



Newsletter of the Semper Fidelis Society

DISPATCHES

OFTEN TESTED, ALWAYS FAITHFUL, BROTHERS FOREVER

“The bended knee is not a tradition of our Corps.”

HONOR, COURAGE and COMMITMENT

2017 Leadership

Officers:

President-Paul McLaughlin
Treasurer-Bob Adelhelm
Admin-George Hurd
Chaplain-Henry Moreland
Historian-Klaus Maurer
BOD-Fred Blaz
BOD-Kevin Turner
BOD-Suzanne Carson
BOD-Reiss Tatum
Advisor-Sam Handlee

Past Presidents:

2000 Bob Adelhelm (Founder)
2001 Pete Dowling
2002 Bert Costa
2003 Sam Handlee
2004 Len Slack
2005 John Winkler*
2006 Jim Mitchell*
2007 Murray Morgan
2008/09 Paul McLaughlin
(co-Founder)
2010 Jesse Vaughn
2011/2012 Sharon Leahy
2013 Sam Handlee
2014 Bert Costa
2015 Ed Churchill
2016 Paul McLaughlin
** denotes incomplete term*

President's Message:

Warm greetings to my Marine and Navy Corpsmen Brothers:

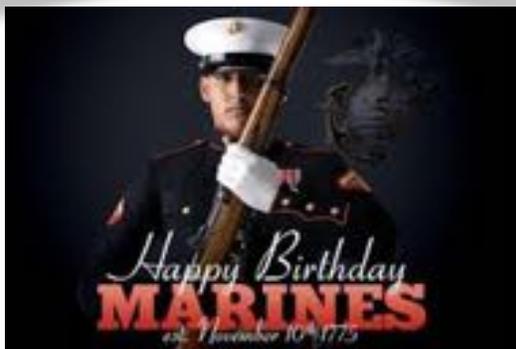
It is almost time to bid farewell to 2017, so it is only fitting that we review this year and give our faithful members some insight to plans for 2018.

Your board of directors are responsible for managing and planning the direction of the organization. I would like to offer a well-deserved thank you to this year's board: Bob Adelhelm, George Hurd, Henry Moreland, Suzanne Carson, Fred Blaz, and Reiss Tatum. Without their patience, guidance, input, and support my term as president would be impossible.

The Society is in very good financial shape as we close out the year. Our expenses were down and our revenue was about the same as in past years. We supported all of our usual programs, such as Terry Parker High JNROTC, Bishop Kenny JNROTC, Jacksonville University officer sword presentation, Young Marines, Evergreen Ceremony, end of year social at Hidden Hills, and Vets4Vets. This is not a complete list, but you get the idea how active our group is in the Jacksonville community, and the visibility that affords us.

A word about the November 10 Evergreen Cemetery ceremony. I am disappointed with the turnout for this event, to say the least. This ceremony honors local Marines and Corpsmen who have lost their lives in defense of our freedoms. The monument and the area surrounding are absolutely beautiful and well maintained. Some families have attended every year since 2005, the year following the memorial dedication. They are so appreciative and moved by this remembrance each year. I strongly encourage YOUR future attendance. The social following Evergreen this year was something not to be missed as well. The food was great, the bar was open, and the dual USMC and JSFS birthday cake was delicious. A good time was had by all, and it was FREE! Hope you can be there next year.

Decisions were made this year to cut down on the number of meetings to save money on guaranteed attendance charges and because summer attendance in past years was light. That policy will continue in 2018.



President's Message ...continued

Our tentative meeting schedule will be: January, March, May, September, the meetings will be held at Hidden Hills Country Club from 1130 to 1300. Instead of a speaker, the plan is to open the January meeting with a discussion about what you as members would like the Society to accomplish in the coming year and beyond. Give this matter some thought and be ready to share your ideas, vision, and goals with the other members. I look forward to another great year and thank you for your continued support.

Invoice for 2018 dues will be forthcoming. I hope you all decide to stay with us and help us with continuing to maintain a Marine presence here in Jacksonville.

OORAH and Semper Fi !
Paul

From the Staff...

