The "Ooo Rah"

Newsletter of the Central Florida Chapter
1st Marine Division Association

Volume 16 Issue 2 | March/April 2019

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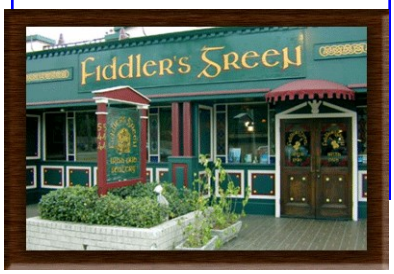
(with a lot of help from Nancy)

Next Meeting:

Saturday, April 6

10:30 a.m.

Fiddler's Green Irish Pub
544 West Fairbanks Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32789
Ph.407.645.2050



PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

We had a successful Valentine Party in February. It was nice to see so many members and their "Sweethearts" as well as a few stags enjoy a night of social fun and fellowship. We are fortunate to have such wonderful members who genuinely like each other and enjoy spending these times together. Everyone has heard the expression the "Marine Corps is like a family." But in the Central Florida Chapter, 1st Marine Division Assoc. that is truly the case. Thank you all for your support of our chapter and its activities. (see photos on page 3)

We were represented at the annual 1st Marine Division's Anniversary event at Camp Pendleton by member Elmer Hawkins. Elmer was honored to be asked to tie the South Pacific WWII campaign ribbon to the division's flag at the Friday morning colors at division Headquarters. (Photo on page 4)

We enjoyed another visit with our friends at the Lake Nona VA Community Living Center earlier this month. We regularly visit on the second Thursday of months that do not have a chapter meeting, entertaining the residents with a trivia game and bingo. Residents receive $1 PX coupon books for winning at bingo and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams get cash prizes for the trivia game. We serve snacks and drinks to the residents who look forward to our visits. Staff members Natalie Smith and Victor Smith are always eager to assist us by helping with trivia teams and calling the bingo. For members not participating in this event, you are missing a fun and extremely rewarding 1 ½ hour.



Pictured above are the volunteers who attended this month's visit with the residents of the Lake Nona CLC. L to R : Barron Mills, Elmer Hawkins, Mary Ann Smith, Wendy Simpson, Helen Brown, Eleanor Schill, Mike and Nancy Galyean. Missing on this visit but regular volunteers are : Art Dreves, Greg and Janet Melnick and Russ and Jo Ann Kauffman

Semper Fi, ...Mike Galyean, President

April Program — Colonel "Lou" Lara, Commanding Officer of Orlando Based PM TRASYS



Colonel Luis "Lou" Lara

PM TRASYS commanding officer Colonel "Lou" Lara has a diverse 27-year career serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. Prior to being named commanding officer of the Orlando based command, his background includes assignments as a Secretary of Defense Executive Fellow, Deputy Program Manager for Training Systems, Marine Corps Ground Acquisitions Officer, Contracting Officer, Logistics Officer and F/A-18 Power-plant mechanic.

As a Ground Acquisition Officer, Lou specializes in the acquisition of military weapon systems for the United States Marine Corps. He develops procurement strategies, interfaces with defense industry and leads integrated product teams comprised of logistics, engineering, finance and contracting professionals while balancing cost, schedule and technical performance of the weapon system programs he oversees.

(Continued on page 3)

Barron Mills

Selected as First Ever Executive Director of

Florida Association of Veteran-Owned Businesses

Barron is Vice President of our Central Florida Chapter and is a leader in the Central Florida Marine Corps Foundation. His work with veterans, particularly Marines, since his recent retirement is admirable. His efforts are certainly recognized by FAVOB.

ORLANDO, Florida — Barron Mills, a Central Florida-based community activist and leader, has been named the first-ever executive director of the Florida Association of Veteran-Owned Businesses [FAVOB], Orlando Chapter Chairman Don Morrell announced.

