



# THE EMBLEM



P.L.. Wilson Detachment #447, Marine Corps League  
www.mobilemarines.org



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The PL Wilson Detachment entertained members of Post 88 with a Christmas Party to show our appreciation for their letting the MCL meet there. Everyone brought their favorite dish and we had all the "fixins" for a Christmas dinner with, as is typical, more deserts than everyone could eat. Joe Fell and Bob Hamilton spent most of the afternoon carving turkeys and hams. After a delicious dinner, the crowd participated in a Dirty Santa gift exchange, handled expertly by Santa's elf, Jessie Martinez. Of course, any gift 80 proof or better was hotly contested, there were a few Alabama/Auburn gags, Jim Evans finally unloaded a miniature fountain -- to his wife Shirley (who really wanted it), and everyone had a wonderful time.

## Detachment news



Residents have a fun day with Santa



Member enjoy a great parade



Many thanks to Betty and her Elves

### **Mulherin Home Christmas Party**

What a great party it was thanks to Chairman Edward Walters. We had a DJ with great music. The resident, staff and league members alike danced to the tunes and had a wonderful time, even though we were concerned the “Dancing Fool Joe Bob Hamilton” would break a hip all went wonderful. Santa & Mrs. Claus (aka David & Bobbi Bayne) made a surprise visit with filled stockings for each resident. Thanks to the many league members donations of stockings, fruit, candy, wash clothes, flashlights & trinkets that stuffed the stockings and this such a happy event for the residents. This was truly the best Mulherin visit ever.

### **Tillman’s Corner Christmas Parade**

We kicked off the Christmas season with a bang on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>. Over 20 members participated in the Tillman’s Corner Christmas parade. Candy, beads, and stuffed animals were thrown to the crowds with lots of smiles and Holiday wishes. This parade has grown bigger and better every year. If you missed this year be sure and try to participate next year. You sure won’t regret it.

**Toys for Tots** ---- As 3rd Force Recon had a large number of members deployed, this year's Toys for Tots Campaign faced a serious manpower shortage. Your Marine Corps League stepped up and filled the void. Our members collected, sorted, and distributed toys shoulder to shoulder with the younger, active duty guys. We also manned the registration for the Toys for Tots Motorcycle Ride, helping to raise nearly \$6000 used to purchase toys. Our guys worked hard while having a good time. They also gave the active duty marines a glimpse of some of the things retired marines enjoy -- getting together to work for a good cause and standing around for a bulls--- session after all the work is complete. Thanks to all the members who participated.

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## Commandant addresses news article regarding Medal of Honor

12/16/2011

Headquarters Marine Corps Lt. Col. Stewart Upton

Headquarters Marine Corps

(703)614-4309

Stewart.Upton@usmc.mil

WASHINGTON —

The series of McClatchy news articles have cast doubt on the decision to award the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Dakota Meyer. I stand firmly behind the process and the decision to award the Medal of Honor to Sgt Meyer.

The Medal of Honor is our nation's highest award for bravery. Fittingly, it involves the most demanding of investigations and multiple levels of review. This process, followed scrupulously in this and other cases, is designed to confirm with as much certainty as possible that the level of bravery and self sacrifice displayed is worthy of this singular honor. Selflessness of this caliber cannot be measured under ordinary circumstances, because the ordinary does not evoke the extraordinary. Rather, the Medal of Honor requires that a display of heroism take place under the most difficult circumstances our service members can face. With life and death hanging in the balance, brave warriors, like Sgt Meyer and those who have gone before him, override their natural, instinctive impulses of self preservation and risk their lives to save others. Our highest honors are reserved for those who perform such deeds in combat while facing the enemy and braving his fire.

The Marine Corps has reviewed the investigations, the many and varied statements from those who observed the battle in the Ganjgal Valley, the statements of those who participated in pieces of that battle, as well as the multiple reviews and endorsements confirming that Sgt Meyer exhibited the rare courage and selflessness worthy of our nation's highest military honor. The ambush and ensuing six hour firefight was without a doubt a life defining event for those present that Fall morning. As such, the fight was seen and subsequently recorded from many different perspectives, each with a personal view of how events unfolded. This thorough review did not cause me to question the extraordinary heroism of then 21-year-old Corporal Meyer, nor the worthiness of the award; just the opposite occurred. Sworn testimonies substantiated the events of that morning and the extreme heroism of Dakota Meyer. The facts are that he saved many lives and recovered the bodies of his fallen comrades. In this, he did not act alone; other brave warriors-soldiers and Marines and Afghans-were also in the fight.

