



# PINEYWOODS POOPSHEET

Happenings Behind the Pine Curtain

**“Stay Connected, Stay Involved, and Make a Difference  
Through Your Marine Corps League”**

Pineywoods  
Detachment 1189  
Marine Corps League

Volume 2, Issue 7

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March Meeting:  
19th at 7 pm



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## Bryan “Bud” L. Hatten

September 10, 1923 - January 17, 2009



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The Detachment also maintains a WEBSITE at: [www.PineywoodsMarines.org](http://www.PineywoodsMarines.org)

## Chaplain's Corner by Dennis Bradford

We, in the Pineywoods Detachment, lost a brother and one of our staunchest and most dependable supporters on January 17, 2009, when Bryan Hatten closed his eyes and quietly slipped away from us. He was eighty-five years old.

Bryan Leroy Hatten, or, as he reminded everyone, "Hatten, with two Ts," was not originally from Nacogdoches, but he came and married a Nacogdoches girl, Mary Beth Christian. Together, they created a warm and comfortable home off Appleby-Sand Road close to the High School. He was a charter member of the Pineywoods Detachment, but his contribution was more significant. **(continued on page 3)**

**Below right, Bryan and Mary Beth attend the Pineywoods Detachment's 2008 Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Hotel Fredonia.**





## Chaplain's Corner (cont from page 2)

In a real sense, Bryan was a fixture. Until his health began to decline, he was present whenever the Detachment assembled, sometimes at the risk of his health. He left the hospital to man the Detachment booth at the 2008 Piney Woods Fair, only to return to the hospital when he finished. At the time of the 2008 Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Bryan had surgery, but again, checked out of the hospital in time to attend with Mary Beth at his side.

Bryan became a Marine in the dark days of World War Two and served in the Pacific in the Solomon Islands and the Philippines. Later, he served in China, and was recalled to active duty for service in Korea. He rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant, and was fiercely proud of his service.

If one visited the Hatten home, it was not uncommon to receive a guided tour of the wonderful memorabilia that he displayed throughout the house as well as in "his room." There, the accumulated mementos of Bryan's long, rewarding life were kept. There was a photo of his childhood home in Hannibal, Missouri. There, too, were certificates, proclamations, and awards.

The Pineywoods Detachment recognized Bryan's contribution when it voted him a well-deserved meritorious Life Membership, presented to him by Commandant Dan Singletary at the Birthday Ball. Bryan received a standing ovation.

Bryan had a quick wit, an intense sense of humor, and a mischievous twinkle in his eye. He is missed for all these things, but more, he is missed because we lost a great friend.

Like many of us, Bryan Hatten was a member more than one veterans organization. He was a member of Pineywoods Detachment 1189, Marine Corps League, Veteran's of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 3893, American Legion Post 86 (all in Nacogdoches, Texas), and the China Marine Association.

Below left, Bryan Hatten works the Pineywoods Detachment's booth at the 2008 Pineywoods Fair. The Detachment manned the booth for all five days of the fair and Bryan worked several of those days. Below right, Bryan attends a monthly Detachment meeting, sitting with fellow World War II veteran Buck Lee (left) and Vietnam Veteran Don Kirkley (right).





# Bryan Hatten during World War II

Below, and below left: Bryan Hatten in the South Pacific during World War II.

Below right: A picture of Bryan Hatten drawn in New Zealand during World War II.





# Detachment Awards

This is a reprint from the December issue in honor of Bryan Hatten.

During the 2008 Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Pineywoods Detachment Commandant Dan Singletary presented awards to Detachment members.

Detachment Charter Member Bryan Hatten was presented a Meritorious Life Membership in the Marine Corps League. Hatten was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean Conflict and was very active in numerous detachment activities. He always set the example of service for his fellow Marines by regularly attending monthly meetings and participating in fundraising activities. If Bryan was able, Bryan was there for his fellow Marines.

## Bryan Hatten

***Semper Fidelis* is the motto of the United States Marine Corps. It means "always faithful," and that describes Bryan Leroy Hatten with two Ts.**

**Hatten is a veteran of both World War Two and the Korean Conflict and has earned the right to limit his participation in the Pineywoods Detachment, of which he is a charter member. But that is not his way. Despite his tender years, this "feisty old warhorse" regularly makes meetings, and is present at many of the Detachment's functions, often at his own peril. He recently was released from the hospital to stand a post during the Piney Woods Fair, only to have to return to the hospital as a result. Such is the dedication of this Marine.**

**For his tireless dedication to the United States Marine Corps, the Department of Texas, and the Pineywoods Detachment, we are proud and honored to present to Bryan Leroy Hatten a Meritorious Life Membership.**



Detachment Charter Member Bryan Hatten receives his Meritorious Life Membership in the Marine Corps League, presented by Commandant Dan Singletary at the Detachment Marine Corps Birthday Ball, 8 November 2008. Bryan received a standing ovation from the assembled Marines and guests. Below right, Bryan and Mary Beth at the Ball.





