

*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/>

# America Needs...

*Note – This article is a reprint of a Mark Shields column posted on the creators.com website.*

## America Needs More Marine Corps Values

A half a century ago, I spent the longest 13 weeks of my life at an out-of-the-way place called Parris Island, SC, then and now the home of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot.



Mark Shields, political pundit

We were strangers who arrived there in the middle of the night and were immediately relieved of all our civilian clothing and possessions – including our hair. Standing there confused, apprehensive and bald, I remember asking myself over and over: **What the hell am I doing here?**

Then silently appeared in our midst a man in a starched uniform and polished boots brimming with self-confidence and a sense of command. This was the Marine drill instructor, the DI, who did not conceal his disgust with what he saw in us. I can still hear him say that we were the sorriest collection of misfits and rejects he or anyone else had ever seen.

What followed was 90 days of splendid misery. Civilian habits, speech and attitude were marched and drilled and driven out of us. The DI was relentlessly democratic. He treated everyone in our platoon, Platoon 189, with equal contempt while double-timing us 12 hours a day from mess duty to the rifle range and back. He used his personal term of endearment to remind us, “**Maggot, remember, you volunteered to be here.**”

Somehow after more than three months of no Cokes, no beer, no TV and not even a day off, the DI, by then our *ultimate authority figure*, reluctantly conceded that just possibly, maybe someday, we might actually be Marines. The combination of joy, relief, and pride was unmatched.

I was not a great Marine. I never saw combat. I got a lot more from the Marines than the Marines got from me. But I believe fervently that this nation today needs the values of the Marine Corps as much as the nation needs the Marine Corps

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# the CUTTING EDGE

Editor – Mac McNeir,  
P.O. Box 804  
Severn, MD 21144-0804

Phone ..... 410-437-4329

Email ..... [editor@mclaacdet1049.org](mailto:editor@mclaacdet1049.org)

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

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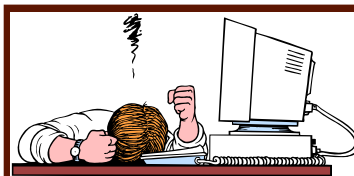
- Commandant – *Mac McNeir*  
 Senior Vice-Commandant – *Chris Thompson*  
 Junior Vice-Commandant – *Woody Bowman*  
 Judge Advocate – *Joe Wright*  
 Adjutant – *Tom Maiorana*  
 Auxiliary President – *Desiree Curtin*  
 By-Laws Committee Chairman – *Danny Fischio*  
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 Color Guard Commander – *Woody Bowman*  
 Historian – *Victor Halme*  
 House Chairman – *Ken Rollins*  
 Legislative Officer – *Jim LeGette*  
 Newsletter Editor – *Mac McNeir*  
 Paymaster – *Ed Dahling*  
 Public Information Officer – *Vacant*  
 Quartermaster – *Fred Kaminski*  
 Rifle & Pistol Team Captain – *Michael R. Hadley*  
 Sergeant-at-Arms – *Vacant*  
 Toys for Tots Coordinator – *Vacant*  
 VAVS Officer – *Vacant*  
 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

Currently, I am awaiting response from a representative of the Newsletter Committee informing us of what needs to be done in order to correct the misspelled detachment name engraved on the plaque, which we were awarded for having been judged as the second best newsletter nationally in their 2010 competition.

Since this is a repeat request' I will simply reiterate...

### I need current email addresses for those members with email capabilities.

The submission deadline for all **November** newsletter articles is no later than **MIDNIGHT, Wednesday, November 10, 2010.**



## Membership Stats

Detachment Membership Stats – 9/30/2010			
Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	75	9	6
Annual Memberships	32	6	–
Delinquent Dues			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	10	3	–
New Members			
	2	–	–
Sub-Totals			
	119	18	6
Total			
	143		

## 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		
November 2010	December 2010	January 2011
NONE	Blanton, Donald Lowman, Michael Russell, William	Bixler, Russ Wood, Scott

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

# Commandant's Message



Mac McNeir

## Bethesda Visits

During September and early October, I was able to visit wounded Marines being treated at the **National Naval Medical Center** in Bethesda. I cannot begin to describe how impressed I am with their 'up-beat' spirits. As always, there were a number of Marines that could not be visited as they were either asleep or undergoing surgery at the time.