In the final analysis, I did not find cause to question any single fact, nor minor discrepancy that may be buried in descriptions of a battle that lasted for hours and evoked such bravery in our troops. My only question is - where do we find such men?

Gen. James F. Amos

35th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps



In support of the Stolen Valor Act, the Marine Corps League and 24 other military and veterans service organizations filed a brief in the United States Supreme Court seeking to overturn an appellate court decision finding the Stolen Valor Act unconstitutional. *United States v. Alvarez*, U.S. Sup. Ct. No. 11-210. The Stolen Valor Act, 18 U.S.C. §704, makes it a crime for individuals to falsely claim they have been awarded any military decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces.

In this case, Xavier Alvarez falsely declared on several occasions he had been awarded the Medal of Honor. He was convicted on two counts of violating the Stolen Valor Act and was sentenced to three years probation, a fine, and 416 hours of community service. He appealed his conviction to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Court ruled the Stolen Valor Act was “facially invalid” because the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution generally protects false speech, including lying about having earned military decorations and honors.

The Marine Corps League’s brief argues the case is not about free speech, but about individuals like Alvarez stealing the goodwill and prestige associated with American military awards for their own benefit. Military veterans earn awards through service, sacrifice, and valor. The Marine Corps League believes it is well within Congress’ power to prevent individuals from falsely claiming for themselves the goodwill and acclaim associated with hard-earned military awards and honors.

The Marine Corps League is represented by Michael T. Morley, of the Washington D.C. office of Winston & Strawn LLP, which is generously providing representation to the military and veterans service organizations on a pro bono basis. A decision is expected in the spring of 2012.

## Department news



# **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, BRANDON-WILBOURN DETACHMENT # 820 HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA**



**Will be the host of the Department of Alabama State Convention June 8-9 , 2012 at The Huntsville Westin**

***THE DETACHMENT IS NOW ON FACEBOOK AS MARINE CORPS LEAGUE #820***

***MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA STATE 2012 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND INFORMATION CAN NOW BE ACCESSED ON LINE AT [www.bwmarine820@aol.com](http://www.bwmarine820@aol.com)***



## COMMANDANT SAYS

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Thank you to all for your support and help during the election of officers meeting in December. I am honored that you have chosen me to serve another year. A big hearty thanks to all my Staff from last year; I could not have done it without you. I am also looking forward to working with the incoming Staff. We have a lots of great members that have stood up to serve the Detachment and we owe them our thanks and support.

This year will bring a few changes in our focus as a Detachment. The National Convention will be held in Mobile August 12<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> this year and will be a primary focus as preparation draws nearer. Much work has already been dedicated and much much more is needed. Therefore, that makes our annual planning meeting on 7 January one of the most important issues of today. We will be revamping a lot of our “traditional” activities to coincide with the National Convention. Plan to be there with your input.

I sincerely hope all is well with you and that everyone had a joyous holiday. Your Detachment needs your help this year more than ever. Think of ways you would like to help and let the Chairperson or an Officer know. We truly have a job for everyone that would like to help. Anything you can do will be appreciated and it will relieve someone else from doing it so they can do something else. The time is here to see what this Detachment is really made of. Are we really Marines and Associates; or are we bench sitters? Only you can answer for you.

*A. B. Stanton*

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

### NEW MEMBERS for Nov and Dec

#### December Renewals

Kathy Dyess	Chase Moody
Betty Beatty	Deborah Buckley
Anthony Claxton	Mike Dean
Larry Hewett	Dennis Mason
Jack Mason	Harold Nelson
Roger Nichols	John Stinson
Jerry Suiter	William Sullivan
George Williams	Jim Zeigler

### Life Member Information

The P.L. Wilson Detachment is unique in that a majority of our members have chosen to become Life Members of the Marine Corps League. Life Members no longer pay annual dues (currently 26.00). In addition, Life Members receive a Gold Membership card, a Life Member Marine Corps League Pin, and are eligible for Life Member recognition on their Marine Corps League Cover. The following are the current Life Member rates:

