

December 2014

the Cutting Edge

news for and about the members of Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 of the Marine Corps League

Ed Dahling, Commandant (cmdt@mclaacdet1049.org) | Mark East, Editor (editor@mclaacdet1049.org)

Marry Christmas Marines

Arlington National Cemetery at Christmas



the *Cutting Edge*

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

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Commandant	Ed Dahling
Senior Vice-Commandant	Joe Wright
Junior Vice-Commandant	Ray Sturm
Judge Advocate	Ben Wells
Junior Past-Commandant	Joe Wright
Adjutant	Norman Huffman
By-Laws Committee Chairman	Danny Fischio
Chaplain	Fred Kaminski
Color Guard Commander	Woody Bowman
Historian	Joseph Wright
House Chairman	Vacant
Legislative Officer	Vacant
Newsletter Editors	Ed Dahling
Paymaster	Ray Sturm
Public Affairs (Information) Officer	Guy Hall
Quartermaster	Fred Kaminski
Rifle & Pistol Team Captain	Ray Sturm
Sergeant-at-Arms	George Martin
VAVS Officer	Vacant
Web Sergeant	Mike Hadley
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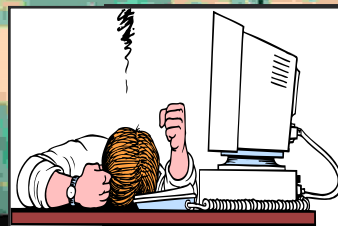


National Award Winner

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

Visit the Dept. of Maryland web site at...

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



From the Editor

by Ed Dahling, Editor Emeritus

Christmas greetings to all & a few thoughts as 2014 comes to an end...

1. I for one will miss Ed Ross who recently PASS He was a friend ... a real asset to the detachment ... a doer not a talker ... not just a 'card carrier!'
2. I am concerned that the attendance at our monthly detachment meetings seems to be growing continually smaller.
3. I am happy to see that there is a small cadre of detachment members that can be counted on to be part of league activities. Members who contribute their valuable time and efforts to functions aimed at increasing public awareness of the Marine Corps League and our detachment, as well as raising money for our philanthropic undertakings. I'd be even happier if there were additional members stepping forward to lend a hand to their fellow Marines!
4. I look forward to the coming year and hope that it will bring all of us...health and happiness; more responsible government at all levels; acceptable endings to the hostile actions now taking place globally; and, a flourishing future for our beloved country and our Corps!

The article deadline for the Cutting Edge's next issue is January 5th.



Commandant's Message



Ed Dahling

Marines,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This has been a very productive year for the Detachment, from fund raisers for the Marines Helping Marines Program, Toys for Tots, and other charitable causes, Color Guard Details, visits to local Elementary Schools, and the Young Marines. Every member of this Detachment shares in these accomplishments and deserves a thank you for a job well done. As we move into the coming year let us keep up the high standards we have achieved and continue to set and reach new goals in 2015. It's still not too late to donate a toy to the Toys for Tots drive, just drop off your toy donation at any of the local drop boxes or drop them off at the VFW Post 160 on Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie. Locations of drop boxes can be found on our web site at <http://www.mclaacdet1049.org> Toys for Tots page.

After the meeting, we will have a Christmas gathering. It would be appreciated if those who are able, would please bring a covered dish or other food/beverage item. Regardless, please come and spread some holiday cheer with your fellow detachment members.

For those of you who will not be able to attend the meeting, I wish you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season.

Semper Fi...

ED



Attention Maryland Veterans:

Effective January 1, 2013, you will be able to have a veteran designation placed on your driver's license. This was authorized by a bill passed by the Maryland General Assembly, and signed into law by Governor O'Malley in May, 2012.

If you would like to have the veteran designation placed on your driver's license, you have two options:

- 1) Request it the next time your license is up for renewal (no cost to you), or:
- 2) Request it before your license is up for renewal (\$20 fee)

Instructions

Bring one of the following documents to your local Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) Branch Office:

- DD214
- Honorable Discharge Certificate
- Letter from the Personnel Center in St. Louis confirming veteran status

If you do not have any one of these documents and you are a veteran with a discharge that is other than dishonorable, you will need to visit your nearest Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Service Office to obtain a letter verifying your status as a veteran. To find the location of the MDVA Service Office closest to you, you can call 1-800-446-4926 ext. 6450 or visit the website at <http://www.mdva.state.md.us/about/serviceProgram.html>

Once you obtain this letter, you can then bring it to your local MVA Branch Office to request the veteran designation on your driver's license. Questions: Call Jerry Boden, MDVA, at 410-260-3841

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Chesterfield Plaza 8095-A Edwin Raynor Blvd. Pasadena, MD 410-255-0070	Riviera Plaza 8479 Fort Smallwood Rd. Riviera Beach, MD 410-437-4800

Senior Vice Commandant



Mideast Division



Fellow Detachment Members,

I hope everyone had a good start to the New Year and that you're ready for another exciting year. Now it's time to get down to business, before you know it, the election of officers will be upon us. Nominations for the elected offices of Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant and Judge Advocate will be held at the February and March meetings with voting being held at the March monthly meeting. So be thinking about those Marines of this Detachment that you consider to be most qualified to lead us during this coming year.