Honestly, I am not so sure that I would be able to handle the circumstances that they now find themselves in nearly as well as they do! When you consider the nature of their wounds – head injuries, amputations (some multiple), blindness, etc. – you cannot help but leave their presence with the knowledge that they are a special breed of men – in spite of their youth.

Patient visits by league members generally take place on Monday and Wednesday of each week. Anyone wishing to be part of these visits, needs to contact **Tony Begenwald** a week in advance of the intended date and make Tony aware of your attention to visit.

## 235th Marine Corps Birthday Observances

The **235th Birthday** of our Corps is fast approaching and a last minute change – in the staff assigned to run this year's ball – has taken place. Also, because of problems with the printer, we did not mail our normal invitation package with RSVP cards. It was decided that sending notices via email and postcards would provide the most time to convey the invitation and to receive member responses.

Contact me by telephone (**410-437-4329**), to make your reservations and your dinner choices known. **All responses are needed by no later than midnight on October 25th** in order to give our caterer sufficient time to procure the necessary food-stuffs and supplies. The **per person price remains at \$50**. We look forward to sharing this special event with you, so please plan on attending our top social gathering of the year! This year's Ball will take place on **November 13, 2010** at **VFW Post 160** – see the ad on page 9 for details.

Don't forget about the *Happy Hour* observance of the Corps' birthday, which will take place at **VFW Post 160** on **Wednesday, 10 November 2010** beginning at **1800**.

Respectfully,

**Mac**

## New Remains Found on Tarawa

*NOTE – This story is based on an AP article by Audrey McAvoy, posted online by the Marine Corps Times on Sept. 25, 2010*

HONOLULU – A U.S. military team returned from the remote Pacific atoll of Tarawa this week with the remains of what are thought to be two U.S. servicemen who died in a fierce World War II battle there.



Two Marines participate in bitter fighting on Tarawa. A U.S. military team returned from the remote Pacific atoll of Tarawa this week with the remains of what are thought to be two U.S. service men who died in a fierce World War II battle there.

A C-17 plane with the remains landed at Hickam Air Force Base after a 6½-week excavation mission, **Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC)** spokesman **Army Major Ramon Osorio** said Wednesday.

Forensic scientists are due to analyze the bones to identify them. The process can take months or even years.

More than 990 U.S. Marines and 30 sailors died as the U.S. wrested control of the atoll from Japan during the three-day Battle of Tarawa in 1943. The fight was one of the first major amphibious assaults in the war, and one of the most brutal.

Many Marines were killed by Japanese machine gunfire when their boats got stuck on coral reef during approach. Many others died in hand-to-hand combat after crawling ashore.

JPAC had indications it might find the remains of a couple hundred servicemen on the trip. Osorio said the mission was successful even though it returned on Monday with the remains of only two.

*"Any time we can come back with even just one, that's a good thing. It really is,"* Osorio said.

*(see Tarawa... on page 15)*



From the desk of the

# Senior Vice Commandant



Chris Thompson

Happy October Marines,

We just finished the Marine Corps League's **Annual Bull and Oyster Roast**, and I would like to announce that it was very successful. The food, beer, and music were great and the camaraderie was even better. I do not have the final numbers yet; but, it looks like we were able to raise over \$2,000.00 after expenses.

I would like to thank everyone, who attended the function and supported the MCL and me in my first year of handling the roast. I would also like to thank **Chasity Wright** for making the wonderful display of cupcakes, and **Michele Ryan** and **Michele Mallicote** for running the money wheel.

I would like to extend a personal thanks to my wife **Michelle Thompson** (who ran the door, 50/50, and all the door prizes by herself), my daughter **Kiara Thompson** (who assisted with door ticket sales and collection of ticket stubs), **Rich Gonzales** (who is the best damn kitchen man in the business) and his wife **Sally**, **Ed Ross** (aka 'Mr. Oyster Fryer'), and last but not least **Steve Salanik** (How many Marines does it take to make *instant mashed potatoes*?).

Without the support of everyone, this event would not have been as successful as it was.