# Supporting Our Troops

By Gary Corley

(Reprinted from Garrison in the News, January 29, 2009)



February 19, 1945; The invasion of Iwo Jima begins. This will be the most ferocious battle in Marine Corps history. For the invasion, 110,000 Marines on 880 ships sailed for 40 days to get to the island; during the invasion the island will be one of the most densely populated areas on earth. Iwo is pounded for weeks by aircraft and naval guns. The fierce bombardment is of little use; the Japanese are safely ensconced below ground in strongly built bunkers, blockhouses and tunnels. The old military saying: "the shovel is mightier than the sword" is nowhere better illustrated than on Iwo Jima. The Americans dropped everything in their arsenal on Iwo, but nothing was particularly effective. Even showers of heavy bombs from the huge B29s were of little avail. The island surface is either a black, powdery soil or volcanic rocks and neither allowed men once they were ashore to dig in with regular infantry tools. The soil is an enemy as bad as the Japanese, running is almost impossible, and it absorbed much of the impact of the pre-invasion bombardment. The Marines were forced to remain above ground for the most part and not one square inch of the tiny island is out of range of Japanese guns. The carnage for this barren strip of nothing is beyond comprehension. American casualties are terrible, Japanese casualties are worse when the battle is finally over. The Marines learn why the island is so important to future American strategy while the battle is still raging. The first B29 makes an emergency landing right in the middle of the fighting. It is for this and several other reasons that Iwo was invaded. The Japanese based bombers on Iwo to hit the Marianas airfields servicing the B29s; Japan also had fighters based there to attack the giant bombers on their way to and from Japan and Iwo's radar furnishes the Japanese Home Islands advanced warning of B29 raids. The Iwo airfields are desperately needed for emergency landings for battle damaged B29s or those having mechanical or fuel emergencies that would never make it back to the Marianas. Last but not least the island furnishes the Americans navigational and radio aids for aircraft. At least two late residents of Garrison were in this battle.

**Editor's note:** Garrison in the News has been running a series of historic news stories as well as local veterans' stories. Subscriptions are \$25/year, address: Garrison in the News, P.O. Box 278, Garrison, Texas 75946-0278.

Pineywoods - Iwo Jima Connection: Detachment member Dennis Bradford's late father and Detachment Charter Member Billy Duke both served in the 3rd Marine Division on Iwo Jima. At right (in center), in 2007 Billy received the Distinguished Citizen Medal from his fellow Marines for his support of veterans at the Charles Wilson VA Outpatient Clinic in Lufkin, his ongoing support of programs at the VFW, his "Can-Do" spirit and his service with the Pineywoods Detachment. Billy has served as our Judge Advocate and Chaplain.



**"Among the men who fought on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue."** Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN, 16 March 1945.



## Toys for Tots a Resounding Success!

Ronnie Bowser, Detachment member and Nacogdoches County Toys For Tots Area Coordinator has once again done an outstanding job! For the last several years Ronnie has headed up the annual Toys For Tots Christmas toy drive in our area, long before there was a Pineywoods Detachment here. Ronnie reports that he has collected over 6,100 new toys and served over 2,100 kids!. This year there were 26 drop boxes around town, and four fund raisers were held. Major local organizations that were served include: Love INC, CASA, Head Start, Foster Parent's Foundation, Women's Shelter, Buckner Foundation, Boys & Girls Club, Salvation Army, and Angel Tree.

Of the four fund raisers, the largest was the (annual) Toys for Tots Radio Remote held at the Wal-Mart in Nacogdoches, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. December 12 & 13 2008. Local radio personality Danny Merrill from KJ-103 was onsite periodically throughout the day, and KJ-103 also gave bonus points to their club members who donated toys or money. There were 297 toys and \$1,522 collected. On Saturday, November 22nd, there was a Toy Run at Stone Fort Cycle. Detachment Chaplain Ken Raines participated in the ride and Dennis Bradford, Will Lane, and Ronnie Bowser were on hand to collect 157 toys and \$830. On Saturday, November 8th, there was a Girls Softball Tournament in Lufkin where the entrance fee was a new unwrapped toy for Toys For Tots. There were about 12 teams from various cities: Dallas, Beaumont, Lufkin, etc. Ronnie collected 257 nice toys and made lots of good friends!

