



Newsletter

Marine Corps League, Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049

Volume Eight, Number Ten

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October 2009

Detachment 1049 Website – <http://mclaacdet1049.org>

Transcontinental Motor Convoy Project

Note – This article is based upon information provided to me by Ray Gonzales, a fellow member of Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 of the Marine Corps League as well as that obtained from the Military Vehicle Preservation Association website, and other correspondence.

http://www.mvpa.org/memsec/downloads/MVPAConvoyPressRelease4-22-09_V00.pdf



In 1919, the U.S. ARMY decided to plan and execute a motor convoy of various vehicles across the country, on the then newly-formed Lincoln Highway. In general, the route began at the White House, in Washington, DC and ended at Lincoln Park, in San Francisco, CA – some 3,250 miles and 62 days later. This would be the first motor transport convoy ever to have crossed the United States.

The convoy had the following objectives:

- Put the equipment through as grueling a trial as could be devised.
- Study how the varying road conditions would affect each branch of service.
- Serve as a transcontinental recruiting drive for the U.S. Army.
- Demonstrate the need for good roads.
- Say “Thanks” to the American people for their support during WWI.

The 1919 convoy was staffed with 37 officers and 258 enlisted men – including then Lt. Colonel Dwight Eisenhower, and 81 Army vehicles: 46 trucks, 11 passenger cars, 9 motorcycles, 5 ambulances, 2 ambulance trailers, 1 Maxwell caterpillar tractor, 4 kitchen trailers, 1 pontoon trailer, 1 mobile searchlight, and 1 MILITOR (a recovery vehicle).

The convoy left Washington, D.C. on 7 July, 1919 and arrived in San Francisco on 6 September, 1919. At that time, the ‘Lincoln “Highway” was a series of roads with conditions that ranged from poured concrete to tracks across quicksand, tracks across alkali mud, and across bridges that gave way under the weight of these vehicles. The trip was grueling and the daily average was 59 miles per day and about 6 miles per hour!

(see *Motor Convoy* on page 7)

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Chris Kalwa

Toys for Tots Coordinator
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VAVS Officer
Ed Dahling

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Michael R. Hadley

Young Marines Commander
George Martin

Young Marines Executive Officer
Vacant

From the Editor

by Mac McNeir

A tradition is about to die and I feel obligated to add my voice to our Commandant's in soliciting a volunteer to take over the **Toys for Toys Campaign** for calendar year 2010. The detachment has made great strides since first becoming involved with this very worthwhile annual campaign to bring a bit of joy into the hearts of needy children at Christmas time. Turning over the responsibility for this effort to the Marine Reserve Unit in Baltimore will leave the children of Anne Arundel County without direct Marine Corps representation. If there is any chance that you can assume this awesome and rewarding role, please review the **Help Wanted** advertisement on page 9 and contact Pete Pervi if you are willing to assume this important role.

On a similar note, there is another worthy undertaking, unrelated to Toys for Tots, that benefits underprivileged children in Baltimore County and is known as **Coats for Kids**. Please review the related article on page 9 if you would like more information about this philanthropic effort.

As always, I look forward to seeing all of you at our next monthly meeting!

Submission Deadline for the November Newsletter – All articles should be in my hands by no later than **MIDNIGHT of 13 November 2009!**

Chaplain's Corner

from Ken Rollins, Detachment Chaplain

Neri Albo – is continuing her recuperation at home and being looked after by her husband, **Chuck**. Calls of encouragement and support continue to be appreciated (443-926-1665).

Jerry Biedronski – (Harford County Detachment 1198) is very ill at this date. His address is **1902 Oakmont Rd, Fallston, MD 21047**.

Bob (Granville) Smith – remains house-bound and in need of visitors. Please consider stopping by and spending a bit of time with him. Call before visiting to ensure that Bob is not away for physical therapy.

