



Newsletter

Marine Corps League, Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049

Volume Eight, Number Five

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May 2009

Neither Wind...Rain...Nor Hackers...

By Mac McNeir

Rain had fallen for days and this day (Monday, May 4th) was not to be much different. Pulling into the **Bay Hills Golf Course** parking area, I realized that if anything, today's weather was likely to be worse than I had hoped. The less than auspicious conditions did not bode well for our fund-raising aspirations and it was very likely that a large number of the tournament's participants would be no-shows. In fact, the only thing missing – as I stood exposed to the elements while pulling boxes of gift bags from my truck – was Noah barking the command to **“Form a column of two’s...”** as wild beasts paired up for their second trip on the ark.

But the Golf Gods failed to enter the fact that many of the participants were Marines into their equation! Marines, who more than lived up to their credo that mandates they **adapt, improvise, and overcome!** Bottom Line, 60 stalwart individuals of all ages, different shapes and sizes, and varying degrees of golfing talent came armed with the common goal of raising as much money as they could for the **Marines Helping Marines Program**. These golfers and a



One of fifteen foursomes taking advantage of a rare break in the rain. (Photo by Sally Gonzales)

team of highly dedicated volunteers from the **Marine Corps League's Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049** and **VFW Post 160** made this event far more successful than all of us dared hope – given the climatic conditions.

Much of the event's success was the result of financial support from organizations like **Quality Built Homes, Perry Building Services, the Rich Morton Auto Group,** and many other local enterprises such as **Harbour Liquors, the Bay Hills Staff, and Lauer's** of Rivera Beach. The size of our monetary contribution to **Marines Helping Marines** was further enhanced by the generosity of our prize winners, who donated large portions of their hard-earned prize monies to our cause.

Chairman **Rich Gonzales** and many members of his team worked long and hard for several months to make this event a success. Of special note is the fact that some members of the team, who prefer to remain anonymous, absorbed almost \$2,000 of the event's expenses. **The success of this event was truly a team effort!**

The 2009 Marines Helping Marines Team

The 2009 Marines Helping Marines Team

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Bill Teeples | Denny Bynum | Earl Parker | Ed Ross | Gary Barnett |
| James Brady | Ken Webster | Mac McNeir | Manny Airey | Michelle Ryan |
| Mike Hadley | Pam Stone | Pete Pervi | Sally Gonzales | Scott Mallicote |
| Tom Maiorana | Vic Halme | Woody Bowman | | |

NOTE – I've attempted to identify all of the team members as best as my aging memory would allow. If I forgot anyone, please be assured that the omission was the result of a senior moment and nothing more.

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Detachment Officers

Auxiliary President

Desiree Curtin

Commandant

Pete Pervi

Senior Vice-Commandant

James T. Brady

Junior Vice-Commandant

Woody Bowman

Judge Advocate

Manny Airey

Adjutant

Mac McNeir

By-Laws Committee Chairman

Danny Fischio

Chaplain

Ken Rollins

Color Guard Commander

Woody Bowman

Historian

Victor Halme

House Chairman

Ken Rollins

Legislative Officer

Jim Le Gette

Newsletter Editor

Mac McNeir

Paymaster

Mac McNeir

Public Information Officer

Ed Dahling

Quartermaster

Fred Kaminski

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain

Michael R. Hadley

Sergeant-at-Arms

Chris Kalwa

Toys for Tots Coordinator

Pete Pervi

VAVS Officer

Vacant

Web Sergeant

Michael R. Hadley

Young Marines Commander

George Martin

Young Marines Executive Officer

Vacant

From the Editor

Mac McNeir

Recently, I had an occasion to witness something that upset me tremendously! Something that I never thought I would witness, no matter how long I lived.

The sister of a recently deceased Marine was seeking assistance in obtaining her brother's DD-214 so that he might receive all of the military amenities due him. I became increasingly dismayed as I witnessed the young lady, who had taken the call, unsuccessfully attempt to get assistance from one detachment member after another.

