

*the* **CUTTING EDGE**

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

Mac McNeir, Commandant & Editor / <http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

# A New Chapter Begins...

NOTE – This story is based upon an article by Gina Cavallaro, posted online by the Marine Corps Times on October 22, 2010.



General James Amos receives the Marine Corps Colors from General James T. Conway during a change-of-command ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington on October 22, 2010. Conway relinquished command of the Marine Corps to Amos, who became the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps. [Photo by Corporal Joseph A. Cabrera]

On October 22nd, a crisp, fall morning on the historic ceremonial grounds at Marine Barracks Washington, **General Jim Amos** took command of the United States Marine Corps, becoming the 35th Commandant in the Corps' 235-year history. After taking the colors from outgoing **General James Conway**, Amos' first pronouncement reflected the electricity in the air and the chorus of "Ooo-rah's" ringing out from the stands.

"If I said I was about to jump out of my skin right now, it would be an understatement," said Amos, who just minutes before stood on the parade field alone and silent, poised to begin his new job.

In the front row, his wife **Bonnie** smiled and held back tears.

## CONTENTS...

- Barracks Set for Security Overhaul ..... 11
- Before I Forget ..... 4
- Birthdays ..... 15
- Bombastic Bumper ..... 12
- Chaplain's Corner ..... 3
- Coming Events ..... 15
- Commandant's Message (Detachment) ..... 4
- Commandant's Message (Marine Corps) ... 3
- Commandant's Message (MCL) ..... 3
- Corps History ..... 14
- Corps Humor ..... 15
- Featured Foto ..... 16
- From the Editor ..... 2
- Good Intent? Bad Aim! ..... 5
- Have You Heard? ..... 8
- Junior Vice Commandant ..... 5
- Legislative Report ..... 5
- Lest We Forget... ..... 13
- List of Officers ..... 2
- Membership Stats & Renewals ..... 2
- Ooops ..... 5
- Photos, Birthday Ball ..... 10
- Photos, Birthday Happy Hour ..... 9
- Public Information ..... 9
- Quotation ..... 15
- Senior Vice Commandant ..... 4
- Something Surprising ..... 12
- Veterans Affairs ..... 7

(see New Chapter... on page 12)

# the CUTTING EDGE

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 Web Sergeant – *Michael R. Hadley*  
 Young Marines Commander – *George Martin*



## 2010 Award Winner

Marine Corps League  
National Newsletter Competition  
(Detachments of more than 100 Members)

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



## From the Editor

by Mac McNeir

Don't have much to say this month except that newsletter inputs from the membership are always welcome and I hope that many of you had an opportunity to be part of the Happy Hour and 235th Birthday Ball celebrations.

*Be sure to keep me apprised of your current email addresses.*

The submission deadline for all **December** newsletter articles is no later than **MIDNIGHT, Wednesday, December 15, 2010.**



## Membership Stats

Detachment Membership Stats – 10/31/2010			
Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	73	9	6
Annual Memberships	32	6	–
Delinquent Dues			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	7	2	–
New Members			
	1	–	–
Sub-Totals			
	113	17	6
Total			
	136		

## Renewals Coming Due

*Please note that members, who have not paid their dues since 2009, will be dropped from the roster during their anniversary month in 2011!*

The following members, whose membership renewal dates are approaching, should consider becoming Life Members.

RENEWALS		
December 2010	January 2011	February 2011
Blanton, Donald Lowman, Michael Russell, William	Bixler, Russ Wood, Scott	Albo, Charles Grove, Charles Hutton, James Stone, Sinamin Thompson, Chris Wright, Joseph

*Note – Delinquent members, those whose dues are now overdue, are not listed above. Those members will be contacted by the Junior Vice Commandant.*

# New Corps Commandant's Birthday Message



*NOTE – The following is the first birthday message published by General James F. Amos, as Commandant of the Marine Corps.*

Sixty years ago, the United States Marine Corps — as it has throughout our history — demonstrated its vital role as America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness. Just weeks after North Korean Communist forces crossed the 38th Parallel, the First Marine Provisional Brigade landed in South Korea, forming the backbone of the perimeter around the city of Pusan. The efforts of the "Fire Brigade" at Pusan allowed for the daring amphibious landing at Inchon and set the stage for one of the most savage campaigns in our Corps' history — the Chosin Reservoir. As we pause to celebrate our 235th Birthday, we pay special tribute to the Marines of the Korean War and recognize their contributions to our enduring legacy.

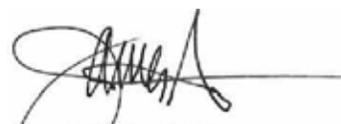
This past year marked the end of Marine Corps combat operations in Iraq. Beginning with the invasion in March 2003 and through the next seven years of fighting, our Corps acquitted itself valiantly in the Anbar province and throughout the country. Locations such as Fallujah and Ramadi have taken their place in the illustrious battle history of our Corps. Our efforts in defeating the insurgency helped to build a brighter future for all Iraqis.

For 235 years, at sea and ashore, Marines have succeeded in every clime and place...where hardship and adversity have often been the common thread. Today, in the rugged mountains and valleys of Afghanistan — and recently in earthquake-damaged Haiti...in flood-ravaged Pakistan...or off the coast of Africa — we continue to protect our Nation, just as we did 60 years ago in Korea.

To the Marines and Sailors deployed overseas, to those training and preparing for their next deployment and to the warriors who no longer wear our uniform...we honor your selfless service to the Nation. To our loved ones who endure the many difficulties that come with being part of the Marine Family, I want to extend my sincerest thanks for all you have done and all you continue to do.

