduly influenced by someone.

The law protects surviving spouses from being left with nothing. If you live in a community property state (Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington, or Wisconsin -- or Alaska if you have made a written community property agreement), your spouse automatically owns half of all the property and earnings (with a few exceptions) acquired by either of you during your marriage. You can leave your half of the community property, and your separate property, to anyone you choose. In all other states, a surviving spouse has a legal right to claim a portion of your estate, no matter what your will provides. But these provisions kick in only if your spouse goes to court and claims that share. If you don't plan to leave at least half of your property to your spouse, either through your will or outside it, you should consult a lawyer -- unless your spouse willingly consents in writing to your plan. Generally, it's perfectly legal to disinherit a child. If, however, it appears that you didn't mean to disinherit a child -- the most common example is a child born after you made your will -- then the child has the right to claim part of your property.

REMINDER!

Your \$10.00 PLM are due in January. Thanks.



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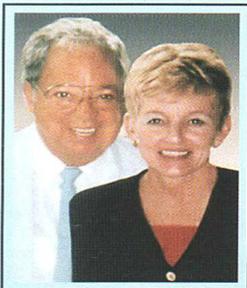
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Grandchildren: Zack, Jarrett & Tina

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	Jacob Mirsky (*)	

Detachment 755 is starting a new recycle ribbon bar holders program.

Our ships store will buy several different ribbon bar holders for your uniform and keep them in stock.

As you are awarded new ribbons, just bring in your current one in exchange for one with the correct amount of ribbon.

See Joe Motes for your upgrade!

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04-09

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06-09



In Loving Memory of
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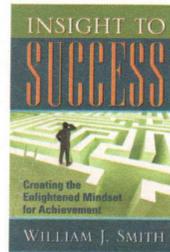
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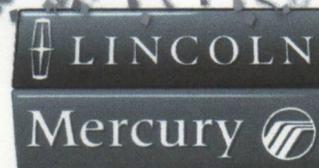
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TAMARAC DETACHMENT 755



MARINE CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM

All Detachment 755 Members, starting with the July meeting, we ask you to please bring two of the following items listed below for our Marines serving overseas. Most Requested Items Are:

Snacks and non-perishable food items, particularly tuna kits, beef jerky, canned fruits, nuts, coffee, canned meats and other ready to eat meals;

Undershirts (white, short sleeve); Socks (cotton, boot cut, black, or green—try military surplus stores); Magazines;

Sunglasses, goggle-style sunglasses, goggles; Cigarettes, Copenhagen and Skoal; Single-use cameras (disposable);

AT&T Global pre-paid Military Calling Cards (calling cards to work in Iraq and Afghanistan must be these specific cards);

Music Cds (new and used); Movie DVDs (new and used); Flashlights with Red lens; 72" bootlaces (brown or tan preferred);

Batteries (AA are most requested, then AAA); Disposable, instant hand warmers; Ziploc plastic bags;

Lotrimin AF or Tinactin for Athletes foot; Sun block, Aloe Vera; Eye Drops (to relieve dry eye, not redness); Blistex, Chapstick, Carmex; Aspirin, Motrin, Tylenol, Pain Relievers; Saline Spray / Drops for Sensitive nasal passages;

Q-Tips; Laundry Soap Tablets; Baby Wipes; Liquid Body Wash; Super Glue; Pre-sweeten flavored beverage mixes.

These are by no means the only items that you can send. The Summers are extremely hot and the Winters, wet and cold. Your donations are greatly appreciated by our troops!

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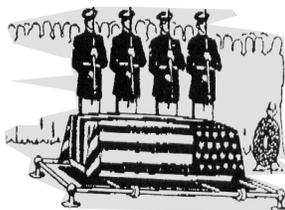
TAMARAC DETACHMENT 755



In Remembrance

of Tamarac Detachment Members who have answered the call

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Garfinkel, Harold	30 May 1992
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Simon, Bernard	25 Oct 1996
Meyer, William L.	18 Nov 1997
Smith, Harry L.	01 Jan 1998
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Pengra, James	13 Jul 2000
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Dowd, Donald J.	17 Nov 2001
Casey, Charles	27 Aug 2002
Doty, Donald W.	12 Sep 2002
Bedor, David	5 Oct 2002
Sadler, James N.	18 Dec 2002
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Aronin, Herbert	20 Mar 2002
Stern, Jack	08 Jan 2003
Crane, Thomas	Aug 2003
Gelosi, Sal	27 Dec 2003



Fink, John B.	02 Jan 2004
Cestone, Pat	06 Aug 2004
Coons, Arthur "Doc"	11 Nov 2004
Denison, David L.	30 Jun 2004
Cassassa, Gus	02 Feb 2004
Rourke, Harry	27 Nov 2004
Mirsky, Lucille A.	14 Apr 2005
Motyczka, John	17 Sep 2005
Delman, Maury	20 Mar 2006
Fleming, Robert T.	21 Mar 2006
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Abramowitz, Norman	30 June 2006
Murphy, Bill	9 Dec 2006
Aiello, Joseph A.	23 Dec 2006
Palermo, Dorothy	14 Jan 2007
McGuire, Thomas	7 April 2007
LaPorte, Phillip	12 May 2007
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Joseph Griffis Jr.	2 Mar 2008
Martin Sucoff	April 2008
John F. Deeley	20 April 2008

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Colbert, Gerald	*** 10-08
Cuesta Jr., Alex	*** 06-08
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Ellenthal, Barbara & Harvey	05-09
Eno, Jeanette	05-09
Eno, Norman	05-09
Franchino, Doris & Richard	01-09
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Pastor, Robert	08-09
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Ruggiero, James	02-09
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