Sergeant First Class Bradley Scott Bohle, USA – During the first week of October, members of our detachment, as well as the Department of Maryland, travelled to Singleton's Funeral Home to pay their respects to the widow and family members of Sergeant First Class Bohle, USA – a Glen Burnie resident, who was killed while serving in Afghanistan. Hopefully, our effort and that of the Gold Star Mothers, Patriot Guard Riders, local office holders, and others brought some small degree of comfort to SFC Bohle's loved ones!

Please notify me if you are aware of any Marines or Marine family members being sick or in distress; as well as, any Marines (or family members) who may have passed-away.

Commandant's Message



Pete Pervi

Fellow Marines,

INVITATION TO ALL LEATHERNECKS

On **Tuesday, November 10th** between the hours of 1800 and 2000, you are all invited as my guest at the Post Canteen. We will raise several cups of cheer for the **Marine Corps 234th Birthday**. We will share scuttlebutt and regale everyone with great tales of days gone by, when we were napalm-spitting, 'Gung Ho' Jarheads with the best looking gals at every duty station and port of call.

VETERAN'S DAY

Wednesday, November 11, 2009 is **Veteran's Day**. The Detachment Color Guard will be at Crownsville again. There will also be other activity's which you are invited to attend. Please check the MCL Bulletin Board for specifics. Regardless of your ability to attend these events, *please wear your ribbons or medals on this special day*.

DETACHMENT MARINE CORPS BALL

We are celebrating the **Marine Corps Birthday** on **Saturday, November 14th** at VFW Post 160. Every member should have received an invitation to attend the Ball. If you did not, please contact Jim Brady as soon as possible. Sue and I are looking forward to seeing each and everyone of you at the ball.

DETACHMENT OFFICE

Work on the office is proceeding. Rather than rush, we are making sure that current and future needs have been taken into consideration as we get the electrical wiring done, install computer capability, and furniture. As the work progresses, we will post status reports on the MCL bulletin board and our detachment website.

TOYS FOR TOTS

There will be a **Toys for Tots Coordination Meeting** on **Thursday, October 29th** at 1930. At this, meeting I will be identifying volunteer opportunities, and planning/scheduling campaign activities. If you cannot attend and want to help, please give me your name, dates (and times) of availability, and contact information at our next detachment meeting.

NEXT MEETING

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our next general meeting on **Monday, October 26th** at 1900.

Semper Fi,

Pete

Veterans' Tribute

Saturday, November 7th will be a very special evening for veterans as the **2009 6th Annual American Freedom Festival** gets under way at **7:30 PM** featuring country music superstars **Montgomery Gentry, Lee Ann Womack, and Phil Vassar**. This tribute brings honor and awareness to the great sacrifices the men and women of America's armed forces undergo everyday to preserve our freedom. The goal of the event is to raise money and awareness for the veterans of America's armed forces and their families, whose lives have been affected by Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

More information about this event is available at the following website –

<http://www.americanfreedomfoundation.org/>

Tickets may be obtained through **Ticketmaster**.



Show Your Pride!

Embroidered detachment patches remain available for purchase from the Adjutant and Judge Advocate for the bargain price of \$3 each. All proceeds will be deposited in the detachment's general fund.

From the desk of the

Senior Vice Commandant



James T. Brady

Salutations and Greetings:

As you know, the months of October, November, and December are very busy months for us Marines.

On **October 18th**, we will have had the **Bull & Oyster Roast**, which is a major fund raiser for Detachment 1049. The proceeds will go to our general fund and assist us in paying some of our Marine Corps League expenses. I truly hope you all were able to attend and enjoy the fine food and fellowship, which that day offered. A more detailed report of the event will appear in our next newsletter.

On **November 14th**, we will be having our annual **Marine Corps Birthday Ball**. Invitations have just gone out in the mail. This year, **Chris Fay**, Department President of the Ladies Auxiliary will be our guest speaker. Hope to see you there, all decked out in your finest attire.

Then in December, Detachment 1049 will conclude the **2009 Toys for Tots** effort. For those who might be interested, during the inclusive period of **2002 – 2008**, our detachment attained a remarkable level of achievement – having collected **53,094 toys** and **\$50,449** in monetary donations. Results of this magnitude have and continue to do a lot of good for needy children. The dedication and effort put forth in our Toys for Tots drives provide yet another example of how much good your Detachment does.

