

# the CUTTING EDGE

news for and about the members of Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 of the Marine Corps League  
Ed Dahling, Editor / <http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

## Semper Fidelis!

### Marine Corps Heritage Foundation



On April 29, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation will present the Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune Recognition for Exemplary Leadership to former President George H. W. Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush at the Annual Awards ceremony held the National Museum of the Marines Corps.

President and Mrs. Bush's grandson, Cpl. Walker Bush US MCR, will receive the Lejeune recognition on their behalf. The Foundation selected the Bushes for the respect and support they have shown toward men and women in uniform, particularly during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. As President and First Lady, the Bushes were both widely admired by service members for their leadership, care and compassion.



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National Award  
Winner

Marine Corps League  
National Newsletter Competition  
(Detachments of More Than 100 Members)

# the *Cutting Edge*

- Published Monthly
- Be sure to keep us advised of your current email address to ensure prompt delivery.

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Detachment Website  
<http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

### Detachment Staff:

**Commandant** ..... Ray Sturm  
**Senior Vice-Commandant** ..... Ben Wells  
**Junior Vice-Commandant** ..... Pat Sharkey  
**Judge Advocate** ..... Chris Wise  
**Junior Past-Commandant** ..... Ed Dahling  
**Adjutant** ..... Norman Huffman  
**By-Laws Committee Chairman** Danny Fischio  
**Chaplain** ..... Bill Collins  
**Color Guard Commander** ..... Woody Bowman  
**Historian** ..... Joseph Wright  
**House Chairman** ..... Vacant  
**Legislative Officer** ..... Vacant  
**Newsletter Editors** ..... Ed Dahling  
**Paymaster** ..... Ed Dahling  
**Public Affairs (Information) Officer** Guy Hall  
**Quartermaster** ..... Fred Kaminski  
**Rifle & Pistol Team Captain** ... Ray Sturm  
**Sergeant-at-Arms** ..... Jim Galvin  
**VAVS Officer** ..... Vacant  
**Web Sergeant** ..... Joe Wright  
**Toy For Tots Chairman** ..... Christ Stephens  
**Young Marines Commander** ... Dallas Cooper

Visit the Dept. of Maryland web site at...  
<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



**National Award Winner**

## Membership Statistics

Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Member-	78	8	6
Annual Member-	14	9	–
<b>Delinquent Dues (Still on Active Roster 11)</b>	<b>New Members</b>		
			-
	<b>Sub-Totals</b>		
	92	20	14
	<b>Total</b>		
	126		

9

Please consider a **Life Membership** as a potential cost reduction. You are also asked to please advise the editor of any errors or omissions in the above listing as well as any changes to your contact information.

## Members' Birthdays

: Members of our detachment, who will be celebrating birthdays during the month of **April** include:

**Gary Barr**      **Charles Fisher**      **Chris Kalwa**  
**Bill Merrill**      **Tim Muniz**      **George Owings**  
**Franklin Wood**

**NOTE** – If you were born in January and your name is not listed above, please contact the editor to be included in the future.

## Quotation

The version most quoted reads...

**“Do not fear the enemy, for your enemy can only take your life. It is far better that you fear the media, for they will steal your HONOR.”**

**Samuel Langhorne Clemens Aka Mark Twain**  
American Author and Humorist



### A message from the National Commandant

#### ATTENTION:

“The Marine Corps is deeply concerned about allegations regarding the derogatory online comments and sharing of salacious photographs in a closed website. This behavior destroys morale, erodes trust, and degrades the individual. The Marine Corps does not condone this sort of behavior, which undermines our core values. As General Neller said in his recent Message to the Force, the Marine Corps’ success in battle depends on trust, mutual respect, and teamwork.

The Marine Corps takes every allegation of misconduct seriously. Allegations of misconduct are thoroughly investigated and handled at the appropriate judicial or administrative forum.

By Direction of the National Commandant; No member from the Marine Corps League is authorized to release a press statement concerning this issue; it is an issue that is under Marine Corps investigation and no

The following events are scheduled to occur through **May 2017**. Unless otherwise noted, these events will take place at **VFW Post 160**, located at 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060 (410-766-9802).