Happy 235th Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,



James F. Amos  
General, U.S. Marine Corps

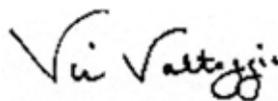
# MCL Commandant's Birthday Message

Marines,

As we prepare to celebrate the 235th Birthday of our beloved Corps, we should step back and reminisce about our own time of service and that of friends we remember. As the years go by, the one constant that remains is the pride of service to our Corps. It does not matter if your time was a single enlistment or you were there for the total package. It means something to all of us to wear the title 'United States Marine'. You have earned a place in the glorious history of our Corps and it can never be taken from you. It is your legacy.

So lift your glasses one and all and drink a toast to the Men and Women who still stand tall...Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis and God Bless America.



Vic Voltaggio  
National Commandant  
Marine Corps League



*New members are  
our life's blood! Recruit  
new members!*



## Chaplain's Corner

*by Mac McNeir for Chaplain Ken Webster*

Please keep our extended family members, mentioned below, in your thoughts and prayers. Please contact me at either of the following numbers as soon as you learn of any member or family member, who is sick, in distress, etc. — **410-255-0741** (home) or **443-618-9641** (cell).

**Dick Savage** is now home recovering from recent cataract surgery.

Detachment Chaplain **Ken Webster** is recovering from back miseries and is undergoing physical therapy.

**George Martin's** brother-in-law, **Robert Blackwell** passed away recently. Please keep **George**, his wife **Fran**, her late brother's wife **Delma**, and their family in your prayers.



# Commandant's Message



Mac McNeir

## 235th Birthday Message

Celebrating the 235th Birthday of our beloved Corps should rightfully be a festive time; however, the joyous nature of our celebration should be tempered with the realization that today there are, once again, many Marines in harm's way.

Regular visits with some of our current crop of young heroes being treated at the Bethesda National Naval Medical Center and their families, remind me of what it means to be a Marine. We, the Marines of bygone eras, who served in hostile environments during our own tours of duty, should be reassured by the knowledge that our service has added to the history and traditions of our Corps. Similarly, those Marines, who did not serve under fire, should proudly take pride in their contributions and their preparedness to answer our nation's call... even though it never came.

Those wounded warriors and currently serving Marines, who I have had the honor of meeting, have reinforced my belief that our Corps remains in good hands. Their valor, their dedication, and their resilience is remarkable. Equally as remarkable is the commitment and devotion displayed daily by their families and loved ones.

Let us all go forward with the knowledge that the sacrifices and accomplishments of our generation have added luster to the legacy of Marines like Hershel 'Woody' Williams, Sherrod Skinner, Jimmie Howard, Jason Dunham, and many others who preceded us. Let us also recognize that our Corps will be well served through the achievement and sacrifice of today's Marines because they share the warrior ethos of their predecessors... Marines of legend and lore and countless others who served in heroic anonymity.

May God bless all those who have ever earned or will earn the right to wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor... may God also bless those who remain at home maintaining silent vigils, cloaked with the burden of uncertainty while praying for their loved ones... and may God continue to bless America in these uncertain times!

Happy 235<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Semper Fi!

Commandant  
Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049  
Marine Corps League

From the desk of the

# Senior Vice Commandant



Chris Thompson

Hello fellow Marines,

I just returned from our detachment's 235<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and would like to report that my wife and I had a wonderful time. There were some very emotional speeches given, and I believe most of us Marines felt that burning inside that is known as "Esprit de Corps".

It was great to see all of you who attended, and for those of you who were not able to attend, hopefully we'll see you there next year.

Semper Fi,

**Chris Thompson**



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## Before I Forget...

From the muddled Mind of Mac McNeir

Thanks are in order for **Chris and Michelle Thompson, Joyce Lathrop, Michelle Ryan, Chris Stephens, Pam Stone** and **Cheryl Lipscomb** for the **Veterans' Day Luncheon** that they prepared and provided at no cost to those fortunate enough to drop by **VFW Post 160** on November 11th. **We are indeed fortunate to have people with such 'giving spirits' amongst our number!**

Thanks also to the many members of our detachment, who took the time to either observe or take part in the **Veterans' Day** ceremonies, which took place at the **Crownsville State Veterans Cemetery** on November 11th!



From the desk of the

# Junior Vice Commandant



Woody Bowman

Fellow Members,

This month, we are welcoming a new member – **Jim McCormick** – to our detachment.

As of the end of October, we still have nine members, who are delinquent in the payment of their dues. Four members have yet to pay both their 2009 and 2010 dues; while, the remaining five need to pay only their 2010 dues. I hope that all those, who are currently delinquent, will get caught up on their dues soon. **Six former members have been dropped from our detachment roster for failing to pay their dues!**

### Color Guard Activities

The Color Guard made **Veterans' Day** presentations at three local schools – **Quarterfield Elementary** (Nov. 1st), **Ridgeway Elementary** (Nov. 3rd), and **Severn Elementary** (Nov. 4th).

The Color Guard also posted colors at **Marley Middle School** on November 12th.

See You at the Next Meeting,

## Woody

## Good Intent? Bad Aim!

*NOTE – This story is based upon an Associated Press article published online by the Marine Corps Times on Nov. 6, 2010.*

OMAHA, NE – **George Vogel**, an Omaha man accused of spraying mace into a crowd outside a funeral for a Marine killed in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty Friday to reduced charges. In exchange for his guilty plea to three counts of assault and battery, 13 other counts were dismissed.

Police officers had been stationed outside the funeral of **Staff Sergeant Michael Bock** to monitor a protest by the Topeka, Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church, whose members believe U.S. troop deaths are God's punishment for the nation's tolerance of homosexuality.