The hiring of Mills at the helm of the statewide veterans association is the first of its kind for what, until now, has been an all-volunteer nonprofit organization. However, the continuous growth of FAVOB — whose membership now reaches 150 statewide — led its leaders to create its first paid position.

"When the board interviewed Barron, it was clear to all that he has the passion, energy and expertise to grow FAVOB and increase our sphere of influence throughout the state of Florida," Morrell said. "Barron is a proven military and civilian leader, well known in the Florida veteran community. I am excited for the future of Florida's veterans!"



Maj. Barron Mills, USMC (ret.)

Mills, who grew up as the son of a career Army officer, served in the Marine Corps for 20 years. His prior experiences include leading Marines on missions in the Mediterranean, Haiti, Cuba, Iraq and Afghanistan; screening and evaluating Marine Corps officer candidates; building and then assisting a 3,000-man Iraqi infantry brigade; managing operations for a schoolhouse with 14 unique courses and 6,000 annual students; managing a $42M project to develop and sustain a command and control training system; managing a six-month collaborative effort of 12 distinct organizations and 50 subject matter experts to demonstrate a first-of-its-kind technological training capability to the Marine Corps; and managing a $7M annual contract with a staff of 60 personnel providing project management, logistics, instructional systems design, engineering, cost analysis, and administrative/operations support to the Marine Corps. His eclectic background includes a degree in chemistry and a master's in program management.

"Florida veteran-owned businesses are very fortunate to have Barron Mills step up as our executive director," said Mack Sasser, chair of FAVOB's Spacecoast Chapter. "With Barron's tenacity and acumen, there is no doubt that he will take our efforts to the next level. Barron will create a long-needed, consistent, powerful voice and will be a catalyst in banding our fellow brother and sister veteran entrepreneurs together."

Along with his new primary duties as FAVOB's executive director, Mills' activities include serving as: strategist and connector through his company in solution, LLC; board member for the Central Florida Marine Corps Foundation; vice president for the Central Florida Chapter of the First Marine Division Association; member of the Orlando Mission United Advisory Council; member of the University of Central Florida's Veterans Entrepreneurship Initiative Advisory Board; member of the Valencia College Business Advisory Council; and mentor with the Camaraderie Foundation's Mentor Leadership Program and through Veterati.com. Mills is also a graduate of Leadership Orlando Class of '94.

About FAVOB: *The purpose for the Florida Association of Veteran-Owned Businesses, Inc. [FAVOB] is to promote and unite the many established and start-up businesses that are owned by veterans and disabled veterans throughout the State of Florida, and to increase awareness of the organization at the city, county, state and federal levels. FAVOB is a Florida Corporation, Non-Profit 501c (6) Organization for the benefit of veteran business owners in an effort to give veterans the same opportunities as other disadvantaged groups with respect to selection for work, for bidding opportunities, and for project contract awards. It is the intent of FAVOB to help grow these veteran businesses, as well as support and endorse employing veterans as they return from active and reserve duty to join the civilian workforce. For more information, visit FAVOB.net or call (407) 702-1204.*

(Continued from page 1, Col. Lara, PM TRASYS)

He earned a commission in 1995 and subsequently became a Logistics Officer and a Contracting Officer. He has served across the globe in a variety of leadership and staff positions. Lou is a 1993 graduate of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University where he received a B.S. in Aviation Maintenance Management. He also holds M.S. Degrees in Acquisition Contract Management from the Naval Post Graduate School (2001) and Military Studies from the Marine Corps University (2010). Additionally, he is a certified Project Management Professional through the Project Management Institute (2014).



The mission of PM TRASYS is Improving the Warfighting effectiveness of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) and globally deployed Maritime Expeditionary Forces by providing training support and developing and sustaining training systems and devices.

PM TRASYS is the Marine Corps Systems Command's independent program manager assigned the responsibility to provide training support services as well as development, delivery and life-cycle sustainment of training systems and devices. PM TRASYS provides various products and services including training analyses, training technology research and development, distributed learning capabilities, simulations, simulators, minor training devices, mock weapons, range targets and instrumentation, training observation capabilities, after-action review systems, training personnel and combat environment role players.