**NOTE** – *The dates and times listed below are subject to change. Please verify the information with the indicated organizational point of contact*

**VFW Post 160**, Meeting 10 April 2017 1700

**BSA Troop 216** Meeting 26 April 2017 Columbian Center

**Leadership College** - 22 April 2017, VFW Post 160 Glen Burnie, Maryland

**BSA Troop 216** Meeting 26 April 2017 Columbian Center Severna Park.

**Color Guard** May 5 2017 Arundel Mills Live 09:00, May 7 2017 Ferndale Parade – Meet at North County High School at 11 am May 21<sup>th</sup> – Glen Burnie Parade – Meet at Corkran Middle School at 1 pm May 29<sup>th</sup> - Present Colors at Post 276 at 9 am and following to Crownsville. Be there by 1030am for 11am Presentation of Colors.

**BSA Troop 216** Meeting 26 April 2017 Columbian Center Severna Park.

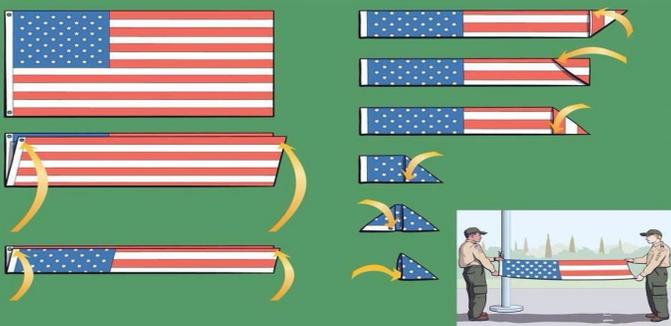
**Detachment Friday Night Dinner** 5 May 1800-2000-VFW post 160

**Department Convention** - 11-13 May 2017, Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, MD

**Monthly Meetings, Detachment**  
Monday May 24, 2017 @ 1900 (Ray Sturm)



## Folding the Flag





# Commandant Ray Sturm

ALCON,

As always, we have a lot going on. Please join us at the April meeting for the installation of officers. If you would like a position on the detachment staff, please let me know as soon as possible. The Department convention is just around the corner. If you plan to attend, and would like to be a delegate, please get your name to the Adjutant, Norm Huffman. The detachment will pay your delegate registration fees.

I would like to thank those members who participated in the funerals of recently departed Marines. These small ceremonies take just a few minutes, but mean the world to the families of our fallen brothers.

On 10 April, I attended the **Relief and Appointment Ceremony** of the Senior Enlisted Marine for MCSB. **MGySgt Steven Berry** was detached and **MGySgt Leon Ransom** was appointed. The **Retirement Ceremony** for MGySgt Berry took place immediately after. MGySgt Berry has been a friend of the detachment and he will be missed. We wish him and his family the best as they begin life after the Corps. We also wish MGySgt Ransom a hearty 'welcome aboard' and look forward to working with him in the future.

I'd like to remind everyone that the Dept Leadership College will take place on 22 April at VFW Post 160. This is a great opportunity to learn about the MCL. It is not just for detachment staff.

The detachment will host the Friday Night Dinner on 5 May. Anyone want to cook or assist?

Ray



## Pistol Team Ray Sturm

The **Department of Pennsylvania** has announced Saturday, **10 June** as the date for their **Service Pistol Match**. The match will be at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. It is one of the largest matches in the area and is a lot of fun to shoot. In addition to the service pistol, they will have an Open Division. That means you can shoot anything with open sights, larger than a .22 caliber but smaller than a .50 caliber. Please let me know if you'd like to shoot. I will coordinate all of the paperwork.



Being a Marine is a state of mind. It is an experience some have likened more to a calling than a profession. Being a Marine is not a job - not a pay check; it is not an occupational specialty. It is not male or female, majority or minority; nor is it a rank insignia. Stars, bars, or chevrons are only indicators of the responsibility or authority we hold at a given time. Rather, being a Marine comes from the eagle, globe, and anchor that is tattooed on the soul of everyone of us who wears the Marine Corps uniform. It is a searing mark in our intermost being which comes after the right of passage through boot camp or Officer Candidates School when a young man or woman is allowed for the first time to say, "I'm a United States Marine." And unlike physical or psychological scars, which, over time, tend to heal and fade in intensity, the eagle, globe, and anchor only grows more defined - more intense - the longer you are a Marine.  
"Once a Marine, always a Marine."  
Semper Fi

# Corps History

by Ed Dahling for Joe Wright, Historian



## **1 April 1945**

1st & 6th Marine Divisions land on Okinawa.