Police said Vogel, 62 and a Vietnam veteran, sprayed mace from an industrial-size dispenser as he drove past the church on August 28. At least 16 people and a police officer, were exposed. Vogel, appeared to have been targeting the Westboro members; however, none of them were hit.

Vogel is due back in Douglas County Court for sentencing on January 20th.



## Legislative Report

by Jim Le Gette, Legislative Officer

**Commandant James Amos** has stated his opposition to the consideration of overturning the “*Don't Ask... Don't Tell*” policy within the military. “There's risk involved; I'm trying to determine how to measure that risk.” He further advises, “This is not a social thing. This is combat effectiveness. That's what the country pays its Marines to do.” Especially since our nation is at war.

The Veterans Administration has initiated a program with the introduction of three new questionnaires, to guide both military and personal physicians at the time of evaluation to determine the veteran's eligibility for disability compensation. This is an attempt to “streamline the flow of information and try to collect all essential data at the beginning of the process (first visit with the doctor).” Hopefully, the new questionnaires will aid in the new mandate of processing new disability claims within 125 days by 2015.

The first three questionnaires involve new **AGENT ORANGE** related claims for Vietnam veterans with **Ischemic Heart Disease, Parkinson's Disease, or B-cell Leukemia**. Other questionnaires for a variety of illnesses will be forthcoming.

The **STOLEN VALOR ACT** continues under attack with the rulings by two federal courts (California and Colorado) to dismiss easily proven false claims of “War Heroes” by two individuals. Both persons claimed to have served with the Marine Corps and earned significant combat medals – in one case the Medal of Honor. Free speech is claimed as a defense. The US Government intends to appeal the decisions to the US Supreme Court. There is concern by some as to how the Supreme Court will rule. These phonies are still subject to charges of fraud, receiving something of value under false pretenses.



## Ooops!

Apologies to the citizens of **Mt. Airy, Maryland** and the members of **Manny Airey's family** for my having transposed the spelling of their respective names in the October issue of *the Cutting Edge*. The error appeared in the report describing the **LCpl Robert W. Deane Detachment's** first golf tournament fund-raiser.



# Ambush Survivor Up for Medal of Honor

*NOTE – This story is based upon an online Marine Corps Times article by Dan Lamothe published on Nov. 9, 2010. Staff writer Gidget Fuentes contributed to this report*



[Photo courtesy of Cpl. Dakota Meyer]

The Marine Corps has recommended that a former Corporal receive the Medal of Honor for braving a hail of enemy fire in September 2009 to pull the bodies of four U.S. troops from a kill zone in eastern Afghanistan, Marine Corps Times has learned.

**Dakota Meyer**, 22, of Greensburg, KY, was recommended for the nation's highest award for valor, according to a source with knowledge of the process, speaking on condition of anonymity. *Meyer could become the first living Marine recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War.* Since Vietnam, only one Marine, **Corporal Jason Dunham**, has received the award (posthumously) after throwing himself on a grenade in Karabilah, Iraq, in 2004, to saving the lives of fellow Marines.

Seven U.S. service members have received the Medal of Honor in the wars against terrorism, all posthumously. The White House announced in September that an eighth service member, **Army Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta**, was the first living recipient of the medal since Vietnam.

Meyer was recommended for his actions on September 8, 2009, near the village of Ganjgal in Kunar Province. He charged into a kill zone on foot and alone to find three missing Marines and a Navy corpsman, who had been pinned down under enemy fire for hours by about 150 well-armed insurgents. Already wounded by shrapnel before braving enemy fire, he found them dead and stripped of their gear and weapons. He subsequently carried their bodies out of the kill zone with the help of Afghan soldiers.

Reached for comment Monday, Meyer was unaware that he has been recommended for the Medal of Honor, saying he does not feel like a hero and still dwells on what happened that day. He was a member of **Embedded Training Team 2-8** training Afghan forces when the ambush occurred, and good friends with the troops he pulled from the kill zone. He left the Corps in June after his four-year contract with the Corps ended. "Whatever comes out of it, it's for those guys," he said of the recommendation. "I feel like the furthest thing from a hero. I feel like I let my guys down because I didn't bring them home alive."

On Saturday, **Commandant General Jim Amos** told reporters at Camp Pendleton, CA, that the Corps' previous top officer, **General James Conway**, made the recommendation shortly before retiring on October 22nd. Amos would not say who had been recommended. "We have a nomination that General Conway signed and forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy during his last week as the commandant," Amos said. "I read the citation; I read the whole paper. As you can imagine for something like that, we're talking binders. I read it cover to cover, and it watered my eyes."

The recommendation adds a new layer to an incident that was already raw with emotion. The ambush made national headlines last year, after a newspaper journalist, embedded with the training team, Jonathan Landay, reported that the troops were pinned down for hours without artillery and air support because it was denied by Army officers at a nearby operations center.

Killed in the battle were Gunnery Sergeant Edwin Johnson, 31; Staff Sergeant Aaron Kenefick, 30, 1st Lieutenant Michael Johnson, 25; and Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class James Layton, 22. A U.S. soldier, Sergeant 1st Class Kenneth Westbrook, 41, died October 7, 2009, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington DC, from medical complications tied to wounds he sustained in the attack. About a dozen Afghan soldiers in training with U.S. forces also were cut down by gunfire, according to military documents outlining the attack.

Army officials announced in February that "negligent" leadership at the battalion level contributed "directly to the loss of life" on the battlefield that day by refusing repeated pleas for artillery support from U.S. forces on the ground and failing to notify higher commands that they had troops in trouble. Three unidentified officers — likely captains or majors — were recommended for letters of reprimand, potential career killers, but Army officials have not said whether those reprimands were ever delivered.