We look forward to having Colonel Lara give us a glance into the abilities of the modern "warfighting" Marine and the role of PM TRASYS in that preparation.

Mark Your Calendars



Saturday, April 6 … Chapter meeting

April 7—9… FMDA Directors Mtg.. Louisville, KY

Saturday, May 4 … Chapter Executive Committee, location TBD

Thurs., May 9 … Lake Nona VA "Happy Hour Trivia and Bingo"

August 5 — 10 … 72nd Annual FMDA Reunion, Louisville, KY

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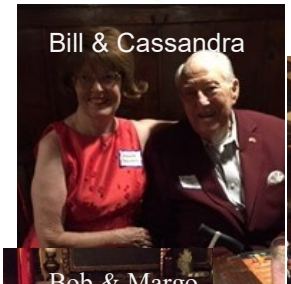
The Larry E. Smedley Detachment of the Marine Corps League— 2nd Tues, - Monthly Meeting, 7pm – 8pm at the at American Legion Florida Department bldg. 1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810. Info:mclcfl@gmail.com or Sr. Vice Cdr at 407-963-9388.

North Lake Detachment of the Marine Corps League— Monthly meeting 7:00, 2nd Thursday, Bob Fortin MCL Hall, 2298 Marcella Way, Leesburg, FL For info. call Chris Streeter –1-832.608.3436

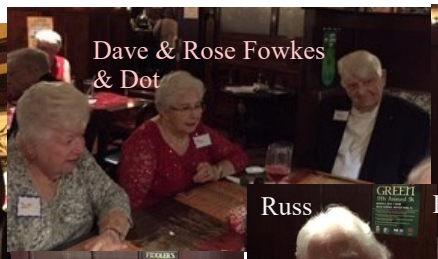
2019 Valentine "Sweetheart Dinner"



On Thursday, February 13, the Central Florida Chapter's Valentine "Sweetheart" Dinner was attended by 29 members and guests. Fiddlers Green Irish Pub again graciously hosted our dinner and provided us with a private room which was decorated appropriately for the occasion. After dinner we were entertained by members telling how they had met the "sweethearts" and Mike Pomakis won a $25 gift certificate, that had been donated by Fiddlers Green, for having the most unusual meeting. Fiddlers Green's owner, Donal O'Brien, also entertained members with a bit of history of Saint Valentine and his burial in Ireland.


Bill & Cassandra


Chris & Cheryl


Dave & Rose Fowkes & Dot


Elmer & Mary Ann


Alice & Jim

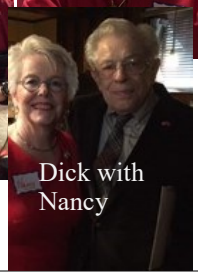

Bob & Margo

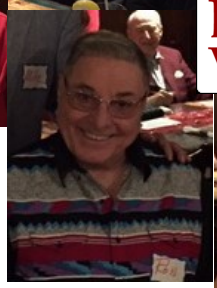



Nancy & Mike


Janet & Mike

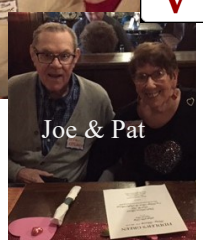

Russ


Dick with Nancy


Ron




Tyler & Angela


Joe & Pat

Great News: The 2019 FMDA Reunion is set!

The leaders of the 1st Marine Division Association have been very busy since our reunion in Colorado Springs. Thanks to President Jerry Johs, along with Staff Members Ms. June Cormier and Mr. Dennis Coady,

The 2019 reunion hotel will be the Crowne Plaza Hotel, located at the Louisville Airport at 830 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY 40209. Reunion activities, meetings and tours will take place August 6—10. A special room rate has been negotiated that will be available to FMDA members starting on Monday, August 5, and running through Sunday, August 11, 2019.