I would like to see more members volunteer for elected and appointed positions. Many of the tasks may seem daunting at first, but there is always plenty of help. The Detachment needs your help and input. After all, the Detachment includes all of us, not just a few. If you think you could or should be doing more, please get involved in more than just the monthly meetings.

Semper Fi,
Joe Wright

2015 Mideast Division Conference will be hosted by the Department of Virginia on 26-28 June. More information will be posted as it becomes available on the Division website: www.mclmideast.com.

2015 MCL National Convention will be August 2015 at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort, 7200 N. Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, Arizona 85253. Room rate is 94 dollars plus room tax. Phone 480-948-5000

Future Mideast Division Conferences will be hosted by:
2016 - Department of Delaware
2017 - Department of North Carolina
2018 - Department of Maryland

Quotation

*"Success is a little like wrestling a gorilla.
You don't quit when you are tired...
you quit when the gorilla gets tired!"*

Robert Strauss

Reporter, Writer, Editor, TV Critic & Adjunct
Instructor at the University of Pennsylvania





Color Guard

by Mac McNeir for Color Guard Commander Woody Bowman

Our detachment color guard **remains in need of some new members...** especially younger members **capable of marching in parades!**

Since our color guard keeps the community aware of our organization and its goals... the continuation of this highly visible undertaking is very important. Losing this community visibility could have severe consequences – especially among the vendors who have supported our fund-raisers over the years.

Need more information? Want to volunteer? Want to be part of the future of this valuable group? If the answer to any of these questions is **YES**, Call **Woody Bowman** at the following number...

(410) 647-9655



GRIM DETERMINATION

"THE BRITISH WERE CHICKENS; BUT THESE NEW MEN... THESE AMERICAN MARINES... THEY FIGHT LIKE ANIMALS, LIKE THEY AREN'T EVEN HUMAN"

[A communiqué from a Taliban Commander after losing Karamanda to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines]



Military Order of the Devil Dogs



The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof-Woof,

Hound Dog Pound 204, Maryland Pack, Military Order of Devil Dogs, will hold a Growl sometime around 0900, Sunday, 14 December 2014, at the Pound Dog House (VFW Post 160), 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, phone 410 766 9802.

We would appreciate your attendance. Bring bones!

Bloody marys and an Anne Arundel County Detachment breakfast will be served at 0800.

As most of you know, our beloved Pound Keeper, PDD Ross, has been recalled by the Supreme Dog. PDD Luthardt has moved up to Pound Keeper and DD Wright has moved up to Senior vice. At this Growl a new Junior vice must be elected. If interested in this position, let your desires be known and be present or notify me in writing or your desires.

Advancement reminder: There is a Pound requirement for Pups desiring to advance to Devil Dog to attend two Pound Growls in the year prior to the Grand Growl. Don't wait until the last two growls of the year to qualify. Attend all Pound Growls.

Woof woof,
PDD Paul E. Taylor
Dog Robber



Bombastic Bumper Snicker:



Semper Fi!
More than a slogan...
It's what we are!



Have You Heard?

by ED Dahling, Editor Emeritus

OPENING BY RITUAL:

Meeting called to order by Commandant Ed Dahling at 1900 hours.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by prayer by our Chaplain.
Members in attendance: 15 members

Commandant acknowledged presence of the following special guests.

Paul Taylor	Department of Maryland Adjutant
Manny Airey	Past Detachment Commandant, Department Marine of the Year
Joe Wright	Past Detachment Commandant
Woody Bowman	Color Guard Commander, Detachment Marine of the Year

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Ray Sturm reported an application for membership was received from Wm. Collins, but his DD214 was not included. A letter will be sent to Mr. Collins requesting his DD214.

Matt Prial, who transferred from another detachment, was welcomed to Detachment 1049. Matt has already volunteered to assist in hall cleanup on Sunday mornings.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Adjutant Norm Huffman reported minutes of the October meeting were distributed via the detachment list server (e-mail). Several hardcopies were available at the meeting. Minutes were accepted as written.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Adjutant read a letter received from the Linthicum Veterans Memorial Board of Directors thanking the Detachment 1049 Color Guard for participating in the Linthicum Veterans Day Ceremony. Woody Bowman reported three members of the Color Guard participated in the event.

