



The FireFighter

Gung-Ho Means Work Together!

Iredell County MCL Detachment 1097

March 2017 Edition

March 23 - Detachment Meeting – 1900 - Troutman American Legion

Detachment website: <http://www.iredellmcl.org>

Once a Marine always a Marine

Commandant: Dick Camery

704-528-9445

dcamery@bellsouth.net

Sr. Vice Commandant/

Jr. Past Commandant: Luca Cotrone

704-799-2274

coolhandpoppop@windstream.net

Jr. Vice Commandant: Verlone Cherry

704-682-9578

Judge Advocate: Steve Vanderzanden

704-677-2524

van3545@yahoo.com

Sgt-at-Arms: Daniel Rucker

704-880-1152

dglr68@att.net

Paymaster: Bill Stewart

704-872-4365

bstewart@iredellglass.com

Adjutant: Pat Brown

704-533-1970

patbrown@rocketmail.com

Chaplain: Frank Turner

704-450-4654

fturner71@bellsouth.net

Webmaster/Eagle Scout Coord: Rick Saltz giver

704-663-5996

honcho21@gmail.com

Public Relations: Stanley Thompson

704-873-9766

standpat75@gmail.com

"We served our Country.....Now we serve our Community"



Marines,

The Detachment's March meeting will be the annual election of the officers that have either been nominated or appointed at the February meeting. The installation of officers will take place at the April meeting and as is the tradition, wives and families are invited to the installation. The only official business, other than the installation, that will be conducted are those items that the officers don't feel can wait until the May meeting. There will be snacks, desserts and drinks served after the installation.

The uniform for the officers being installed is the summer uniform (Dress Blue trousers, white pilot short sleeve shirt, web belt and buckle, black shoes, black socks and red MCL cover. If you are going to be installed as an officer and do not have the dress blue trousers, you should wear black trousers, white short sleeve shirt, red cover, black socks and black shoes. All other members should have the minimum of the Red Cover. All officers will have their picture taken during the meeting so that we can post on our website.

The officers that have currently volunteered to be an officer for 2017 are:

Elected Officers:

Commandant:	Dick Camery
Sr. Vice Commandant:	Luca Cotrone
Jr. Vice Commandant:	Verlone Cherry
Judge/Advocate:	Steve Vanderzanden

Appointed Officers:

Paymaster:	Bill Stewart
Adjutant:	Pat Brown
Chaplain:	Frank Turner
Sgt-At-Arms:	Danie Rucker
Public Relations:	Verlone Cherry
Asst Public Relations:	Glyn Powell
Webmaster	Rick Saltzgeber
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Rick Saltzgeber

Semper Fi,

Dick Camery, Commandant



<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING/LOCATION/TIME</u>
Mar 23	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Apr 17	Iredell County Veterans Council – Richard’s Coffee Shop Mooresville – 1830
Apr 27	Detachment Meeting – Officer Installation – Troutman American Legion – 1900
May 15	Iredell County Veterans Council – Disabled American Veterans, Statesville – 1830
May 25	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Jun 2 – 4	MCL Dept. of NC Convention – Double Tree, Raleigh, NC – more details will be provided later



Don’t forget to pray for our sick, shut-ins, Marines and their Families.

**Stan Thompson
Buddy Hemric
B.J. Thomas and wife, Sandy
Jackie Vanderzanden – Steve’s wife
Ovella Turner, Frank’s wife
Joe Vallone**

**Larry Lackey
Verlone Cherry
Lance Hegler
Pete Meletis
Pete Blinn
John Hollenback**

Vietnam and Vietnam era Veterans, THIS DAY IS FOR YOU!! Wednesday, March 29, 2017. We already have over 400 registered to come. Register now! Seating is limited.