This sorrowful chain of events, took its toll on me as I witnessed each Marine, who was approached for help, decline the opportunity to help the family of a deceased comrade...not to mention leaving the young lady, who should have been tending bar, to deal with a problem that was not really hers.

Nothing could be done due to the lateness of the hour; so, I asked our bartender to ask for the caller's name and telephone number so that I could speak with the caller in the morning.

The following morning, I made the call and inquired as to how I could help. I responded with instructions that I hope were of some value and the Marine's sister seemed appreciative of the information I was able to provide as well as the fact that someone had in fact returned her call. The call ended with my suggestion that she call me at home should she continue to have problems. As of this date, she has not called back, so I can only assume that her problem has been rectified.

Now, I am going to say something that will undoubtedly irritate some but let the chips fall where they may. Ask yourself, what detachment exemplifies the best character traits of being a Marine and the true spirit of Semper Paratus? Which detachment embraces the commitment stated as **No Marine Left Behind**? Our detachment (in light of the sequence of events described above) **or** the New York Detachments identified in the **New York Marines Leave No One Behind** article located on page 10.

My comments are not intended to be preachy or condemning. What they are intended to do is to point out that we need to be ever vigilant to the commitment that we made when we first took our oath as Marines. We have a duty...an obligation to go the extra mile to help our fellow Marines and members of their respective families whenever they find themselves in need and seek our help!

Will we always succeed in finding the ultimate solution?

Probably not; but, we must at least make the effort!

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

Commandant's Message



Pete Pervi

Marines,

First, I wish to thank you for your support and your willingness to put up with me for another year as your Commandant. Once again, I am fortunate to have such a strong team of officers to keep me out of trouble. Your Detachment officers for fiscal year 2009–2010 are identified below.

Senior Vice CommandantJames T. Brady
 Junior Vice CommandantElwood H. Bowman Jr.
 Judge AdvocateEmanuel L. Airey

Also I want to thank all of the Marines, who have agreed to give of their time to the Detachment by serving in the various staff positions. I feel truly privileged working with members like these volunteers.

We had a great Department Convention. There was a general agreement amongst all of the Detachments and Pounds that this year was one of the best conventions in Department history.

All Marines understand the concept of unit pride and cohesiveness. Our detachment, through our members, has been recognized by MCL Department of Maryland in every possible category for leadership, excellence, dedication, and team-work. As you will see in this newsletter, the reason I'm popping the buttons from my uniform shirt is because of my sense of PRIDE, not my consumption of beer and chow.

Members of our detachment are also assuming more leadership roles at the Department level, where **Ed Ross** has been elected **Junior Vice Commandant** and **Jim Brady** has been elected **Judge Advocate**. For the second consecutive year, the Maryland Pack is being lead by our very own **Mike Hadley**, who was elected **Pack Leader**. Once again the quality training of mongrels and pups has been entrusted to **Ed Ross**, the **Pack Mad Dog**.

Besides the pride of being a member of Detachment 1049, every member in the detachment is lucky to have great mentors available to help those who are interested in making a difference in the Marine Corps League, the Military Order of the Devil Dogs and the lives of fellow Marines and their families.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to **Rich Gonzales**, chairman and organizer of this year's **Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament** and all of the volunteers for making it a success – in spite of the fact that we played through a nor'easter. **GREAT JOB!**

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on **Monday, May 18, 2009**. Remember, this month **we meet a week earlier than normal** as **Memorial Day** is being celebrated on **May 25th**.

On a disappointing note, the proposed excursion to the **8th & I Marine Barracks Evening Parade** appears to be out of the question for this year. We came close to obtaining 50 tickets for the Friday, July 24th parade; unfortunately, we lost out to another group. Consequently, every ticket for groups of 10 or more, has already been committed for the 2009 parade season. Individual tickets may become available later in the summer; but, there isn't a single ticket available for now.

Semper Fi,

Pete

Commandant

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

From the desk of the

Senior Vice Commandant



James T. Brady

Semper Fidelis, Woof Woof, Hello, and Good Day to You, etc., etc., etc.

