



Anne Arundel County
Detachment 1049

Newsletter

Volume Five, Number Twelve

December 2006

Post Office Box 804, Severn, Maryland 21144-0804

Website: <http://mclaacdet1049.org>

Detachment Members Assist in Toys for Tots Campaign



See story on page-4 and more photos on page-8.

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Semper Fidelis!

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Danny Fischio



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 2007.

Its still not to 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.

Our December meeting has been moved to December 18th at 1900 hours as we would like to hold a short meeting and then close for the social activities. There will be food and drink and anyone that would like to bring a covered dish please do so.

Upcoming events to mark your calendars with include:

- Toys for Tots Collection at Muvico Arundel Mills Mall on December 9th
- Toys for Tots Collection at WPOC Broadcast at Arundel Mills and Mall Center in Glen Burnie on December 15th 0800-1900
- Detachment Meeting December 18th (Christmas Social) 1900
- Merry Christmas December 25, 2006
- Friday Night Dinner Fund Raiser, January 5, 2007 1800-2000
- Department Winter Staff Meeting January 6, 2007 0900 at the Jeff Davis American Legion Post in Centreville, MD. Pack Growl to follow meeting.
- Detachment Meeting January 22, 2007 1900

To the extent possible, hope to see you all at our Christmas Social scheduled for December 18th at 1900.

Semper Fi
Danny R Fischio



Senior Vice Commandant Steve Salanik



Another year is almost behind us. We have had several successful fund raisers this year particularly the golf tournament. I would like to thank Manny Airey for chairing the event. We will have another this spring with Manny and Gary Frye co-chairing the event.

I hope you and your family have a safe and wonderful holiday season. Don't forget the covered dish meeting next week. I hope to see all of our members there. Thank you for your participation in our events and meetings. Mat the New Year bring health and happiness to you and your family.

Semper Fi, & Woof, Woof
Steve



Junior Vice Commandant Gary Frye



Hello Marines,

First of all my family and I would like to wish all Marines and their families a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I would also like to encourage members to attend the monthly meetings and it has been a privilege serving as your Junior Vice Commandant for 2005 and 2006.

This months meeting I would like to present the following Marines their Lifetime membership cards and Certificates: George Owings, Frank Berg, Wayne McNeir, Ed Dahling, Charles Quick, Gary Barr and Ronald Rice. I would like to congratulate these Marines into becoming Life Members of Anne Arundel County Detachment #1049.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone of the golf tournament in May, we could use Tee sponsors and gifts for the giveaways. Manny and I would like to answer any questions regarding this at the upcoming meetings.

Semper Fi
Gary Frye



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The A.A. County Detachment 1049 newsletter is Published monthly. We seek up-to-date and interesting news. Space is always a problem, and we will take "literary license" in order to have the story fit the space allotted in the paper. We will not, however, change the intent of your article.

You may send the articles by land mail, fax, or the most preferred way is by e-mail to newsletter@mclaacdet1049.org. Remember when you are taking photographs to submit to the paper, the lighter the background, the better the photo will look in the paper.

Editor
Ed Dahling

Associate Editor
Michael Hadley

PO Box 804
Severn, MD 21144-0804
Telephone: 410-340-9033
Fax: 410-519-0751
E-mail: newsletter@mclaacdet1049.org

Toys for Tots

Bill Creager

NOW WE'RE ROLLING

Our November 25th toy drives at MUVICO and our November meeting gave a big boost to our numbers. We had a great turn out at MUVICO on the 9th and with your support we brought in over 450 toys and \$500. With 2611 toys so far, we are just a bit ahead of where we were this time last year. With a big push we can top last year's total. One thousand more toys will do it. **We can do this.**

Our next big day is Dec 15th with WPOC radio at both the Arundel Mills Mall and the Center at Glen Burnie from 8 AM to 7 PM. Be sure to sign up and take a shift at these events. The sign up sheet is on the wall at the Post. Because it is a Friday its harder to provide complete coverage. So we really need some people for the daytime shifts. Jim Brady has arranged for Santa to be at the Center at Glen Burnie at 6:30 PM in front of Toys-R-Us. Come out and meet some of your favorite DJs. If you are one of our volunteers picking up toys at our drop off sites, try to have your locations finish their donations on the 15th and bring them to one of these two sites.