Two investigations were conducted, with the first headed by an Army Major in the first few days after the ambush. The second, focusing primarily on command post failure, was overseen by Army Colonel Richard Hooker and Marine Colonel James Werth in November 2009, military officials said. In February, the military released a five-page summary report of its investigation, void of many details, including which units were involved. However, a copy of the full report obtained by Marine Corps Times includes first-person statements from more than 35 U.S. troops, describing in grisly detail the chaos on the battlefield and in the operations center, based at Forward Operating Base Joyce and overseen by Task Force Chosin, an Army unit comprising soldiers from 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, out of Fort Drum, NY.

*(see MoH Candidate... on page 7)*

# No scope Policy for Recruits Remains in Force

*NOTE – This story is based upon an online Marine Corps Times article by Dan Lamothe published on Nov. 6, 2010.*

Recruits and newly minted lieutenants have never been allowed to use scopes during their initial training, but a new Marine Administrative Message, released October 19th, makes it clear that the policy won't change.



MARADMIN 592/10 lays out the Marines Corps' plans for the future use of the rifle combat optic (RCO) in entry-level training, saying no scopes will be used at boot camp or in early training for new lieutenants.

Recruits will continue to learn marksmanship at boot camp by using iron sights on Tables 1 and 2 of the Marine Corps Marksmanship Program.

Similarly, new lieutenants training at The Basic School (TBS) will not be allowed to use optics while training on Tables 1 and 2, the message said. However, when the junior officers begin training on Table 3 at TBS, they will be trained on both iron sights and the RCO.

New enlisted Marines will continue training on Table 3 with both the RCO and iron sights while assigned as students at Marine Combat Training or the Infantry Training Battalion, officials said.

Additionally, the RCO is allowed during training on Table 4, introduced in military occupational specialty school for enlisted grunts and the Infantry Officer's Course.

In an August interview, **Lieutenant General George Flynn, Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration**, said the RCO would not be allowed at boot camp or TBS. The new MARADMIN, clarifies that point, noting the Table 3 exception at TBS.

The new MARADMIN doesn't result in any changes, but it ends some debate over how soon the RCO should be introduced to new Marines. The Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight has been used in combat since at least 2004. In October 2008, the Corps began requiring it in rifle qualifications for units as they received it.



# MoH Candidate *(continued from page 6)*

Investigating officers said at least two service members in the field that day "stand out as extraordinary examples of heroism worthy of the highest recognition." The names of the troops cited for bravery were redacted from the report, and it is unclear who else may be up for high-level military awards.

In a five-page hand-written statement included in the investigation's final report, Meyer describes attempting to get to his missing buddies with another service member and being turned back by enemy fire at least twice in an armored vehicle equipped with a .50-caliber machine gun. He was wounded by shrapnel after an enemy rifle round hit the vehicle's gun turret, he says in the statement.

Meyer, then 21, went into the kill zone on foot after helicopter pilots called on to respond said they could not help because the fighting on the ground was too fierce, the statement said. He found his buddies in a trench where the pilots had spotted them.

"I checked them all for a pulse. Their bodies were already stiff," Meyer said in a sworn statement he was asked to provide military investigators. "I found Staff Sergeant Kenefick face-down in the trench with his GPS in his hand. His face appeared as if he was screaming. He had been shot in the head."

Meyer said Monday that he was glad to see the military honor Gunnery Sgt. Johnson, Lt. Johnson, Kenefick and Layton in September with Bronze Stars with "V" device. Kenefick also was posthumously promoted to gunnery sergeant.

Meyer hopes the recognition helps the families find closure, he said, even though he has struggled to find his own. "I thought that once we hit the one-year mark, I'd start dealing with it," he said of the ambush's first anniversary. "You hope that storm ends soon, you know?"



## VAVS the Oldest Volunteer System in America

The Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service is one of the oldest formal volunteer systems. Your involvement with service to veterans is critical not only in a time of war but also in a time of peace. You can make a difference by volunteering and providing whatever support you can to our veteran population.

See me if you have any questions about volunteering.





# Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

On Saturday, October 23rd, the following Marine Corps League officers and I took part in the ‘chartering’ of the Marine Corps League’s newest detachment – **Annapolis Detachment 1365**.

### Mid-East Division

Vice Commandant .....Jim Tant  
Chaplain .....Guy Hall

### Department of Maryland

Commandant .....Bud Raines  
Senior Vice Commandant .....Ed Ross  
Adjutant .....Paul Taylor  
Sgt-at-Arms .....Mike Betts

### A. A. County Detachment 1049

Junior Vice Commandant .....Woody Bowman,  
Past Commandant .....Steve Salanik

### Hartford County Detachment

Adjutant .....Craig Reeling,

Except for the traffic back-up created by the large number of cars headed to the *Renaissance Festival* and the subsequent ‘colorful comments’ of those caught in the tie up, the ceremony went off without a hitch.

In order to establish a mutually beneficial relationship, members of Detachment 1365 were invited to attend our October meeting in order to familiarize themselves with the conduct of a typical detachment meeting. An invitation to attend our celebration of the **Marine Corps’ 235th Birthday** on November 13th was also extended to **Detachment 1365’s Commandant, Tom Chepurko**.

In case you haven’t noticed, our detachment’s version of Paul Bunyon (aka **Chris Thompson**), assisted by **Darrell DeBord, George Martin**, and others, cut down the tree that had been leaning dangerously and jeopardizing the north side of our detachment home (VFW Post 160). Hopefully, all traces of that tree as well as the branches cut from those trees, which had been dangerously encroaching into the west-side of the Post’s driveway, will have been removed by the time you read this article.

Thanks to Chris and all those, who assisted in that effort!

