



League Officers

Commandant, Francis Curnow; Sr. Vice Commandant, Brian Dupee; Jr. Vice Commandant, Joe Dymon; Judge Advocate, Tom Pirnie;
Adjutant Paymaster John Rutovich

Marine Corps League Flag Pin Sales a Great Success

June 14, 15, 16, and 17th, the Westfield River Valley Marine Corps League participated in its annual fundraising event of selling flag pins. This year the Marines sold flag pins at the Westfield Wal-mart. "This was a great event", stated J R, the paymaster/adjutant of the League. The pins were sold in remembrance of Flag Day.



30th, 1916. While flag day was celebrated in various communities, it was not until August 3rd, 1949 when President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as Flag Day.

More Pictures of Page 5.

The idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. Bj Cigrand, a school teacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wis-

consin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 as "Flag Birthday". Flag day was finally proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson on May

I AM The Flag

I am the flag of the United States of America. My name is Old Glory. I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's hall of justice. I fly majestically over institutions of learning. I stand guard with power in the world. Look up and see me. I stand for peace, honor, truth, and justice. I stand for freedom. I am confident. I am arrogant. I am proud. When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is a little higher, my colors a little truer. I bow to no one! I am recognized all over the world, I am worshipped. I am saluted. I am loved. I am revered. I am respected, and I am feared. I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years. I was flown at

Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appomattox. I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the Beaches of Normandy, and Guam. Okinawa, Korea, KheSan, Saigon, Vietnam know me, I was there. I led my troops, I was dirty, battle tested and tired, but my soldiers cheered me and I was proud. America has been attacked by cowardly fanatics. Many lives have been lost but those who would destroy me cannot win. For I am the symbol of freedom— of one nation under God Indivisible with liberty and justice for all. I have been burned, torn and trampled on the street of countries I have helped set free. It does

not hurt, for I am invincible. I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of my country. And when it's by those whom I've served in battle it hurts. But I shall overcome for I am strong. I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon. I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours. But my finest hours are YET to come. When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield, when I am flown at half-mast to honor my soldier, or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter, I AM PROUD



Happy 4th of July.. What a great Pig Roast.. If you were there, you know.. If not you missed a truly outstanding gathering. Brian Stepanik calls his operation Perfect Pig and I'd say he's got it right. The final numbers are not in yet but somewhere around 140 hungry Marines and families chow'd down at the Westfield fair grounds on a perfect weather day. Ticket sellers, chip

Commandants Corner

pickers, etc. music and most of all those who attended... made it a real day to remember. J.R. tells me every single calendar ticket was sold. The lucky winners will be getting their due by weeks end... Oorah! For those who were at breakfast last Saturday, the vet's from the Soldiers home joined us for a fine morning and full breakfast. I was proud to be able to recognize Larry Tirrell for Distin-

guished Service as a two tour Commandant. Also Don Rivette wishes to remind you he can use donated fishing gear for a trip he is organizing for our vets at the soldiers home.... All for now. See you on July 9th... P.S. Don't forget we are having a demo from the canines for disabled vets at next meeting.

Semper Fidelis,
Fran C.

Associate Member appointed to Governor's Veterans' Advisory Council

A couple of days ago the West Springfield Veterans Agent and Associate member of the Detachment Jim Berrelli received an appointment to Govern Deval Patrick's Veterans Advisory Council. In an email to

Joe Dymon, Berrelli says, "I received two phone calls today from Senator Brewer and Representative Verga informing me that the Governor has appointed me to the Governor's Veterans' Advisory Council. Sem-

per Fi, God Bless America! Hoorah! Jim Berrelli Associate member." Congrats to our new representative of the State Veterans' Advisory Council, Jim Berrelli.

Sick Call and Final Roll Call

Sick Call
Art Fisher & David Tirell- Holyoke Soldier's Home, Holyoke, Ma.
Waldo "the Admiral" Rankin- Broken Hip at

Home.
Bill Sequin- Redstone Rehab and Nursing Center.

Joe Wise- Slip and fall, Lacerations, bumps and

bruises.

Ensure all members talk to Doc Rivette about getting your required shot from him. HA HA HA!

July 2007

Schedule of Events

- July 1st, Pig Roast at Fairgrounds 1200 to ?
- July 4th, Independence Day Hampdon Ponds Parade 1000
- July 9th, Monthly Meeting Social Hour at 1800, meeting starts at 1900.

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

Officers and Committees Reports

The Office of the Judge Advocate

There has been much controversy over what medal and ribbons may be worn with the MCL uniform. If a member would like to wear his ribbons with his MCL uniform, he has two options. 1. The MCL member may wear the ribbons that was issued while on active duty and the ribbons that the unit was issued by a later decree by the DOD. A member may wear the ribbons that are earned as a MCL member. A member may not mix the two different types of ribbons. The member can not wear a PUC with a MCL ribbon. If there is a question of how the ribbons shall be worn consult the poster in the barracks, or ask one of the long standing members.