I want to thank everyone for their support. Many have stepped-up for us this year. Like I told one of our Marines, I've faced some new challenges this year that has forced me to less active. Guess that's why we're doing better! Seriously, it helps the League to have those red hats out there saying thank-you when people bring toys up. Everyone feels better. Let's make it happen.



ANYONE DESIRING TO HAVE THE DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER DELIVERED TO THERE E-MAIL INBOX, PLEASE SEND YOUR REQUEST TO WEBSGT@MCLAACDET1049.ORG.

Field competition creates cohesion, raises morale

By Lance Cpl. Geoffrey P. Ingersoll, 1st Marine Logistics Group

CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq (Dec. 10, 2006) -- December is a holiday season filled with family, fun and festivities, or for some Marines here, unit cohesion, competition and the 'dizzy-izzy.'

Service members with Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) participated in a company field competition Dec. 2.

The dizzy-izzy was one of many events that had Marines cheering each other on. During the event, service members spun around ten times with their heads down and then attempted to run. The resulting off-balanced race triggered laughter from the Marines watching.

"(The field meet is) something fun to do while we're out here to get our minds off home," said Sgt. Jennifer M. Garay, a 22-year-old administration supervisor from Bluffton, S.C.

"They can't be home with family, so at least they can have a little time to have fun and relax," said 1st Lt. Rich W. Dawson, an intelligence officer.

"Most of these Marines work long hours, it's good for them during the holiday season to get out of the office," continued Dawson, 24, from Huntington Beach, Calif.

The Marines left the office behind for a day, competing in seven scored events. Almost every competition incorporated skills learned during boot-camp, whether it was transporting the 'wounded' to safety with the fireman's carry or just a test of strength and endurance.

"It's all about motivation and going back to the basics of the Marine Corps," said Lance Cpl. Kayla M. Hughes, a 19-year-old intelligence analyst from Yuma, Az.

"It builds unit cohesion because we all have to work together with our teams to complete the activities, we have to motivate each other," she said.

A judge tallied the scores when the dirt-caked Marines finished the day's competition. The final scores were read aloud while the competitors feasted on grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and listened to music.

These service members work behind desks all day, it can become very monotonous, said Gunnery Sgt. Eric E. Harris, company 1st Sergeant.

"(the field competition) gets us outside and gets us tighter not only inside the office but outside of work," said Harris, 38, from Louisville, Texas.

There are senior Marines competing next to junior Marines, junior Marines motivating senior Marines, and they are all outside getting dirty together, said Harris.

"It shows that even though we're all out here (in Iraq) working in different shops, we're still out here as an H and S Company family," said Harris.

Historian

Vic Halme



This Month in History

Selected December Dates of Marine Corps Historical Significance

4 December 1950: LtCol Raymond G. Davis led his battalion into Hagaru-Ri, Korea after four days of intense fighting in the mountain passes against a numerically superior hostile force. His battalion, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, helped clear the way for the 5th and 7th Marines, and LtCol Davis was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

6 December 1928: A small detail of Marines under Captain Maurice G. Holmes defeated Nicaraguan bandits near Chuyelite. GySgt Charles Williams was mortally wounded during the fighting. Capt Holmes was later awarded the Navy Cross for gallantry, and a posthumous award was given to GySgt Williams.

8 December 1941: 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.

9 December 1992: Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations capable) landed in Somalia kicking off Operation Restore Hope, the largest humanitarian relief operation of its kind.

10 December 1995: In Bosnia, 22 Marines from Marine Corps Security Force Company, Naples, Italy were

among the first American troops to arrive. They provided the security for Allied Forces Southern Europe headquartered at Sarajevo. About 2,500 NATO troops would be in place by 19 December taking on the task of peace enforcement in former Yugoslavia from the U.N.

