



The FireFighter

Gung-Ho Means Work Together!

Iredell County MCL Detachment 1097 September 2017 Edition

September 28- 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,

The majority of the fundraiser tickets have been distributed. The fundraiser will be at the Charles Mack Center in Mooresville on October 28th. Please make a concerted effort to sell as many tickets as possible. You can even use the payment plan for some friends that can't afford \$100 at one time. If they start in September, they could pay you \$50 a month through October. Additionally, please do all you can to purchase a ticket for yourself. You may want to get some of your relatives/friends to help you sell some tickets. Your assistance with this event is appreciated. Additionally, if you need additional tickets please contact Luca Cotrone or me. We will need several members to assist with the fundraiser to setup, distribute door prizes, check in attendees, manage the boards, etc. I will be handing out a signup sheet at the September and October meeting.

This month we did a Color Guard for Love Valley, NC and thanks to Luca Cotrone, John Hollenback, Rick Saltzgeber, Pat Brown, Verlone Cherry, and Daniel Rucker for their participation. The Detachment is working on how to help Marines that have been affected by Hurricane Harvey.

This month we have provided financial assistance to a Marine that was in need and provided assistance to the Combat Marine Outdoor organization that is helping a town (Seadrift Texas) that received significant damage from Hurricane Harvey. Seadrift Texas has provided support to combat wounded warriors by providing meals, housing and fishing trips at no cost.

The correct uniform for our Detachment is the winter uniform. As always, the red MCL cover is considered the winter uniform. However, the uniform for the Honor Guard is the red MCL cover, white long sleeve shirt without a button-down collar, black tie, Marine Corps tie clasp, black trousers, black belt, black socks, black shoes and the red MCL windbreaker. The formal winter uniform is the same as Honor Guard except the windbreaker is replaced with the red blazer. Any questions, look at the uniform standards on the MCL National website or call Luca or myself.

Semper Fi,
Dick Camery, Commandant



<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING/LOCATION/TIME</u>
Aug 21	Iredell County Veterans Council – American Legion Post #65 Statesville –
Aug 24	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Sep 18	Iredell County Veterans Council – Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Statesville – 1830
Sep 19-21	2017 Modern Day Marine Expo – MCB, Quantico, VA
Sep 28	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Oct 16	Iredell County Veterans Council – Richard’s Coffee Shop Mooresville – 1830
Oct 26	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion – 1900
Oct 28	MCL Iredell County Annual Fundraiser – Charles Mack Senior Citizens Center – Main Street Mooresville 1800
Oct 16	Iredell County Veterans Council – American Legion Post #217 Statesville – 1830
Nov 10	Marine Corps Birthday – Details will be communicated when available
Nov 11	Veteran’s Day Parade – Mooresville, NC – Details will be communicated when available



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
John Hollenback
Pete Blinn**

**Don Coffey
Verlone Cherry
Lance Hegler
Pete Meletis
Larry Lackey
Ovella Turner, Frank’s wife**

MCL DEPARTMENT OF NC QUARTERLY MEETING

MCL DEPT OF NC QUARTERLY MEETING is on Saturday October 28th, 2017. Since this coincides with our Detachment Annual Fundraiser, we will not be attending.

VETERANS DAY PARADE

Mooresville will be sponsoring a Veterans Day Program on November 11th. The Detachment will be having a float in the parade. Details will be provided when they are known.

BE THERE - A SIMPLE ACT OF KINDNESS

Calling a friend, meeting a colleague for coffee, having dinner with a relative - these everyday actions can seem small, but they have the power to make a huge difference for someone going through a difficult time. And it doesn't require a grand gesture or complicated task. A simple act of kindness can help someone feel less alone.

Additionally, during a Detachment meeting/function make sure you step up to make all new and old members comfortable.

Veterans and service members may navigate many transitions - such as sending a child off to college, retiring, or losing a loved one. Sometimes these challenges contribute to feelings of hopelessness or even thoughts of suicide. That's when the support of family and friends is crucial.

Being there for someone can be easy, but starting a conversation about your concerns for that person or making hints on the subject of suicide can seem much more challenging. The most important thing is to show genuine, heartfelt support for someone going through a rough period. People may worry about what to say, fear that they will make matters worse, or think that special training is required to raise the subject safely.

Before you start a conversation, do some research to find out what [suicide prevention](#) resources are available. If you notice warning signs in yourself or another Veteran, call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1. You can chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255 to get confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

VA TO REMOVE SSN'S

A bipartisan Senate bill proposes removing Social Security numbers of U.S. veterans from all Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) information systems within the next five years in an effort to reduce veteran identity theft.

