



The FireFighter

Gung-Ho Means Work Together!

Iredell County MCL Detachment 1097 October 2017 Edition

October 26- Detachment Meeting – 1900 - Troutman American Legion

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

Once a Marine always a Marine

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



Marines,

Please notice that we have changed the dates for the Detachment Monthly meetings for November (16th vs 23th) and December (16th vs 28th).

If you have sold tickets that you have not yet turned in, please contact Luca, Bill Stewart or myself to pick them up or bring them to the October meeting even if you don't plan on staying for the meeting. To date we have distributed **369** tickets and **170** tickets have been sold and turned in. Please make a concerted effort to sell as many tickets as possible and get them to Luca, Bill Stewart or myself as soon as possible. When we receive the tickets early, it reduces the possibility of errors and makes it easier on the Paymaster entering information on the tracking sheet. Please do all you can to sell tickets and purchase a ticket for yourself. Your assistance with this event is appreciated. Additionally, if you need additional tickets please contact Luca Cotrone or me. We will need many of you to assist with selling raffle tickets, distribute door prizes, monitor the buffet lines, pulling pill bottles and tracking the tickets during the drawing.

During the past month, we have provided financial donations to Detachments in Texas and Florida to assist with hurricane disasters.

Please take a look at our **Calendar of Events** since there is going to be a lot going on over the next couple of months and changes to dates we meet on..

We are getting closer to another Marine Corps Birthday. I have not been provided any information on any Birthday celebrations yet. As soon as I am made aware of any celebrations, I will communicate the information to all of you.

The city of Mooresville, NC is sponsoring a Veteran's Day parade on November 11th and the Detachment will march in the parade. I hope we have a lot of Marines participate in the event. We will meet at 1100 behind Richard's Coffee Shop on Main Street. The uniform will be the casual uniform with either the silk windbreaker or if you don't have the windbreaker wear the red blazer. We are planning on having a pickup for Marines to ride in that are not able to walk. Of course, the red Marine Cover is considered an authorized uniform.

We are currently planning on having the Detachment's Annual Christmas Party on December 16th starting at 6:00PM (1800). More information will be provided when the plans are finalized.

Since there won't be another newsletter before our birthday, I wish all of you a very Happy Birthday (Oorah).

Semper Fi,
Dick Camery, Commandant



<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING/LOCATION/TIME</u>
Oct 26	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Oct 28	MCL Iredell County Annual Fundraiser – Charles Mack Senior Citizens Center – Main Street Mooresville -1800
Nov 9	West Iredell High School Veterans Ceremony and Lunch -1000. See Details below
Nov 10	Marine Corps Birthday – Plans to TBA
Nov 11	Veterans Day Parade – Mooresville, NC See details below.
Nov 16	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Nov 21	Iredell County Veterans Council – American Legion Post 217– 1830
Dec 17	Detachment Christmas Party - 1800



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

- Stan Thompson
- Buddy Hemric and wife, Sheila
- Buddy Hemric's Mother
- B.J. Thomas and wife, Sandy
- Jackie Vanderzanden – Steve's wife
- Ovella Turner, Frank's wife
- Joe Valone
- Larry Lackey
- Bill Young
- Pete Meletis
- Dennis Clary
- Pete Blinn
- Ray Lanier

VETERANS DAY DETAILS

Mooresville will be sponsoring a Veterans Day Parade on November 11th

The details are:

- Veterans Parade – Downtown Mooresville (1200)
 - We will meet at 11:00AM (1100) behind Richard's Coffee Shop. The uniform will be winter uniform with red windbreaker or red blazer. If you don't have either, the red cover will be acceptable.
- Veterans Lunch, Ceremony & Concert – Town Hall – 413 N. Main St. Mooresville – At end of Parade

I will communicate updates to the plans as received.

WEST IREDELL HIGH SCHOOL JROTC VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY

When-Thursday, November 9, 2017 10:00-11:00 am

•**Who-All Veterans & their families.** The students and cadets of West Iredell High School want to thank YOU and recognize YOU for what YOU have done for our nation!

•**Events-**Posting of the Colors & Invocation, a Medley of Military Songs, Band and Choir Music, Speakers, Flag Folding Ceremony, Taps & the Retiring of the Colors.