15 December 1948: 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.

19 December 1972: The Marine detachment of the USS TICONDEROGA provided shipboard security for three U.S. astronauts, Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans, Harrison Schmitt, and their Apollo-17 space capsule. The astronauts had successfully completed a (then) record lunar stay of more than 75 hours.

20 December 1989: Operation Just Cause was launched in Panama to protect American lives, restore the democratic process, preserve the integrity of the Panama Canal Treaty, and apprehend dictator General Manuel Antonio Noriega. One Marine, Corporal Garreth C. Isaak, was killed and three other were wounded during the operation.

23 December 1941: Japanese forces launched a pre-dawn landing on Wake Island and Wilkes Island, while their carriers launched air strikes against Wilkes, Wake, and Peale islands in support of the landing force. After nearly 12 hours of desperate fighting, the three islands were surrendered.

26 December 1957: Twenty helicopters from Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 162, were rushed to Ceylon onboard the USS PRINCETON where Marines participated in the rescue and evacuation of flood victims.

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Raymond G. Davis
Lieutenant Colonel
United States Marine Corps
Medal of Honor — 1950
1/7/1 Korea
CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer of the First Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea from 1 through 4 December 1950. Although keenly aware that the operation involved breaking through a surrounding enemy and advancing eight miles along primitive icy trails in the bitter cold with every passage disputed by a savage and determined foe, Lieutenant Colonel Davis boldly led his battalion into the attack in a daring attempt to relieve a beleaguered rifle company and to seize, hold and defend a vital mountain pass controlling the only route available for two Marine regiments in danger being cut off by numerically superior hostile forces during their redeployment to the port of Hungnam. When the battalion immediately encountered strong opposition from entrenched enemy forces commanding high ground in the path of the advance, he promptly spearheaded his unit in a fierce attack up the steep, ice-covered slopes in the face of withering fire and, personally leading the assault groups in a hand-to-hand encounter, drove the hostile troops from their positions, rested his men and reconnoitered the area under enemy fire to determine the best route for continuing the mission. Always in the thick of the fighting, Lieutenant Colonel Davis led his battalion over three successive ridges in the deep snow in continuous attacks against the enemy and, constantly inspiring and encouraging his men throughout the night, brought his unit to a point within 1500 yards of the surrounded rifle company by daybreak. Although knocked to the ground when a shell fragment struck his helmet and two bullets pierced his clothing, he arose and fought his way forward at the head of his men until he reached the isolated Marines. On the following morning, he bravely led his battalion in securing the vital mountain pass from a strongly entrenched and numerically superior hostile force, carrying all his wounded with him, including 22 litter cases and numerous ambulatory patients, despite repeated savage and heavy assaults by the enemy, he stubbornly held the vital terrain until the two regiments of the division had deployed through the pass and, on the morning of 4 December, led his battalion into Hagaru-ri intact. By his superb leadership, outstanding courage and brilliant tactical ability, Lieutenant Colonel Davis was directly instrumental in saving the beleaguered rifle company from complete annihilation and enabled the two Marine regiments to escape possible destruction. His valiant devotion to duty and unyielding fighting spirit in the face of almost insurmountable odds enhance and sustain the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.



Joseph J. Foss
Captain
United States Marine Corps
Medal of Honor -- 1942
VMF-121 Guadalcanal
CITATION:

For outstanding heroism and courage above and beyond the call of duty as Executive Officer of a Marine Fighting Squadron, at Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. Engaging in almost daily combat with the enemy from October 9 to November 19, 1942, Captain Foss personally shot down twenty-three Japanese planes and damaged others so severely that their destruction was extremely probable. In addition, during this period, he successfully led a large number of escort missions, skillfully covering reconnaissance, bombing and photographic planes as well as surface craft. On January 15, 1943, he added three more enemy planes to his already brilliant successes for a record of aerial combat achievement unsurpassed in this war. Boldly searching out an approaching enemy force on January 25, Captain Foss led his eight F4F Marine planes and four Army P-38s into action and, undaunted by tremendously superior numbers, intercepted and struck with such force that four Japanese fighters were shot down and the bombers were turned back without releasing a single bomb. His remarkable flying skill, inspiring leadership and indomitable fighting spirit were distinctive factors in the defense of strategic American positions on Guadalcanal.