The Veterans' Identity Theft Protection Act was introduced on June 16, 2016, by Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and is co-sponsored by Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kansas.

The bill would require the VA, the nation's largest healthcare provider, to discontinue the use of Social Security numbers with new claims for benefits within two years, and for all other veterans whose data is already in VA systems within five years. The VA, however, would still be permitted to use Social Security numbers if it needs to exchange information with another system outside of the agency that requires the use of those identifiers.

THE WHITE HOUSE'S PROMISED VETERANS COMPLAINT LINE GOES LIVE ON JUNE 1, 2017

WASHINGTON — President Trump's long-promised hotline for veteran complaints officially launches on Thursday, but questions remain about the long-term plans for the new resource.

The phone line — live now at 855-948-2311 — is designed to "collect, process and respond to the complaints of individual veterans in a responsive, timely and accountable manner," according to Department of Veterans Affairs officials.

VA Secretary David Shulkin on Wednesday described the initial rollout of the line as a soft launch, with "live-answer agents" receiving and processing some of the calls. He promised that by Aug. 15, the hotline will have continuous coverage from a live operator 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

"This is something the president had talked about," he told reporters. "We're going to be testing that system starting tomorrow and fine-tuning it over the next several months."

During the presidential campaign last year, Trump touted the hotline as a way for veterans to have a direct line to the commander in chief, and even suggested that he would answer it himself if the opportunity arose.

"This could keep me very busy at night, folks," he told a crowd of supporters during a July 26 rally last summer. "This will take the place of Twitter."

Calls to the line will be kept confidential, but information will be shared with VA officials, and in some cases veterans will be asked to give personal information for responses to specific problems.

Exactly which officials will respond to the problems and how they'll be processed remain unclear. The call center is being billed as "the White House/VA Veterans' Complaint Hotline," but during the presidential campaign Trump suggested the idea as a way to directly report issues to the Oval Office without interference from VA leaders.

Department officials said they will use information from the hotline to "improve the delivery of care and benefit services to all veterans, including their families, caregivers and survivors," but offered no further specifics. White House officials have deferred questions about the effort to the VA. It should be noted that some individuals are skeptical on how well this will work.

A UNVEILS CLAIMS SUBMISSION OPTION THAT PROMISES TO COMPLETE CLAIMS WITHIN 30 DAYS

September 8, 2017

WASHINGTON — Today, as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) continued efforts to improve timeliness of services for Veterans and their families, VA unveiled the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) initiative, a disability claims submission option with accredited Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) that promises to deliver faster claims decisions to Veterans and their families.

“The DRC initiative is a collaborative effort between VA and VSOs to help Veterans receive faster decisions on disability claims,” said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “VA works closely with participating VSOs to make sure they are properly trained in this new process and given the tools they need to participate successfully in the program on behalf of the Veterans they serve.”

Veterans who choose to submit their claim under DRC can expect to receive a decision within 30 days from the time VA receives the claim. VSOs will ensure all supporting evidence — such as medical exams, military service records, etc. — is included with the claim submission. This advance preparation by the VSOs allows claims to be assigned immediately to claims processors for a quick decision.

DRC was first implemented May 1, 2017, at the St. Paul (Minn.) Regional Office, and is now available at all VA regional offices. While DRC is currently limited to claims for increased compensation (commonly known as claims for increase), and requires Veterans to work with VSOs, VA's goal is to expand the types of claims accepted under the initiative and allow Veterans other ways to submit their claim under DRC.

PROOF VA CAMERAS ARE ALWAYS WATCHING YOU

September 8, 2017

An Army veteran in Kansas who faked being blind to collect VA disability benefits was caught red-handed by VA surveillance cameras doing things most blind people cannot pull off.

The veteran agreed with the court and was placed on probation and ordered to repay \$70,000 of disability compensation. The veteran was sentenced in federal court where he pleaded in June 2017 to conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government. The veteran's spouse was placed on probation for assisting him in his elaborate money-making scheme.

The U.S. Army veteran, collected veteran's benefits from 2009 to 2016 while he maintained a Kansas driver's license and regularly drove automobiles according to court documents.

In October 2016, the veteran was seen by VA surveillance cameras arriving at the VAMC in Wichita, Kansas in an automobile with his wife driving while he sat in the passenger seat, according to court documents.

When the two of them left the VA campus, the veteran's spouse was captured driving the automobile by VA surveillance cameras, but the two of them stopped the automobile just a few blocks away from the VAMC and switched places so that the veteran could drive the automobile.