

Marine Corps League Battle Born Detachment #672

List of Accomplishments for 2010

1. Our detachment is responsible for the Marine Corps Memorial at the Northern Nevada Veterans Cemetery located just off Interstate-80 in Fernley, NV. We conceived, designed, acquired, built, clean, and maintain this memorial, which is a 155mm howitzer on a non move able stand. The spring and fall of 2010 saw our detachment go to Fernley for several weekends to clean, paint, wash, and generally spruce up the memorial. We also did new plantings, and improved the irrigation system. Our detachment members also go out to the cemetery on an individual basis as volunteers to keep our memorial in top condition.

2. Our detachment was successful in raising and funding full expenses for 3 successful candidates to attend the Devil Pup program at Camp Pendelton in the summer of 2010. All of our candidates did very well at Camp Pendelton, and some also received honors for their Devil Pup performance. We are in the process for selecting the candidates for the 2011 summer program.

3. Our detachment has a large participation in Reno's annual Veterans Day Parade. This year we had one of the largest group of members in many years. We received many complements from other participants and military units on the sharpness of our float and its design/posters. We also participate in the Veterans breakfast held before the parade.

4. Our detachment has an annual cake cutting ceremony in the Reno VA hospital for all Veterans from all services. This ceremony is always on the Marine Corps Birthday of Nov 10th, after the lunch meal, and is attended by a large turnout of members in their MCL attire. All veterans, their guests, and the hospital staff thoroughly enjoy the ceremony, the music, and the multiple cakes that are provided by our detachment. 2010 was the 15th year in a row we have done this.

5. Every year our detachment has a presence at The Reno National Championship Air Races that are held in September. We man a booth in the middle of the main grandstand area, and sell beverages to all guests/visitors. The Air Races are from Tuesday morning thru Sunday afternoon, and our booth is manned every day. This is our main revenue project for the year.

6. About 2-3 times a year our detachment participates in the Crossroads of the West Gun Show held in the Reno Convention Center. We have a booth at this show, and sell items to raise money for the Devil Pups, and to try to recruit new members. We also have a presence in other local events, like the Spring Reno Home Show, and the Reno Antique Car Show. Our detachment has purchased a special Marine tent to erect at these events to increase our visibility.

7. Our members are active in the Reno VA volunteer service program, and other veteran projects in the local area. Examples of this in 2010 were the members helping in handing out Christmas presents to veterans in the Reno VA Hospital ; Helping in the Toys For Tots drive ; starting and coordinating a program to give free winter coats to needy homeless vets in the Reno area ; on Tuesday evenings each week, supporting and helping a veterans food bank that provides surplus food to any and all veterans and their families for a small fee ; and this summer helping, supporting, and building the traveling VietNam War Memorial Wall that came to Reno. The traveling VietNam Wall is a scaled down exact replica of the wall in Washington, DC and our detachment helped with this project in coordination with other Veterans groups in Reno that were led by the Reno American Legion.

In summary, our detachment attempts to attract new members at all of our functions, and we attempt to participate in community activities as good citizens. Our officers and staff are briefed about different MCL rules and regulations as the need arises. The present economic conditions affect our members and city, as they affect all others. We meet once a month at the VFW building in Reno, and we annually contribute to that buildings maintenance fund. Our members have a high morale and commitment.

Semper Fi,
Richard Olsen
Commandant, Detachment #672