Disbursed amongst all of this activity, are family gatherings on Halloween, Thanksgiving Day, Veterans Day, Pearl Harbor Day, Hanukah, Christmas, and do not forget the end of Daylight Savings Time on November 1st, when we will fall back in time.

So, with all that is being said, may all of your dreams come true, your trials light, your days merry, and your nights even merrier!

Once a Marine, always a Marine!

Semper Fidelis & Woof Woof

Jim Brady

From the desk of the

Junior Vice Commandant



Woody Bowman

Fellow Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest member **Ray Sturm** to our detachment.

Not having much else to say, I'll just reiterate the Color Guard activities scheduled for the immediate future.

October 12th

Presentation of Colors at Brock Bridge Elementary School

November 1st

Participation in the Pasadena Business Association's Sharing and Caring Parade

November 10th

Presentation of Colors at South River Elementary School

November 11th

- Presentation of Colors at American Legion Post 276
- Presentation of Colors at the Veterans Day observance at the Crownsville Veterans Cemetery

November 12th

Presentation of Colors at Marley Middle School

I'll close by extending my continuing invitation to all detachment members to become part of our Color Guard and its related activities.

Woody

Corps Quotation

The more Marines I have around the better I like it!

General Mark Clark, US Army

Roy's Kwik Korner
HOME OF THE BASEBALL CRABCAKE
Often Imitated...
Never Duplicated!

WINNERS!
4 CONSECUTIVE YEARS
MD SEAFOOD FESTIVAL
MARYLAND CRAB & CREAM
OF CRAB SOUP!

**ROY'S ONE & ONLY FAMILY OWNED LOCATION,
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SEAFOOD-DELI • CATERING
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"WE ONLY SELL WHAT WE LIKE TO EAT!" ...AND WE LIKE GOOD FOOD
Roy's Kwik Korner
1002 Crain Hwy. S.W. at the intersection of Quarterfield Rd. in Glen Burnie
410-768-3369 410-768-4334

Rich Morton Lincoln Mercury Mazda  **51 Mountain Rd. Pasadena, MD 21122**
Phone: 800-577-1658

The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League



Military Order of Devil Dogs

Woof-Woof,

Annual dues paying Dogs are a bit slow in getting their 2010 dues into the Dog Robber. Dues remain a measly 15 big bones. If you have not paid yet, get off your duff and scribble out a check to 'MODD, Pound 204' and get it into the mail to me as quick as your little paws can scramble to the mailbox. Pound 204 lost two Dogs on September 1st for non-payment of their 2009 dues. Don't let this happen to you! Get your dues in! You can mail them to the Dog Robber at **7944 Oakwood Road, Glen Burnie, Md 21061**.

We had a good turnout for the September Pack Growl. The Dog Robber collected **\$475.02** plus **five Kuwaiti Dinars** and **one Mexican Peso!** The Ladies Auxiliary laid out a fine spread for lunch as well as a variety of fat pills prior to the Department meeting.

As always, keep the fleas at a safe distance.

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

Paul Taylor

PDD & Dog Robber

 **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 TINA TODD
Glen Burnie, MD 21061 Assistant Manager
shamrockawards@erols.com

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

Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through the middle of **December 2009**. Unless otherwise noted, these events will take place at VFW Post 160, located at 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060.

LA VFW Kid's Halloween Party

Saturday, October 24 from 1300 – 1500

MCL Detachment 1049 Monthly Meeting

Monday, October 26, 2009 @ 1900
Peter Pervi (410-987-3811)

Toys for Tots Kick-Off Meeting

Thursday, October 29 @ 1930
Peter Pervi (410-987-3811)

VFW Post 160 Monthly Breakfast

Sunday, November 1, 2009 from 0800 – 1200
Charles Albo (443-926-1665)

MCL Detachment 1049 Friday Night Dinner

Friday, November 6, 2009 from 1800 – 2000
Peter Pervi (410-987-3811)

