

# In\_FOCUS

FOCUS Marines Foundation  
Fall 2019



## Why Morning Colors?

If the purpose of the FOCUS Program is to assist Marines, Navy Corpsmen, and other services' Veterans in the improvement of their civilian lives after service, then why include military customs and ceremony? There is so little time and so many other important subjects. What does military custom and ceremony have to do with a civilian life after service?

Marine Corps training is designed to provide clarity during times of confusion. It is often done abstractly. For example, close order drill isn't instructed to learn to march in formation into battle, such as during the Civil War era of combat. It is done to instruct discipline, instantaneous obedience to orders, and commitment to team. These are the skills required to conduct a successful ambush. Furthermore, in The Corps, everything is training. Marine conduct is an expectation, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This is purposeful. In every situation, the Marine ethos provides the solution. Military customs and ceremony provide a constant reminder of an identity and the subsequent conduct expectation.

The 21st Century battlefield is characterized by complexity. Our Nation's enemies have learned that direct combat with our forces is a losing endeavor. Their tactics evolved into creating confusing scenarios and testing discipline in various ways. Subsequently, Marine training transitioned from focus on repetitive reaction type drills into developing the "moral compass" to problem solve. Decisions regarding use of force, lawfulness of orders, and interaction with civilian populations were pushed down to the fire team level. Decisions made at the Lance Corporal level in the current War on Terror have had as much effect on victory as decisions made by Generals. Just look at Haditha and Abu Graib for proof.

Similarly, a civilian life after service includes complexity and confusion. At FOCUS, military ceremony and jargon serve to reconnect to an identity. One that was earned and characterized by discipline and training. Marine identity requires 24/7 dedication to core values of courage, honor, and commitment as a "moral compass" to solve problems. Military ceremony is a reminder of a life devoted to the protection and promotion of liberty for others.

Marine character and values are the best tools FOCUS Participants have to improve their civilian lives. Military customs and ceremonies serve as a subtle reminder to not leave that identity at the gate (or anywhere else). Well worth the time.

-Nick Popaditch



## From the Development Desk

### Mess Night St Louis 2109 to Honor Harry Hegger

On October 17, FOCUS Marines Foundation will hold our second annual Mess Night St. Louis at Defiance Ridge Vineyards in Defiance, Missouri. We are pleased to announce this year's honored guest will be Harry Hegger. Harry has a long history of sacrifice and service to others but, in the words of the late Paul Harvey, you will need to attend Mess Night St. Louis for "the rest of the story."

Retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant Nick Popaditch will once again be our featured speaker. Gunny Pop's story of combat, courage, and recovery is one of the most motivational stories you will hear.

Please consider being a part of this fun, light hearted evening as we honor Harry and raise funds to help our wounded warriors experience the peaceful, successful, life they so richly deserve.

Tickets for Mess Night St. Louis can be purchased online at [www.BiddingForGood.com/FMF](http://www.BiddingForGood.com/FMF) where you will also find 3 sponsorship levels for your consideration. If you would like to support our event but are unable to attend or sponsor, we are looking for donated items for our silent auction. Tickets to Cardinal and Blues games, the Muny, the Fox theater or signed sports memorabilia are very popular. Of course, donations of any amount are appreciated.

If you have any questions, please email [stacy@focusmarines.org](mailto:stacy@focusmarines.org).

Semper Fi and see you at Mess Night St. Louis 2019!  
Norm Harriman

With heavy hearts...

A dear member of the FOCUS Marines Foundation family, Charles Stockhausen, passed away on August 21st, 2019.

Mr. Stockhausen served during World War II and the Korean War. Over the past several years, FOCUS Course participants have been fortunate to meet Mr. Stockhausen and hear his incredible stories. He was truly one-of-a-kind.

Fair Winds and Following Seas, Marine.