On Saturday, December 8th at Pecan Park there was a Pit Bull Dog Show. Participants (the people) donated 346 toys for Toys for Tots. Ronnie reports that next year the show is expected to be larger and may held at the Nacogdoches Expo Center. Last, but certainly not least, Luquette Chiropractic Clinic held a **Santa's Workshop Gift Exchange which benefited Toys for Tots. Patrons who visited and donated a new, unwrapped toy received free chiropractic service all day on December 16th, from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.** Additionally, Dr. Luquette was kind enough to offer storage space for Toys for Tots and sponsored the RV for the workers at the Radio Remote. It really made a big difference this year when you could come in out of the cold for a few minutes!

We are posting some pictures here in the newsletter (below and next page). Visit the Detachment website for additional pictures ( [www.PineywoodsMarines.org](http://www.PineywoodsMarines.org) ). For more information on how you can help with Toys for Tots next year, contact Detachment member Ronnie Bowser at 936-564-6200 or [ronnie.bowser@era.com](mailto:ronnie.bowser@era.com) .

Pictured below, the Girls Softball Tournament in Lufkin on Saturday, November 8th. There were 257 toys collected that day.





Clockwise from top left: Wal-Mart Radio Remote; Dennis Bradford at Radio Remote; Stone Fort Cycle Toy Run collection bins; Toy Run bikers in the saddle; Detachment Members (l-r) **Ken Raines, Dennis Bradford, & Will Lane** "hard at work" at the Toy Run; and finally (above middle left), all the Toy Run bikers and workers pose for a group photo.





## Effort Underway to Catalog all Nacogdoches County Veterans Memorials and Monuments

Commandant Dan Singletary (who is also the Nacogdoches County Veterans Service Officer) has noted that there is no complete listing of all the memorials and monuments to veterans in Nacogdoches County. Therefore, some of us are collecting information on every single memorial. We are looking for current pictures, pictures taken during the dedication, pictures at Memorial Day or Veterans Day, and stories of how the memorial came to be. If you have any information, please contact Rich Barnhart at Jarhead@PineywoodsMarines.org or at 936-645-4549. While we already have some information on our website about local memorials, like the Veterans Memorial Wall at Veterans Plaza in front of the Nacogdoches County Courthouse, we want to will information on all memorials. Other local veteran organization websites (VFW, & American Legion) will also list the information.

Finally, we intend to submit the information to the Texas Veterans Commission for inclusion in their publication entitled **“Directory of Memorials, Monuments, and Statues for Veterans.”** This directory currently has two listings for Nacogdoches County: the stone memorial that was erected at the courthouse by the VFW in 1957, and the plot and flag pole in Oak Grove Cemetery that was furnished by the City of Nacogdoches. There are many other monuments and plaques, and maybe some that we are not aware of. We know at the courthouse there is (1) the stone memorial from 1957; (2) a plaque from 1960; (3) a China-Burma-India monument; (4) a Purple Heart Monument; and, (5) the wall of veterans names. At the library there is (6) the Vietnam Veterans Monument. At Oak Grove Cemetery there is (7) the plot and flag pole. At (8) the Nacogdoches County Memorial Hospital (which is dedicated to all Nacogdoches County veterans), there is (9) the monument to Medal of Honor recipient PFC Oscar P. Austin. At the U.S. Post Office there is a (10) memorial stone at the base of the flag pole. There is also (11) a monument at Garrison honoring local military members who did not return home from service during World War II. If you know of any others not listed, we want to hear from you.



Clockwise from above left, the Veterans Memorial Wall; monument dedicated to all veterans of Nacogdoches County.; China-Burma-India monument; Purple Heart monument; and finally, memorial honoring Medal of Honor recipient PFC Oscar P. Austin.





### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### Detachment Meetings

(next six months)

19 February \*Nomination of Officers

19 March \*Election & Installation of Officers

16 April

21 May

18 June

16 July

Meetings are held third Thursday of the month, at 7 pm at the DAV Hall, 3110 Appleby-Sand Road  
Call (936) 559-3781 for info

#### Hometown Heroes

Local Veterans honored at SFA Lumberjack Basketball games (Feb, Mar)

Contact: Bud Nettles at (936) 462-8519

2009

#### MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

7 November 2009

Fredonia Hotel Nacogdoches, Texas

Watch the Detachment website for more information

### RECENT EVENTS

The following events have occurred since the last newsletter was published:

Toys for Tots Radio Remote on Friday and Saturday, December 12th & 13th, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Wal-Mart parking lot. Ronnie Bowser collected dozens of toys and a considerable amount of cash donations. The use RV was generously donated by Luquette Chiropractic Clinic.