Marine Corps' 234th Birthday

Tuesday, November 10, 2009 from 1800 – 2000
Peter Pervi (410-987-3811)

Veteran's Day Ceremonies

Crownsville Veterans' Cemetery
Wednesday, November 11, 2009 @ 1100
Woody Bowman (410-647-9655)

Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Saturday, November 14, 2009
Cocktail Hour..... 1800 – 1900
Ceremony..... 1900 – 1945
Dinner..... 1945 – 2045
Dancing/Socializing 2045 – 2300

James Brady (202-314-1782)
Mike Hadley (410-551-1596)

MCL Detachment 1049 Monthly Meeting

Monday, November 23, 2009 @ 1900
Peter Pervi (410-987-3811)

Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday, November 26, 2009

Toys for Tots – Individual Family Toy Pickup

Saturday, December 5, 2009 from 1000 – 2000
Peter Pervi (410-987-3811)

VFW Post 160 Monthly Breakfast

Sunday, December 6, 2009 from 0800 – 1200
Charles Albo (443-926-1665)

Toys for Tots – Individual Family Toy Pickup

Thursday, December 17, 2009 from 1000 – 2000
Peter Pervi (410-987-3811)

(see Coming Events on page 8)

The 234th Marine Corps Birthday



is approaching fast!

Be sure to mark your calendars
and plan to attend on

Saturday, November 14th

Contact either **James Brady** or **Mike Hadley**
for additional information

from Jim Le Gette, Legislative Officer

Legislative Report

As a part of the consideration of House of Representative's Bill, **HR 1428**, the Department of Veterans Affairs is reviewing the association of **Agent Orange** to a variety of illnesses associated with *herbicide exposure*. Among the illnesses under consideration is Parkinson's disease. The VA will consider reports received from the National Academies' Institute of Medicine and other medical and scientific information. (The Agent Orange Act is dated 1991) Questions about Agent Orange may be directed to the VA at 800-749-8387

The **Service Members' Rights Protection Act (HR 2696)**, which may be voted on this month, would allow service members to sue for violations of their rights protected under the Service-Members' Civil Relief Act.

For the first time in 16 years, certain members of the U.S. Congress will hold hearings and/or introduce legislation to repeal the law which bans service by openly gay persons in the U. S. Military. The current administration is reported to support the repeal of the ban.

from Ed Dahling, Public Information Officer

Public Information

Military Appreciation Monday

Golden Corral's 9th Annual Military Appreciation Monday Dinner will be held on **Monday, November 16, 2009**, from **5:00 to 9:00 PM** in all Golden Corral restaurants nationwide.

The free dinner meal is a special *thank you tribute* to anyone who has ever served in the United States Military. If you are a veteran, retired, currently serving, in the National Guard or Reserves, you are invited to be part of Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday Dinner. To date, Golden Corral restaurants have provided over 2.2 million free meals and contributed over \$3.3 million to the **Disabled American Veterans** organization.

Family and friends are welcome to come join the celebration for our military heroes; however, the free 'thank you' dinner is for the person who served, other guests must pay the regular dinner menu pricing. Visit www.goldencorral.com/locator for additional info.

from Ed Dahling, VAVS Officer

VA Volunteerism

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs made **amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)** a presumptively compensable illness for all Veterans with 90 days or more of continuous active service in the military. As a result, the VA can now pay disability compensation to Veterans with ALS. Their survivors are also eligible for VA benefits.

In an effort to provide this new and much needed support, the VA sent notification letters to Veterans with ALS advising them of their potential eligibility for disability compensation benefits. Unfortunately, a number of Veterans who should not have received this letter did. The VA is reviewing individual files to identify those who may have mistakenly received the letter.

VA employees are calling Veterans and their survivors to clarify the purpose of the letter, to explain why they mistakenly received the letter, and to express the VA's sincere apologies for any distress caused by their error.

from Vic Halme, Historian

Corps History

1775

5 October

Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the 2nd Continental Congress used the word "Marines" on one of the earliest known occasions, when it directed **General George Washington** to secure two vessels on "Continental risque and pay", and to give orders for the "proper encouragement to the Marines and seamen" to serve on the two armed ships.