Again I would like to say thanks and Semper Fi,

**Chris Thompson**

## 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 **November** include:

John Abbrescia	Justin Asher	Jim Brady
Stephen Combs	Ed Dahling	Rich Gonzales
Guy Hall	James Hutton	Mac McNeir
Charles Miller	Frank Mondragon	Brian Nevil
John Ulrich		



From the desk of the

# Junior Vice Commandant



Woody Bowman

Fellow Members,

This month, we are welcoming two new members – **Sonny Bell** and **Scott Neff** – to our detachment.

### Color Guard Activities

The Color Guard is currently scheduled to participate in the following events during the month of November.

- **Pasadena Thanksgiving Day Parade**  
November 7th at 1400 (2:00 PM).
- **Veterans' Day Presentation of Colors**
  - **American Legion Post 276**  
November 11th at 0900 (9:00 AM)
  - **Crownsville Veterans Cemetery**  
November 11th at 1100 (11:00 AM)
  - **Severna Park Elk's Club**  
November 14th at 1400 (2:00 PM)

See You at the Next Meeting,

**Woody**

## – HELP WANTED –

### Public Information Officer (PIO)...

brings attention to the League and the detachment through advertising – maintaining a continuing stream of information, articles, event calendars, public service announcements (PSAs), etc. flowing to local media (newspapers, radio, and TV).

### VA Volunteer Services (VAVS) Officer...

spends time at VA hospitals visiting, planning and coordinating events (i.e. Bingo, games, reading, etc.) and/or soliciting donations of funds/items needed by the occupants of the hospital. These items may include books/magazines, clothing, and toiletries or other items identified by the hospital staff. Since the VFW runs a successful volunteer services effort, our representative is encouraged to coordinate our involvement as either part of or adjunct to the VFW's effort.

### Sergeant at Arms...

plays a key role in the orderly conduct of detachment meetings by...

- setting up the hall prior to each meeting, assuring that items required for the meeting are on hand,
- presenting the colors and rendering appropriate honors,
- controlling access to the meeting and maintaining order,
- following any directions given by the Commandant,
- running the detachment's 50-50 Raffle, and
- returning detachment assets to their approved storage spaces and ensuring that the meeting hall is left in an acceptable state.



# Military Order of the Devil Dogs



The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof-Woof,

The **Maryland Pack** held a Growl on 25 September, which was well attended. We had Dogs from every Pound in the Pack except **Pound 154**, the Pound located closest to where the Growl was held. Are they telling us something?

Our new **Pack leader, PDD Ed Ross** handled his first Growl as Pack Leader pretty well; even though, he did mix up the order of business pretty much. But we made it through and everyone enjoyed the Growl.

We still have a few hold-outs, who insist on holding onto those bones for the 2011 dues until the last minute. If you don't have a 2011 membership card, get 15 big bones in to me ASAP. Make the check payable to **MODD, Pound 204**.

It looks like the Maryland Pack is well on its way to being the Pack contributing the most passport bones for the children's hospital again. We collected **\$178.01** at Saturday's Growl. Not as good as **Pound 204**, but every bit helps the handicapped children.

As always, keep the fleas at a safe distance.

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

Woof-Woof,

**Paul Taylor**

PDD & Dog Robber



**NAVY vs DUKE**

Join your fellow MCL Members for a great afternoon of fun and camaraderie!

**When**..... Saturday, October 30th at 1:00 PM

**Where**..... Navy-Marine Corps Stadium



# Legislative Report

by Jim Le Gette, Legislative Officer

Good News! The **Stop-Loss Allowance (SLA) Program** deadline, outlined in the August Legislative Report, has been extended to December 3, 2010. This extension was obtained through **HR 3081**, a temporary appropriations bill approved by Congress. As you may recall, the SLA program makes up to \$3,700 available for those veterans eligible, whose separation or retirement was **involuntarily extended be-tween September 11, 2001 to September 30, 2009**. The monies due are considered 'back-pay' and should be claimed.

Contact DOD at [www.defense.gov/stoploss](http://www.defense.gov/stoploss) or the Maryland VA, in Baltimore, at either **410-230-4444** or **800-446-4926** for additional information.

There continues to be a great deal of review being conducted by Veterans Affairs regarding **Agent Orange** related illnesses. Added to the list of health conditions are: **Hairy Cell Leukemia; Parkinson's Disease, and Ischemic Heart Disease**, unless the addition of these conditions are blocked by Congress. Some in Congress question the appropriateness of the heart disease condition being included because heart disease is a normal illness with the aging process. Also, there is skepticism about disability benefits offered to veterans with **Type II Diabetes**. **There are presently 239,300 Vietnam veterans with Type II Diabetes**.