## **2-3 April 2003**

5th Marine Regimental Combat Team captures bridges over Tigris River to open the path to Baghdad.

## **3 April 1945**

Marines of the III Amphibious Corps effectively cut Okinawa in half in three days rather than the originally projected eleven.

## **8 April 1956**

Six recruits drown in Ribbon Creek at MCRD Parris Island.

## **9 April 1942**

105 Marines among American captives on Bataan Death March.

## **13 April 2003**

Marines locate seven American soldiers held prisoner by the Iraqis near Samarra.

## **14 April 1865**

Marines guard the body of **John Wilkes Booth** after the assassination of **Abraham Lincoln**.

## **15 April 1962**

Marine Corps operational involvement in the Vietnam War begins, when HMM-362 arrives at Soc Trang in the Delta south of Saigon – as part of **Operation Shufly** – to air-lift Vietnamese troops into battle.

## **18 April 1983**

A Marine Security Guard is killed and seven wounded when a large car bomb explodes just outside the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.

## **19 April 1995**

**Captain Randolph A. Guzman** and **Sergeant Benjamin L. Davis** are killed when the Alfred Murrah Federal Office Building is bombed in Oklahoma City, OK.



## Senior Vice Commandant Ben Wells



Fellow Detachment Members,

There are several events coming up to put on your calendars. **The Department Convention** in Ocean City on May 11th, 12th and 13th. We need every-one to sell or purchase convention book ads and raffle tickets. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20. See me for raffle tickets, I have plenty left...

You are reminded that the **12th Annual Marines Helping Heroes Golf Tournament** will be taking place on **June, 2nd** at the Walden Country Club Crofton, MD We are in need of everyone's support in obtaining golfers, sponsors, and tee-box sign purchasers.

I'm asking that you support 1049. Our detachment prides itself on what we do for our fellow Marines throughout the year.

Semper Fi,  
Ben



## MARINE CORPS

[Boot Camp]



## ALARM CLOCK

[one galvanized metal unit]  
standard issue per squad bay

YEMX "The Fraternal Order of United States Marines"  
[www.facebook.com/Fraternal.order](http://www.facebook.com/Fraternal.order)

## U.S. honors Veterans on first official National Vietnam War Veterans Day

On March 29, 1973, the last American combat troops left Vietnam and returned home. Unlike troops of more recent wars, the vast majority of those brave service members did not receive a warm welcome. In fact many were spat upon, called names and treated with disdain.

Vietnam Veterans bore the horrors of battle in Vietnam only to come home to shoulder the burden of an unpopular war that was no fault of their own. The way they were treated has often been called a national disgrace and rightly so. They did their duty because their country asked them to. That's what patriots do, they serve when their nation calls.

Today, 44 years later, they are getting some of the recognition they earned so long ago.

Last night, the president signed the "Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017" into law designating March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

The law amends title 4 of the U.S. Code "to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on National Vietnam War Veterans Day" – the simple language creates both the day and encourages the flag to be flown in their honor each year.

Finally.

The bipartisan legislation, co-authored by Indiana Sen. Joe Donnelly and Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey, is the first federal statute to both recognize Vietnam Veterans and create an annual recognition. The legislation passed in the House March 21 and in the Senate Feb. 3. Today, VA recognized March 29 with wreath-laying ceremonies at national cemeteries and other facilities across the country.



## Military Order of the Devil Dogs



### Military Order of the Devil Dogs (MODD)

The Fun and Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof woof,

Pound 204 just held another successful Growl raising \$378.00 for the kids.

We still have one Dog in the Pound who is in arrears of his dues and therefore cannot attend a Growl or hold office. If you the one, get with the program and send 15 big bones to your friendly Dog Robber (me) ASAP. A few extra bones, for the kids, from you who never attend a growl would be greatly appreciated. When you are two years in arrears, you will be dropped from the roles of the MODD. Don't let this happen. Pay your dues now.

The Pack Grand Growl will be on 12 May. DDs planning to advance to PDD must attend two Pack Growls in the year prior to advancement. There is only one Pack Growl left prior to the Supreme Growl in August, so if you haven't attended the first one, it is too late to advance this year.