1820

17 October

Archibald Henderson appointed Commandant...a position he held until his death, a period of 38 years.

1859

18 October

86 Marines, under 1st Lieutenant **Israel Green**, USMC and Lt. Colonel **Robert E. Lee**, USA, capture abolitionist **John Brown** at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

1880

1 October

John Phillip Sousa appointed 17th leader of the Marine Corps Band.

1899

8 October

A force of 375 Marines under command of future **Commandant George F. Elliott**, attacked and captured the insurgent town of Novaleta, Luzon, Phillipine Islands. There were 11 Marine casualties.

1917

9 October

The 8th Marines activated at Quantico, Virginia. The regiment would not see combat in Europe during World War I; however, the 8th Marines participated in operations against dissidents in Haiti for over five years during the 1920s. During World War II, the regiment was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division and participated in combat operations on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa, and earned three Presidential Unit Citations.

1918

14 October

Marine flyers, 2nd Lieutenant **Ralph Talbot** and Gunnery Sergeant **Robert G. Robinson**, win Medals of Honor.

1919

31 October

A patrol of Marines and gendarmes, led by Sergeant **Herman H. Hanneken**, disguised themselves as Cacos and entered the headquarters of the Haitian Caco Leader, **Charlemagne Peralte**, killing the bandit chief, and dispersing his followers. Sergeant **Hanneken** and Corporal **William R. Button** were each awarded the Medal of Honor.

(see *Corps History* on page 8)

Motor Convoy

(continued from page 1)

Ninety years later, the original event was commemorated by a convoy of restored military vehicles re-enacting the original event over a vastly improved series of interstate highways and roads.

The requirements that needed to be met in order for historic military vehicles (HMV) to participate included:

1. Participants could drive any era HMV on the route as long as it had been restored to its original military configuration and color – anything from a Model T to a Humvee and anything in between.
2. The HMV had to be in excellent mechanical condition.
3. The owner/operator had to have personal vehicle liability coverage.
4. Other than official convoy lead/chase/supply vehicles, no non-military vehicles were allowed.

Some significant points about the 2009 reenactment of the 1919 convoy are provided below.

- The convoy covered 3,250 miles per the 1919 mileage charts... traveling through 11 states and the District of Columbia.
- Completion of the trek took 26 days – 20 travel days and 6 rest days.
- A World War I vintage vehicle was on the road for every day of the convoy.
- Convoy stretched for 2 to 3 miles and often had police escorts. Police in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Indiana accompanied the convoy across the entirety of their states.
- Two people were encountered, who remembered the 1919 convoy!
- The convoy was able to travel over 1.1 miles of the original 1919 route.
- Convoy had to navigate through a herd of cattle just west of Austin, Nevada.
- The convoy also travelled along (over) sections of what were at one time, 'Pony Express' trails.

Ray Gonzales, a life member of our detachment and his Korean War era M-38 Jeep were among the participants in the 2009 Transcontinental Motor Convoy.

Unfortunately, personal commitments prevented Ray from participating in the entire convoy; however, he did participate in the first day's events, which took him from the Laurel Race Course, to Constitution Avenue in D.C., and ultimately Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, which was the rally point marking the end of the first day's travels.



*New members are our life's blood!
Try to recruit a new member.*

Corps Humor

Definition of Sex?

A U.S. Navy Captain was about to start the morning briefing to his staff. While waiting for the coffee machine to finish its brewing, the Captain decided to pose a question to all assembled.

He explained that his wife had been a bit frisky the night before and he failed to get his usual amount of sound sleep.

He posed the question of just how much of sex was 'work' and how much of it was 'pleasure?'

A Commander chimed in with 75-25% in favor of work.

A Lieutenant said it was 50-50%.

An Ensign responded with 25-75% in favor of pleasure, depending upon his state of inebriation at the time.

There being no consensus, the Captain turned to the Marine, who was in charge of making the coffee and asked for his opinion?

Without any hesitation, the young Marine responded, "Sir, it has to be 100% pleasure!"