**Tricare for Life** patients with questions should contact the following sources of information for guidance/help...

[www.militarytimes.com/tricarehelp](http://www.militarytimes.com/tricarehelp)  
[tricarehelp@militarytimes.com](mailto:tricarehelp@militarytimes.com)

Be sure to include the word '**Tricare**' in the subject line of your e-mail, and do not include any attachments.

Information may also be obtained by writing to...

Tricare Help  
Times News Service  
6883 Commercial Drive  
Springfield, VA 22159.




**There Are No EX-MARINES!**



## Young Marines

Marines,

On October 2nd, I was asked to attend **Recognition Day** for the new **Plebes** at **Valley Forge Military Academy** in Valley Forge, Pa. The occasion was the incorporation of the new Plebes into the academy's Corps of Cadets. After six weeks of orientation and basic-training the new Plebes were given their cover shields (emblems). I was there to see a graduate of our Young Marines Program, **Skylar Wisomierski**, join the Corps of Cadets. Young Marine Wisomierski was a member of the Annapolis Young Marines for six years and winner of **VFW Post 160's Patriot's Pen** contest for two consecutive years. I am also proud to say that he has been awarded a full four year scholarship by the academy.

It was a tearful reunion between the cadet and mother, as no communication had been permitted during the six weeks of plebe training. The Academy is fashioned after the **British Royal Marine Academy**. Needless to say, if it were not for the support of **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049** and its Auxiliary, **VFW Post 160** and its Auxiliaries, and the **Staff of the Annapolis Young Marines**, this young man would have never achieved his goal of attending the **Valley Forge Military Academy**. Thanks to all involved.

Well, we are 'off and walking' into a new training year and are looking for a few good future Young Marines. Presently, we have 13 Young Marines and are hoping to start a new recruit class soon. So, if you know of someone who would benefit from the program, please let me know.

Your continued support of the Young Marines fund-raising efforts – collection of old printer cartridges and cell phones – is still going strong. So far we have derived \$**115.72** from what we have collected. I know I should not encourage the use of alcohol; however, continue using the lounge as recycling three months of empty cans has enriched our treasury by \$234.00. Thank You!

The Annapolis Young Marines are planning a *balloon release* carrying veterans names on **Veterans' Day** at **American Legion Post 226** in Edgewater, Md. We picked this site because of the open field. We would have liked to have released the balloons at our home post; but, there were just too many restrictions to overcome because of the close proximity to BWI Airport.

Respectfully,

**George Martin**

Young Marines Commander



## Chaplain's Corner

by Ken Webster, Detachment Chaplain

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).

**Charlie Dorn's** wife, **Bea Dorn** is at the **Hammonds Lane Rehab Center** (613 Hammonds Lane, Brooklyn Park, MD 21225) with a broken hip.

**Janina Rollins** wife of our past Chaplain **Kenny Rollins**, recently returned home after having been hospitalized at St. Agnes. She is still having difficulty with fainting spells.



## Lest We Forget...

*NOTE – This article was based upon an online obituary published by the Baltimore Sun on October 8, 2010.*

**John F. Hettchen, Jr.** reported to our Supreme Commander on October 6, 2010. Jack – as he was known to his friends – was the beloved husband of Constance Hettchen (nee Dickerson); devoted father of John F. Hettchen, III, Stephanie A. Griffith, Gail P. Kelly, Michael J. Perlin; cherished grandfather of John IV, Stephanie, Travis, Ryan, Bonnie, Ben, Jessica, Andrew, Emily; loving great-grandfather of six; also survived by many relatives and friends.

Jack was a U.S. Marine Sergeant and veteran of the Inchon landing during the Korean War. Jack was also a member of the Marine Corps League's **L/CPL Robert Wallace Deane Detachment 770**.

The Marine Corps League conducted a memorial service for Jack prior to his interment at the Parkwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Jack's name may be made to...

MARINES HELPING MARINES  
P.O. Box 141  
Westminster, MD 21158.

Memory tributes may be sent to the family at...

