

Message from Commandant September 2009

Marines, Associate Members and Friends,

As you kick back and enjoy the last holiday of the summer with whatever source of entertainment you choose, I ask that you take a moment to remember our brothers and sisters who are serving abroad so that we're still able to enjoy our freedom here at home.

I also ask that on the eleventh that you take a moment to say a prayer for the families of the thousands of innocent people that were murdered on this fateful day eight years ago. The sight of those planes crashing into the twin towers or the gaping fiery hole in the Pentagon and the wreckage of flight 93 in a field in Somerset, PA; these images will forever be in our minds as well they should be.

There is an old adage that says, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and we all know that there is a bit of truth in this logic. The detachment has worked very hard over the past year, and for any organization to maintain its cohesiveness, esprit de corps, camaraderie, and overall effectiveness there must be also be some "play time". On the twenty-sixth of this month, we will host just such an event in conjunction with the VFW and American Legion of Wake Forest. This will be a family picnic. Details are still a bit sketchy right now but our representative, Mike Seybert, is working out the details with the other two organizations. They will have all of the details out soon.

I would like to take a few minutes to give you all a quick rundown of events for the remainder of the year, right up to the installation of the new officers in December. There may be other things that come up, especially in fundraising, but here goes:

- On September 8, we will hold our monthly detachment meeting. Frank Kildea will be providing chow, and all that are interested in dining with us are asked to RSVP to Frank... kildea@bellsouth.net (919) 422-0539.
- September 12, we will be in Oxford selling hotdogs and drinks at the annual Hot Sauce Contest beginning at about 0930 and running through 1500. We pretty much have this event covered in the way of volunteers but welcome you to come out for a visit.
- On September 26, as previously mentioned, we will have our joint picnic.
- There will be a staff meeting on October 3. Since we have decided not to have an official meeting in October, all members will be invited to this meeting that will be held at the Legion Hall. This will be the date that our Nominating Committee makes their final report. This report will appear in the October issue of Twenty-One Guns as well.
- October 13, which is the date of our normal detachment meeting, we are planning to meet at the Forks Restraunt to kick off the Toys-for-Tots season with a dinner. This dinner will also be in appreciation of the businesses and detachment members who participated last year. There will not be a business meeting this night.
- We have tentatively agreed to staff a booth at Octoberfest on October 24 at Festival Park in Wake Forest with the Veterans Council.
- On October 31, there will be a blood drive at the American Legion hall in Wake Forest. Please come out and support this most worthy cause!
- There will be a staff meeting on November 1, at the Border Restraunt in Wake Forest.
- George Cattelona, Bob Peters and Frank Kildea are planning a Marine Corps Ball for November 7. Get with one of these Marines for your tickets!
- On November 10, we will hold our normally scheduled meeting. Since it is also the Birthday, we will hold an abbreviated business meeting preceded by a special dinner and celebration. This will be the night that we hold our election.
- November 11, which is Veterans Day, will find us at Heritage Park taking part in the observance ceremonies there.
- We will have a Staff Meeting on December 5, at the Border Restraunt in Wake Forest.
- December 8 will be our normal meeting, and the date that the new 2010 officers are installed.

More info will be published and disseminated as the date for each of these events draws closer.

In closing, I would like to express how very pleased that I am with the way things are going with membership (12 new members as of the August meeting), attendance at meetings (30+ at last months meeting), fundraising (over \$6,000.00 this year) and volunteerism. Please keep up this momentum and there is nothing that we cannot accomplish! All for Now!!

Semper Fi,
Mark Byrd, Commandant