Blue Diamond News—Old Breed News

If you are not receiving the FMDA's weekly Blue Diamond News, you should subscribe as soon as possible. Contact June or Dennis (see below) to make sure they have your correct email address. **As you should be aware by now, the quarterly magazine, The Old Breed News, is no longer being printed in hard copy, but it is available to all hands "on-line."**

In order to stay up to date with 1st Marine Division news, you should ask to be on the Blue Diamond weekly newsletter and the electronic mailing list for the Old Breed News. You can either call their HQ at Camp Pendleton at (760) 763-3268, or contact President Jerry Johs, June or Dennis via their email addresses:

Jerry Johs – geronamo0122@gmail.com
June Cormier – June.oldbreed@fmda.us
Dennis Coady – dennis.oldbreed@fmda.us



Elmer Hawkins prepares to tie the WW II South Pacific Campaign Ribbon on the 1st Marine Division colors. Sgt. Hawkins served with the division on Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, and Peleliu as the Marines moved across the Pacific . The 1st Marine Division's 78th anniversary was celebrated by many association members and active duty Marines during the 1st week of February. The FMDA also used this occasion to have meetings of the directors and committees of the association. Attendees enjoyed meals at the mess halls and activities at various locations on the base and a banquet on the last night

1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

~IMPORTANT~

Central Florida Chapter members need to be members of the 1st Marine Division Association...contact the FMDA office or visit the website for membership information.

Visit the association website:

www.1stmardivassociation.com

New Address and contact information

1st Marine Division Association
P.O. Box 9000, Box #902
Oceanside, CA 92051

Phone

(760) 763-3268

Email

Office: oldbreed@fmda.us
June Cormier:
june.oldbreed@fmda.us

Association President
Jerry Johs
geronamo0122@gmail.com

Office hours remain the same:
Monday thru Friday 8am to 4pm PCT

National Veterans Crisis Line

A brief request and a favor. Right now, while you're reading this … put this in your phone. **National Veterans Crisis Line, 1-800-273-8255.** You never know when you or a veteran you know might need some help, right now. Now you have a number that can help.

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Veterans in crisis

For you or someone you know.

Suicide is a medical emergency. If you are experiencing thoughts of suicide, know that you are not alone and care should be sought immediately by calling 911. Free, confidential resources are instantly available through the Military Crisis Line to aid you if you are in crisis.

· Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, OR
· chat online now for 24/7 access to trained counselors who understand what service members and military families are coping with. Website at www.veteranscrisisline.com
· OR : text 838255 for 24/7 confidential assistance.

They are there because they care….

A Letter to the Editor

I read with interest the story in the January/February issue of *Ooo Rah*, regarding pulling pits on the rifle range. It brought back an old memory of my own boot camp days.

I enlisted in Dallas in the late days of WWII. From Texas, all recruits were sent to San Diego Recruit Depot; the training included three weeks at the Camp Matthews, CA, rifle range.

Each recruit had his turn at pulling the butts (as we called it then) and I was doing just what the DI told us to do. I was seated on the concrete bench below the target; I heard my rifleman fire his weapon and stood up to pull down the target. No sooner had I moved when a round hit the wall behind exactly where I had been sitting!!

I was SO surprised when I saw the round, I bent over and picked it up. I was the only *casualty* that day; I had burnt my fingers on that hot round. Nobody had told me that a recently fired round would be *HOT*!

The weapon was the .30 cal. M-1 rifle. Behind the butts was a 25 foot dirt hill which was supposed to absorb the round. This one apparently ricocheted off a stone or something.

An old saying for this: "Shot at and missed; s___ at and hit!"

Semper Fi!
Dick Connell

"Boudreaux & The Insurance Supplement"

Boudreaux, the smoothest-talking Cajun in the Louisiana National Guard, got called up to active duty.

Boudreaux's first assignment was in a military induction center. Because he was a good talker, they assigned him the duty of advising new recruits about government benefits, especially the GI insurance to which they were entitled.