**Santa's Workshop Gift Exchange**, benefiting Toys for Tots, Luquette Chiropractic Clinic, Tuesday December 16th, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.. Patrons who visited and donated a new, unwrapped toy received free chiropractic service all day.

The Author is unknown:

**“A veteran, whether active duty, retired, national guard, or reserve, is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to ‘The United States of America,’ for an amount ‘up to and including my life.’ That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.”**

### GET YOUR DETACHMENT GEAR



**Pineywoods detachment “goodies” are now available from two sources for those who want to wear our colors proudly. All manner of items are available from Café Press at <http://www.cafepress.com/pwm1189b> . These items are “printed” on the clothing or hat.**

Embroidered clothing and hats, as well as backpacks and portable stadium seats and other goodies are available in Nacogdoches at Unlimited Designs on NW Stallings Drive, next to License to Laugh, the defensive driving folks. It is also possible to have the embroidery sewn on the MCL red uniform cover there. Pricing is reasonable, and Kim Cartwright and staff are most helpful. Keep it local!

### Website News

**We have updated the “In Memoriam” page on the Detachment website with a memorial to Bryan Hatten and also a write-up on Medal of Honor winner PFC Oscar P. Austin (who was born in Nacogdoches).**

Of course, you can always find information about upcoming events, Detachment Officers, membership information (including printable applications), membership requirements, uniform regulations, and detachment gear. There are also Detachment pictures and videos

The website is at: [www.PineywoodsMarines.org](http://www.PineywoodsMarines.org) . If you think of something that we should add, please tell the Web Sgt Rich Barnhart when you see him at a meeting, or email him at [Jarhead@PineywoodsMarines.org](mailto:Jarhead@PineywoodsMarines.org) .

Remember that there would be nothing on our website if members didn't contribute!



**"To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."**  
George Washington

**"I have never advocated war except as a means of peace."**  
Ulysses Simpson Grant



# Marine Corps History

**11 January 1945:** The first elements of Marine Aircraft Group 24, commanded by Colonel Lyle H. Meyer, landed at Lingayen, Luzon, Philippine Islands, to provide close air support for Army forces. Over the next three months, MAG-24 and MAG-32 would fly a total of 8,842 combat sorties and drop more than 19,000 bombs as part of the Fifth Air Force in support of the Sixth Army.

**1 February 1967:** Operation Prairie II was begun in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3d Marine Division. During the 46-day search-and-destroy operation which terminated 18 March, 93 Marines and 693 of the enemy were killed.

**15 February 1898:** On this date, 28 Marines and 232 seamen lost their lives when the battleship MAINE was mysteriously sunk by an explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. Though no definitive evidence linked the Spanish with the sinking, the cry went up, "Remember the Maine!", and by late April the U.S. and Spain were at war.

**23 February 1945:** Four days after the initial landings on Iwo Jima, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier led 40 men from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, up Mt. Suribachi to secure the crest and raise the small American flag that battalion commander LtCol Chandler Johnson had given Schrier. Within an hour, the patrol reached the rim of the crater. After a short fire-fight with Japanese defenders emerging from several caves, the small American flag was attached to an iron pipe and raised over the island.

## Life Membership Honor Roll

The following Detachment members are Life Members

- Rich Barnhart - Betty Benavides
- Dennis Bradford - Mary Frances Bradford
- Chris Borel - Strimple Coyle
- Roger Crone - Phil Devlin
- Billy Duke - Don Kirkley
- Dale Koonce - Buck Lee
- James Lee - Jack Noble
- Jack Sanderson - Dan Singletary
- Joe Stewart

*Semper Fi!*

## CONSIDER LIFE

### Life Membership Dues

National Marine Corps League

| <u>Age Grp</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|----------------|-------------|
| 0-35           | \$500       |
| 36-40          | \$400       |
| 41-50          | \$400       |
| 51-60          | \$300       |
| 61-over        | \$150       |

To become a Life Member, you must already be a "Member in Good Standing." That means becoming a member and paying your initial dues first. Yes, according to the Bylaws, you could join the League, pay your dues, and then pay your Life Membership Dues all in the same day.

## BIRTHDAYS

The following Detachment members have a birthday to celebrate in FEBRUARY:

- Kord Beckerdite
- Steve Lee

### MARCH

- Don Kirkley
- Weston Wheeler

Happy birthday and many happy returns!

Also, apologies to any we have missed.