T. Pirnie

Awards from the Pig Roast

Congratulations to J. B. Stern who was awarded the gold medal for his selfless rescue earlier this year during his duties as a Springfield Police officer. The award is the highest the Marine Corps league can bestow on an individual. We are proud to have him in our Detachment. Also receiving recognition was J. Rutovich for the Detachment and Department of Mass as recruiter of the year for 34 new members brought in. Sgt. Maj E. Mitrook also awarded the Bronze medal for his continuing excellence in working with the Young Marines and this year being named the outstanding volunteer of the year for our area.

News from the Corps

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ACTIVE RESERVE (AR) ENLISTED DIRECT HIRE REQUIREMENTS FOR FY07/08

1. HQMC RAM IS CURRENTLY HIRING MARINES INTO THE AR PROGRAM WITH FLEXIBLE CONTRACTS DEPEND-
ENT UPON MOS AND DUTY STATION IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GLOBAL
WAR ON TERRORISM. ALL MOS'S WILL BE CONSIDERED. 2. HQMC RAM IS ALSO ACTIVELY SEEKING AR PRO-
GRAM CAREER MARINES FOR SPECIFIC OCCUPATIONAL FIELDS. 3. CONTACT THE ENLISTED AR MONITORS
FOR AMPLIFYING DETAILS. VISIT THE HQMC/ MRA /RESERVE MARINE/ RA/ RAM/ RAM-2 WEBSITE FOR APPLI-
CATION PROCESS:

General Pace Speaks Out

From W. Thomas Smith Jr.

Last night, during a Q&A following remarks by Gen. Peter Pace at The Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia, the general was asked the following question: My question is about what many folks at the reception tonight viewed as the very disappointing news about your replacement as chairman. I wonder why you believe that is happening, and what are your thoughts about the process by which we choose the nation's top military uniformed officer? **General Pace responds:** I will tell you the truth as I know it, and that is around the middle of May, within a day or two of the Secretary learning from certain members of Congress that there may be a problem to renominate me, he brought me in the office and sat me down and said "Pete, this is what's happening. I want to renominate you. I want you to know that this is what I'm beginning to hear, this is what I'm going to go do, this is how I'm going to go do it."

He went out and did exactly what he said on television, and exactly what he's been saying in his interviews, which is he went out and pulsed various members of Congress and he heard back from them the things that he said that he heard. He and I sat down, and I said "I'm a Marine. If you want me to go forward with the confirmation process, I'm all for it." I also told him that **what he needed to do, in my opinion, was what was best for the institution**, and whatever he and the president decided was going to be best for the institution was what Pete Pace was going to do. Oh and by the way, **I can read the Constitution, which says the president gets to nominate and the Senate gets to confirm, or not**, and neither one of those two things is going to happen, therefore I'm not staying. One thing that was discussed was whether or not I should just voluntarily retire and take the issue off the table. I said **I could not do that for one very fundamental reason and that is that PFC Pace in Baghdad** should not think - ever - that his chairman, whoever that person is, could have stayed in the battle and voluntarily walked off the battlefield. That is unacceptable as a leadership thing in my mind. So I elected not to submit my request for retirement until after it was publicly known that I was no longer going to be renominated. That is very important to me. The other part that is important to me is personal. The first piece holds true for anybody in this position - anybody. The other piece for me personally was that some 40 years ago I left some guys on the battlefield in Vietnam who lost their lives following 2nd Lt. Pace

Picture Page

Pictures from the Flag Day Ceremony at Parker Park



Flag Pins Sales at Wal-Mart



Roast that Pig; The Pig Roast



"Vinnie Did it.": Would you two like to smile?

"Man it's hot in here"

Grab and Go! Let's Go! Let's Go! I don't know why you are not done yet!

So is your shot record up to date? I can fix it



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River Valley Detachment**

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**Www.mclw
rv141.com**

Westfield River Valley Marine Corps League

Charter on Nov. 1945. We have approximately 167 members consisting of Former and Present Marines and FMF Corpsmen, and Associate Members consisting of other military branches. Memberships are \$41.00 yearly. We are a non-profit organization that supports many activities within our area. We are the host Detachment to the Westover Young Marines located at Westover Air Force Reserve Base.

Attend a Meeting as our guest of a member and consider joining us as a member. Come visit with us any Saturday morning. Meet your fellow Marines and Corpsmen. Enjoy the continuation of our Brotherhood.

Westfield River Valley Marine Corps League
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