The next Pound Growl will be on 27 August when we will have elections of officers.

Remember: It is an honor to be a Devil Dog!

PDD Paul Taylor  
Dog Robber



## Junior Vice Commandant Pat Sharkey

I like to remind all to look at their membership cards and pay attention to the Date their membership expires. With that said I also like to inform all if you have not heard yet that at last year's National Convention a By-Law change was approved to have all membership dues be paid in August of that calendar year. So start planning now for dues renewal.

National will no longer send out due notices it will be up to the detachment to notify all annual dues members. Before the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. Our Detachment will be sending out your dues notice to all members the month of June so please help me by getting them in before 31<sup>st</sup> of August.

Life memberships may be a good remedy for some of you.

The rates are as follows:

35 and under .....	\$500
36 – 50 .....	\$400
51 – 60 .....	\$300
61 and over .....	\$200

Ed Dahling for Pat Sharkey

## Chaplain's Corner

Bill Collins

Another busy month for our Detachment. Plans for our upcoming Marines Helping Heroes golf tournament are being finalized. Time to get those foursomes together and get out for a great day of golf. Volunteers welcome. Let's make this year our best ever. This month also brought with it the passing of two of our fellow Marines. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of Jeff Hailey and Theodore (Don) Thompson. Members of our Detachment performed the Marine Corps League funeral ceremony at the Pasadena residence of the Hailey family. Arrangements for Don Thompson have not yet been finalized ...when they are.. We will be ready to support the family. On a brighter note we had the pleasure of attending the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Ben Foster, grandson of our own Mac McNeir. Well done Ben and congratulations Mac.

This month we also met with Michela McGowan a representative of the Project 22 organization. Michela's brother was an Army medic killed in Iraq. The Project 22 folks are working to help to reduce the number of our vets who are taking their own lives. Since our TreatNow effort is focused on the same goal ....stopping the suicides....we may be able to help each other to achieve our common goal. We'll investigate any opportunity to promote an end to this on-going tragedy.

Semper Fi,  
Bill



## Color Guard

Color Guard Commander Woody Bowman

May 5th Present Colors At Live Arundel Mills  
9:00 Am

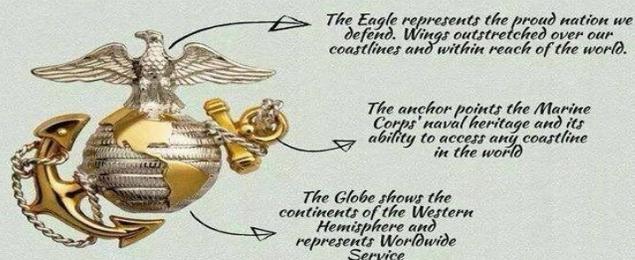
May 7th Ferndale Parade – Meet at North  
County High School at 11 am

May 21<sup>th</sup> Glen Burnie Parade Meet at Corkran  
Middle School at 1 pm

May 29<sup>th</sup> Present Colors at Post 276 at 9 am  
and following to Crownsville. Be there by 1030am  
for 11am Presentation of Colors.

## The Eagle Globe and Anchor

Broken Down





# SHAMROCK AWARDS & ENGRAVING

(410) 766-4866 FAX: (410) 766-7277

M/W/F 9:00 - 4:30  
T/T 9:00 - 7:30  
SAT 9:00 - 1:00

900 Crain Highway North  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
TINA TODD  
Assistant Manager  
shamrockawards@erols.com



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events@waldencountryclub.com  
www.waldencountryclub.com

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### Riviera Plaza

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*Committed to giving back  
to our uniformed heroes!*



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Severna Park, MD 21146  
1-410-315-8118

*Supporter of Marines Helping Marines*



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Support Your

## 2017 Department Convention

Princess Royale  
Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center  
Ocean City, Maryland  
1-800-4-ROYALE

11, 12 & 13 May 2017



### Show Your Pride

The Department of Veterans Affairs calls on all veterans to express their patriotism and pride on Memorial Day and other major patriotic holidays through a display of medals earned in their military service.

Join your comrades in public display of your military decorations. It's a way to show your community the spirit of America's veterans and remind your neighbors of the service and sacrifice of those who guarded democracy.

As we salute America's heroes on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and the Fourth of July, wear your medals and show your pride, whether participating in public observances or relaxing with Family and friends. Your medals tell a story of service in the cause of freedom that all Americans need to hear.

