

**DESERT CITIES MITCHELL PAIGE MOH CHAPTER
1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

P O BOX 10856, PALM DESERT, CA 92255

(760) 901-5494

Website: www.1stmardivassocdesertcities.net

AUGUST, 2011 NEWSLETTER

TUN TAVERN TEAM

Wes Ahlgren

Mike Bales

Caarl Brooks

Harry Covert

Mac Dube

David Franklin

Charlie Garbarini

Sam Huttenhower

George Hatzidakis

Dean Hunter

Jimmie Martin

Jim Olson

Dick Partee

Jack Rabinowitz

Bill Ross

Henry Sanchez

Ray Schum

Bob Shepard

George Stettler

Jim Sullivan

Dale Turner

Quint Villanueva

Michael L. Walker

Growing to 23 members with the addition of Bill Ross. Membership is available for a minimum donation of \$100 per year. Please sign up today.

AUGUST MEETING

Our one and only Stanley Buddy Sklar will be the honored speaker at the August 18th luncheon. Buddy will update us on the National Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. Sklar is a member of their board of directors and has done a super job in fund raising.

Luncheon will start at 1130. Please RSVP (760) 901-5494.

REQUESTS FOR MARINE HONOR GUARD

Occasionally, when we lose one of our Marines there is some confusion over who to contact with regard to having the Marines attend the funeral.

Requests for a Marine Honor Guard at memorial or grave sites should be directed through the contracted mortician.

Eight years ago the Dept. of Defense set up a system with morticians to be the point of contact for military presence at funerals.

Marine vets or survivors who feel that their request for a Marine presence is not being handled promptly may contact the Headquarters Marine Corps Funeral Support Officer at (866) 826-3628. The officer will respond by contacting MCAGCC, 29 Palms.

WESTIN MISSION HILLS / USO TO COMMEMORATE 9/11.

Saturday, September 10th is the date. They have invited 36 combat veterans from the 7th Marine Regiment to play in a golf tournament to commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11. Each Marine will play in one of the foursomes. Marine wives and family members are also invited to enjoy the club facilities that day including lunch. Westin Mission Hills has also offered transportation on a Cardiff Bus for those that need a ride from 29 Palms.

Col Austin Renforth, Commanding Officer and SgtMaj Scott Samuels have agreed to play. So, if you are a golfer and would like to support this patriotic event, please sign up. There will be a lot of prizes, silent auction, etc to make it a fun day. Shotgun tee off at 0800. Golf is \$125 per golfer. Reception afterwards costs \$50.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Reserve September 15th to attend this meeting. You will have the opportunity to meet Scott Samuels, Regimental Sergeant Major for the 7th Marines, who relieved SgtMaj Kufchak on May 20th. More information will be provided in the September Newsletter.

WOUNDED WARRIORS BARBECUE

Our next one will be Friday, September 16th at Luckie Park, 29 Palms. (Note the change of date from September 30th). We will be serving Choice New York Steaks, which is always a big hit with the Marines. Lunch will cost \$25 which includes a Marine. If you plan to go you must make a rez so we know how many steaks to bring: 760 901-5494.

SCHOOL OF INFANTRY GRADUATION

On Friday, September 23rd there will be another graduation at Camp Pendleton for the staff NCO's from the Infantry Unit Leaders Course. We usually send a contingent of members to represent the chapter. Marilyn Paige normally attends since the top NCO will receive the Mitchell Paige Award.

What is impressive is to see the high quality of Marines graduating from this class. We usually attend the ceremony and then have lunch at the chow hall nearby. More info in the September newsletter. Call us if you want to attend: (760) 901-5494. We will carpool.

OCTOBER MEETING

Thursday, October 20th will have LtCol David Bradney, CO of the 1/7 will be our guest speaker.

PALM DESERT ANNUAL GOLF CART PARADE

Save the date of Sunday, October 23rd for the next parade. We already have the Marine Band and Color Guard lined up from 29 Palms and we will once again lead the parade.

We will honor our WW II Marines who will ride in the 8 passenger cart and be escorted down El Paseo for the 15,000 - 20,000 spectators expected to turn out. The theme this will be "Carnival Style".

The Chapter has been asked by the parade organizers to run the Beer Garden this year. We are working on the feasibility and will make a decision by the August meeting.

JULY 21ST MEETING

We enjoyed hosting LtCol Ted Wong and two of his NCO's and hearing from him on how Marines are being transitioned through the Wounded Warriors Battalion before being medically discharged or returned to duty.

We also hosted lunch for two special guests who were instrumental in our successful donation program of baby wipes and socks for the 3 / 4 in Afghanistan. Brooke Beare, KPSP 2 Evening News Co Anchor and Barbara deBoom, President / CEO of the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce gave us their total support.

YOUNG MARINES PROGRAM

They are trouble and need some new blood to continue to keep it going. Their current leadership are asking us our help in finding some Marines to help them keep it going. They are apparently well funded. They need a CO, XO and several others to help. If you are interested, please give Ray Schum 760 322-3206 for more information and details.

WEBSITE

Reminder, for those members who don't reference our website for information on the monthly meeting and event schedule. You can also download and print membership applications. Easy to do.

www.lstmardivassocdesertcities.net

This is the best way to stay in touch with our monthly activities and to catch up on what we have done. We are planning to do some cosmetic

changes to the website to give it a fresh look.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Their fall luncheon meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7th 1100 at Woodhaven Country Club. LtCol Ted Wong, CO, Wounded Warrior BN will be their speaker.

Also, their annual Marine Corps Birthday Luncheon will be held on November 18th at the Miracle Springs Spa Resort, Desert Hot Springs. The speaker has not been finalized and will be announced in the September newsletter.

ANNUAL 7TH MARINES STEAK BARBECUE

We are working on our 5th Annual Warrior Appreciation Steak Barbecue for the 7th Marines. This is the event that we host 100 young enlisted Marines for a steak barbecue. This event has grown every year and we hope that 2011 will bring 225 - 250 members, supporters and friends including the Marines. We will determine the date once we meet with the command and clear their training schedules. Most likely this year we will host the 1 / 7 since they will be home in October / November.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

SEMPER FIDELIS

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Director**