



The FireFighter

Gung-Ho Means Work Together!

Iredell County MCL Detachment 1097 January 2018 Edition

January 25- 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,

It is hard to believe a New Year has started and I want to wish all of you and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year. I hope everyone had a great holiday season. Our Christmas Party was a lot of fun, food was great, and we had excellent attendance. I hope all of you that attended had as good of a time as I did. I want to thank Luca, Carol and my wife for decorating the post. It looked great.

We had a very good Toys for Tots program this year and many thanks to Vivian, her church team and those Marines that assisted with the collection and distribution of toys.

Thank you Honor Guard for doing such a good job. We average 4 to 7 men per funeral and are almost always the best represented from the Iredell Veterans Council. Keep up the good work. We can always use more men so feel free to volunteer.

The annual MCL Iredell County JROTC Drill Competition is on March 3rd at 0900 at the South Iredell High School. We need to have a good attendance by our Detachment. It will do your heart good to see these young cadets perform and compete. It is usually over no later than 1300.

Like the old saying says – “We DID GREAT LAST YEAR – WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS YEAR”. We must create and pass our 2017 budget and swear in new officers. We need Marines to step-up to the plate and volunteer to be an officer for 2017. We need all of you to consider being a Detachment Officer. It is not that hard of a job and past officers will surely give you advice and help whether you want it or not. It's your job as MARINES to keep Detachment #1097 as the best Detachment in the State of North Carolina.

After the budget and officers in place, we need to move forward with all the various projects that the Detachment is known for.

We need each Detachment Marine to step up and make recommendations on initiatives that we may want to accomplish. We may not be able to do all of the recommendations we receive but we need to hear about them.

In the newsletter, we try to keep our Detachment Marines and Associates aware of those items that will interest them. Since we receive a lot of emails through the month about veteran's information and benefits, there is no way we can put them all in a newsletter. If you don't have email, I suggest you get it because we do forward most of

those emails to our members who have email. You can get an email address and go to the local library to get your email. If you need help doing this, contact me and I will help you or get someone else to help. This does not cost you anything. If you get email, please advise the Detachment Adjutant of the address.

Semper Fi,

Dick Camery, Commandant



<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING/LOCATION/TIME</u>
Jan 20	MCL Dept. of NC Planning Meeting – Winston Salem, NC
Jan 25	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Feb 19	Iredell County Veterans Council – American Legion Post 65 – Old Hwy 70 Statesville, NC
Feb 22	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Mar 3	MCL Iredell County JROTC Drill Competition – South Iredell High School - 0900
Mar 19	Iredell County Veterans Council – Richard’s Coffee Shop & Military Museum – Mooresville, NC – 1830
Mar 22	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Apr 16	Iredell County Veterans Council – Disabled American Veterans – Statesville, NC – 1830
Apr 20	MCL Dept. of NC Pack Growl – Greenville, NC – Time TBD
Apr 21	MCL Dept. of NC Membership Meeting – Greenville, NC - 0930
Apr 26	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900



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

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

Veterans Identification Card - Fact Sheet - December 5, 2017

This fact sheet is designed to explain the rollout and implementation of the Veteran Identification Card (VIC) that will be available in November 2017.

On July 20, 2015, the President signed into law the Veterans Identification Card (VIC) Act of 2015, Public Law (PL) 114-31, which requires that the Department of Veterans Affairs issue an identification card to Veterans that request a card and meet other eligibility requirements.

The VIC is a portable and secure alternative to a DD-214 that can be used to obtain discounts on promotional goods and services offered to Veterans.

Veterans who served a minimum obligated time in service but, did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold *may* be eligible to receive a VIC. Starting in November 2017, individual's that do not have a Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) or retirement card issued by the Department of Defense will be able to apply for a VIC online using vets.gov.

Key Facts:

- Starting in November 2017, Veterans can submit an electronic application for the VIC using vets.gov. To sign in, they can use their ID.me account or the same log-in that they use for their eBenefits account (DS Logon).

- Individuals that have a character of discharge type of Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) are eligible for a VIC.
- Individuals with a Dishonorable, Other than Honorable conditions or Bad Conduct discharge are not eligible for a VIC.
- The VIC is not meant to duplicate Veteran identification cards currently issued by the VA or the Department of Defense (DoD).
- The VIC can be used as proof of service for Veterans who do not have a form of identification that designates them as a Veteran.
- The VIC can be used to obtain discounts on promotional goods and services offered to Veterans and does not reflect entitlement to any benefits administered by the VA.
- The VIC can be presented to Vendors for discounted services without compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214.

How to Apply for a VIC

- Veterans can apply for a VIC using vets.gov.

Explanation of Initiative

- The VIC can be used in lieu a DD-214 and will provide Veterans who served a minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold with a more portable and secure alternative for proof of service.