[www.evansfuneralchapel.com](http://www.evansfuneralchapel.com)







# Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

I am happy to say that our detachment was well represented at the **VFW 160 field day** (clean-up session) on **Sunday, September.12, 2010**. The turn-out was significant and for that reason I will not attempt to name all of the participants for fear of forgetting someone.

Our volunteers teamed with members of the VFW, the auxiliary organizations, and family members to clean the hall, kitchen, and bar areas of the post.

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**A Department of Maryland Staff Meeting & Pack Growl** was hosted at **American Legion Post 70** in **Easton** by the **Choptank Detachment** on **Saturday, 25 September 2010**.

Awards (recognition) of interest to members of our detachment include:

Desiree Curtin & Nila Caulder for their contributions (including The donation of their tip monies) to a successfully run hospitality suite at the Department Convention in Ocean City this past Spring.

Guy Hall for his assistance and support of the **Modern Marine Expo** at Quantico, VA.

George Martin for meritorious service to the **Young Marines** during the period from September 2009 through September 2010.

A. A. Co. Detachment 1049 for finishing second in the **2010 National Newsletter Competition**.

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**Guy Hall** recently attended the 2010 commemoration of Marine Medal of Honor recipient **John Basilone**. The four day event was attended by an estimated crowd of more than 3,500 people. The **MCL of Raritan**, the **New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police**, and the **Somerset County Sheriffs Department** hosted the event.

The USMC Band from Quantico, and Marine Corps League Detachments from all over the mid-Atlantic region of the U.S. participated in the 29th iteration of this event and the associated parade.

Guy, who was the only *'Gold Cover'* in attendance, encourages all Marines to attend this event in the future.

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A foursome from our detachment (Manny Airy, Pete Pervi, Rich 'Horse Killer' Gonzales, and I) participated in the first **Marines Helping Marines** fund-raising golf tournament sponsored by the **Robert W. Deane Detachment** in Mount Airy. The course – *The Links at Challedon* – provided a fine venue, the weather was gorgeous, the golf (from our perspective) was great, and everyone had fun. Kudos to the Deane Detachment for a great first tournament.

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*(continued in adjacent column)*

The construction phase of the **Marine Corps League Office** at **VFW Post 160** is just about complete. We have a counter (desk) top, two office chairs, and a couple of half-height (two drawer) filing cabinets.

It is my hope that all but the last two tasks in the following list should be completed prior to the 2010 Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Hopefully, those providing the labor share my perspective.

Tasks remaining to be completed include:

- hanging shelves to accommodate flags and banners;
- efficiently storing (hanging) charter, plaques, and other framed items so that they are easily accessible for use at appropriate detachment functions;
- designing, procuring, and affixing an appropriate office door graphic; and,
- relocating detachment trophies and awards (with the approval of the VFW House Committee and the leadership of the Men's and Ladies Auxiliaries.

Please contact one of our detachment officers should you have any office accessories – desk lamp, chair mats (for floor), and stationery, that you would like to donate.

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Our **2010 Oyster Roast** took place at **VFW Post 160** on the 10th of October and was both a highly enjoyable and profitable affair (see *Senior Vice Commandant's column* on page 4 for details). All aspects of the affair and its overall success are the result of the dedicated effort of our **Senior Vice Commandant Chris Thompson**. Chris and his staff of volunteer's made every effort to ensure that all attending had a good time, that the per ticket price remained the same as it has been for the past few years, and that a profit was realized. In order to accomplish the latter two objectives, Chris had to employ imagination and initiative as the cost of employing the usual caterers alone would have exceeded the \$30 per person ticket price!

Finally, thanks to all of our members, families, and friends, who continue to support our annual fund-raiser.





# Veteran's Affairs

by Ed Dahling

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs

Veteran's medallions are available through the VA, which can be affixed to an existing, privately purchased head-stone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a veteran.



Medallions will be furnished upon request in lieu of a traditional government headstone or marker for veterans that died on or after November 1, 1990, and whose graves are marked with a privately purchased head-stone or marker.

The medallion is currently available in three sizes – 5 inches, 3 inches, and 1½ inches. Each medallion will be inscribed with the word **VETERAN** across the top and the Branch of Service at the bottom. Appropriate affixing adhesive, instructions, and hardware will be provided with the medallion.