PAYMASTER: Paymaster Ray Sturm gave the following report.

Checking	\$ 9,606.81
Savings	\$ 2,258.15
Certificates	\$ 5,003.13
Total	\$ 16,868.09



Have You Heard?

(continued from previous page)

Commandant – Commandant Ed Dahling commended Ray Sturm and Ben Wells for their coordination of the MCL service for Ed Ross. Ed also thanked Ray and Ben for installing shelves and cleaning out the detachment office.

Judge Advocate - Judge Advocate Ben Wells reported a Detachment by-laws meeting will be held Sunday, December 7th, 2014 after the VFW's breakfast.

Color Guard:

Woody Bowman stated he was unable to participate in the Linthicum Memorial event, as he was in Hagerstown.

On December 6th, the Color Guard will be presenting Colors at the Food Lion on Mountain Road at 12 p.m.

Woody stated the Pearl Harbor Veterans Association cancelled their event (*first time in 11 years*), as there would be no Pearl Harbor Veterans in attendance. Event will take place in Annapolis at Fleet Reserve.

Woody reported that Governor O'Malley and Senator Ben Cardin were at Crownsville Cemetery for Veterans Day.

There are no other events planned for the Color Guard until March 2015.

Ray announced he has purchased the M-1 rifle for the raffle thru CMP. It has been finished and restored. He is hoping to have tickets available at the next meeting.

Norman Huffman announced his wife Jane would be holding a Quarter Auction in March with all proceeds going to the Marine Corp League. It will be held at the Orchard Beach Fire Hall. More details later. Help will be needed.

November 29th - New member Scott Poindexter's sons will be receiving Citizenship Awards from Commandant Dahling on Saturday at 6 p.m. at the St. Andrew's Swim and Tennis Clubhouse – 490

Yorkshire Dr. Severna Park Md. 21146.

December 6th – Color Guard presenting Colors at Food Lion on Mountain Road at noon.

December 7th – Breakfast served – Bylaws meeting afterwards

December 14th - Pound 204 would have a growl at 9 a.m. – Breakfast at 8 a.m.

January 17th - Department meeting will be held in Elkton at the VFW.

February 12th – 14th, 2015 - Ray Sturm announced the Mid-Winter Conference would be held at the Marriot on Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church VA.

Pearl Harbor and the Road to War

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise, but Japan and the United States had been edging toward war for decades. The United States was particularly unhappy with Japan's increasingly belligerent attitude toward China. The Japanese government believed that the only way to solve its economic and demographic problems was to expand into its neighbor's territory and take over its import market; to this end, Japan had declared war on China in 1937. American officials responded to this aggression with a battery of economic sanctions and trade embargoes. They reasoned that without access to money and goods, and especially essential supplies like oil, Japan would have to rein in its expansionism. Instead, the sanctions made the Japanese more determined to stand their ground. During months of negotiations between Tokyo and Washington, D.C., neither side would budge. It seemed that war was inevitable. But no one believed that the Japanese would start that war with an attack on American territory. For one thing, it would be terribly inconvenient: Hawaii and Japan were about 4,000 miles apart. For another, American intelligence officials were confident that any Japanese attack would take place in one of the (relatively) nearby European colonies in the South Pacific: the Dutch East Indies, for instance, or Singapore or Indochina. Because American military leaders were not expecting an attack so close to home, the naval facilities at Pearl Harbor were relatively undefended. Almost the entire Pacific Fleet was moored around Ford Island in the harbor, and hundreds of airplanes were squeezed onto adjacent airfields. To the Japanese, Pearl Harbor was an irresistible target.

"A Date Which Will Live in Infamy"

The Japanese plan was simple: Destroy the Pacific Fleet. That way, the Americans would not be able to fight back as Japan's armed forces spread across the South Pacific. On December 7, after months of planning and practice, the Japanese launched their attack.

At about 8 a.m., Japanese planes filled the sky over Pearl Harbor. Bombs and bullets rained onto the vessels moored below. At 8:10, a 1,800-pound bomb smashed through the deck of the battleship USS [Arizona](#) and landed in her forward ammunition magazine. The ship exploded and sank with more than 1,000 men trapped inside. Next, torpedoes pierced the shell of the battleship USS [Oklahoma](#). With 400 sailors aboard, the Oklahoma lost her balance, rolled onto her side and slipped underwater. By the time the attack was over, every battleship in Pearl Harbor—USS Arizona, USS Oklahoma, USS [California](#), USS [West Virginia](#), USS [Utah](#), USS [Maryland](#), USS [Pennsylvania](#), USS [Tennessee](#) and USS Nevada—had sustained significant damage. (All but USS Arizona and USS Utah were eventually salvaged and repaired.)