By now, some of you have probably heard about the goings-on at the **MCL Department Convention** and the involvement of league members from **Detachment 1049**. As you probably expect, I will now add my two cents worth by expressing my humble opinion. Last month I said that *“Our Detachment is very active in and supportive of the Marine Corps League and that all of us should be very proud to be members of this Detachment.”* Well, here are a few achievements of which you should be proud:

- Guy Hall awarded Department of MD “Marine of the Year”
- Mike Hadley awarded Department (Pack) “Dog of the Year”
- Pete Pervi awarded Department “Detachment Commandant of the Year”
- Jim Brady (Me) elected as **Department Judge Advocate** for fiscal year 2009-2010
- Ed Ross elected as **Department Jr Vice Commandant** for fiscal year 2009-2010
- Ken Rollins recipient of the **4 Chaplains Award**
- Annapolis Young Marines served as color guard – Their superb performance earned them a beautiful plaque from the Department and a standing ovation from those in attendance at the Saturday night banquet.

After all is said and done, I don’t believe that this has ever happened in the history of the MCL – all three top awards earned by members of the same Detachment! We all should be very proud of Guy, Mike, and Pete and extend our heartfelt congratulations to them as their achievements reflect well upon our detachment and its members.

Last Sunday, April 26th, was our combined **“Day at the Races”** co-hosted with members of the **Men’s Auxiliary** of the **VFW**. It was a pleasure to see so many **Detachment 1049** members in attendance and helping out with the affair. The effort and support netted our detachment nearly **\$650.00** in profit. Our Paymaster will probably have more to say about this; but like I said, it was an enjoyable and fun-filled afternoon – and **NO, I did not win any money!**

On Monday, May 4th, 2009, we conducted our **4th Annual Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament** and although it rained throughout the entire day, the tournament was another huge success. Kudos are well deserved by **Chairman Rich Gonzales** and his staff of many, who made significant contributions in time and effort. The proceeds from this event appear to have exceeded those realized by the previous tournaments. A final accounting for the event will be provided at our next meeting, which is being held on **Monday, May 18th, 2009**.

One other interesting event took place at the **Devil Dog’s Pack Growl** held at the MCL Convention. I was appointed Defense Attorney for a fellow Dog (new pup), who stood accused of *failing to protect the Mad Dog* (Ed Ross). My eloquent orations, skullduggery, and ability to manipulate the truth resulted in **my client being acquitted of all of his alleged crimes!** Acquittals are not only very rare, it appears that this is the **first acquittal within the Maryland Pack jurisdiction**. Previously, all charged Dogs (new pups) were convicted of their crimes and fined many big bones (money). The flip-side of my client’s victory is that the Mad Dog (Ed Ross) is now even madder – if that’s possible; so, this may be my last article for the newsletter, as I may fall victim to an accident in the very near future (ha ha ha).

Semper Fidelis & Woof Woof

Jim Brady

(aka Private Pound Puppy)

Senior Vice Commandant & PDD



From the desk of the
President

Hello Everyone!

I hope these words are reaching you all in great health and good spirits. I would like to thank all of you for a great year and for your continued support for the upcoming year. We have been very busy and steadily on the go! I would like to welcome three new ladies to our unit, **Anita Jennings**, the daughter of **Paul Taylor**; **Dawn Kral**, the wife of **Tim Kral**; and **Nancy Racheleau**, the wife of **Thomas Rocheleau** – all of whom were at the Ocean City Convention.

Speaking of the convention, congratulations go out to our guys who really racked up the awards this year at the banquet. And ladies, we were presented with a “**Certificate of Appreciation**” from our **Department President, Chris Fay**. Chris gives you a big thanks for all of your hard work and support for the past year and she is looking forward to working with us again as she has been re-elected as Department President!

I would also like to announce that I have been selected as our new **Department Secretary**. I view this as a great opportunity and I am thrilled to take on the challenges this new year has to offer. I will do my best to stay on top of things; but, I can't possibly do any of this without the support of the great ladies in this unit!