Rowan Hospice & Palliative Care, Hospice & Palliative Care Center, BB&T, Novant and others are co-hosting a lunch in Salisbury on Wednesday, March 29, **Vietnam Veterans Day**. This special lunch will be **to recognize and honor Vietnam Veterans**, but all Veterans and the community are invited to attend. It will be a casual grass roots celebration with entertainment by **Rockie Lynne**, and organizations in attendance that provide services for Veterans and their families, including the Department of Veterans Affairs. This **“WELCOME HOME”** CELEBRATION will be held in the old J C Penney space at West End Plaza (1935 Jake Alexander Blvd W.), with doors opening at 11:00 am for an opportunity for our attendees to visit with each other, drop by our sponsor tables, purchase raffle tickets, and more. The program will begin at noon with food service shortly afterwards. Help us get the word out. More to come!

The lunch is free for all Veterans and one guest. Others will be asked for a \$10.00 donation each at the door. You can also register any Tuesday morning 9:00 – 11:00 am at Thelma’s Coffee Shop in Salisbury.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COMMANDANT

ATTENTION: “The Marine Corps is deeply concerned about allegations regarding the derogatory online comments and sharing of salacious photographs in a closed website. This behavior destroys morale, erodes trust, and degrades the individual. The Marine Corps does not condone this sort of behavior, which undermines our core values. As General Neller said in his recent Message to the Force , the Marine Corps’ success in battle depends on trust, mutual respect, and teamwork.

The Marine Corps takes every allegation of misconduct seriously. Allegations of misconduct are thoroughly investigated and handled at the appropriate judicial or administrative forum.

By Direction of the National Commandant; No member from the Marine Corps League is authorized to release a press statement concerning this issue; it is an issue that is under Marine Corps investigation and no statement by the MCL membership is authorized.

CAMP LEJEUNE TOXIC WATER

The Department of Veterans Affairs expects a surge of compensation claims totaling more than \$2.2 billion from veterans exposed to toxic water at Camp Lejeune, N.C., but nothing compared to the "tidal wave" of cases that came out of the Agent Orange class-action suit.

After years of lawsuits and appeals, acts of Congress and amendments since the contaminated water at the Marine Corps base was confirmed in the 1980s, the VA will begin accepting claims March 14 for disabilities stemming from eight presumptive conditions.

All of the Lejeune claims initially will be handled by the VA's Louisville, Ky., Regional Office (RO), Thomas Murphy, VA's acting under secretary for benefits, said at a House Committee on Veterans Affairs (HVC) subcommittee hearing last week.

Disability benefits would supplement VA health care already being provided to eligible veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 cumulative days between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987. Veterans must submit evidence of their diagnoses and service information to be eligible.

The new rule covers active-duty, Reserve and National Guard members who served at Lejeune during the designated period for 30 days, and who developed one of eight presumptive conditions: adult leukemia, aplastic anemia, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or Parkinson's disease.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (CAMP LEJEUNE TOXIC WATER)

March 14, 2017

VA's Rule Establishes a Presumption of Service Connection for Diseases Associated with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune

VA to provide disability benefits for related diseases

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C. are effective as of today.

“Establishing these presumptions is a demonstration of our commitment to care for those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David J. Shulkin. “The Camp Lejeune presumptions will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they earned.”

The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- liver cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

This presumption complements the health care already provided for 15 illnesses or conditions as part of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. The Camp Lejeune Act requires VA to provide health care to Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune, and to reimburse family members, or pay providers, for medical expenses for those who resided there for not fewer than 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987.

MCL DEPARTMENT OF NC SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING NOTES

1. Ensure you and family knows where your DD-214 is located. There have been several incidents where the family did not know and this may preclude you in getting military rites at the funeral.
2. National is trying to change operational portions of their By-Laws to an administrative procedure. There was a lot of discussion about this and we just need to be aware of this possible change. It would not happen overnight.
3. The MCL Department of NC By-Laws will be changed to include a \$10.00 registration fee for quarterly meetings.
4. Officers nominated for the 2017 – 2018 year are:
 - Commandant Jefferey Jones
 - Sr. Vice Commandant Rick Thomason
 - Jr. Vice Commandant Scott Shermeyer, Glen Perkins
 - Judge Advocate Dennis Mathias

Election and installation will be completed at the State Convention in June.