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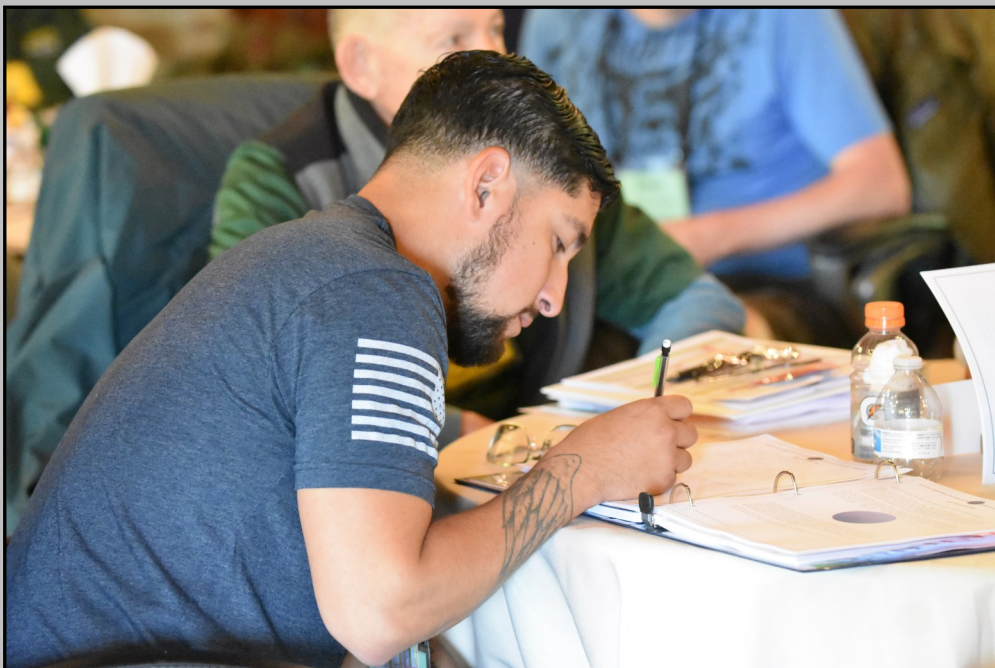
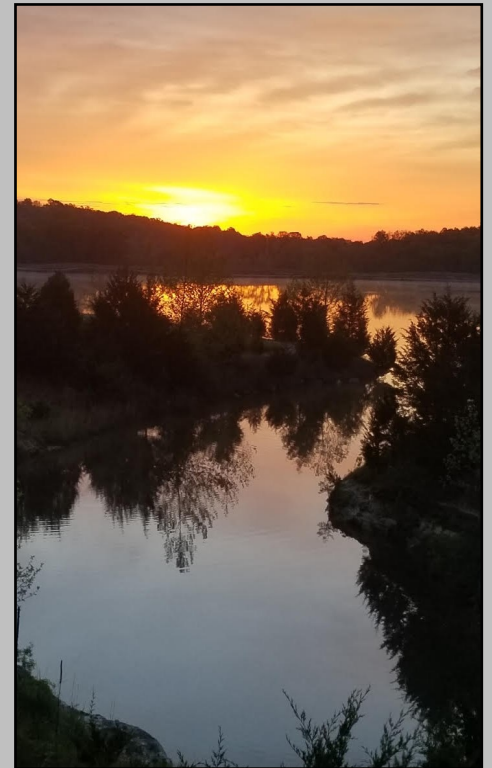




## Importance of Networking

An important part of the FOCUS Program is a session centered on Networking. Early in the week, a demonstration of networking is shown, and each Participant is presented with a set of business cards to be shared with others throughout the week. Rather than just trading business cards with each other, Participants are challenged to practice networking with each and every person in the FOCUS session whether it be a Participant, Volunteer, Speaker or Staff. Participants are shown through the exercise, that networking entails showing interest and being curious in the other person, looking for common ground that a relationship can be built upon, and finding out how they can be of service to the other person. Participants are also encouraged to write something on the business cards they receive that will remind them of the connection that was made.

The goal is to show Participants that Networking isn't just for individuals in Business or looking for employment, but to build lasting personal connections. Although networking is very important while job searching, it is also to increase the Participants Support Network. When a Participant Graduates from FOCUS, they should leave with the business card of each person they made a connection with. Through this exercise, they are able to create a Marine Corps Fireteam of support. This Fireteam is a group of 4 individuals that agree to pick up the phone for each other when needed. They also agree that if for some reason the first person they call isn't able to answer they will continue to call until they reach someone within the group. Having a good Support Network ensures that when a Graduate leaves the FOCUS Program they have additional resources and connections available to them for support and guidance in their lives going forward.





## Save the Date!

Mess Night—St. Louis

Thursday, October 17th, 2019

Defiance Ridge Vineyards

2711 Highway 94 Defiance, MO 63341

Join us for a fun, light-hearted dinner steeped in military tradition. This unique event will showcase FOCUS Marines Foundation's mission and the heroes we serve!

More details inside!



## Upcoming Events

### September 2019

7-14 FOCUS Course  
22 Buddy Check – Online FOCUS Session

### October 2019

17 Mess Night—St. Louis  
22 Buddy Check – Online FOCUS Session

### December 2019

7-14 FOCUS Course  
22 Buddy Check – Online FOCUS Session

Watch your mailboxes for our  
**2019 Annual Fundraising Campaign!**

### 2020 FOCUS Course Dates

February 29 – March 7

May 2 – May 9

September 12 – September 19

December 5 – December 12

Find more event details  
at [www.focusmarines.org/calendar](http://www.focusmarines.org/calendar)



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