A great big hug and thank you to **Nyla**! I don't think she slept a wink in Ocean City! She is such a hard worker and an asset to us all! So please give her a great big pat on the back! Nyla also raised money for the **Marines Helping Marines program** while we were having so much fun at the convention.

Also, a few more good ladies are always needed and greatly appreciated so please rack your brain for anyone who would be eligible to join us! Any crafty ladies out there want to get together with me to work on a scrap book for our unit? If so, please call me so we can get started! I found a great book to use and will be glad to take in any scrap booking supplies you have laying around as a donation for the book! Any pictures anyone has would be a great big help as well!

Thank You All So Much!

Desiree' Curtin

Auxiliary President

Coming Events

In addition to the normally scheduled **detachment meetings that generally take place on the 4th Monday of every month**, the following events are scheduled to occur through June of 2009. Unless otherwise noted, these events will take place at VFW Post 160, located at 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060.

Detachment 1049 Staff Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2009 @ 7:30 PM
(Pete Pervi)

☆ Detachment 1049 Meeting

Monday, May 17, 2009 @ 7:30 PM
(Pete Pervi)

Memorial Day – Posting of Colors (Color Guard)

American Legion Post 276
8068 Quarterfield Road
Severn, MD 21144
Monday, May 25, 2009 @ 9:00 AM
(Woody Bowman)

Memorial Day – Posting of Colors (Color Guard)

Crownsville Veterans Cemetery (410-987-6320)
1122 Sunrise Beach Road
Crownsville, MD 21032
Monday, May 25, 2009 @ 11:00 AM
(Woody Bowman)

Dept of Pennsylvania Pistol Match

Fort Indiantown Gap, PA
Friday May 29 – Sunday, 31 May, 2009
(Mike Hadley)

VFW Monthly Breakfast

Sunday, June 7, 2009 (9:00 – 11:00 AM)
(Charles Albo)

☆ *This month's meeting is being held a week earlier due to the Memorial Day Holiday being celebrated on the 25th.*



Corps Quotation...

"Courage is endurance for one moment more..."

Unknown Marine 2nd Lieutenant in Vietnam

The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League



Military Order of Devil Dogs

Woof-Woof,

Pound 204 held a very successful Growl last month. As always, your detachment came through again with a great breakfast. Dogs were donating bone after bone; we initiated a new Pup (**Stan Grosky** from **SSgt Taylor Detachment**); and everyone seemed to have had a very good time!

The **Pack of Maryland** held a super initiation and **Grand Growl** on May 1st in Ocean City. We initiated two new Pups and advanced 15 Pups to Devil Dog. **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049** ran away with most of the individual awards. My heartfelt congratulations to **PDD Denny Bynum, Pound 204 Dog of the Year**, and **PDD Mike Hadley, Maryland Pack Dog of the Year**. Additionally, **PDD Guy Hall** picked up **Department Marine of the Year**. I have never seen a more deserving litter. Congratulations again!

We also held Pack elections with the following results: **Pack Leader-PDD Mike Hadley; Senior Vice-PDD Bob Flick** (Pound 302); **Junior Vice-DD Don Benson** (Pound 333); **Smart Dog-DD Jerry Brown** (Pound 333); **Mad Dog-PDD Ed Ross; Dog Trainer-DD Ray Ayres** (Pound 333); **Police Dog-DD Stuart Blair**. The Worthy Pack Leader appointed the following officers: **Barking Dog-PDD Jim Brady; Watch Dog-PDD Manny Airey; Mascot Handler-Pup Mac McNeir; Dog Robber-PDD Paul Taylor**. By looking at the number of Pack offices filled by Pound 204, you can understand why the Dogs in this Pound pick up so many of the awards.

Pound 204 continues to have two dogs, whose 2009 dues are in arrears, making the Pound look bad in the eyes of the Pack and Kennel. Neither of them responds to the many notices I've sent them; so, they will soon be dropped from the roles of the Order and not allowed to attend Growls or wear the distinguished Devil Dog patch on their Marine Corps League cover. Thankfully neither of them is from your detachment.