On Saturday, October 23rd, joyful news was received that our **Junior Past Commandant Pete Pervi** and his wife **Sue** had become grandparents for the first time. Their grand-daughter, **Olive Irene Ayres** debuted weighing in at 7 lbs, 9 oz and measuring 20 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches in length.

*(continued in adjacent column)*

Congratulations and best wishes are in order for Pete, Sue, their daughter **Kristina** and her husband **Zach Ayres!**

The final cook-out for wounded Marines at the **National Naval Medical Center** in Bethesda was held on October 27th and was sponsored by the **Maryland Pack** of the **Military Order of Devil Dogs**. There was a fair turn-out of patients, family members, and hospital staffers despite the ever-present ‘*Okinawan Sunshine*’ (drizzle/rain). There was also an abundance of Marine Corps League and Devil Dog volunteers.



Marines, family members, clinicians, and other support personnel in the chow line during the October picnic.  
[Photo—Mac McNeir]

This was the last picnic of the season. The first picnic of the 2011 season will take place in March.

The **Happy Hour Commemoration** of the **Marine Corps’ 235th Birthday** was held at the VFW Post 160 Canteen on the evening of November 10th and was attended by approximately 30 members of the detachment, two new applicants and several guests. Photos may be viewed on page 9.

Photos of the **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049 Birthday Ball** may be viewed on page 10.

The **Veterans’ Day Memorial Ceremony** at the **Crownsville National Cemetery** was well attended by members of our detachment. While there, many of those members paid their personal respects to fellow members, who previously received their final *permanent change of station (PCS)* orders from our Supreme Commandant.

The final phase of the **Marine Corps League Office** construction effort *will resume the week immediately after our detachment’s Birthday Ball*.



# 235th Birthday

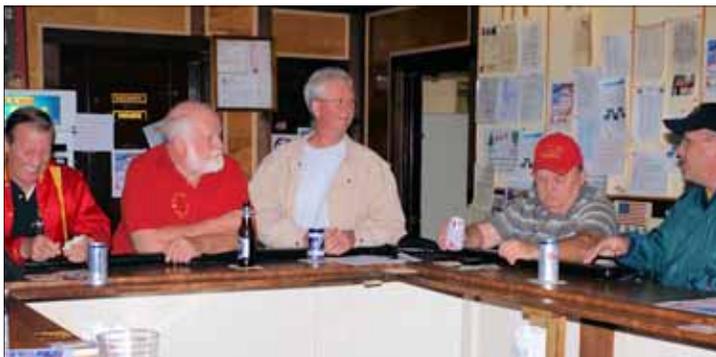
## Happy Hour Photos



New Marine Corps League applicant reading General Lejeune's Birthday Message prior to cake cutting. [Photo – Mac McNeir]



Chris Kalwa, Manny Airey, George Martin, and a graduate of the Annapolis Young Marine Program – Skylar Wisomierski (back to camera) – playing 'Can you top this?' [Photo – Mac McNeir]



Paul Taylor, Ed Dahling, Buddy Cadle, and Joe Wright doing their best to ignore Earl Parker. [Photo – Mac McNeir]



## Public Information

by Ed Dahling, Public Information Officer

### Recommended Dates for International Holiday Mail

Shipping packages to friends and family around the world in time for the holiday season can be as simple as taking a short trip to your computer with the tools, tips and transactions available at [usps.com](http://usps.com). Whether ordering shipping supplies, printing postage, getting information about mailing guidelines, filling out required customs forms or requesting free package pickup, the U.S. Postal Service is ready to help international shippers get a head start on the holidays.

“Shipping packages around the world can often be done without leaving your home,” said Pranab Shah, managing director and vice president, Global Business. “Customers have a virtual Post Office available 24 hours a day to get their shipments prepared, paid and picked up.”

Customers going online can save on postage and order free Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes. Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes are available in four sizes, with shipping prices starting as low as \$11.45 to Mexico and Canada, or \$13.45 to most other countries.

Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes are also available free at any Post Office. Postage, labels and customs forms can be printed online anytime using [Click-N-Ship](http://Click-N-Ship). Information on free package pickup is available online at [usps.com/pickup](http://usps.com/pickup).

The Postal Service recommends the following deadlines for international delivery of holiday cards and packages by December 25th.

International Destinations	Global Express	Express Mail	Priority Mail	First Class Mail
Africa	Dec. 17	Dec. 11	Dec. 3	Dec. 3
Asia/Pacific Rim	Dec. 17	Dec. 16	Dec. 10	Dec. 10
Australia &	Dec. 17	Dec. 16	Dec. 10	Dec. 10
Canada	Dec. 21	Dec. 17	Dec. 13	Dec. 10
Caribbean	Dec. 20	Dec. 16	Dec. 13	Dec. 10
Central & South	Dec. 20	Dec. 11	Dec. 3	Dec. 3
Mexico	Dec. 21	Dec. 16	Dec. 10	Dec. 10
Europe	Dec. 20	Dec. 16	Dec. 13	Dec. 10
Middle East	Dec. 17	Dec. 16	Dec. 13	Dec. 10



# Birthday Ball Photos

The **235th Marine Corps Birthday** was celebrated by a collection of our members accompanied by families and friends, who brought spirit to the celebration far in excess of what would normally be expected for their number. We regret that a couple of Marines could not attend due to unanticipated personal circumstances. The **National Executive Director of the Marine Corps League** was a fine **Guest of Honor**, the **Marines from Company B of the Cryptologic School at Fort Meade** and their escorts brought youth and vibrancy to our affair, and the members of the **VFW Auxiliary** – lead by **Jennifer Sachs** and **Rich Gonzales** – provided a visually attractive setting for our gathering and served food, which in Marine Corps parlance, was far more than acceptable in both quantity and quality. It was also good to see **Bill Creager** again. Thanks to all, who were involved in making the evening of November 13th a memorable one!



