



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- Bruce & Nila Thompson
Advisor-Sam Handlee

Vets4Vets-

Bruce and Nila Thompson, 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: Season's Greetings to my Marine and FMF Corpsmen Brothers and Sisters...

Does it seem to you that this year has flown by? I feel as if I just blinked and the year was almost over! But before we put 2018 in the history books, I would like to reflect on the past year. Sadly, we lost some of our longtime members this year; Hilton Woolard, Tom Borchert, Bruce Marley, and Judge O'Malley. Also, many of our members are unable to attend due to health or other concerns. We miss them, but they are always in our thoughts.

The Society continued its support for the Bishop Kenny JNROTC, the Terry Parker JNROTC, Jacksonville University NROTC, and the Young Marines program. On November 10, the annual memorial ceremony for fallen Jacksonville Marines and FMF Corpsmen was held at Evergreen Cemetery. Attendance was strong, and again the Marine Corps League and Young Marines assisted in making the ceremony a moving experience. Sam Handlee again masterfully handled the emcee duties.

Following the Evergreen ceremony, a social took place at Hidden Hills. The Commandant's message was played, Hidden Hills provided a lovely dinner for the guests, after which the combination USMC 243rd birthday and SFS 19th birthday cake was enjoyed. In addition, two Gung-Ho awards were presented to deserving Marines, I was very pleased with the turnout at Evergreen and the social.

As all of you know, your membership dues provide the main source of revenue to finance our activities. But thanks to some donations this year, the Society was able to make good on our commitments. Our sincere appreciation to Mr. W.W. Gay for his generosity in supporting the Gung Ho Awards. IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR SFS DUES FOR 2019, now is the time!

In 2018 the Society picked up some outstanding new members who will contribute greatly to our continued strong presence in the Jacksonville veteran community. Speaking of success, the Vets4Vets movement, which was the brainchild of LtCol Bob Adelhelm, continues to gain momentum. Vets4Vets is now headed up by Bruce Thompson, with the able assistance of his wife, Nila. The next meeting will take place on Saturday, January 12th at Veterans Memorial Arena followed by a FREE lunch. If you have not attended one of these events you should make a strong effort to do so. It is an opportunity to hear about important information for veterans, as well as to network with vets from other groups.

Next meeting of the Semper Fidelis Society will take place on Tuesday, January 15 at Hidden Hills from 1130 to 1300. We need a strong attendance, so perform as you were trained to do! I wish everyone a holiday season filled with joy and quality time with those you love.

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 fellow 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: Gung Ho Award... Pictures from the Semper Fidelis Society Social and Gung Ho presentation. Jason Kelloway (pictured right with wife) and Trey Fagan were this years recipients. Trey Fagan could not attend due to a family issue. Semper Fi will deliver Trey's award at a later date. Jason is a former Marine Sgt who is the owner/operator of Social Grounds Coffee in Jacksonville. He is actively involved in reaching out to help those in need. Still serving and doing what Marines do best... lead. Trey Fagan is a retired MARSOC Gunny who is also active in the community down in Middleburg. A combat Veteran who continues to lead and take care of those in need. Two outstanding Marine Veterans who epitomize what Gung Ho is all about...put aside self interest for the good of others. Gung Ho!



Annual Social and cake cutting... Held on Nov 10th after Evergreen Ceremony. Cut a cake in honor of Marine Corps Birthday and Semper Fidelis Society 19th year. Steve Jimenez the guest of honor was accompanied by the two sons of deceased Marine Iraq Veterans Daniel Logan. Wanted to show Cpl Logan's sons their dad was not forgotten and they are members of the Marine family. Good time, good food had by all.



Marine and FMF Corpsmen Memorial... 15th Annual Marine and FMF Corpsmen Memorial held at Evergreen. Wreaths were placed to honor fallen Marines and FMF Corpsmen; this year we placed a wreath in honor of the Marines and Corpsmen killed in Beirut on Oct 23rd 1983. Army BG & former Marine Captain Michael Fleming was the guest speaker and Pastor Elwyn Jenkins USMC gave the invocation. Families of some of the fallen attended and assisted with wreath laying. We had a good turnout. Thanks to MCL 059 Firing Detail and Atlantic Coast Young Marines support.



Did You Know... Vets 4 Vets is a movement under Semper Fidelis Society... V4V was started in 2013 by the Semper Fidelis Society as a MOVEMENT. Based on CAMARADERIE to bring all Veterans and Veteran organizations together to inform, connect, organize and unite, as well to get to know fellow Veterans and our community leaders. Semper Fidelis Society wanted V4V to be a movement that can reach out to all Veterans and Veterans organizations without being perceived as a risk to those organizations. The goal is to create a collective influence and focus, a force multiplier towards generating positive momentum; changing how the Veterans community is dealt with and perceived. It is understood if Veterans stay on the same course they will always be ignored and end up continually being victims of empty promises and diminishing services.



