



# Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049

## Newsletter

Volume Six Number One

January 2007

**Post Office Box 804, Severn, Maryland 21144-0804**

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

# ***Toys for Tots 2006 Was A Successful Year! 6000 Toys Collected***



Cathy Porter Ms. Wheelchair MD (left) and Nila Rogers (right).



Steve Bruce (WPOC Staff).

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*Danny Fischio*

**Sr. Vice Commandant**

*Steve Salanik*

**Jr. Vice Commandant**

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*Ed Ross*

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**Young Marines**

**Commander**

*George Martin*

**Young Marines Executive  
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*Claudia Mitchell*



# Semper Fidelis!

## COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Danny Fischio



I hope everyone had a good start to the New Year and that you're ready for another exciting year. Now its time to get down to business, before you know it 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.

Marine of the Year Nominations for 2006. This award shall be presented to regular members of the Anne Arundel County Detachment who have distinguished themselves above and beyond that normally expected of membership in the Marine Corps League. Nominations should be made in letterform, either typed or legibly handwritten; the letter of nomination should clearly describe the candidate's achievements and contributions. Nominations should be submitted to the Commandant no later than February 26<sup>th</sup> and may be hand delivered, emailed [cmdt@mclaacdet1049.org], regular postal mail [P.O. Box 804, Severn, MD 21144] or dropped off at the VFW Post 160 [Detachment mail slot in the office] in a sealed envelope. Past Detachment Marine of the Year Manny Airey and Bill Creager will head up the Marine of the Year selection committee.

Upcoming events to mark your calendars with include:

- Detachment Meeting January 22, 2007 at 1900
- Joint Veteran's Commission Legislative Day, February 5, 2007
- MCL Mid Winter Conference February 8-10, 2007
- Devil Dog Growl February 11, 2007 at 1000
- Detachment Meeting February 26, 2007 at 1900
- MCL Mid East Division Convention March 1-3, 2007
- Department Staff Meeting March 17, 2007 at 0900

To the extent possible, I hope to see you all at our next membership meeting scheduled for January 22nd at 1900.

Semper Fi  
Danny R Fischio



## Senior Vice Commandant

Steve Salanik



I wish everyone a Happy New Year. As we begin another year I hope that it brings all that you want.

Our fund raisers this past year were not as successful as previous years. The one new event that helped was the spring golf tournament. If there are other events that you would like to see or suggestions of how I can do a better job, please let me know. I do want to thank all of those who helped or participated in our previous events.

Speaking of participation, I would like to see more members volunteer for elected and appointed positions. We will have elections coming up this spring and I would like to see some new faces sitting at the head table. 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 we could or should be doing more please get involved in more than just the monthly meetings.

Semper Fi, & Woof, Woof  
Steve

## Junior Vice Commandant

Gary Frye



Hello Marines,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As of this writing I have not received any renewals or applications for membership for our detachment. Being that said I would like to start preparing for the annual Golf Tournament in May at the Bay Hills Golf Course. Manny and I are co-chairs and are looking for tee sponsors and door prizes, a cost for a tee sign is \$100.00 which is strictly profit. In addition we are also looking for some help, I will be able to e-mail anyone who wishes to have the documents to secure players and obtain prizes or tee sponsors. My e-mail address is [mellon@cablespeed.com](mailto:mellon@cablespeed.com) if you need the information sent via the internet.

In closing, I hope to see you at the meeting in January and if you have any questions regarding membership or the Golf Tournament feel free to give me a call.