Ron Short, National Chairman of Marines Helping Marines; Jack Severn, MODD Kennel Police Dog; Ed Ross; Mac McNeir; Paul Taylor; Mike Blum, Executive Director of the Marine Corps League; and Manny Airey [Photo By J. Garrison]



Fallen Comrades Table [Photo By Jon Garrison]



Fred & Ginger? Actually, they're Nila Caulder & Buddy Cadle. [Photo By J. Garrison]



Cmdt. McNeir presenting door-prize to member of Color Guard. [Photo By J. Garrison]



Color Guard from Company B, Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion. [Photo By J. Garrison]



Cake Escort - Chris Kalwa, Joe Wright, Tom Maiorana & Woody Bowman. [Photo By J. Garrison]



Nancy Staley & Bill Creager. [Photo By J. Garrison]



The VFW Auxiliaries' Catering Staff, who served an outstanding meal in a superlative manner. Pam Stone, Jennifer Sacks, Michele Mallicote, Joyce Lathrop, Pat Merrill, Sally Gonzales, Rich Gonzales, Kelly Ulrich, and Cory Wall. [Photo By J. Garrison]



Mac McNeir; Ron Short, National Chairman of Marines Helping Marines; Dick Savage; Mike Blum, Executive Director of the Marine Corps League; and Jack Severn, MODD Kennel Police Dog. [Photo By J. Garrison]



## Barracks Set for Security Overhaul

*NOTE – This story is a reprint of an article by Gina Cavallaro, posted online by the Marine Corps Times on October 24, 2010.*

### *Exterior cameras and alarms to be installed...*

Barracks across the Marine Corps will be outfitted with motion-sensitive security cameras and alarms as part of new security requirements.

It was not immediately clear what prompted the new requirements, but the security criteria adopted earlier this year means Marines will now see cameras installed at all exterior doors. There are no plans to install cameras inside barracks, Headquarters Marine Corps spokesman **1st Lieutenant Gregory Wolf** said.

He could not say whether there had been an increase in security breaches at any particular facilities, but confirmed that a **Bachelor Enlisted Quarters Oversight Board** met in July and made the change official.

The installation of automated security systems, he said, is at the discretion of individual base commanders.

The BEQs that are under construction in the fleet are pre-wired to give base commanders the option of installing a system later. Automated security systems already are being installed at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA.

The revised **Marine Corps Security Program**, outlined in **Marine Corps Order 5530.14.A**, “recognizes that security is an integral part of all Marine Corps force protection and anti-terrorism programs,” according to a Quantico press release.

“The gap in security was evident,” **Dariton Battle**, head of **Bachelor Housing Branch at Quantico**, said in the release.

For example, non-commissioned officers on fire duty had poor visibility of all doorways.

“We could see that the Duty NCOs were unable to monitor each exterior door on a continuous basis, which left the barracks vulnerable and the Marines at risk,” Battle said.

The system, he said, includes audible alarms and cameras that will automatically begin recording once a door is breached. The Marine on duty will have a control panel at his desk that will immediately indicate which doors are opened and the associated alarms will continue to sound until the duty turns them off with the key.

### *Creating a checkpoint...*

The release states that, at least at Quantico, officials were seeking to deter unauthorized access to BEQs and route visitors through the duty desk. It also stated that the initiative seeks to safeguard Marines and their personal property. The release did not indicate whether Marines at Quantico had reported a rise in criminal activity.

Quantico had a brush with danger last year when federal authorities revealed a plot hatched in North Carolina that involved a conspiracy to kill uniformed troops at Quantico.

At Camp Lejeune, N.C., leadership is “embracing the change in criteria,” and installing the cameras, said spokeswoman **1st Lieutenant Nicole Fiedler**. The work is being done in phases, she said.



The 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment's new barracks. The building and its surroundings were designed to look more like a hotel than a traditional barracks.  
[LCpl. Andrew D. Thorburn, USMC]



**Marine Corps League**  
**Department of Maryland**

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



## Something Surprising

*NOTE – This story is based upon a response to the Washington Post Magazine's Editor's Query section published on October 24, 2010, which solicited inputs on the topic of a storm resulting in something surprising.*

**Stationed in Iwakuni, Japan**, in 1984, we knew the typhoon was coming. My Marine husband, Brian, was on duty at the base because flooding was expected over the sea wall.

With our house sheltered on all sides by stone walls and high up on a mountain, safe from flooding, we decided I would ride out the storm there with our two children.

As the storm intensified, the noise from the wind was terrifying. Water sprayed in all the windows, which had been left open so they would not blow out. My children, 4 and 6, were afraid — and I had to pretend that I wasn't.

As the storm raged, I began to question the wisdom of being alone during a typhoon with two young children, in a house with paper interior walls.

Above the roar of the wind, I heard something hitting the metal door of our house — something banging really hard.

I did not know what to expect when I opened that door. There, standing in front of me as the wind blew in sheets of rain, was a young Marine, soaking wet. The only thing I remember him saying was, "Just wanted to make sure you were okay, ma'am."

When I assured him I was, he disappeared back into the storm.

I had heard the words "Semper Fidelis" a thousand times before. But, surprising to me, I would learn what those words truly meant in the middle of a storm.

*Margaret McMullen*



## New Chapter... *(continued from page 1)*

Amos, 63, becomes the first aviator in the Corps' history to be appointed Commandant and only the second Assistant Commandant in almost three decades to be promoted to the top.

