



# Brazos Valley Marine Corps League *Detachment 1391*



## 2014

### Big Year for the Brazos Valley Marine Corps League



Mameluke Sword

2014 was a big year for the BVMCL. Thanks to the tireless effort of Teresa Carpenter (Commandant), we finally received our tax exemption. That achievement presents the opportunity for the BVMCL to become a more effective support organization within the Brazos Valley.

Also launched this year is the Harry Bruce Retreat Hell Leadership Award, which was presented on May 9, 2014 during the Texas A & M ROTC Commissioning Ceremony at Rudder Auditorium. Mrs. Dot-

tie Bruce presented a Mameluke Sword to the winner on behalf of the BVMCL. The winner's name is also entered into a perpetual plaque in the ROTC building..

BVMCL has also had some great speakers in 2014. For example, the July meeting hosted Dr. Gene Howard, who provided a great impersonation of John Wayne. The August meeting hosted Bob Cohen, Texas State President of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), who provided a synopsis of the role Texas played in the American Revolution and how people who can trace their family history to Texas during the period of the Revolution are likely to

#### **Commandant**

Teresa Carpenter

#### **Senior Vice-Commandant**

Doug Crabtree

#### **Junior Vice-Commandant**

John Withers

#### **Staff Judge Advocate**

Benny Vallejo

#### **Chaplain/Event Coordinator**

Larry Farmer

#### **Paymaster**

Glenn Burnside

#### **Adjutant**

Glenn Burnside

#### **Sergeant at Arms**

Chris Paulson

#### **Aide De Camp**

Kristy Wolff

#### **Web Sergeant**

Ed Holcomb



Dr. Gene Howard provided a great impersonation of John Wayne at the July meeting.



Bob Cohen, Texas State President of SAR, spoke of the role Texas played in the American Revolution .



BVMCL participated in the Chappelle Hill Independence Day Parade.



Glenn Burnside and John McGuire at the M\*A\*S\*H gift receiving area.

be eligible for membership in SAR or DAR.

BVMCL supported a number of community activities, such as Operation Veteran

Success, which was held on February 7 and 8. Hosted by Texas A&M University, the National Veteran Career Fair and Conference event is provided for military veterans

enrolled in a college or university.

BVMCL provided volunteers in support of the Make A Smile Happen

(M\*A\*S\*H) annual toy drive for less fortunate children in the Brazos Valley. The event has provided toys for over 6,200 Brazos Valley children.



BVMCL October meeting was a picnic at the Glenn and Olivia Burnside's home



BVMCL had representation at the opening of MAGI

M\*A\*S\*H is coordinated by the Brazos Valley Communications family of five radio stations in Bryan/College Station, in conjunction with the Texas Army National Guard and the U.S.S. Intangibles, a local science fiction fan club. BVMCL chose to support this effort because there is no Marine Reserve unit in the Valley, which means Toys for Tots

items collected in the area go to Houston. M\*A\*S\*H receives toy and fund requests from area elementary schools, churches, and service organizations that work with less fortunate children. BVMCL manned a shift at the collection, sorting, and distribution center on Saturday December 6.

On March 22, BVMCL participated in the opening of the Museum of the American G.I. (MAGI), located in south College Station. MAGI has a number of working U.S. and replicas of German WWII equipment. As part of the opening activities, the museum staged a mock WWII battle.

The detachment held a number informal Saturday breakfast meetings for community exposure. The January breakfast was held at the Golden Coral in College Station. The February breakfast at Hilly's Circle H Store in Navasota, while the March and April meetings were held in Bryan. BVMCL also participated in the Chappell Hill In-



This year's BVMCL Christmas Party was held at Glenn and Olivia Burnside's home

dependence Day Parade and the Navasota Veterans Day Parade.

BVMCL provided volunteers for the Bryan Rotary Club Field of Valor, which is located in Veteran Memorial Park in College Station. During the Veterans Day week, Bryan-College Station schools visit the park as part of their history/civics program.

Due to the BVMCL tax status throughout most of the year, there were limited fundraising efforts. However, we did cosponsor the Military Fun Run with Independence Harley-Davidson®, which was held on Saturday, July 12, 2014. Motorcycle riders traveled to predesignated sites to obtain signatures from the sites. Once they obtained sig-

natures from all the sites, they returned to Independence Harley-Davidson®, where they were dealt a hand of cards. The players could improve their hand by shooting a BB Gun for a Wild Card. Prizes were given to the holders of the top three hands. BVMCL also managed the Dunking Booth for Independence Harley-Davidson®. There were no shortage of volunteers to man the dunking seat; the temperature made being dunked quite rewarding. The volunteers often brought their own contestants that were



Ed Holcomb with 105mm Howitzer at MAGI

Olivia Burnside's home, located between College Station and Navasota. Glenn Burnside barbecued hamburgers and hotdogs. The members brought their favorite side dish.

Glenn and Olivia Burnside

happy to donate a dollar to charity to throw 3 balls at the dunking lever. At the end of the day, the raffle winners were announced by Heather Beran, Independence Harley-Davidson®, assisted by Teresa Carpenter.

There were three major social events this year. The first was the BVMCL picnic held at the Glenn and

also hosted the BVMCL Christmas party. Admission to the party was a toy for M\*A\*S\*H. We also had a gift exchange after a sumptuous dinner. At the Christmas Party, Teresa Carpenter was presented with the BVMCL Marine of the Year award for helping the detachment progress from a struggling fledgling to a sustainable organization.



BVMCL Birthday Party



Independence Harley-Davidson®/ BVMCL Fun Run



Mary Jean Holcomb is one of the BVMCL representatives at the Field of Valor



Gus Flores represents the BVMCL at Operation Veteran Success, held on February 7 and 8

The BVMCL November meeting was dedicated to celebrating the 239th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Prior to the cake cutting ceremony, BVMCL played a

reading of Gen Lejeune's Birthday Message. That reading was followed by playing the Commandant's 239th Birthday Message presented by Commandant of the Ma-

rine Corps, Gen Joseph Dunford. The presentations were concluded with the playing of GoDaddy's 239th Birthday Tribute.

been a great year for Detachment 1391 and we are positioned to advance the organization to its next level in 2015.



In conclusion, it has



BVMCL member held a number of breakfast socials to provide organizational exposure and to have fun.