Semper Fi  
Gary Frye Sr.  
410-491-7153



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## Historian

Vic Halme



### This Month in History

#### Selected January Dates of Marine Corps Historical Significance

**4 January 1991:** Marines helicopters evacuate 281 people from U.S. Embassy at Mogadishu, Somalia.

**6 January 1927:** Marines begin second Nicaraguan intervention, fight Augusto Sandino in the mountains.

**6 January 1928:** 1stLt. Christian Schilt begins ten flights to aid besieged Marine patrol at Quilali, Nicaragua

**8 January 1815:** Andrew Jackson, including Marines under Maj Daniel Carmick, defeats British at New Orleans.

**10 January 1995:** The Pentagon announced that 2,600 U.S. Marines would be deployed to Somalia for Operation United Shield to assist in the final withdrawal of UN peacekeeping troops from Somalia. The decision came in response to a UN request for American protection of its peacekeeping forces serving in the war-torn African nation.

**11 January 1945:** The first elements of Marine Aircraft Group 24, commanded by Colonel Lyle H. Meyer, landed at Lingayen, Luzon, Philippine Islands, to provide close air support for Army forces. Over the next three months, MAG-24 and MAG-32 would fly a total of 8,842 combat sorties and drop more than 19,000 bombs as part of the Fifth Air Force in support of the Sixth Army.

**15 January 1865** 365 Marines in Naval landing force attack Fort Fisher at Wilmington, North Carolina.

**16 January 1991:** Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm as forces of the allied coalition launched an all-out air campaign against targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait in an effort to liberate Kuwait and enforce the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. Overall, in the theater of operations, the coalition forces included more than 415,000 U.S. troops.

**18 January 1951:** Marines of the 1st Marine Division began mopping-up operations against guerrillas in the Pohang area, South Korea, following the Division's return from its epic battle with Communist Chinese troops at the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir.

**20 January 1968:** The second battle for Khe Sanh began when Marines from the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines attacked a North Vietnamese battalion between Hill 881 South and Hill 881 North. More than 100 of the enemy were killed.

**21 January 1918:** The 1st Aeronautical Company arrived at Ponta Delgada, Azores, for anti-submarine duty. That unit was one of the first completely equipped American aviation units to serve overseas in World War I.

**22 January 1969:** Operation Dewey Canyon, perhaps the most successful high-mobility regimental-size action of the Vietnam War, began in the A Shau/Da Krong Valleys when the 9th Marines, commanded by Colonel Robert H. Barrow, and supporting artillery were lifted from Quang Tri. By 18 March the enemy's base area had been cleared out, 1617 enemy dead had been counted, and more than 500 tons of weapons and ammunition unearthed.

**25 January 1856:** Marines and seamen from the U.S. sloop DECATUR went ashore at the village of Seattle, Washington, to protect settlers from Indian raids. The Indians launched a seven-hour attack but were driven off later that day after suffering severe losses. Incredibly, only two civilian volunteers were killed and no Marines or sailors were lost.

**27 January 1837:** Col. Henderson wins Battle of Hatchee-Lustee River against Seminoles in Florida

**27 January 1988:** About 400 Marines and sailors from the II MEF, 2d Marine Division, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, and 2d Force Service Support Group deployed for the Persian Gulf. The Contingency Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) 2-88 would relieve Contingency MAGTF 1-88 in the volatile Persian Gulf and provide the effective landing force capability to Joint Task Force Middle East.

**EDITORS' NOTE:** *One of our Detachment members was the Intelligence Operations Chief for MAGTF 2-88 (MGySgt Michael R. Hadley). On April 15, 1988, MAGTF 2-88 conducted offensive operations against hostile Iranian forces in retaliation for the USS Roberts hitting an Iranian placed mine.*

**29 January 1991:** The first serious ground fighting of Operation Desert Storm broke out when Iraqi troops mounted an attack into Saudi Arabia along a 40-mile front. Iraqi units centered their efforts on Khafji, a port city six miles south of the border. Saudi and Quatari troops, supported by artillery from the 1st Marine Division and attack helicopters and other allied coalition aircraft, recaptured the town two days later.



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( ) I hereby apply for membership in the \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment, Marine Corps League and  
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 Article 6, Section 600)

(Sponsor-where applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (See Reverse)

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Upon completion, turn into your Detachment sponsor with required payment. Applicants  
 for MAL Membership, remit this form with check or money order in the amount of \$30.00  
 to: National Headquarters, Marine Corps League, P.O. Box 3070, Merrifield, VA 22116.