# Public Information

by Ed Dahling, Public Information Officer

*NOTE – This story is based upon information obtained from the web site of The Education Center at the Wall.*

## Fundraising for Vietnam Center

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial holds the names of the more than 58,000 brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our great country during the Vietnam War. It is a memorial, built by the American people, not to memorialize the war but to ensure that names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice would never be lost to history.

For many, the Vietnam War is in the distant past. Nearly 40 percent of the 4 million people who visit The Wall today are too young to remember the war. To them the long list of names cut in the smooth black granite are faceless; they have no context, no connection. These children can understand that here is person who lost their life but without the proper resources, often their knowledge is limited to the accounts that sell books, or the flashy sensationalism of Hollywood.

By telling the stories behind every name, the Education Center will help visitors understand the courage, sacrifice and devotion of those who fell, those who returned, and those who waited. While learning about the Vietnam War, visitors will also discover how the Memorial shaped the ways Americans mourn, and the vital part The Wall played in helping to heal the bitter divisions that tore at the nation's heart and soul.

The Education Center will be located on an empty section of land situated across the street from The Wall and the Lincoln Memorial Circle.

More information may be obtained at the following URL –

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



**Marine Corps League**  
Department of Maryland

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>

**Rich Morton Lincoln  
Mercury Mazda**



51 Mountain Rd.  
Pasadena, MD 21122

Phone: 800-577-1658



Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049, MCL invites you to attend their

# 235th Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Site – VFW Post 160  
2597 Dorsey Rd  
Glen Burnie, MD  
21060



**\$50**  
per person

## Price includes:

Dinner, Open Bar, Corsages for the Ladies, Photo and more

## Dinner Choices:

Crab Cake, Prime Rib, or Chicken Breast

## Saturday, 13 November 2010

Cocktail Hour ..... 6:00 to 7:00 PM  
Ceremony ..... 7:00 to 7:45 PM  
Dinner ..... 7:45 to 8:45  
Dancing/Socializing ..... 8:45 PM to MIDNIGHT (?)

**CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE** Call Mac McNeir (410-437-4329) no later than October 22, 2010.

Make Checks payable to *A. A. County Detachment 1049* and mail them to  
**Mac McNeir, 939 Duvall Highway, Pasadena, MD 21122**

# Medal of Honor Convention

*NOTE – This story is based on an AP article by Bruce Smith, posted online by the Marine Corps Times on September 27, 2010.*

CHARLESTON, S.C. – About 55 recipients of the nation's highest military honor gather this week in South Carolina for the annual Medal of Honor Convention.

Medal recipients will enjoy fellowship, visit schools, meet with Citadel cadets and hold their annual banquet next weekend.

They are an elite group. Only 3,450 medals have been awarded since the honor was instituted during the Civil War.



There are now only 87 living recipients, although there will be 88 soon when President Barack Obama awards the honor to Army Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta.

*“We live in a free country and a lot of people made a lot of sacrifice to preserve it,”* said retired **Marine Major General James Livingston** of Mount Pleasant, a medal recipient who is helping organize the event.

When visiting schools *“We remind kids that freedom is not free and that people have to sacrifice for your freedom,”* he added.

After medal winners make initial appearances in Columbia on Monday, the Charleston events begin Wednesday as participants ride in open buses along Charleston's Battery to attend an opening reception.

Other events during the four-day convention include a symposium at The Citadel with Citadel cadets, watching the cadets parade and Saturday's concluding Patriot's Awards Dinner.

Guests at the dinner will include Air Force Chief of Staff Norton Schwartz, former South Carolina Governor James Edwards, journalist Peggy Noonan and actor Stephen Lang.

Although widely known for his role in the blockbuster film “Avatar,” Lang played Confederate generals in the films “Gettysburg” and “Gods and Generals.”

Livingston was awarded the Medal of Honor when, as a Marine Captain, he led his company against a village in Vietnam that had been seized by the enemy who had cut off another Marine company.

Although wounded by grenade fragments, Livingston refused medical treatment and led his men in destroying more than 100 enemy bunkers. The attack drove the enemy off and saved the isolated Marine company.

But when Medal of Honor recipients get together, they're not likely to trade such war stories, Livingston said.

*(continued in adjacent column)*

Generally war discussions are in the context of current events – what's happening in Afghanistan or in Iraq, he said.