The officer in charge soon noticed that Boudreaux was getting a 99% sign-up rate for the more expensive supplemental form of GI insurance. This was remarkable, because it cost these low-income recruits $30.00 per month for the higher coverage, compared to what the government was already providing at no charge. The officer decided he'd sit in the back of the room at the next briefing and observe Boudreaux's sales pitch.

Boudreaux stood up before the latest group of inductees and said, "If you has da normal GI insurans an' you goes to Afghanistan an' gets youself killed, da govment' pays you benefishery $20,000. If you takes out da suppmental insurans, which cost you only t'irty dollars a munt, den da governmen' gots ta pay you benefishery $400,000! "Now," Boudreaux concluded, "which bunch you tink dey gonna send ta Afghanistan first?"

There are three kinds of people in this world, those who are good at math and those who are not.

1st Marine Division News

Educators Experience Marine Corps Training

SAN DIEGO, Cali. (WSAW) -- Training in the U.S. Marine Corps starts at boot camp but never really ends.



These educators got the chance to take part in just some of that training. They spent the week learning how to work as one team and get battle ready.

"They give you a problem solving scenario and you have to work together as a team to come up with a possible solution. If you succeed great but if you don't you have to do some running," said Ben Morey, of the New Lisbon School District.

Marines must be able to pass a physical fitness test which includes running, pull-ups and crunches. They must also pass a combat fitness test which looks at their functional fitness with a timed sprint, ammunition can overhead lift and a 300 yard obstacle course.

They also spend hours learning how to use weapons before they even step foot on the firing range. "So what the teachers did here for an hour the recruits do for about a week and each position a minimal of four to five hours," explained Sgt. Jordan Joaquin, a Primary Marksmanship Instructor for the U.S. Marines.

Once they have the basics down it's off to the range. "The key is confidence. Confidence through training and professional conduct so when it comes time to engage an enemy we do that with confidence and accuracy. That starts here at the range," explained Warrant Officer Stuart Shine, an Infantry Weapons Officer for the U.S. Marines.

It's part of the U.S. Marine's mission for every Marine is a rifleman.

For educators this behind the scenes look at the Marines sheds light on possible career options for students. "So I don't know really anything about the military options for kids. So as a counselor we are trying to coach them into whatever the best fit for them is," said Andrew Stendahl, of the Madison Metropolitan School District.

The Central Florida Chapter

Plt.Sgt. Joe Adamik (2014)
Capt. John Adamson 2015
Sgt. Ray Bauer (2015)
Cpl. Chester Bened (2012)
Joyce Bowden, assoc. (2017)
Sgt. Tim Broughton (2013
Sgt. Glenn Brown (2011)
Col. Harry Clarke (2013)
Amy Clarke, assoc. (2017)
Pfc. John Cromwell (2010)
M.Sgt. Louis Curtis
Wade Curtis (2011)
Col. Ed Danowitz (2012)
Plt. Sgt Robert Fincher (2014)
Capt. William Harwood (2010)
Lt.Col. Dick Holt (2008)
Carolyn Immerman, assoc. (2017)
Sgt. Wade Jones (2012)
Cpl. John "Rick" Kennedy (2012)
Cpl. Louis Lang (2010)
Sgt. Maj. Les LeBlanc (2005)
C.W. "Bill" Marks (2014)
M.Sgt. Malcolm MacLean (2007)
Gy.Sgt. Rudy Miller (2008)
Ray Nielsen (2007)
Sgt. Donald Neiss (2009)
Pfc. Athanasse "Al" Parsons (2013)
MSgt Edward Payton (2015)
Sgt. Victor Petris (2015)
Gy.Sgt. Charles Ross (2013)
1Lt. George Schultz (2008)
Cpl Don Schyberg (2017)
Pfc. "Wild Bill" Taylor (2010)
Col. John Terry (2018)
Lt.Col. John Tomlinson (2014)
M.Sgt. Dale Wasson (2009)
Sgt. Carl Wenhold (2017)

Semper Fi, Ladies and Gentlemen.
You'll always be remembered.