The 'Change of Command' ceremony took place before a standing-room-only crowd, studded with the military's top uniformed and civilian leaders, including **Defense Secretary Robert Gates**, Medal of Honor recipients, members of Congress, foreign delegations, and civilian leaders.

His incoming **Assistant Commandant, Lieutenant General Joseph Dunford**, who relinquished command of **I Marine Expeditionary Force** on Tuesday, was scheduled to be promoted and sworn in on Saturday.

Friday marked more than the passage of Commandants. For out-going **Commandant, General James T. Conway**, it was also, the culmination of a 40-year career for an infantryman, who rose to the highest rank in the Marine Corps.

He and his wife **Annette** hosted a final gathering at the 'Home of the Commandants' for a private retirement ceremony conducted by **Navy Secretary Ray Mabus**.

As he closed out his brief remarks, Amos gave a short glimpse of his resolve to fight for the future of an expeditionary Marine Corps.

"We've always said we'd be most ready when the nation is least ready," Amos said. "Our nation still needs a force that is most ready when the nation is least ready and, ladies and gentlemen, that will be my focus as Commandant for the next four years."



# Bombastic Bumper:



God fights on the side...  
with the best Artillery

*Motto of the 3rd Battalion 11th Marines*



# Lest We Forget...

*NOTE – The following article is based upon an online obituary by Theresa Vargas of the Washington Post.*

**Terry E. Honeycutt Jr.** of Waldorf, MD – a Marine Lance Corporal assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC – died on October 27th from wounds sustained on October 21st during combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was 19 years old.



Relatives describe Honeycutt as musically gifted, so talented he taught himself to play the guitar and drums. From an early age, he had his sights set on the military. He was a member of the first ROTC class at his high school.

“We asked him why he wanted to be in the military one time, and he said, ‘I want to make a difference in the world,’” his mother said. They supported his decision to join the Marines but worried about his choice to sign up for the infantry. “Every one of us tried at some point to talk him out of it.”

For his family, who recently returned from Germany where they said their good-byes, it is hard to accept that the child, who in sixth grade knew what he wanted to be when he grew up, is gone.

“We are very proud and love him very much. We miss him terribly,” his mother said. “He’s now our warrior angel.”

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*NOTE – The following articles are based upon online obituaries published by the Baltimore Sun.*

**Jerome W. Geckle**, a U.S. Marine of the Korean War era, and member of the Baltimore Detachment of the Marine Corps League was called by the Supreme Commandant on 22 October 2010. Marine Geckle was the beloved husband of the late **Mary M. Geckle**; devoted father of **Timothy J. Geckle** and his wife **Bernadette, Teresa A. Geckle** and her husband **Filippo Polcaro, Stephen L. Geckle** and his wife **Joan, Karen G. Moritz** and her husband **Stephen**; loving grandfather of **Mollie, Peter, Emily, Katarina, Alex, Brigitta, Caroline, Matthew, Jackie, Maddie, Noelle**; and one expected great-grandson.

A funeral mass was held on Wednesday, October 27th at **Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church** in Parkton, MD. He was interred at **Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens**.

Memorial contributions may be made in Jerome's name to **Gilchrist Hospice Care**, 11311 McCormick Road, Suite 350, Hunt Valley, MD 21031.

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**John E. Wallace**, member of the Baltimore Detachment of the Marine Corps League, was called by the Supreme Commandant on 28 October 2010. A Marine Corps League Memorial Service was held on 2 November at the **Ambrose Funeral Home** in Arbutus, MD.

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**Earl H. Wheeler, Sr.**, member of the Baltimore Detachment of the Marine Corps League, was called by the Supreme Commandant on 26 October 2010.

Marine Wheeler was the beloved husband of 60 years of **Gloria Viola Wheeler**; devoted father of son, **Earl Harry Wheeler, Jr.** and his wife **Patty**, and daughter **Cindy Jane Stitz** and her husband **Bob**; loving grandfather of **Addie Thomas, Heather Alimo, David Wheeler, Kara Wheeler, Daniel Wheeler, Ashley Stitz**, and **Katelyn Wheeler**; dear great-grandfather of 3. He was preceded in death by 3 sons, **Glenn Harry Wheeler, Scott Harry Wheeler**, and **Clint Harry Wheeler**; and his parents, **Evelyn Elizabeth Wheeler** and **Evan David Wheeler**.

A Marine Corps League Memorial Service was held on 28 October at the **Singleton Funeral Home** in Glen Burnie, MD. Marine Wheeler was interred at the **Baltimore National Cemetery**.

Contributions may be made to the **Baltimore VA Medical Center**, 10 North Greene Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.





# Corps History

by Vic Halme, Historian

## **2 November 1931**

VS-14M on the USS Saratoga and VS-15M on the USS Lexington become first Marine squadrons to be carrier-based.

## **2 November 1950**

Marines engage Chinese in North Korea near the Chosin Reservoir.

## **3 November 2003**

Presidential Unit Citation awarded to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force for its service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. It becomes the first unit to earn the award since the end of the Vietnam War.

## **4 November 1948**

Colonel Katherine Towle became the first Director of Women Marines as regulars and not reservists.

## **4 November 1976**

First Marine Corps Marathon held in Washington, DC.

## **4 November 1979**

Mob overruns U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Iran; 13 Marines among 65 American hostages; 52 of whom were held captive for 444 days.

## **5 November 1903**

Major John Lejeune lands battalion to ensure Panama's independence from Columbia.

## **8 November 1942**

The 2nd Raider Battalion began its 150-mile perimeter patrol on Guadalcanal.

## **10 November 1775**

Continental Congress authorizes creation of two battalions of Marines.

## **10 November 1948**

First eight enlisted women are sworn in as regular Marines. First black women Marines enlist the following summer.