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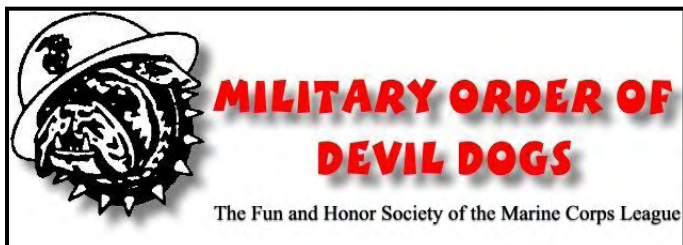
**RICHARD A. ANDERSON**  
**LANCE CORPORAL**  
*United States Marine Corps*  
*Medal of Honor — 1969*  
*3d Recon, 3d MarDiv, Vietnam*  
**CITATION**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an Assistant Fire Team Leader with Company E, Third Reconnaissance Battalion, Third Marine Division, in connection with combat operations against an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. While conducting a patrol during the early morning hours of 24 August 1969, Lance Corporal Anderson's reconnaissance team came under a heavy volume of automatic weapons and machine-gun fire from a numerically superior and well-concealed enemy force. Although painfully wounded in both legs and knocked to the ground during the initial moments of the fierce fire fight, Lance Corporal Anderson assumed a prone position and continued to deliver intense suppressive fire in an attempt to repulse the attackers. Moments later he was wounded a second time by an enemy soldier who had approached to within eight feet of the team's position. Undaunted, he continued to pour a relentless stream of fire at the assaulting unit, even while a companion was treating his legs wounds. Observing an enemy grenade land between himself and the other Marine, Lance Corporal Anderson immediately rolled over and covered the lethal weapon with his body, absorbing the full effects of the detonation. By his indomitable courage, inspiring initiative, and selfless devotion to duty, Lance Corporal Anderson was instrumental in saving several Marines from serious injury or possible death. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.



**JASON DUNHAM**  
**CORPORAL**  
*United States Marine Corps*  
*Medal of Honor — 2007*  
*3/7/1 Iraq*  
**CITATION**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Rifle Squad Leader, 4th Platoon, Company K, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines (Reinforced), Regimental Combat Team 7, First Marine Division (Reinforced), on 14 April 2004. Corporal Dunham's squad was conducting a reconnaissance mission in the town of Karabilah, Iraq, when they heard rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire erupt approximately two kilometers to the west. Corporal Dunham led his Combined Anti-Armor Team towards the engagement to provide fire support to their Battalion Commander's convoy, which had been ambushed as it was traveling to Camp Husaybah. As Corporal Dunham and his Marines advanced, they quickly began to receive enemy fire. Corporal Dunham ordered his squad to dismount their vehicles and led one of his fire teams on foot several blocks south of the ambushed convoy. Discovering seven Iraqi vehicles in a column attempting to depart, Corporal Dunham and his team stopped the vehicles to search them for weapons. As they approached the vehicles, an insurgent leaped out and attacked Corporal Dunham. Corporal Dunham wrestled the insurgent to the ground and in the ensuing struggle saw the insurgent release a grenade. Corporal Dunham immediately alerted his fellow Marines to the threat. Aware of the imminent danger and without hesitation, Corporal Dunham covered the grenade with his helmet and body, bearing the brunt of the explosion and shielding his Marines from the blast. In an ultimate and selfless act of bravery in which he was mortally wounded, he saved the lives of at least two fellow Marines. By his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty, Corporal Dunham gallantly gave his life for his country, thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.



## Legislative

Jim LeGette



Maryland Representative Roscoe Bartlett, has proposed a bill, which he calls the Bartlett Montgomery GI Bill Act, which would allow service members to transfer any unused portion of their education benefits to their spouse or dependent children. Representative Bartlett is a senior member of the U.S. House Armed Services Committee. It is expected this bill will be part of the overhaul of the GI Bill benefits to be worked on by the House Veterans' Affairs Committee this year.

