



*Dept. of CT Marine Corps League
Joint Venture Committee
Presents the*

First Annual FORMAL MESS NIGHT

***Date:** 15 May 2010 **Time:** 1830*

***Place:** Stone Barn Restaurant
175 Shelton Road (Route 110)
Monroe, CT 06468-2643*

***Price:** \$75.00 per person
(Open Bar prior to dinner)*

Contacts:

PRESIDENT OF THE MESS Duanne P. Knowles
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MR. VICE (& Paymaster) John J. Dougherty
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Checks should be made out to **Joint Venture Committee, MCL**

MESS NIGHT 2010

Gallantry and Comradeship in arms have enabled our small Corps to build and maintain a name for itself as a Force in Readiness and the First to Fight, which is known throughout the World, Feared by our Enemies, and Respected by every Military Service in Existence. As Marines, we are Obligated to ensure that High Standards of Respect and Prestige are maintained, and that these Standards are passed to our Younger Marines who will take Positions of Leadership among our Ranks. The Maintenance of Traditional Discipline, Gallantry, and the Love of Country and Corps is our Bounded Duty. Mess Night is a Tradition as Old as the Corps itself, it has Historically been a time when those who carry out policy have an opportunity to meet those who make policy. It is a time for Sea Stories, Speeches. And Jokes as well as Ovations, But, most important, it is a time for Strengthening the Customs and Traditions of our Corps and Marine Corps League. A time to reaffirm our common Bond as Marines and Marine Corps Leaguers. "For he who spills his Blood with me, is my Brother for Eternity. **"Semper Fi"**

"A Toast to our Fallen Comrades"

Make it a bumper, comrades,
And each one standing here
Can whisper soft above his glass
The name he holds most dear.

Be sometime to your country true
Have ever the public good in view,
Bravely despise Champagne at Court
And choose to dine at home with Port.

"For he who has spilled his Blood with Me."

This Mess Night is being sponsored by the Joint Venture Committee made up of Marine Corps League Detachments along the Route #8 Corridor. This Committee's Mission is to bring together members of all the Detachments in the State of Connecticut for a night of social bonding and strengthening the customs and traditions of our beloved Corps and Marine Corps League. The Mess Night Traditions is an ideal event to accomplish this, where otherwise it would never happen.

The Joint Venture Committee was put together for the purpose of supporting each other with our different needs in supporting our Ceremonies, Youth Programs, Parades of which strengthens our presence within our Communities. **"Marines helping Marines."** We are using this concept to bring our fellow Marine Corps Leaguer's together by joining us in a night of bonding and Marine Traditions.

The Ridgefield Detachment has an annual Mess Night for their Detachment and also they have invited guest. The Members of the Joint Venture Committee have attended their Mess Night for the past several years. It is an outstanding event and the social bonding and Marine Traditions is what is needed in today's Marine Corps League Organizations. The bonding brings you out of the locked box of your own Detachment and the sharing of someone else's Detachment. And you walk away with the "Old Marine Traditions" feeling like a Marine again. **"Semper Fi"**

MARINE CORPS MESS NIGHT

The purpose of Mess Night is to recognize and pay homage to the Marines who came before us. It also gives us a chance as a band of brothers to socialize with one another in our best dress uniform.

The Mess Night is fashioned to fit a formal gathering with a military flavor present. A Marine is assigned to be President of the Mess; he is in charge and controls the flow of events.

The Vice-President of the Mess, or 'Mr. Vice,' as the title has come to be known, acts as the enforcer of the President's decisions and also regulates who may speak to the President.

Invited guests are also part of the group. Conventionally, their place is at the head table with the President. The remainder of the participants makes up the Mess. They are the heart of the event, and are expected to pay fines as the President sees fit for issues brought up by the Mess men.

During the formal meal portion of the Mess Night, members of the Mess have the opportunity to charge another Mess man with a fine if he has a legitimate reason.

A Mess member must stand at attention and ask Mr. Vice's permission to address the Mess. Mr. Vice has the option to turn the request away or to forward it to the President. If the President grants permission, the Mess member must state his case on why his comrade must be fined.

If the Mess member makes a good case, the President fines the guilty party a certain amount that he sees fit, or requires the defendant to perform a show for the Mess.

The President may also require certain members of the Mess to perform humorous rituals. It all depends on how creative the Marine sitting in as President is.

Other procedures also go into the tradition of Mess Night. It starts with a cocktail hour where Marines of the Mess meet with one another as well as meet and greet the guests.

The formalities of Mess Night begin when the Mess marches in, followed by the head table guests. Then the fun of Mess Night begins with the meal. Marines of the Mess sit down to a formal dinner, normally Prime Rib. During this time, Marines bring forth outrageous situations to be fined.

An intermission will then sound after the Mess portion of the Night, followed by the toasts given by members of the Mess. Tributes are given to battles Marines have fought in the past as well as the future.

The toasts of the Mess are what Mess Night is all about. It pays honor and respect to all the campaigns in which the Marine Corps has fought. The final toast is always to the success of the Marine Corps.

Other portions of the Mess Night are included as well. Normally a guest speaker will make a presentation, The Prisoner of War/Missing in Action table is recognized, and the kitchen's head chef will parade the beef in regards to the Mess' liking.

Marine Mess Night
Menu

Appetizer

Gulf Coast Shrimp Cocktail
Served with a chilled Chardonnay

Salad

Crisp Garden Salad with choice of dressings

Soup

French Onion Gratinee Soup

The Entré

Prime Rib of Beef au jus
Bake Potato / Sour Cream and Chives
Garden Fresh Peas
Served with a hearty, full-bodied Merlot
Warm Onion Rolls / Butter

Dessert

Yorkshire Pudding
Mild Cheddar Cheese Slices
Café Espresso

Toasting

A Golden Tawny Port for toasting

Rules of the mess

1. Mr. Vice will monitor the behavior of the Mess throughout the evening. Upon request of the President, Mr. Vice will list any violations of these rules and the President will assign appropriate punishment. Members of the Mess may request to address the Mess in their own defense.
2. Members of the Mess may address the Mess by standing at attention at their seat and requesting permission from Mr. Vice to speak.
3. Thou shall not be tardy, late arrivals will be heavily fined.
4. Thou shall move to the Mess when it is time and remain standing until seated by the President.
5. Thou shall not wear clip on ties or an ill-fitting uniform.
6. Thou shall not be insolent.
7. Thou shall not murder the Queen's English.
8. Thou shall not leave the Mess without permission.
9. Thou shall not use foul language, speak smut or speak loudly.
10. Thou shall not pick thy nose, ears or buttocks.
11. Thou shall not fluctuate or chew gum.
12. Thou shall not bring cocktails into the dining area.
13. Thou shall not rap on the glassware to get attention.
14. Thou shall not rearrange the table setting or allow elbows on the table.
15. Thou shall not discuss women, politics, money, religion or the Commander in Chief's policies.
16. Thou shall not pass the wine from left to right.
17. Thou shall not "bottom up" glasses for any toast, except the "Toast of the Corps."
18. Thou shall not be required to consume alcohol, however, all glasses will be charged.
19. Thou shall have exact funds for fines.
20. Thou shall use proper toasting procedure.
21. Thou shall greet the guest of honor and make every effort to greet all members of the Mess.
22. The decisions of Mr. Vice are final and may not be appealed, unless overturned by the President.
23. The decisions of the President are final and may not be appealed.