VA To Generate Direct Deposit Notification Letters - December 5, 2017

If a Veteran makes a change to their Direct Deposit information a confirmation letter will be automatically generated. The letter requests that if the Veteran did not authorize this change to contact the VA immediately at [1-800-827-1000](tel:1-800-827-1000) or as an alternative visit their nearest VA Regional Office.

VA Decision Ready Claims Program Expands to Include More Types of Claims – December 12, 2017

As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) ongoing efforts to modernize and improve Veterans' experience with the disability claims process, VA unveiled its latest enhancement to the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) program, which will expand the pool of Veterans, surviving spouses and service members eligible to participate in the program.

Veterans Can Now Schedule Appointments Online – December 20, 2017

New Online Appointment Scheduling Service Integrated with My HealtheVet

Veterans at more than 100 VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) across the country are now able to request or schedule certain types of appointments online through My HealtheVet.

What does this mean for you?

If you have VA health care benefits, you can schedule or request some of your VA health appointments online if:

- You have one of these two types of free VA accounts: My HealtheVet Premium Account or DS Logon Premium Account
- You are scheduling your appointment with a VA medical facility that accepts online scheduling. Check to see if your VA Medical Center offers online scheduling .

What types of appointments can I schedule online?

You can schedule a **primary care** appointment at a participating VA facility where you have had a primary care appointment in the **last two years**.

You may also be able to schedule specialty appointments, such as **outpatient mental health, optometry, and audiology**, at participating facilities.

Login to Schedule a Health Appointment Online

North Carolina facilities that support online appointments are:

1. W. G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center (Salisbury, NC)
2. Charles George VA Medical Center (Asheville, NC)

Home Depot Veterans Discount Policy Updated – January 6, 2018

Home Depot still honors the discount within our stores, but recently made changes to the policy. I have listed the current information on how to obtain the discount.

Effective March 1st, 2010 we will offer, when asked, a 10% discount, up to a \$500 maximum, to all active, reserve, retired or disabled veterans and their family members

with a valid military ID. All other military veterans will qualify for a 10% discount during normal holiday events (e.g., Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Independence Day).

This philosophy is consistent with our long-standing price match guarantee. Please note that The Home Depot will offer a 10% Military discount up to \$500.00 maximum. The Military discount cannot be combined with any other promotions.

Within their stores they are only accepting the identification listed below:

- Active Duty Military ID card with a picture (green background)
- A retired Military ID card with a picture (blue background)
- VA Card (Department of Veterans Affairs) - Must have the words Service Connected under picture. We will not accept any other VA Cards.
- Active Military and Retired Military ID card for spouse/dependents (yellow/beige background)

A retired veteran must have qualified and gone through retirement with the Military. Disabled Veterans should have a Veteran's Identification Card (VIC) that should read "Service Connected" that is given to them from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VIC and their Driver's License should be sufficient identification to get the everyday Military Discount.

The Home Depot is dedicated to supporting and honoring our men and women in uniform through our business practices, recruitment efforts and corporate contributions. We offer this discount to thank them for their outstanding service to this nation and to help make their homes more comfortable and safe.

Expedited Social Security Process for Vets – January 1, 2018

The Social Security Administration has unveiled a new initiative to expedite disability claims by veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation rating of 100% Permanent & Total (P&T). Under the new process, Social Security will treat these veterans' applications as high priority and issue expedited decisions, like the way the agency currently handles disability claims from Wounded Warriors. To receive the expedited service, veterans must tell Social Security they have a VA disability compensation rating of 100% P&T and show proof of their disability rating with their VA Notification Letter. Social Security plans to launch the expedited process in mid-March.

Private Sector Emergency Care – January 14, 2018

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published a revised rule that allows payment of hundreds of thousands of pending claims for private-sector emergency care that veterans' other health insurance covered in part but not in full.

Some pending claims for non-VA emergency care were filed as far as back as 2010 and were kept alive by appeal. In some cases, individual reimbursements owed will total tens of thousands of dollars, for example for emergency heart surgery or other complex procedures not covered by alternative health plan

The revised rule says it won't allow retroactive reimbursements for non-VA emergency care claim decisions that became final before April 8, 2016.

See your VSO for more details.

UNC-TV WANTS YOU!

Beginning Saturday, February 10 at 3:00p, UNC-TV's Military and Veterans Affairs, with host Jeff Smith, is launching *Situational Report*, a weekly informational show for Veterans, military members, and their families on the North Carolina Channel (Channel 4-4 over the air in the Triangle and channel 1276 on Time Warner/Spectrum). *Sit-Rep* will cover topics that are current for military and Veterans, mental health concerns, historic observances, VA questions and answers, and more. Look for more information on the show on the Website. <http://www.ncchannel.org/veterans>

Here is the most important part—**this show belongs to you, too**. We need to all contribute to the show by providing interviews and content that is important to the viewers. We look forward to hearing from you throughout the year as we provide this one-of-a-kind service across the State for our military and Veteran community.