As always, keep the fleas at a safe distance.

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

Paul Taylor

PDD & Dog Robber



The back row—where crunching beer cans were not heard.
(All photos on the next two pages by Mac McNeir)



Winner of the dog treat tasting contest with his entourage.



Pete Pervi testing a new appetite suppression device.



Nyla and Desiree performing a quality control evaluation of the Hospitality Suite beverages



Harford County Marines obviously adhere to a different uniform code



George Martin doing his best to resist the advances of Mike Hadley and the snide remarks of Ed Ross



Jack Severn instructing the soon to be Devil Dogs about the importance of flea collars and distemper shots



Jack Severn reacts to a bizarre proposition from a not-so-sweet young thing from Harford County



Ed Ross keeps Phil Schwarzenberg busy while Pete Pervi attempts an escape



Mike Hadley instructing Phil Schwarzenberg on the proper wearing of coconut shell brassieres



Mike Hadley asking George Martin what happened to his bikini bottoms



Elaine has obviously left Brady alone for far too long



Mike Hadley asking Pete Pervi to explain why his doughnut is all wet

Remembering Our Own



On Friday, May 1st, Marine **Gary Neiswecki** was memorialized at VFW Post 160 by members of the **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049** of the Marine Corps League. Gary was assigned to **HMX-1** (Presidential Helicopter Transport Squadron) and had also served at Camp David during his enlistment in the Corps' during the 1980's.

The memorial service was led by former Commandant **Steve Salanik**, Chaplain **Ken Rollins** and Sergeant-at-Arms **Chris Kalwa**. Military honors were rendered by an honor guard of four Marines, from Baltimore. Approximately fifty people attended to pay their respects – many from the Secret Service, where Marine Neiswecki was assigned to the Counter Sniper Team and the Central Intelligence Agency. Friends of Gary celebrated his life through remarks about the relationships and experiences they had shared with him.

Jim Le Gette and **Margaret Ehrlich** contributed significantly to the success of this event by overseeing the activities at the Post that included refreshments for the attendees immediately after the ceremony.



Editor's Note – the following note was sent to Jim Le Gette by Jim Galvin, staff member of the U.S. Secret Service.

Jim,

On behalf of the Rowley Training Center and the former and current members of the Secret Service Counter Sniper Unit, I would like to personally thank you for your support and guidance in making Gary's Memorial Service a success. I would also like to thank Detachment 1049 and the VFW Staff especially Margaret and her crew for facilitating refreshments at the bar, as well as the Chaplin, Steve and Chris for assisting with the service. In difficult times such as these, it is comforting to know that folks like all of you are there to provide such exemplary service and support for our veterans.

Please let me know if there's anything I can do for you in the future.

Jim Galvin



Jim Galvin speaking at memorial service honoring Marine Gary Neiswecki.
(Photo by Margaret Ehrlich)

Legislative Report

from Jim Le Gette, Legislative Officer

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs announced the launching of a new website, www.veterans.maryland.gov which will feature user-friendly navigation, up-to-date features and comprehensive information to serve veterans and their loved ones.

The Maryland VA has also offered website: www.mdva.state.md.us, which offers educational opportunities, veteran memorials information and an online version of their biannual newsletter.

Because of past difficulties, the processing of military retired and annuitant pay will be taken away from Lockheed Martin and will be performed by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, starting in early 2010. The change was brought about by the "lax oversight of the work" by Lockheed Martin as accused by lawmakers last year.

The U.S. House of Representatives Veterans' Affairs Committee has approved a bill (HR 1377), which will expand situations allowing the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to reimburse emergency treatment for veterans at non-VA hospitals for a condition not related to military service. The VA will pay the costs even if there may be other insurance that could cover the cost. The chief advocates of this bill are hospitals that don't want to discharge or transfer veterans when it is not in the veteran's best interest.