Up to and including age 35: \$500.00  
Age 36 up to and including age 50: \$400.00  
Age 51 up to and including age 60: \$300.00  
Age 61 and over: \$150.00

*FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT JR VICE ZACH BOLDEN  
AT 251-725-4811*

### Scrip's Program

Want to help the league financially without any extra money coming out of your pocket? This program is for you. Pick your store that you plan to shop at, i.e. Kohl's, Wal-Mart, Winn-Dixie, Lowe's Dillard's, Applebee's, Longhorn steak house, JC Penny's, Belk's, almost anywhere you shop even on-line shopping. Order and Pay for your card from Herschel for a Scrip's gift card in the denomination you choose and then use the card to shop. The league will received anywhere from 2% to 8% or more on your purchases. It doesn't cost you any more than you'd normally spend but the league will make some money. Get your orders into Herschel as soon as possible so we can kick off this project and get some needed funds rolling into the Detachment. For any additional questions contact Herschel Mason at Office 251-457-2327 or Cell Phone 251-366-6016

### Ham & Turkey Sales

The ham and turkey sales fundraiser finished with a total of 75 units sold. 44 hams and 31 turkeys sold between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thanks to all who made sales, purchased for their own use and participated in the deliveries and pick-ups.

### Officer's Installation and Awards Diner

The PL Wilson's Officer Installation Dinner will be January 21 at the Tillman's Conner Community Center. Social hour will be 5:30 with Diner following at 6:30.

**Mid-Winter National Convention** will be 16-18 February in Falls Church, Va.

**SED Conference** will be 1-3 March in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina..



# DEVIL DOGS – bulldog pound #184

## THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOGS

### WHAT IS IT?

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs is the Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League.

### WHAT IT DOES?

It promotes good fellowship amongst the members of the Marine Corps League Detachments. The Order provides amusement and entertainment at all the gatherings of the League, when and where advisable, preserves and strengthens the principals and ideas of the League and maintains true allegiance to the United States of America and its Constitution and laws. It fosters and extends American institutions of freedom and defends America against all enemies. The Order is also very active in raising funds for different charities.

### WHO BELONGS?

You must be a paid-up member and in good standing in the Marine Corps League, Inc. The applicant must be active in his or her Detachment in the League, and must be invited to join the Order. He or she must be recommended by his or her Detachment Commandant and be sponsored by two DEVIL DOGS or PEDIGREED DEVIL DOGS. The applicant is then interviewed by the members of the Pound at a Pound Growl. (A meeting is called a Growl.) If accepted, the applicant must undergo an initiation and obligation ceremony. Then he or she becomes a Pup in the order.

The Dogs of Bulldog Pound#184 have been busy over the last couple of months when On 19 November, the Pound played host to Chief Devil Dog PDD Mike English for a short visit to tour the accommodations for the upcoming 2012 Supreme Growl before heading to Millbrook for a Special Growl of the Pack on 20 Nov. They then returned to the friendlier confines at “home” in the doghouse of DD Jim Evans for a Growl of the Pound on 27 Nov. There was much work accomplished, including election of Pound Officers (see right).

**Next Growl will be at PDD Jerry Steele’s Doghouse on 29 January 2012.** Lastly, the latest order of Pound shirts are in, so be sure to get yours soon. We are still working on the pistol fundraiser, and all dogs are encouraged to participate. Woof! Woof!

### OFFICERS OF BULLDOG POUND #184

POUNDKEEPER	PDD CAL WALTERS
SR. VICE	DD NEIL SCHNEIDER
JR. VICE	VACANT
SMART DOG	PDD JERRY STEELE
DOG TRAINER	DD JIM EVANS
POLICE DOG	DD LARRY SAVELL
BARKING DOG	DD NEAL NELSON
WATCH DOG	DD LARRY SAVELL
DOG ROBBER	DD NEIL SCHNEIDER

CONGRATUALIONS TO ALL OUR OFFICERS AND THANK YOU FORYOUR LEADERSHIP!

Membership in the devil dogs is an honor and a privilege.

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membership is open to any league regular member with one year in service.

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for additional information about the Devil Dogs  
contact Pound Keeper PDD Cal Walters  
at 251-689-7167 or [mobilemcl@hotmail.com](mailto:mobilemcl@hotmail.com)

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