



## Newsletter of the Semper Fidelis Society

# DISPATCHES

**OFTEN TESTED, ALWAYS FAITHFUL, BROTHERS FOREVER**

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

### 2018 Leadership

#### **Officers:**

**President-Paul McLaughlin**  
**Treasurer-Bob Adelhelm**  
**Admin/Sec-George Hurd**  
**Chaplain-Henry Moreland**  
**Historian-Klaus Maurer**  
**BOD-Fred Blaz**  
**BOD-Suzanne Carson**  
**BOD-Reiss Tatum**  
**BOD-Clyde Slick**  
**BOD- Nila Thompson**  
**Advisor-Sam Handlee**

#### **Vets4Vets-**

**Bruce and Nila Thompson,**  
**Suzanne Carson, Fred Blaz**

#### **Duval Vet Council**

**Delegates-David Trotti and**  
**Ester Byrd**

**St Johns County Veterans**  
**Council Rep-Clyde Slick**

#### **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**  
**2016/18 Paul McLaughlin**  
**(co-Founder)**

*\* denotes incomplete term*



### President's Message:

OOORAH ! To my Marine and FMF Navy Corpsmen Brothers and Sisters:

It is the time of year when our thoughts are focused on planning vacations and weekend fun excursions. My wish is for everyone to have a safe and enjoyable summer. As a reminder, the Semper Fidelis Society will not have lunch meetings in June, July, and

August. This decision came about due to lunch meeting turnout during these months. The management at Hidden Hills has been very flexible and accommodating to our group, but it is not feasible for them to prepare food and arrange for servers unless a certain number will attend.

Let's take a look back at our year so far. We have added quite a few new members and some have become very active in assisting with our commitments. Clyde and Marsha Slick and Nila and Bruce Thompson are now members of the Board of Directors, and are providing new ideas and valued insights. I am also pleased that Suzanne Carson, Klaus Maurer, Bob Adelhelm, George Hurd and Henry Moreland have continued their involvement.

The Society has continued its support of the Bishop Kenny JNROTC and Terry Parker JNROTC with recognizing out-standing graduates. In 2019, we will add Nease High School JNROTC to the list. Any of our members are welcome to these graduation ceremonies, and it is heartening to discover that there are some fine young people who will become tomorrow's leaders. We also support the Atlantic Coast Young Marine program, which is so capably managed by Kimberly Gibbons and her husband, retired GySgt Vincente, who are new Semper FI members. The support of these programs and others requires funds, and your Board will be actively seeking avenues to raise these funds as the year progresses. YOUR INPUT AND SUGGESTIONS ARE ENCOURAGED.

The Semper Fidelis Society, and particularly Bob Adelhelm, has been the moving force behind Vets4Vets. At the June 9 meeting at Veterans Memorial Arena there were 370+ in attendance. There were veterans groups represented from all over North Florida. The movement is gathering momentum and the veteran community will have a strong voice for our concerns. A voice that will not be ignored by those who supposedly represent us in government! Also at the Vets4Vets meeting the Society presented an NCO Sword, a Gung-Ho Award, a USMC souvenir ring and a JSFS coin to Sgt. Weber. He is a squared away Marine who volunteered to donate a kidney to a fellow Marine in the Blount Island Command. It was a proud day for this Marine, and an honor for us to recognize him.

**President's Message ...continued**

THE NEXT SEMPER FIDELIS SOCIETY MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR .

Enjoy your summer break, but give some thought to fund raising ideas. Contact any of the Board members with your suggestions, as we work to achieve what is best for the Society, now and in the future. I look forward to seeing you all in September, if not before. Semper Fi, Paul



**Semper Fi Gear:** Our gear consists of a shirt with logo, coins, pin and now the Marine Corps ring paperweight. These rings were impossible to find, out of production, but we were able to get a Marine to help us mint some. We now have the only remaining rings left in the US. To those of you who already have one, hold on to it. Interested in one, contact Paul McLaughlin at jsfs.usmc@gmail.com



**Operations Report:** Pictures from the Semper Fidelis Society V4V Gathering on June 9th. Semper Fidelis Society awarded a Gung Ho Award and presented Sgt Bryan Weber USMC, Blount Island Command, an NCO Sword at the gathering.



V4V is a movement initiated by Semper Fidelis Society to help unite Veterans in NE FL

Paul McLaughlin represented Semper Fidelis Society at the Atlantic Coast Young Marines Graduation and presented them with a donation from the Society.



Semper Fidelis Society representative, Bruce Thompson placed a wreath at the National Cemetery in honor of Marines and FMF Corpsmen and at the city's Veteran's Memorial Wall in May.





Doc Herb Pearce USN/USMC FMF Corpsmen Scholarships were presented by members David Trotti and Clyde Slick to deserving cadets at Bishop Kenny and Terry Parker HS NJROTC Units. Semper Fidelis Society will also start awarding a scholarship at the Nease HS NJROTC Unit in 2019.



**Congratulations** to Lynn Seckinger on his retirement from the Bishop Kenny NJROTC

**DONATIONS** to help support these scholarships can be sent to Semper Fidelis Society... 100% of your dues and all donations go back into our local Marine community.



**TAPS:** Semper Fidelis Society lost two of its members recently, **Judge Bill O'Malley** and **Hilton Woolard**. Both will be missed. Semper Fi !

### Did You Know...

In 2010, the US government used 1,700 PlayStation 3 gaming consoles to build a supercomputer for the Department of Defense. Using the consoles instead of traditional computer pieces was considered much more cost efficient and environmentally friendly.

The US Military wore blue until shortly after the Spanish-American War in 1898, when it adopted khaki uniforms. The use of camouflage colored uniforms began during WWII, and was originally designed by artists. Today, computer generated, pixilated camouflage is used. Blue uniforms are still used for formal occasions.

Poverty, lack of support from groups or networks, and substandard housing are often contributing factors to veteran homelessness in the United States. About 50% of homeless veterans suffer from disabilities, and two-thirds have substance abuse problems.

While several offenses are classified in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (USMJ) as qualifying for execution, such as desertion, sleeping on the post, and shameful surrender, no service member has been executed since 1961.

The Pentagon serves as the headquarters of the US Department of Defense. It is one of the world's largest office buildings, with 3 times the floor space of the Empire State Building in New York City. Built during WWII, the Pentagon has a distinct, five-sided shape and 17.5 miles of corridors.

"Hurry up and wait" is what happens when each leader down the chain of command tells his or her Marines to be there 15 minutes prior to the senior's directive.

Even though the Corps is an amphibious force, swim qualification is one of the few annual qualifications that doesn't count toward a Marine's promotion to the next rank.

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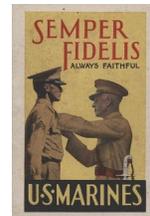
It's easy  
to stand with  
the crowd.  
It takes  
**Courage**  
to stand alone.



**HONOR**  
**COURAGE**  
**COMMITMENT**

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

**Semper Fidelis Society**  
*P.O Box 28188*  
*Jacksonville, Florida 32226*



**Semper Fidelis Marine**

**Semper Fidelis is more than a motto**

**"Marines Taking Care of Marines"**

**Together We Are Stronger**