Two Brothers

by Mac McNeir



Marco Le Gette Chris Le Gette
(Photos from Jim Le Gette)

This is a tale of two brothers. An unusual tale of two men, Chris and Marco Le Gette, who embody the following quotation.

"There's no other love like the love for a brother. There's no other love like the love from a brother."

Astrid Alauda

The younger of these sons of Jim and Rita Le Gette, Marco, is a Marine Corps Captain and artillery officer, who recently completed his second tour in Iraq. In July, he will report to the Naval Weapons Station in Seal Beach, California, where he will serve in the role of Inspector/Instructor.

His older brother, Chris, is about to undertake an arduous adventure that is the embodiment of one brother's love for the other. He will be taking part in a fund-raising event titled *Coast to Coast for My Marines*, which is a 49 day bicycle trip spanning the United States. The trip will begin on May 9th in Los Angeles, California and conclude on June 27th in Boston, Massachusetts. Chris states that he has several reasons for taking part in this event. Among them are:

- raising funds for The Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund (IMSFF);
- publicizing the sacrifices made by members of the Corps in protecting America; and,
- recognizing the accomplishments of Marine Artillery Battalion 1/12.



During his journey, Chris will wear a bike jersey designed and produced by retired USAF Master Sergeant Patrick Morrow. Chris is also being supported by local USAF cyclist Lt. Colonel Theodore Wilson and a Marine of another era, Mr. Robert Post.

If you wish to contribute to this fund-raising effort and need additional information, either visit the **IMSFF** website at www.semperfifund.org or see the *Coast to Coast for My Marines* poster (with tear-off donation forms) on the detachment bulletin board.

A fitting conclusion for this article is provided by another quotation descriptive of the special bond that exists between brothers...

"Sometimes being a brother is even better than being a superhero."

Marc Brown



Information for this article was obtained from the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund website and a very proud dad – Jim Le Gette.

Chaplain's Corner

from Ken Rollins, Detachment Chaplain

The chaplain's duty at our detachment is important to all of us. Please notify me as soon as possible regarding any sickness, distress, or demise of any Marine or Marine family members. Remember, I can only perform my duties effectively if I am kept informed. My contact information is provided as follows.

101 S. Longcross Road
Linthicum Heights, Md. 21090
410-859-1325



SHOW YOUR PRIDE
Wear Your Medals on Memorial Day!



New York Marines Leave No One Behind

This condensed and edited article was based upon a letter submitted to the Sgt Grit, American Courage Newsletter #199 and reprinted with the permission of Public Relations Officer for the Department of New York, Al Cavallo. Please read the *From the Editor column* on page 2 of this newsletter for a related article.

The day started out with a raw, misty rain; however, this was the day that many of us Marines had waited for. The weather would not be a factor for us, as we were Marines. Marines, who had previously assembled for missions on the hot sands of Iwo Jima, on the frozen terrain of Korea's Chosin Reservoir, engulfed by the steamy jungles of Viet Nam, and surrounded by the stifling deserts of Iraq.

This was the day that Private Henry Landry was to be buried with full military honors after languishing in the city morgue for 10 months, waiting to be identified.

Marine Landry passed away in a single-room-only (SRO) apartment, in New York City last June, without having any known family or next of kin. In most cases, the Medical Examiner would have sent the Private's remains to "Potters Field" for burial; however, our New York State Commandant, John Rymer was called by NYPD Detective Lee who had responded to the initial call. The ME was contacted and told to hold onto Pvt. Landry's remains.

At the time of his death, the only ID that Pvt. Landry possessed was a card from the VA, which claimed he was a Marine. At this point, both our State Sr. Vice Commandant, Dennis Tobin, and I were contacted to get Pvt. Landry identified and buried in the National Cemetery.

Working with the Kennedy-Roth Funeral Home from Woodside, Queens, the identification process was initiated. The brunt of the assignment was undertaken by Funeral Director Anna Michaelides, who spent many hours working with the NYPD, FBI, Medical Examiner, VA, St. Louis Records, and the New York Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs. The final piece of the identity puzzle was fit into place, when NYPD Missing Person Detective Ramirez subsequently visited the SRO with a picture of Pvt. Landry, and located a tenant who recognized the deceased Marine.