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A CHRISTMAS WISH COME TRUE

by Barbara Lilly,

Voluntary Service Specialist, Denver VAMC On October 4, 2006, my 2005 Christmas wish came true. That was the day we dedicated the Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Wall at the Denver VA Medical Center.

As the hospital volunteer specialist, last Christmas season I found myself responsible for decorations for the two main atriums. Because we are a facility that takes care of veterans and our country is at war I wanted to do something to remember our soldiers who had died in the Middle East...to make them a part of our holiday. With that in mind I purchased small wooden stars with the intent of hanging them from a garland...one for every fallen soldier. When I approached facilities management, however, all I learned was I couldn't put a nail or tack in a wall, move any existing items, etc., etc. In other words, no go. I was disappointed and saddened that these men and women who had given so much could not be honored and physically remembered at that time.

My Chief was very supportive and told me to hold on to the stars. We would find a way. We brainstormed and the idea grew. We would write the name of every fallen soldier on a star and place the stars in chronological order on a suitable background. For several months, every time I walked through the building I had my eyes open and my imagination working to find a suitable place for our memorial. And one day there it was...a quiet hallway off the main atrium. A place where people could stop and read the names and offer their thanks.

Next step...secure permission from the hospital administrators. We asked to display the wall from Memorial Day through Veteran's Day, something semi-permanent, thinking this would be easier to get approved. Six weeks later we had a go-ahead. I found a website online that gives the names of every fallen soldier, began printing their names, and in most cases photos, on white envelopes. I inserted a wooden star in each envelope. We offered the opportunity to write a name to hospital staff and visitors and active duty troops at Buckley Air Force Base. We mounted the stars on a flag

blue acrylic background and hung them on the wall. When we ran out of stars and were unable to order more of the same size we enlisted volunteers to cut more stars. More hands...more love.

Because of the magnitude of the project we missed the Memorial Day target, but had everything in place by the Fourth of July. The response has been exactly what we'd hoped it would be. People stop. People remember. People care. Because of this overwhelming response we knew a formal dedication was in order and the wall should remain intact as long as we have troops in the Middle East. As the number of names increases the memorial wall will evolve to the "Hall of Heroes" with panels on two adjacent walls.

The dedication was a very moving ceremony that brought tears to most and a newfound peace to many. Our keynote speaker was a young woman who had severe damage to both of her legs from an IED explosion in Iraq. After spending eight months in Walter Reed Hospital both legs were saved. But she realized she would spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair because one leg was extended and immobile since she did not have a knee. She begged the doctors to amputate her left leg, which would allow her to walk again with a prosthetic leg. It took her several weeks to convince them this was what she wanted and they finally agreed. She is now starting a new career as a prosthetic technician at the Denver VA. She spoke of her experiences and shared her memories of her friend on the wall, the first Puerto Rican-born female to be killed in Iraq.

As part of the ceremony those veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan were recognized, along with the families of anyone who served. Some of the men who had served wept openly as they remembered their friends. A bagpiper played Amazing Grace and the ceremony closed with the haunting sound of Echo Taps played by two buglers, representing the two theaters of war.

The reverence, the love and the respect of everyone involved can perhaps best be summed in the words of the opening poem, written by a World War I veteran, Wilfred Wilson Gibson.

We who are left how shall we look again Happily
on the sun or feel the rain Without remembering
how they who went Ungrudgingly and spent

Their lives for us loved, too, the sun and the rain.

It is a memorial that needed to be built. It is an act of love. It is a Christmas wish that came true.