In all, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor crippled or destroyed 18 American ships and nearly 300 airplanes. Dry docks and airfields were likewise destroyed. Most important, almost 2,500 men were killed and another 1,000 were wounded.

But the Japanese had failed to cripple the Pacific Fleet. By the 1940s, battleships were no longer the most important naval vessel: Aircraft carriers were, and as it happened, all of the Pacific Fleet's carriers were away from the base on December 7. (Some had returned to the mainland and others were delivering planes to troops on Midway and Wake Islands.) Moreover, the Pearl Harbor assault had left the base's most vital onshore facilities—oil storage depots, repair shops, shipyards and submarine docks—intact. As a result, the U.S. Navy was able to rebound relatively quickly from the attack.

Pearl Harbor Awakens the “Sleeping Giant”

“Yesterday,” President Roosevelt said on December 8, “the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked.” He went on to say, “No matter now long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.” After the Pearl Harbor attack, and for the first time after years of discussion and debate, the American people were united in their determination to go to war. The Japanese had wanted to goad the United States into an agreement to lift the economic sanctions against them; instead, they had pushed their adversary into a global conflict that ultimately resulted in Japan’s first occupation by a foreign power.

On December 8, Congress approved Roosevelt’s declaration of war. Three days later, Japanese allies Germany and Italy declared war against the United States. For the second time, Congress reciprocated. More than two years after the start of the conflict, the United States had entered World War II.



Photo # NH 72273-KN (Color) Poster by Allen Saalburg, 1942





Join our team and get involved! Use your creativity and passion to take an active role by fundraising, donating or spreading awareness for our cause.

Go to the following website to gain additional information and become involved with this important effort!

<http://semperfifund.org/>

Semper Fi... It's more than a slogan!



Corps History

by Ed Dahling for Joe Wright, Historian

1776

26 December

Marines participated in the second Battle of Trenton (NJ) as part of General George Washington's force.

1929

5 December

Marine Captain A. N. Parker was the first person to fly over unexplored Antarctica.

1933

7 December

Navy Department creates Fleet Marine Force.

1941

7 December

Marines defend against Japanese 'sneak-attack' on U.S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, which resulted in the United States entry into World War II. More than 3,000 Marines and Sailors were killed in action.

8 December

Japanese aircraft attacked Wake Island within hours of the fateful attack on Pearl Harbor. Marines of the 1st Defense Battalion and Marine Fighting Squadron 211 resisted Japanese invasion attempts for over two weeks before finally succumbing to an overwhelming force.

10 December

With no weapon larger than the .30 caliber machine gun, 153 Marines defended Guam until overwhelmed.

11 December

VMF-211 Wildcats sank the Japanese destroyer Kisaragi during the defense of Wake Island.

17 December

17 SB 2U-3s of Marine Scout Bomber Squadron 281 flew 1,137 miles, the longest massed flight over water.

23 December

Japanese forces launched a predawn landing on Wake Island and Wilkes Island, while their carriers launched air strikes against Wilkes,

Junior Vice Commandant



Ray Sturm

Greetings all,

First and foremost, I'd like to wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season. As we gather around our tables to celebrate with friends and family, please pause and take a moment to remember those in harm's way... for it is this new generation of warrior that has kept our shores safe.

Your attendance and participation are important. Please note, that nominations will be opened for the 2015 Detachment Marine of the Year in January.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone for their support this year I'm looking forward to making 2015 our best yet.

Semper Fi,
Ray Sturm

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Corps History

by Ed Dahling for Joe Wright, Historian

1942

2 December

Carlson's Raiders neared the end of an epic 26 day patrol on Guadalcanal.

1943

26 December

1st Marine Division lands on Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

1947

1 December

The Corps' first helicopter squadron, HMX-1, was commissioned at Quantico, VA.

15 December

The Secretary of the Navy signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Department which laid the basis for the modern Marine Security Guard program at U.S. embassies throughout the world.

1950

1 December

The 1st Marine Division began its bitter withdrawal from Yudamni, North Korea.

4 December

Lt. Colonel Raymond G. Davis led the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines into Hagaru-Ri, Korea after four days of intense fighting in the mountain passes against a numerically superior hostile force, clearing the way for the 5th and 7th Marines. Lt. Colonel Davis was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

24 December

Last elements of the 1st Marine Division departed Hungnam, North Korea.

1965

20 December

Operation Harvest Moon ended for Task Force Delta (2/7, 3/3, and 2/1). More than 400 Viet Cong were killed in action.

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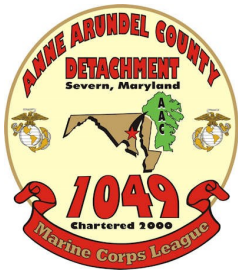
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