Bruce Thompson, Fred Blaz and Bob Adelhelm

V4V movement meets quarterly at the Veterans Memorial Arena. V4V has the following goals:

- Uniting the NE Florida Veterans community.
- Establishing an environment of cooperation and coordination.
- Bringing attention and gaining support for a Veterans community center.
- Ensuring all things involving and honoring Veterans are done with honor and integrity.

Vets 4 Vets is currently managed by Bruce Thompson, a recent Marine retiree and member of Semper Fi. He and his wife Nila have taken on the responsibilities. The future of V4V is in their hands. They are on the Semper Fi Board and provide updates and feedback. Bruce can be reached at brucethompsonv4v@gmail.com,

Next Vets for Vets quarterly gathering is on Jan 12th in the Veterans Memorial Arena starting at 1030 to 1100 Coffee Social, speakers to follow at 1100 to 1200 and a free buffet lunch with your community Veterans.



Message from MSgt Bruce Thompson V4V:

2018 has seen some significant changes. LtCol. Robert Adelhelm turned over management of the Semper Fidelis V4V movement to me to help with increasing the social media footprint and bringing more veterans to the quarterly gatherings. In addition, due to the efforts of Col Clyde Slick, Semper Fidelis Society was awarded a grant from TPC to help support Vets 4 Vets initiatives.

As we look forward to 2019, we are continuing to find new ways to increase attendance and the reach of Vets4Vets towards more veterans, military, and spouses. As our end of gathering surveys have requested, we are increasing the amount of networking time and reducing the number and time of our speakers. We

will continue to protect our platform from those that prey on veterans. There will be a greater push to have more healthcare, benefits, and updates on current events.

Semper Fidelis Society's Vets4Vets movement will continue to increase its presence in the Northeast Florida region. Vets4Vets will continue to search out donors and the right sponsorship to help us with community outreach. On behalf of your Vets4Vets team, I would like to thank Semper Fidelis Society for their support and encouragement. We look forward to hearing suggestions and ideas on how we can grow the movement. SF, Bruce



Any officer can get by on his sergeants. To be a sergeant you have to know your stuff. I'd rather be an outstanding sergeant than just another officer.

—SgtMaj Daniel Daly 1873-1937

This is a critical year for the society...the flame that once burned brightly is starting to flicker and may go out if not recharged by the next generation of Marines who share the same passion and values as those who went before. Time will tell...2019 is a critical year for all those who care.

MEETINGS:
3rd Tuesday in months of Jan, Mar, May and Sept...
No meetings in Jun, Jul Aug and Dec...
Nov 10 Marine Memorial and Social
www.SemperFidelisSociety.org

Pay Dues

Don't forget to renew your 2019 dues... Semper Fidelis Society is going into its 19th year. Started in late 1999 at the old Sun Dog Dinner in Atlantic Beach by three Marines. Still going and have done a lot to make sure Marine and FMF Corpsmen are recognized in our community. Hope you decide to stay with us... Without your loyal support Semper Fi and all it has done would never have happened. Marines making a difference...

Semper Fidelis Society, PO Box 28188, Jax Fl. 32226

A MARINE'S PRAYER

Lord, we have long known that prayer should include confession. Therefore, on behalf of the Marines, I begin by confessing their sins:

Lord, we are out of step with today's society. We cling to old-fashioned ideas like patriotism, duty, honor and country. We hold radical ideas like believing that we are our brother's keeper and that we are responsible for the Marine on our flank.

We have been seen standing when colors pass; singing the National Anthem at ball games; and drinking toasts to fallen comrades. We have been observed standing tall; taking charge; and wearing our hair unfashionably short.

We have taken the words of Teddy Roosevelt and John Kennedy too seriously; we ask what we can do for our country rather than what our country can do for us.

We take the Pledge of Allegiance as a sacred oath to honor a nation formed under God to preserve liberty and justice for all. Forgive us, Lord, for being stubborn men and women who recognize that honor has a price and who have shown ourselves willing to pay that price.

We bow our heads in memory of those have been lost in places that had names meaningless until the mud-Marines landed, and in that mud affirmed the legacy that binds all Marines together: blood and tears shed in the service of our nation and one another. The actions of Marines lost in battle have made them immortal. The Corps remembers them and honors what they did and so they live forever.

All Marines die, in the red flash of battle or the white cold of a nursing home. In the vigor of youth or the infirmity of age all will eventually die, but the Marine Corps lives on. Every Marine who ever lived is living still, in those who claim the title of Marine today. It is that sense of belonging to something that will outlive our own mortality that gives us a light to live by and a flame to mark their passing. We call it Esprit de Corps.

Watch over and keep safe all those who wear this nation's uniform, with special attention to their families and loved ones everywhere. God Bless this great nation; and God bless the United States Marine Corps.