•**A free full BBQ lunch for all Veteran's after the ceremony**

•**Place-**West Iredell H.S, Exit 146 off of I-40. Follow signs at exit ramp

WINGS OF FREEDOM TOUR

The Wings of Freedom Tour will be October 25th thru October 27th at the Statesville Regional Airport. For detailed information on the event, please go to the following link:

<http://www.collingsfoundation.org/event/statesville-nc>

NEW VETERANS ID CARDS

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs officials will start issuing new veterans ID cards next month, giving recipients an easy way to provide their military service for business discounts and other promotions.

The move, first reported by Military.com, comes two years after Congress passed legislation for the cards. A VA spokesman said they'll be made available for no cost to any veteran who applies through the department's website.

The new cards won't replace VA medical cards or official defense retiree cards, and will not carry any force of law behind them.

But supporters have called national veterans ID card a simple way to honor veterans' service and a way to help them prove their service status for non-federal activities. They have also argued that many veterans' practice of carrying around copies of their military discharge paperwork or other personal documents to get corporate discounts leaves them open to fraud and identity theft.

Several states — but not all 50 — give veterans the option to identify themselves on drivers' licenses. But the national ID card through VA would give a more standard way to verify military service.

VA officials have not yet said how long it will take to issue cards after a veteran has requested them.

VA REDESIGNS BENEFITS DELIVERY

October 5, 2017

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is making imminent updates to the redesign of the VA Pre-Discharge Programs, which currently include the Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) and Quick Start (QS) programs. The redesign will combine two separate programs (BDD & QS) into one Pre-Discharge Program, and will be identified solely as BDD. The QS program will be terminated immediately. The BDD Program requires active duty servicemembers to submit a claim 180-90 days prior to discharge from active duty, and be available for an examination 45 days from the date of the disability claim submission. The goal of the redesign is to ensure each servicemember receives an in-service VA examination and a rating decision prior to discharge, as well as being awarded VA benefits the day after their military discharge from active duty.

Active duty servicemembers who do not meet the qualifications for BDD (i.e., less than 90 days prior to discharge, or require a character of discharge determination) may still file a claim prior to discharge: however, the disability claim will not receive priority processing and will not be processed until post-separation. The Pre-Discharge

redesign is currently being briefed during all Transition Assistance Program (TAP) VA Benefits Briefings, with a worldwide rollout date of October 5, 2017.

COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR AGING VETERANS

There are numerous veteran benefits available to aging veterans, including some recently implemented programs.

For many veterans, aging, along with changes in physical health and income, makes them eligible for benefits they previously didn't qualify for years ago. Here's some information about what's now available.

1. The Injured Veterans Grant Program offers as much as \$10,000 to those who sustained serious injuries during combat after 9/11. The Veterans Trust Fund is also available for various service-related causes.
2. Housing is another benefit. The Homeownership Assistance Grant for \$5,000 is available for those purchasing a home in many states (not all).
3. The Disabled Veteran's Homestead Tax Credit is a new benefit from 2014 that provides 100 percent exemption of property taxes for 100 percent disabled service-connected veterans and indemnity compensation recipients. The Property Tax Exemption will reduce a veteran's assessed home value for property tax purposes by \$1,850. To qualify, one must have service during war or 18 months of peacetime.
4. Many Veterans Residential Care Facilities have residential and nursing beds for honorably discharged veterans in many states. Ask your VSO for more information.
5. The Brandstad/Reynolds Scholarship Fund offers post-secondary scholarships to children of deceased military members who died during active status after 9/11. Children with a parent who was killed in action after 9/11 are eligible for up to \$11,844 per year in tuition assistance at a post-secondary institution through War Orphans Education Aid. There is also a smaller benefit for children with a parent who died prior to 9/11.
6. The National Guard Tuition Benefits for members in good standing.
7. Many states provide honorary high school diplomas to qualifying veterans who didn't graduate due to service. Again, see your VSO for details.
8. Lifetime hunting/fishing licenses at a reduced rate and specialty license plates are also available to eligible veterans.

9. Many of the veteran's organization such as VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, etc. often donate \$300-\$400 (depending on the length of membership, usually a minimum of five years, and paid up dues status), to the surviving spouse or nearest surviving relative. Many of these organizations will also have a group perform a military honors ceremony at the gravesite of the deceased veteran, with flag presentation to the next of kin.

10. The Brig. General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, New Jersey provides burial services at no cost to the family, along with military honors, to all veterans with legal residence in New Jersey, and who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable or undesirable. Requests for burial may be made at the time of death through any funeral director.