



Treasure Valley Detachment  
Marine Corps League

Detachment No. 878

August, 2005

Editor: Ken Johnson, If you have questions or anything to add please call me at 208-440-0881

# Semper Fi Gazette

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## Picnic at Phillippi Park On August 28<sup>th</sup>

### Detachment Leadership

#### Commandant:

Ken Ohls 208-344-4329

362 Rimview Dr.

Boise, ID 83716

#### Senior Vice Commandant:

Rich Erickson 208-562-0498

#### Junior Vice Commandant:

unfilled

#### Judge Advocate:

Bob Smith 208-939-2582

#### Adjutant/Paymaster

Ralph Elston 208-853-7344

#### Chaplain

Bill Johnson 208-384-1844

**Regular Business Meeting for September** will be held at 19:00 hours September 15<sup>th</sup>, The meeting is held at the Indoor Pavilion on Gowen Field

**Happy Hour** (10:00 AM) for all Marines, their wives and guests Come early and get a good seat, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. This month will be August 20<sup>th</sup>, the rest of the Saturday's of every month is devoted to the Koffee Klatch at 8:30 AM for all Marines and their guests. Breakfast and Koffee Klatch is held at Mikes Restaurant: Hillcrest Shopping Center on the corner of OverLand and Orchard

**Kudo's go out to** Tony and Nancy Austin, Bill Johnson, Rick Erickson, Delbert Rupert, and Roy Jost, and all the

Young Marines and their families that was part of this years 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

**Gordon and Velma Williams** have been selected as the Star Garnet Award recipients for 2005. This is the most prestigious award given by the Idaho Hospital Association.

**Navajo Code Talkers in World War II** (Part 1 of 2)  
(From the Marine Corps History & Museums Division, [www.history.usmc.mil](http://www.history.usmc.mil))

The Marine Corps' Navajo Code Talker Program was established in September 1942 as the result of a recommendation made the previous February by Mr. Philip Johnston to Major General Clayton B. Vogel, USMC, Commanding General, Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, whose headquarters was at Camp Elliott, California. Mr. Johnston, the son of a missionary to the Navajo tribe, was fluent in the language, having lived among the Navajos for 24 years. He believed that the use by the Marine Corps of Navajo as a code language in voice (radio and wire) transmission could guarantee communications security.

Mr. Johnston's rationale for this belief was that Navajo is an unwritten language and completely unintelligible to anyone except another Navajo and that it is a rich, fluent language for which code words, in Navajo, could be devised for specialized military terms, such as the Navajo word for "turtle" to represent a tank. With the cooperation of four Navajos residing in the Los Angeles

