



**Sgt. I.W. Hatcher, Jr. Detachment #1120**

*Remarks from Commandant Rufino Garcia given  
at the opening of the Detachment meeting held 2019 02 19*

To all my fellow Marines, veterans and associate members:

A new day in the detachment has come. The most important thing is to grow and go. But in order to achieve that goal, we must work with EXCELLENCE. Excellence is the key word.

Although I am so thankful for my military training, I no longer serve in that capacity. I am a veteran – and would like to serve my veteran brothers and sisters in this community.

In the Marine Corps League Guidebook for Detachment Officers it states, and I quote: “THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX. IN OTHER WORDS, EXERCISE FLEXIBLE THINKING, DO NOT BECOME BOUND BY LIMITATIONS, BRAINSTORM AND DO NOT LET THE INFLUENCE OF ‘WE’VE ALWAYS DONE IT THIS WAY, OR, THIS IS THE WAY IT HAS TO BE DONE, AFFECT YOUR THINKING OR PRESENTATION.” (Page 27)

We will be stepping out of the box to serve veterans in nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living homes, etc. We are putting a plan into motion that -- to the best of our ability -- would meet those needs.

We have been offered property to build upon and a building we could rent in the Clermont area. The Building Committee will be looking into these offers and will report to you in the near future.

We also want to start with making sure all visitors and new members feel at home. Our newsletter has been revived and we will be advertising our detachment, thanks to Andrea Lawrence. Also, detachment coins will soon be available. Thanks, Dave and Jack. Our website has also been updated – loaded with good information and pictures. You will find the minutes to this meeting there. Check it out. Thanks, Dave.

We are revamping the mentoring program to include accountability. There are several members in this detachment that mentored me when I first arrived. For that I am grateful.

I have come to serve you guys and to empower you with information. In order to be a successful detachment, we must learn to give of ourselves to others. There are many veterans out there who are lonely, sick and hurting and have no one to visit them. We will be doing that.

Chesty Puller once said, "All right, they are on our left, they are on our right, they are in front of us, and they are behind us. They can't get away this time."

There are veterans all over the Clermont/Groveland/Minneola area. I will need your help in identifying a veteran you know is in need so we can provide a visit, a phone call, a postcard. They need to know someone cares.

Let's get excited about our detachment, what we have already accomplished, and what we are yet to accomplish. Let's continue the "spirit of the corps." As my business cards say, "Every Marine is a Rifleman."

As your new commandant, I want our detachment to be the best. I look forward to serving you and thank you for the opportunity.

Rufino Garcia, Commandant