WOUNDED WARRIORS CRUISE FOR CHRISTMAS

By Staff Sgt. Jeff Janowiec, MCRD San Diego
MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO (Dec. 8, 2006) -- As the San Diego Excursion's Spirit of San Diego dinner cruise boat left the dock in San Diego harbor Nov. 29, wounded warriors from operations in Iraq gathered in the belly of the bow where they embarked on an annual Christmas party.

Marines and sailors from Medical Holding Company, Patient Administration, Naval Medical Center San Diego and their guests joined together for a three hour tour, which included a dinner, a raffle and a front seat view of downtown San Diego at night.

Bob Zimmerman, president and founder of We Thank Our Troops, Inc., a local charity for the troops, was responsible for the annual gathering on the boat.

"If anyone symbolizes support, he does," said Capt. Jason D. Grose, commanding officer of Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion here.

"He sets these up on a consistent basis," said Grose. "Bob is a unique individual. There is a lot of support for military appreciation, but he puts his money where his mouth is."

Support shown for the wounded warriors in this way is not widespread, according to Grose. He said when things like this cruise come up, it helps the wounded warriors to psychologically cope with their wounds and physically heal because of the camaraderie they share with each other.

The message Zimmerman wants to get across to those who are wounded from battle is to never question the support the American public has for them. He said he started WTOT in an effort to give service members a warm welcome home and has been actively involved with deploying and returning Marines and troops since 1990.

"As long as there's a need and as long as I'm able, I'll be there for them," said Zimmerman, who is originally from Titusville, Pa.

He said that it motivates him to see the wounded warriors' fighting spirit and their love and devotion to their country and comrades.

"Most everyone I talk to would go back to be with their buddies," said Zimmerman.

The guests had a memorable time as they watched downtown San Diego, the Coronado Bridge and the Navy's shipyard pass by. Each Marine and sailor aboard received a HydraBrush electric toothbrush and prizes ranging from \$20 restaurant gift certificates to a Symphonic 20 inch LCD television, which was won by Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Sadler, corpsman, Marine liaison at the hospital.

One of the wounded warriors on the cruise, Cpl. James Do, arrived at the hospital three weeks ago. He said this

was his first experience outside of the hospital with the other wounded Marines and sailors.

Do and his wife, Linda, who are both from Garden Grove, Calif., were pleased with the luxurious dinner they were able to share with the other members of his new company at NMCSO.

"This is great how they organized this for the Marines," said Linda.

NEWS BULLETIN MARINE TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION

Washington, DC – November 20, 2006. The 2006 U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign was formally launched during the National Toys for Tots Campaign Kickoff Luncheon at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia on Friday, November 17, 2006. The luncheon was hosted by the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation and co-sponsored by Humana Military Healthcare Services and Quantum.

The audience of approximately 500 included representatives of national corporate sponsors, Toys for Tots donors and supporters, Marine Toys for Tots Foundation directors and business partners, local Toys for Tots coordinators plus a host of dignitaries, which included Department of Defense executives, twenty six flag and general officers, and twenty five current or past CEOs. Also in attendance was General Alfred Gray, USMC (Ret), the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Lieutenant General Matthew T. Cooper, USMC (Ret), the President and CEO of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