Minutes
Central Florida Chapter
First Marine Division Association
February 2, 2019
Fiddlers Green Irish Pub

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Galyean. The opening prayer was led by Bill Tate. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant at Arms, Jim Weinberg.

Introduction of Speaker
Vice President Barron Mills introduced the speaker, Ruth Osborne, who spent 8 years on active duty with the Marine Corps. Ruth spoke about her organization, Women Veterans Helping Veteran Women, which networks women veterans for purposes of support and assistance.

Treasurer's Report
Art Dreves reported that the Chapter had $2,172.56 in the savings account, $4,423.87 in the checking account, $44.00 in Post Exchange chits less expenses of $418.87 for an available balance of $6,221.56.

Secretary's Report
Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as printed in the last "OooRah."

Business
- Sweetheart sign-up sheet was passed to members.
- President Galyean stressed membership renewals.
- Greg Melnick gave a brief report on the delivery of stuffed animals to Lake Nona residents.
- Barron Mills reported on the Central Florida Marine Corps Foundation and its upcoming golf event.
- The next Executive meeting was held on March 2.
- The next Chapter meeting is April 6.

Drawing for Raffle
Chris Hoey held the raffle and 3 winners were drawn.

The meeting was adjourned with the reciting of verse 4 & 5 of the Navy Hymn and singing of the Marine Hymn. Several members stayed for lunch and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Melnick
Secretary

<<<<<<<< **Website of the Central Florida Chapter, 1st Marine Division Association** >>>>>>>>

In case you have not taken the time recently, I would encourage you to visit the website of our Central Florida Chapter. It's a good as any site you will see.

Our webmaster is none other than the son of our beloved Art Dreves, treasurer and Marine veteran of C1/1 in WWII, . Rick Dreves lives in Franklin, TN, and is a professional "computer guru." He has retired from running his own computer company, but remains active in free-lance video work. Rick also is very active providing leadership and volunteer work for the South Cumberland State Park near Sewanee, TN. Rick volunteers his efforts to keep our website up-to-date, and has recently assisted in making our web page capable of using PayPal. There are numerous anecdotal stories posted on the site as well as a photo section and links to other Marine and veteran sites of interest. If you have stories, photos, or anything else pertaining to our web page, get them to me and I'll make sure it gets to Rick. Here is our web page address… Make sure you give it a look….
Thank you, Rick, for all your help.



http://www.cfc1stmardiv.com/

Central Florida Chapter
1st Marine Division Association
746 McIntyre Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32789



In order to belong to the Central Florida Chapter, you must...
Be a member of the 1st Marine Division Association
World War II ~ North China ~ Korea ~ Cold War ~ Vietnam ~ Gulf War ~ Iraqi Freedom ~ War on Terror

Call the 1st Marine Division Association in Oceanside, CA at (760) 763-3268 *or email* june.oldbreed@fmda.us *for information*

Central Florida Chapter

Select Membership type: ___ Regular ($20) ~ ___ Associate ($20) ~ ___ Life ($200) ~ Active Duty($5) ___
___ New ___ Renewal

PLEASE PRINT: _____
(Rank / Grade) (First Name) (Middle Initial) (Last Name)

_____ _____
Number and Street or P.O. Box #) *Spouses name*

_____
(City) (State) (Zip)

I was with: (list two units, max) _____
(Company - Battalion - Regiment/Squadron - Group)

WWII____ China____ Korea____ Cold War____ Vietnam____ Gulf War____ Iraqi Freedom____ War on Terror____

Email address: _____ Phone No. (___) _____ Recommended by _____

Please enclose $20 for Regular / Associate Membership; $200 for Life Membership; $5 for Active Duty
Make checks payable to: Cent. Fla. Chap., 1st Mar. Div. Assoc.. ~~~ Return to Mike Galyean, 746 McIntyre Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789
You can now pay on-line by using PayPal. Go to the chapter website at http://www.cfc1stmardiv.com/