The Captain was surprised and, as you might guess, asked why?

"Well, sir, if there was any work involved, the officers would have me doing it for them."



Coming Events

(continued from page 5)

VFW Post 160 Kids Christmas Party

Saturday, December 19, 2009 from 1300 – 1500

MODD Pound 204 Growl

Sunday, December 20, 2009 @ 1000

Paul Taylor (410-768-6288)

MCL Detachment 1049 Monthly Meeting & Christmas Party – Includes Ladies Auxiliary

Monday, December 21, 2009 @ 1900

Peter Pervi (410-987-3811)



Corps History

(continued from page 7)

1945

6 October

Major General Keller E. Rockey, Commanding General, III Amphibious Corps, accepted the surrender of 50,000 Japanese troops in North China on behalf of the Chinese Nationalist government.

1951

11 October

A Marine battalion was flown by transport helicopters to a frontline combat position for the first time, when HMR-161 lifted the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, and its equipment, during Operation Bumblebee, northeast of Yanggu, Korea.

1955

31 October

Lewis B. 'Chesty' Puller, who earned five Navy Crosses (and 1 Army Distinguished Service Cross), retired as a Lt. General.

1962

27 October

2nd Marine Division and 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing deployed during the Cuban missile crisis.

28 October

An 11,000-man 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade left Camp Pendleton for the Caribbean during the Cuban Missile Crisis. A week earlier, the entire 189,000-man Marine Corps had been put on alert and elements of the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions were sent to Guantanamo Bay. Other 2nd Division units and squadrons from five Marine Aircraft Groups were deployed at Key West, Florida, or in Caribbean waters during the crisis.

1968

19 October

Operation Maui Peak, a combined regimental-sized operation which began on 6 October, ended 11 miles northwest of An Hoa, Vietnam. More than 300 enemy were killed in the operation.

1983

23 October

At 0622 an explosive-laden truck slammed into the BLT headquarters building in Beirut, Lebanon, and took the lives of 241 Americans—including 220 Marines. This was the highest loss of life in a single day for Marines since D-Day on Iwo Jima in 1945.

25 October

Marines and Army intervene in Grenada, West Indies.

2001

1 October

General Peter Pace becomes first Marine to serve as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2005

1 October

Marines from Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, launch Operation Iron Fist against Iraqi insurgents in Anbar Province.



– HELP WANTED –



- Do you have a little Santa Claus in you?
- Do you like to see children happy?
- Do you enjoy working with your community, local businesses, churches, Boy and Girl Scouts, local government agencies, military organizations, and the Young Marines?
- Do you like to take on a challenge and make things happen?
- Do you look for satisfaction from a job well done and success?
- Are you willing to commit time in October, November and December?

If you can say **YES** to all of the above, I have a great opportunity for you!

Starting in calendar year 2010, we will need a replacement for 'yours truly' as the **Anne Arundel and Howard Counties Toys for Tots Coordinator**. The principle role of the coordinator is to plan, organize, coordinate, and execute the annual toy collection and distribution campaign within Anne Arundel and Howard Counties. The coordinator directly represents the **Marine Toys for Tots Foundation** and is the *sole authorized representative* in these two counties to raise funds and collect toys in support of the **U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program**. The coordinator is the local approving authority for the use of the Toys for Tots logo and for Toys for Tots fund-raising events. The coordinator conducts local community toy collection campaigns from **October 1st to December 22nd** each year. Working with military organizations/local social welfare agencies as well as other groups, churches, and philanthropic organizations, the distribution of toys to needy children of the community is normally completed by December 23rd.

I am looking for my replacement to *become involved* in the 2009 campaign and I will be fully committed to helping the new coordinator in the 2010 campaign. This approach will provide two years of joint coverage and experience to the new coordinator before assuming full responsibility.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Pete

Coats-for-Kids Campaign

Imagine not being able to send your young children to school because they do not have a coat to keep them warm. Imagine them shivering in their tee shirts while waiting for the school bus on a frosty January morning. Imagine being embarrassed because the only coat in your house is three sizes too large.

