

# History Overview

## Detachment 803

The James Island Detachment of the Marine Corps League was formed in 1992. During that first three years, there were the normal growing pains of any new organization. And there were successes. By 1994 there were over 100 members; a Ladies Auxiliary was planning to form; meetings were held on a regular monthly basis. And members were serving on the Department staff. Detachment 803, located in James Island, SC, like all South Carolina Detachments was a member of the North Carolina Department. Detachment 803 was actively helping new detachments form across the state.

All this success was not without its issues.

In October 1993, the Detachment Commandant left, taking with him all records, the Charter, and various items owned by the Detachment. After eight months, it became clear the Detachment would be unable to obtain its Charter or other property. After much discussion with National Headquarters, Department staff and Detachment members, it was decided to solicit suggestions for a new Detachment name. The new name was voted & accepted: "Low Country Detachment." A request was sent to Marine Corps League headquarters to re-charter them under the new name. In November, the new charter with the new detachment name (Low Country) inscribed was received from the Department. Plans were made to have a Re-Charter ceremony and installation of new officers in March 1994.

Happening simultaneously, on 20 January 1994, Don Austin reported on the formation of the new Department of South Carolina. Division Vice Commandant McLeod held a formation meeting and conducted an election of officers at Commandant Verge's Classics Restaurant. He said that he hoped to have the Department functional in 90 to 120 days.

Another major event of note, on 16 June 1994 the Ladies Auxiliary of Low Country Detachment 803 received their Charter and was duly installed.

(Editor's note: monthly entries are as closely worded to minutes as possible. There may be instances where information is repeated from one month to the next -- that's how it was recorded in the minutes. There may also be times when a name is misspelled -- early minutes were hand-written, so this editor may not have picked up on accurate spelling.)

Charter Members  
James Island Detachment 803  
Chartered 1992

Officers:

Richard Plumer  
Edwin Bernstein  
George A. Mizzell  
Ellis Cunningham  
Robert Nebergall  
Angelo Severino  
Charlie Rhodes

Commandant  
Sr Vice Commandant  
Jr. Vice Commandant  
Judge Advocate  
Paymaster/Adjutant  
Chaplain  
Sgt-at-Arms

No list of charter members available due to loss of original Charter as described above.

**Charter Members**  
**Low Country Detachment 803**  
**Chartered on 13 July 1994**

**Officers:**

Orestes M. Verge	Commandant
George A. Mizell	Sr Vice Commandant
Thomas E. Chandler	Jr. Vice commandant
Charlie E. Rhodes	Adjutant
Edwin Bernstein	Paymaster
Arthur M. Matichak	3rd Year Trustee
Donald E. Austin	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee
Ernest E. Hayton	1st Year Trustee
Ellis Cunningham	Judge Advocate
Angelo L. Saverino	Sgt at Arms

**Membership:**

Rudolph Faust	Dept Sr Vice Commandant
James E. Gentry	
Thomas Salina	
Thomas Ravenell	
Alva L. Moore	
Joseph Sharkey	
Charles R. Kotolowski	
Terrence E. Sheehan	
John T. Gleason	
Edward Buckhardt	
Gerald Pothier	
David D. Harris	
A. Joseph Cambio	
Thomas J. Dillon	
John Tharp	
George G. Palmer	