

Message from Commandant

December 2009

Marines, Associate Members and Friends,

This will be the last Commandant's Message I will be writing for our newsletter, and I will truly miss doing so each month.

I am deeply appreciative of the honor and opportunity that I have had to serve as Commandant of this outstanding detachment.

A simple thank you to my fellow officers for all of their hard work, encouragement, support and efforts to guide and lead such a fine organization seems hollow, but I hope they will understand how grateful I am to have had them on my staff.

Only someone who has been in this position can truly appreciate what it means to have such a dedicated and devoted group like I have been fortunate enough to have had. To my staff and committee chairmen and those who organized various detachment events, thank you. And to you, the members, for choosing me as your Commandant, thank you. I cannot truly express my gratitude for your trust, support and belief in me to lead the detachment. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and one that I shall truly cherish. For all the warm and friendly expressions of encouragement and support and newfound friendships, I again say thank you.

My staff and I leave this detachment in good shape. Membership strength is the highest it has ever been, our fundraisers were very successful and we've been able to donate some \$5,000.00 to aid our fellow Marines in need. To the staff I say stand tall and proud for all that you do and all that you have achieved. There are many people who recognize the effort and dedication of your service. Let us be ever mindful of who we are and what we stand for.

I can tell you without reservation that you have elected a most qualified Commandant and staff of officers to lead our detachment into the coming year. I know that they will have the support of everyone in this detachment.

As we begin this new year, let us all strive to be more involved in the many worthy programs of our detachment and share in the wonderful camaraderie of such a great organization.

And for the final time, I sign off as your Commandant...

Semper Fidelis,

Mark Byrd
Commandant