### Doolittle Raid 75th Anniversary

**Commemoration:** Visitors to Washington, D.C., next Tuesday are invited to attend the 75th commemoration of the Doolittle Raid. The event will be held at noon, April 18, at the Air Force Memorial, which overlooks the Pentagon. The wreath-laying ceremony will feature two wreaths — one for the 80 airmen who flew the historic mission, and one for the estimated 200,000 Chinese civilians who were executed for helping the Raiders after they landed on the east coast of China.

The ceremony will also feature a 20-foot Doolittle Raiders Wall of Honor with photos of the airmen, of whom only one remains, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Richard "Dick" Cole, now 101. No reservations are necessary to attend the commemoration.



# Have You Heard?

by Ed Dahling Editor Emeritus

## *March 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting Highlights . . . . .*

Meeting called to order by Commandant Ray Sturm at 1900 hours.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by prayer by Guest Chaplain Fred Kaminski.

Commandant Sturm acknowledged the presence of the following Special Guests.  
Members in Attendance 24

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Paul Taylor    | Department Adjutant, Department Marine of Year (2010)  |
| Edward Dahling | Department Paymaster, Past Detachment Commandant, Detachment Marine of Year (2016)             |
| Manny Airey    | Past Detachment Commandant, Detachment Marine of Year (2005), Department Marine of Year (2014) |
| Guy Hall       | Mid-East Ambassador, Past Detachment Commandant, Department Marine of Year (2009)              |
| Woody Bowman   | Color Guard Commander, Detachment Marine of the Year (2014)                                    |
| Joe Wright     | Past Detachment Commandant Detachment Marine of the year (2015)                                |

**READING OF THE MINUTES:** Adjutant Norm Huffman reported minutes of the February-meeting were distributed via the detachment list server (e-mail). Several hardcopies of minutes and newsletters were available at the meeting.

**APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** One membership application was presented for Brad Jeffery Plehn . Brad was voted on and accepted. Acting Chaplain Fred Kaminski shared prayer for the new member. Brad is an active duty Marine at Fort Meade. Welcome to the Detachment.

**Paymaster** Ed Dahling gave a hardcopy report

**CHAPLAIN REPORT:** Life member Mr. Thompson passed away and we are waiting on the family for arrangements. Mr. Thompson was a member of the Color Guard for 5 years, according to Color Guard Commander Woody Bowman.

Also, another Marine in Pasadena area passed in a tragic house fire. The Marine was 92 years old and an WWII Marine. He was not a member of the Detachment, but appropriate honors will be given for him as well. The Charter was draped.

**COMMANDANT:** Commandant Sturm reported there were 792 Toys for Tots Campaigns Nationwide, collecting 18 million toys, helping 7 million children. Of the 792 campaigns, there were 178 individual detachments collecting toys. The MCL Detachments alone collected 4.5 million toys helping 1.5 million children. Detachment 1049 is not a part of these numbers as we are collecting toys under the Fort Meade group.

The 2018 National Convention will be held in Buffalo New York. Any Delegates attending this convention will be able to pick up our streamers and not have to carry the Colors.

(continue on page11)



# Have You Heard?

by Ed Dahling Editor Emeritus

Commandant Sturm reported on IRS policy. A Corporation may only donate to a 501©3 organization to get a tax exempt. The Marine Corps League is a 501©4. Individuals may donate to a 501©3 or 501©4 to get a tax exemption on their taxes. There was a corporation that donated to a MCL thinking they could use them as a tax write-off. IRS investigated and now the corporation is suing the MCL detachment to recover the donated funds. Note: Our paperwork states “**donation may be tax deductible.**” Please be sure you do not misrepresent.

The National Marine Corps League is getting a new database and set of by-laws. The current by-laws are very lengthy but will be shortened to @30 pages. Most of the current bylaw will be moved to Administrative procedures.

Commandant Sturm attended the Department meeting on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Please get your Convention ads to Jack Severn by April 17<sup>th</sup>. Jack has created a new section in the convention book entitled “Guess Who?” for our older members. Patron ads are \$5.00 each.