Soon after, permission was given to bury our brother Marine in Calverton National Cemetery. Word was passed to our membership and to the general public about the pending funeral and memorial ceremony. Private Landry's funeral procession was escorted by the Patriot Guard Riders from Woodside, Queens to Calverton. Once on the Long Island Expressway, five escort vehicles from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department joined the procession to the cemetery.

Many members of League Detachments from the New York Metro area were in attendance – including our State Commandant, members of the Long Island Veterans Association, and an Honor Guard of active duty Marines from the 6th Communications Battalion.

The memorial ceremony was conducted by State Sr. Vice Commandant, Dennis Tobin; the Firing Detail was provided by the Suffolk County Detachment; while, the Color Guard was supplied by the Staten Island and North Shore Queens Detachments. Taps was played by Marine David Hill of the North Shore Queens Detachment. The casket and hearse were generously supplied to the League by James Dimiceli of the Kennedy-Roth Funeral Home in Woodside, Queens.

The flag, previously draping Private Landry's coffin, was presented to Funeral Director Anna Michaelides as a symbol of appreciation for all of the work she performed to make this mission a success.

The misty, raw, rain stopped as we laid our brother to rest.



NY State Commandant John Rymer conducting the MCL Service
(Photo provided by Al Cavallo, Public Relations Officer, MCL Dept. of New York)



Corps History

from Vic Halme, Historian

2 May 1946

Marines from Treasure Island Marine Barracks, under the command of Warrant Officer Charles L. Buckner, helped suppress the three-day prison riot at Alcatraz Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay. WO Buckner, a veteran of the Bougainville and Guam campaigns, ably led his force of Marines without suffering a single casualty.

3 May 1898

Lt. Williams leads Marines from the U.S.S. Baltimore and raises the Stars and Stripes over the Cavite Naval Station.

5 May 1983

In Beirut, Lebanon, a UH-1N helicopter carrying the commander of the American peace-keeping force, Colonel James Mead, was hit by machine gun fire. Colonel Mead and his crew had taken off in the helicopter to investigate artillery and rocket duels between rival Syrian-backed Druze Moslem militiamen and Christian Phalangists that endangered French members of the multinational force. The six Marines aboard escaped injury.

6 May 1937

Marines at NAS Lakehurst helped rescue Hindenburg survivors.

6 May 1946

Commandant Archibald Vandergrift tells Senate Naval Affairs Committee that 'the bended knee is not a tradition of our Corps.'

8 May 1995

In the wake of the most devastating storm to hit the New Orleans area in more than 200 years, a group of Marines and sailors from Marine Forces Reserve demonstrated the quick response synonymous with the Navy/Marine Corps team. Within 24 hours of being called, Marines assisted in the evacuation of 2,500 civilians, and Navy Corpsmen treated scores of flood victims.

10 May 1945

The 22nd Marines, 6th Marine Division, executed a pre-dawn attack south across the Asa River Estuary and seized a bridgehead from which to continue the attack toward Naha, the capital of Okinawa.

14 May 1917

The first Marine detachment transferred from Annapolis to a new Marine post at Quantico, VA.

15 May 1862

Corporal John Mackie, the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor, was commended for service on the USS GALENA during action against Confederate shore batteries at Drewry's Bluff which blocked the James River approaches to Richmond.

15 May 1916

Marine Battalion begins occupation of the Dominican Republic.

16 May 1945

The 22nd and 29th Marines continued the attack against Half Moon Hill, a day characterized by the 6th Marine Division as the "bitterest" of the Okinawa campaign. By the 18th, the famed "Shuri line" had been breached.

20 May 1906

Major John A. Lejeune embarked his battalion for duty in Panama.

22 May 1912

First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham, the first Marine officer to be assigned to "duty in connection with aviation" by Major General Commandant William P. Biddle, reported for aviation training at the Naval Aviation Camp at Annapolis, Maryland. Marine aviation had its official beginning.