## **10 November 1921**

The first formal commemoration of the Marine Corps Birthday.

## **10 November 1954**

Marine Corps War Memorial site dedicated near Arlington National Cemetery.

## **12 November 1908**

President Theodore Roosevelt removes Marines from U.S. warships; President Taft returns them to the warships six months later.

## **12 November 1946**

Gerald C. Thomas, the first Marine to rise from private to general, rank by rank, received his second Legion of Merit.

## **13 November 1982**

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of more than 13,000 Marines, who lost their lives in Vietnam, is dedicated.

*(continued in adjacent column)*

## **14 November 1967**

Major General Bruno Hochmuth, CG, 3rdMarDiv, died in a helicopter accident in Vietnam.

## **17 November 1915**

Leatherneck Magazine established.

## **18 November 1915**

Major Smedley D. Butler leads Marine attack on Fort Riviere, Haiti and is awarded 2nd Medal of Honor.

## **18 November 1949**

Corps orders that all male Marines, regardless of race, be assigned to vacancies in any unit.

## **20 November 1947 (approximate date)**

Toys For Tots program founded by Major Bill Hendricks and Marine reservists.

## **21 November 1933**

Major C. L. Forndey and a Navy Commander set new balloon altitude record of 61,237 feet.

## **21 November 1979**

Seven Marines defend U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan against mob attack spawned by erroneous radio report that the U.S. had bombed Mecca – an Islamic holy site.

## **23 November 1950**

7th Marines take Yudam-ni. Thanksgiving was celebrated in Korea with temperatures hovering about 20 degrees below zero.

## **24 November 1992**

Marines lowered the flag at Subic Bay, U.S. Naval Facility, Republic of the Philippines, for the last time marking the withdrawal of U.S. forces... ending nearly a century of U.S. presence in that nation.

## **25 November 1958**

The Marine Corps grade structure was revised to incorporate two additional pay grades (E8/E9).

## **27 November 1950**

Eight Chinese Communist divisions launch a massive attack in Korea, with the expressed purpose of destroying the 1st Marine Division. This action leads to the successful Marine Corps attack out of the Chosin Reservoir and its relocation to the coastal port of Hungnam.

## **28 November 1775**

Samuel Nicholas commissioned as Captain of Marines, becoming the first Marine officer.

## **29 November 1804**

Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon and seven Marines land in Alexandria, Egypt.





# Coming Events

The following events are scheduled to occur through December of 2010. Unless otherwise noted, these events will take place at VFW Post 160, located at 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060 (410-766-9802).

*NOTE – The dates and times listed below are subject to change. Please verify the information with the indicated organization (point of contact).*

### **Commander’s Steak Dinner, VFW Post 160**

Saturday, 20 November 2010 from 1700 to 1900 – *Pete Pervi*

### **Monthly Meeting, MCL Detachment 1049**

Monday, 22 November 2010 @ 1900  
*Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)*

### **Monthly Breakfast, VFW Post 160**

Sunday, 5 December 2010 from 0800 to 1200  
*Charles Albo (443-926-1665)*

### **Children’s Christmas Party, VFW Ladies Auxiliary**

Saturday, 11 December 2010 from 1300 to 1500

### **MODD Pound 204 Growl**

Sunday, 19 December 2010 @ 1000 – *Paul Taylor*

### **Christmas Party, VFW Post 160**

Friday, 24 December 2010 from 1200 – 1800 – *Pete Pervi*

### **Christmas Day**

Post Closed

### **Monthly Meeting, MCL Detachment 1049**

Monday, 27 December 2010 @ 1900  
*Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)*

### **New Year’s Eve Party, VFW Post 160 (includes breakfast)**

Friday, 31 December 2010 – Saturday, 1 January 2011



## Corps Humor

A Marine Master Gunnery Sergeant was crossing a road one-day when a frog called out to him and said, “If you kiss me, I’ll turn into a beautiful princess.”

He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said, “If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will stay with you for one week.”

The Marine took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to his pocket.

The frog then cried out, “If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I’ll stay with you for one week and do anything you want!”

Again the Master Gunnery Sergeant took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket.

Finally, the frog asked, “What is the matter? I’ve told you I’m a beautiful princess, that I’ll stay with you for a week and do anything you want. Why won’t you kiss me?”

“Look,” said the old salt, “I’m a Master Gunnery Sergeant, and I don’t have time for a girlfriend... but a talking frog, now that’s cool!”



## Quotation

*“Forty years as a Marine taught me that the only place to be is in the center of the arena. You get knocked down out there and you make mistakes. But you also realize that it sure beats sitting in the grandstands criticizing those who have the guts to be out there. And every once in a while you can make a difference.”*

**General Anthony Zinni,**  
*USMC Retired*

*Former Commander in Chief of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).*

## Members’ Birthdays

*NOTE – Please advise the editor of any errors/omissions in the following birthday listings.*

Members of our detachment, who will be celebrating birthdays during the month of **December** include:

Robert Foley Jr.

Mike Lowman

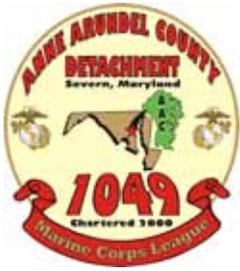
Calvin Mulineaux

Gene Punte

Scott Stevens

David Wells





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

(Address Correction Requested)



# Featured Foto

General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps and Sergeant Major Carlton W. Kent, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps lead a formation of more than 400 Marines on a run on the Marine Corps' 235th birthday November 10, 2010. Amos spoke to the Marines at the Marine Corps War Memorial and said no matter the climate or place Marines have always found time to celebrate their birthday. [Photo by Sgt. Kuande Hall, USMC]