**COLOR GUARD:** Color Guard Commander Woody Bowman reported the following:

- May 7<sup>th</sup> – Ferndale Parade – Meet at North County High School at 11 am
- May 21<sup>th</sup> – Glen Burnie Parade – Meet at Corkran Middle School at 1 pm
- May 29<sup>th</sup> - Present Colors at Post 276 at 9 am and following to Crownsville. Be there by 1030am for 11am Presentation of Colors.

Commandant Sturm read the report from the Young Marine liaison. The Young Marines are currently learning knots, physical training, visiting Quantico, participating in the Annapolis Memorial Day parade, participating in the Annapolis July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade, and will be at the Fort Meade masting of Colors. They participated in the Frozen Chosen encampment. All who participated received their ribbons. They also qualified for Marksmanship ribbons.

**OLD BUSSINESS:** We have 500 copies of the new trifold. Please keep some in your car and disperse when you meet a Marine. Guy Hall would like to get the newsletter editor to interview a lady he met who has three sons in the Marine Corps. Commandant Sturm thought this was a good idea and suggested they discuss this outside of the meeting.

Commandant Sturm reported the Walden Golf Course is willing to sign a 5-year contract with the Detachment, so the price will not increase. The tournament still owes the Detachment \$500. Once monies start coming in, this will be taken care of.

If you plan on attending the Department Convention in Ocean City, please give the information to Adjutant Norman Huffman so he can register you. The Paymaster has already sent the required \$100.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Commandant Sturm stated he would like to do a mailing because contact information is outdated. We have 124 members and only 30 attending the meetings. Cost will be approximately \$1.00 per person for mailing. Motion was made by Senior Commandant Wells and second by Paymaster Ed Dahling to send out the mailings.

(Continue on Page 12)

Chris Stevens stated the Annual Bull & Oyster Roast will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Nominations of Officers: The following were nominated:**

Commandant: **Ray Sturm (reportedly will be his last term)**

Sr. Vice Commandant: **Ben Wells** – by Woody Bowman

Jr. Vice Commandant: **Pat Sharkey** – by ?

Judge Advocate: **Joe Wright**

Elections will be held next month

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:** Commandant Sturm reported the service for the fallen WW II Marine will be held at 7:30 pm. at McCully's Funeral Home on Mountain Road. Please wear your red blazers.

A \$200 check was donated to Boys Scout troop 216 by Devil Dog Pound 204. Commandant Sturm asked any Devil Dogs to come forward for a photograph. Commandant Sturm explained Troop 216 Special Needs troop and the Military Order of the Devil Dogs.

The National Commandant has created a Lifetime Achievement Award for Marines who have been involved with the MCL for a long period of time. If you need help writing up the nominee, contact Commandant Sturm for assistance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- March 30<sup>th</sup> 5K Run meeting at 6 pm at Ben Wells office
- April 29<sup>th</sup> Golf meeting at 6 pm at Ben Wells office
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> Eagle Scout Court of Honor – for Ben Foster who is Mac McNeir's grandson
- April 9 Pound 204 growl
- April 12<sup>th</sup> Troop 216 meeting
- April 13<sup>th</sup> Range night
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> Leadership College – teaches you about the MCL – great class
- April 26 Troop 216 meeting
- May 5<sup>th</sup> Friday night dinner
- May 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> Department Convention in Ocean City

Mac McNeir donated a signed football for the raffle at the Golf tournament.

Guy Hall stated on April 12<sup>th</sup> there will be an EXPO held at Camp Lejeune if anyone is interested in attending.

Fred Kaminski presented posters to Norm Huffman and Brad Plehn and then played the Marine Corps Hymn on the harmonica.

**CLOSING CEREMONIES:**

Commandant Sturm closed the meeting IAW MCL rituals. The next detachment meeting will take place on April 24th, 2017. Prayer was given by Acting Chaplain Fred Kaminski. Winner of 50/50 was Matt Prial.

Respectfully submitted,  
Norman Huffman, Adjutant  
Marine Corps League - A. A. County Detachment 1049



**Marine Corps League**  
Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049  
PO Box 804  
Severn, Maryland 21144-0804  
(Address Correction Requested)



At Arlington National Cemetery honoring the life of John Glenn, who made history in 1962 when he became the first American to orbit the earth. As a Marine fighter pilot, Glenn flew 59 combat missions in the South Pacific during World War II. He died on Dec. 8th at the age of 95.