These scenarios are reality for too many needy Baltimore County youth. The **Fund for Social Welfare** is once again partnering with **The Volunteer Office of the Baltimore County Department of Social Services** to provide the coats and jackets that will keep these young people warm and comfortable this winter.

Our **Coats-for-Kids Campaign**, made possible through the generosity of donors such as yourself, is one of our most successful programs. Last year, despite the difficult financial times, more than 100 donors enabled us to distribute over 1,000 coats. Thus, we were able to help 400+ Baltimore County families including residents of two homeless shelters.

We would like to make this year's campaign even more of a success. In order to purchase more than 1,000 new children's coats and jackets we need to raise upwards of \$20,000. Please help us reach our goal by sending your check, made payable to the **Fund for Social Welfare**, today and annotated with the words "**Coats for Kids**" in the *memo field*. Mail your contribution to:

6401 York Road
Suite 1029
Baltimore, Maryland 21212

For more information about the campaign, please call our Volunteer Office at **410-853-3024** or send us an email at dward3@thr.state.md.us. With your assistance, we will be able to help more Baltimore County young people keep warm this winter.

Sincerely,

Deborah S. Ward

Director, Volunteer Office

Baltimore County Department of Social Services

Editor's Note

Although this appeal is not connected to our Toys for Tots effort, for those willing to participate, it does provide an additional opportunity to help needy children.

Flag Burner Pilloried by Vets

Editors Note – The article, which this piece is based upon, was originally published in the Times Union, Albany, N.Y. on September 28, 2009

Valley Falls, New York

After desecrating an American flag flown by the local VFW, a vandal was given three choices – get turned over to the police, go one-on-one in a fight with a seasoned war veteran, or be duct-taped to a flagpole for six hours with a sign around his neck pronouncing his alleged crime – flag burning.

It was the vandal's selection of the third option, a form of public humiliation with its roots dating to the Middle Ages, that would still have the small town buzzing a week after the 21-year-old was hunted down and taken into custody. The members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1938 were incensed enough to tie up the man last Sunday after they accused him of setting fire to a flag, which had previously flown over troops in Iraq before adorning the flag-staff in front of their building.

The flag-burner appeared intoxicated when he entered the VFW post on the day of the alleged act, Nick Normile, Post Commander and Vietnam War veteran said. When the man was refused service for not having a proper ID, he ran out of the building in a fit of anger. He cut the rope holding the flag and ignited it with a cigarette lighter.

Normile knew that the offender had to be taught a lesson; so, he went out hunting for him. When he was unable to find the flag-burner, he sought the help of the offender's uncle.

Once located and confronted, Normile stated that the vandal 'manned up' and he knew that he had punishment coming. Normile described the young man, whom he refused to identify, as feeling guilty and ashamed. "I told him to think about those kids in the foxhole, and how they had no one to set them free," Normile said. "It got to him, so I was satisfied. He showed a lot of remorse, and no attitude."

Two days later, Normile said the man was pilloried and forced to sit in the sun for six hours as towns-people gathered across the street for a youth soccer picnic. A sign was hung around his neck detailing what he had done. "He'll never disrespect the flag again, I can tell you that," Normile said on Friday.

Normile said he's been flooded with calls from media outlets since the event received attention from local TV stations and newspapers; however, he has declined appearances and gone on to say that he's not planning to let the story get any more attention. "I'm not trying to be some martyr or hero," Normile said. "I just did what I thought was right."

Patriotism is on open display in this village of about 500, the walls of a defunct railroad bridge near it's entrance now brightly colored red, white and blue. Most of the historical homes have American flags of their own hanging from porches, some also adorned with the 'Don't Tread on Me' flag popular with Tea Party activists.

Normile said the flag, whose pieces will be retired in a formal ceremony, had significant meaning. The VFW Auxiliary had been sending toiletries and other goods to soldiers in Iraq, who then sent back a flag that had flown over their bunker in appreciation. It was received with great attention and a ceremony.

State troopers and Rensselaer County sheriffs deputies said no charges had been filed by either the VFW post or the culprit.



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