Treasurers Report: Treasurers Reports are made available upon request. Current operations account is \$4580.64. Charitable Contributions/Young Marines and Community Outreach projects for this year: \$3634; NJROTC Scholarships Awarded: \$1000; Gung Ho Awards/Social:\$1875; Evergreen Memorial: \$288. Society is \$250 under budget for the year. Between dues, donations and contributions, we have had a good year and were able to accomplish all our regular events as well conduct some community outreach.

Operations Report: Vets 4 Vets, Gung Ho Awards/Social and Evergreen Marine and FMF Corpsmen Memorial were the key events this quarter. Vets 4 Vets in conjunction with SMG Management added service flags to the Veterans Memorial Arena. Semper Fi and Marine Corps League donated the Marine Corps Colors. 14th Annual Marine and FMF Corpsmen Memorial Ceremony was held. Semper Fi added two new name markers for Sgt JJ Murray and Sgt Matt Horn. V4V Gathering of Vets was held on Nov 4th with 200 in attendance. Congressman Ron DeSantis attended along with City Council President Anna Brosche and Public Defender Charlie Cofer. Several Veterans and Veterans organizations shared there operations and connected with fellow Vets. Semper Fi founded, manages and coordinates V4V.

*Service Flags at
Veterans Arena.
USMC Colors
Donated by Semper Fi
and MCL*



*Nov 10th Evergreen
Ceremony; Name
Marker for Sgt's JJ
Murray and Matt
Horn USMC*



Meetings: Hidden Hills CC, Monument Rd, Jacksonville, Fl.
Contact us at jsfs.usmc@gmail.com



Semper Fi Table at v4v



200 Veterans attended v4v in Arena



Congressman Ron DeSantis addresses the Veterans on Nov 4th Gathering



Semper Fidelis Society 2018 Dues are currently due. Please consider staying on board. Dues remain \$40 and go towards supporting events like the aforementioned. Semper Fi Society has been around for 17 years. We are still active and involved in the Veterans community in many ways. If not for Semper Fi, there would be no Marine and FMF Corpsmen Memorial at Evergreen or the National Cemetery along with many other things we currently do to ensure Marines are recognized in this community.



www.facebook.com/jaxsemperfi



Did You Know...

The U.S. Marine Corps has concluded that a previously unknown Marine is in the iconic flag raising image taken atop Mt. Suribachi during the battle of Iwo Jima in 1945.

Researchers working on a Smithsonian Channel documentary about AP photographer Joe Rosenthal's iconic image approached the Marine Corps months ago to consider their theory that the identities of the flag raisers are incorrect.

The Marine Corps' commandant, Gen. Robert Neller, formed a review panel to consider all available images, film, statements and previous investigations. That panel and the commandant came to the same conclusion: that one of the six men in the Rosenthal photograph was misidentified. The Marine Corps now believes Navy Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class John Bradley was not in the Rosenthal image, but was involved in the initial flag raising hours before the famous photo was taken. Based upon the evidence reviewed, another Marine, Private First Class Harold Schultz, from Detroit, Mich. was the sixth man caught in the frame of what is considered the most famous war photograph.



"Our history is important to us, and we have a responsibility to ensure it's right," said Neller.

"Although the Rosenthal image is iconic and significant, to Marines it's not about the individuals and never has been," according to Neller. "Simply stated, our fighting spirit is captured in that frame, and it remains a symbol of the tremendous accomplishments of our Corps -- what they did together and what they represent remains most important. That doesn't change."

The Marine Corps' review panel was led by a retired general officer, Jan Huly, and consisted of both active duty and retired Marines, as well as two military historians. They reviewed the material beginning in late April and recently presented their findings and recommendations to Neller for his decision.

Now the Marine Corps' history will reflect the identities of the six flag raisers as:

Corporal Harlon Block, Private First Class Rene Gagnon, Private First Class Ira Hayes, Private First Class Harold Schultz, Private First Class Franklin Sousley, and Sergeant Michael Strank.

Semper Fidelis Society

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Jacksonville, Florida 3222



USMC Member

Semper Fidelis is more than a motto

"Marines Taking Care of Marines"

Together We Are Stronger