Inquiry at Maryland Delegate Mary Ann Love's office (District 32), resulted in the confirmation that the Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Military Retirement Income bill, an income tax savings opportunity, will be under consideration, this session, by both houses in Annapolis. As a reminder the old bills for 2006 were numbered HB 35 and SB 22, new bill numbers will be assigned for 2007 as soon as the drafts of the bills and preliminary work are completed.



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# 1/8 Marine Awarded Silver Star

By Gunnery Sgt. Demetrio J. Espinosa, 24th MEU

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (Jan. 12, 2007) -- Acting boldly in the face of adversity is something all Marines are taught. Against an enemy loath to engage Americans directly, few Marines get to test their mettle in combat and fewer still distinguish themselves so heroically that their gallantry merits special recognition.

One day after President Bush awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously to Cpl. Jason Dunham, another hero of the Iraq war, 1st Lt. Elliott Ackerman of 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, on Friday accepted the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest military award for valor.

Ackerman, a 26-year-old native of Washington, D.C., was recognized for his courage under fire while serving as a platoon commander during the November 2004 battle to wrest Fallujah from the grip of fanatical insurgents.

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, Assistant Division Commander, 2nd Marine Division, presented the award as Ackerman's family and fellow Marines looked on.

The citation summarizing then-2nd Lt. Ackerman's actions covers a six-day period that began on Nov. 10, 2004, when his platoon came under fire from a heavy enemy counterattack.

"We had a mission to get a foothold for the battalion," said Ackerman, who returned last month from his second deployment, the latest as a member of Battalion Landing Team 1/8, the ground combat element of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. "We saw that the original building we intended to go in to just wouldn't work to get that mission done. We pushed a little bit deeper than it probably would have been prudent to do."

Pushing deeper ensured his unit would accomplish its mission, but the advance left him and his Marines more exposed to enemy fighters, who responded by pouring heavy fire on the Marines' position.

As his Marines began to take injuries, Ackerman sprang to action, twice pulling his Marines to safety and coordinating their evacuation. The amphibious-assault vehicle sent to retrieve his Marines had trouble finding them, lost in the fog of war. Ackerman again risked his life, charging into the open from a covered position to flag down the vehicle and direct it to his Marines' location. His actions took him through a "gauntlet of deadly enemy fire," according to the citation.

"From that position that day, we were a little exposed," he recalled. "Insurgents came out and slowly tried to surround us."

For Ackerman, the fighting was just beginning. As the battle ensued, he recognized that his Marines on the rooftop of the building were exposed. He ordered them

to seek cover in the building and headed to the roof himself. His actions prompted a hail of enemy fire on his position.

"The Marines, like Marines always do, just started performing in an incredible manner. We had a job to do and just had to make sure it got done," said Ackerman.

According to his citation, Ackerman took heavy enemy fire on the rooftop but still "coolly employed an M240G machine gun to mark targets for supporting tanks, with devastating effects on the enemy."

In all, Ackerman was able to simultaneously direct tank fire, coordinate four separate medical evacuations and continually attack with his platoon, all the while suffering from his own shrapnel wounds.

Ackerman said he was only doing what he saw others around him doing.

"I think we all go out there and know what our job is and what's expected of you," he said. "There is only one alternative; it is to do it or not do it. You have to do what needs to be done in a situation. That's what all the Marines were doing. I feel this award doesn't represent something for myself; it represents what I saw everyone doing out there."

As of Jan. 9, according to statistics maintained by the Marine Corps, only 69 Marines had received the Silver Star since the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq began.

## VAVS Buddy Cadle

### What Is VAVS?

#### The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)

- founded in 1946 to provide for our nation's veterans while they are cared for by VA health care facilities
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