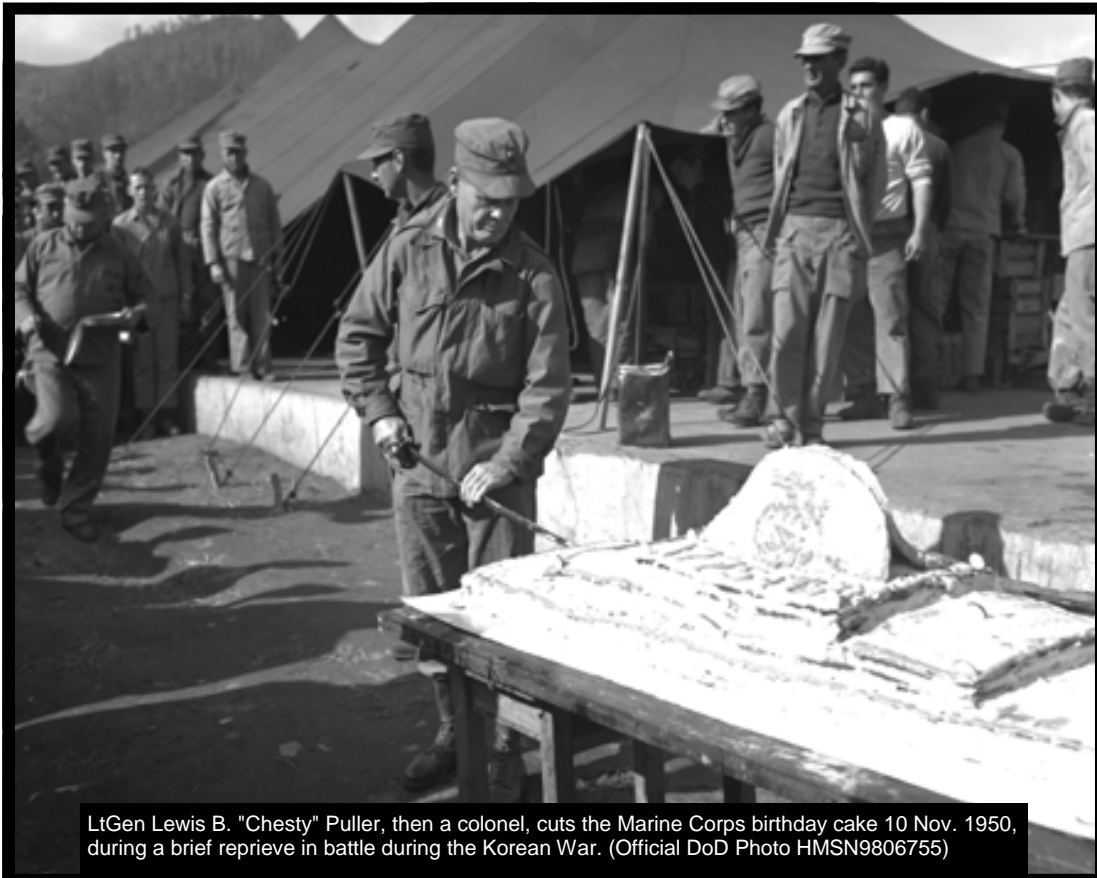
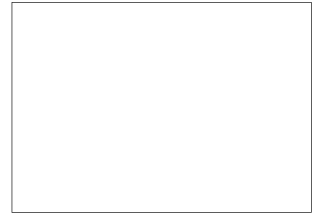
The program began with the presentation of the National and Marine Corps Colors by the Marine Color Guard from Marine Barracks, Washington, DC. This color ceremony was supported by a Marine bugler and Marine drummer from the Marine Band. Lieutenant Colonel Rose-Ann L. Lynch, USMC (Ret), sang the National Anthem and Captain David G. Kloak, CHC, USN, the Deputy Chaplain of the Marine Corps, delivered the invocation.

General Carl E. Mundy, Jr, USMC (Ret), 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps, was the guest of honor and keynote speaker. General Mundy delivered a truly inspiring and motivating keynote address that made the 8th annual kickoff luncheon a resounding success.

The feature entertainment was provided by Corporal Elizabeth Quinones, USMCR, an aspiring actress and vocalist from Brooklyn, New York and also a member of the 6th Communications Battalion, an element of Marine Forces Reserve, which is headquartered in Brooklyn. Cpl Quinones entertained the audience superbly with a series of traditional Christmas songs.



Marine Corps League
Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049
PO Box 804
Severn, Maryland 21144-0804
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



LtGen Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, then a colonel, cuts the Marine Corps birthday cake 10 Nov. 1950, during a brief reprieve in battle during the Korean War. (Official DoD Photo HMSN9806755)