23 May 1948

First Marines brought ashore by helicopter for amphibious exercise at New River, North Carolina.

23 May 1988

The V-22 Osprey, the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft, made its debut during rollout ceremonies at Bell Helicopter Textron's Arlington, Texas, facility. More than 1,000 representatives from the military, industry, and media, gathered to hear various speakers, including Gen Alfred Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps, praise the versatile rotor craft designed to meet the needs of 21st Century battlefields.

26 May 1969

Operation Pipestone Canyon began when the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines began sweeps in the Dodge City/Go Noi areas southwest of Da Nang. It terminated at the end of June with 610 enemy killed in action at a cost of 34 Marines killed.

29 May 1991

Elements of a joint task force that included the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade departed the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Bangladesh after nearly two weeks of disaster relief operations following a devastating cyclone. The joint task force delivered tons of relief supplies using helicopters, C-130s, and landing craft in Operation Sea Angel.

30 May 1997

Marines help evacuate 2,500 from Kinshasa, Zaire.

31 May 1900

Marines reach Chinese capital to defend Legation Quarter from Boxer rebellion.



Appropriate Attire

Recently, I was asked if the detachment could publicize the appropriate dress for our detachment functions. Consultation with a cross-section of detachment officers has resulted in the publication (restatement) of the following uniform requirement.

The only required attire for meetings and most detachment functions is the Marine Corps League red cover.

Appropriate dress for individual social functions is generally well advertised in advance of the event and stated on the associated announcements. For that reason, no additional actions will be taken with regard to disseminating specific dress requirements.

Detachment officers will receive word from the Commandant, on an as necessary basis, should there be a need for a specific uniform.



New VA Official

Source: Navy Times article – 4 May 2009

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a new, high-profile chief messenger: disabled Iraq war veteran Tammy Duckworth. Duckworth, who lost both legs in 2004 in Iraq when her helicopter was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade, was confirmed by the Senate as VA's assistant secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs. She will deal with Congress, veterans and their families, the news media, and the public.

Duckworth will report to VA Secretary Eric Shinseki, a retired four-star general and former Army chief of staff who is a disabled Vietnam veteran. Veterans' Affairs Committee chairman said Duckworth "can begin the long and hard work of improving the department's reputation and relations across the country." Iraq veteran Jon Soltz, who heads the group VoteVets.org, called the appointment a milestone: "We now have one of our own – a veteran of the wars we are now in – in a top administration position."



Public Information Officer

from Ed Dahling PIO

On Memorial Day, veterans, active military, family, and friends across the country will come together to reflect, thank and honor all who have given their lives to protect our country, along with all who have served, and all who continue to serve our great nation.



Please join us in taking part in the many events and parades in honor of Memorial Day.





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A retired 1st Division veteran of the ‘Frozen Chosin’ drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he pushed it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left. Looking in his rear-view mirror, he suddenly noticed the state trooper behind him – blue lights flashing and siren blaring.

He floored it! His speedometer indicated more than 100 mph and it continued to climb...110...120... Suddenly he thought, ‘What am I doing? I’m too old for this!’ He pulled over to await the trooper’s arrival.

Pulling in behind him, the trooper walked up to the Corvette, looked at his watch and said, ‘Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a reason for speeding that I have never heard before, I’ll let you go.’

The aging but still sharp Marine paused and said, ‘Several years ago, my wife ran off with a State Trooper. Today, when I looked into my rear-view mirror and saw you chasing me, I was gripped with an overwhelming fear that you were that trooper and attempting to bring her back.’

‘Have a good day, Sir,’ replied the trooper as he turned and began to walk back to his patrol car.

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(Address Correction Requested)



*An M198 155mm Howitzer (range—approximately 18 miles) providing supporting fire for the 24th MEU somewhere in Iraq.
[An excerpt from *Semper Fi*, by Col. H. Avery Chenoweth, USMCR (Retired) with Col. Brooke Nihart, USMC (Retired) and published by Main Street,
a division of Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. of New York.]*