“Most of these guys are not interested in talking about what their experiences were,” he said. “If they talk about it, they talk about it in terms of ‘we’ and not ‘I.’”

The convention is held annually around the country and was last in Charleston in 1992, he said.

The Medal of Honor Society and Medal of Honor Museum are now located aboard the USS Yorktown on Charleston Harbor.

Three years ago, a refurbished \$1.5 million museum was opened aboard the aircraft carrier that not only gives tribute to the medal recipients, but gives visitors some idea of combat.

At the museum, visitors enter a hall to a multimedia exhibit on the meaning of freedom, they can see the medal itself and then enter the so-called “Tunnel of Combat.”

As visitors pass, they trip sensors that trigger sounds and pictures, which provide a sense of the chaos of battle in eras from the Civil War to modern-day conflicts in the Middle East.



## About Our Own

*(from our members)*

**SSGT Scott Mione**, the son-in-law of **Danny Fischio** and member of our detachment, is currently deployed to Camp Bastion, Afghanistan with **Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362** (HMH-362) out of Kaneohe, Hawaii.

The following communique is from HMH-362's Commanding Officer:

*“Currently, we are working two shifts: 0400-1600 and 1600-0400. We fly every day/night and get two maintenance days per month. We fly seven to eight hour missions moving Marines and cargo throughout the Helmand River Valley.*

*Lieutenant Colonel Tom “Piglet” Pecina  
“Ugly Angels” Commanding Officer*



*NOTE – Anyone knowing of a member, friend, or family member, who is currently serving as a Marine anywhere in the world is encouraged to share that knowledge with our readers.*



# Corps History

by Vic Halme, Historian

## 1 October 1880

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

## 1 October 1997

Colonel Gilda A. Jackson becomes first African-American female Colonel in the Marine Corps during a ceremony at MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina.

## 1 October 2001

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

## 1 October 2005

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

## 5 October 1775

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.

## 6 October 1945

**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.

## 8 October 1899

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

## 9 October 1917

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.

## 11 October 1951

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.

## 14 October 1918

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

## 16 October 1820

**Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Gale**, 4th Commandant of the Marine Corps, having been found guilty of habitual drunkenness and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman by a General Court Martial, was dismissed from the Marine Corps.

## 17 October 1820

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

## 18 October 1859

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

## 19 October 1968

**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.

## 20 October 1926

Because of the brutal murder of a mail truck driver, **President Calvin Coolidge** orders the Marine Corps to guard the U.S. Mail.

## 23 October 1983

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.

## 24 October 1915

Marine Corps Recruit Depot was moved from Norfolk and re-established at Parris Island, South Carolina.

## 25 October 1983

The Marine Corps and Army intervene in Grenada, West Indies.

## 28 October 1962

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 also deployed during the crisis.

## 31 October 1919

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.

## 31 October 1955

**Lieutenant General Lewis B. 'Chesty' Puller**, who earned five Navy Crosses – and an Army Distinguished Service Cross – retires.

(continued in adjacent column)







# 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** Cancelled!  
Saturday, 16 October 2010 from 1700 to 1900 – *Pete Pervi*

**Monthly Meeting, MCL Detachment 1049**  
Monday, 25 October 2010 @ 1900  
*Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)*

**Children's Halloween Party, VFW Ladies Auxiliary**  
Saturday, 30 October 2010 from 1300 to 1500

**Friday Night Dinner, MCL Detachment 1049**  
Friday, 5 November 2010 from 1800 to 2000 – *Rich Gonzales*

**Monthly Breakfast, VFW Post 160**  
Sunday, 7 November 2010 from 0800 to 1200  
*Charles Albo (443-926-1665)*

**USMC Birthday Observance, MCL Det. 1049**  
Wednesday, 10 November 2010 @ 1800  
*Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)* Changed!

**Marine Corps Birthday Ball, MCL Detachment 1049**  
Saturday, 13 November 2010  
Cocktail Hour ..... 6:00 to 7:00 PM  
Ceremony ..... 7:00 to 7:45 PM  
Dinner ..... 7:45 to 8:45  
Dancing/Socializing ..... 8:45 PM to MIDNIGHT  
*Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)*

**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)*

**Thanksgiving Dinner, VFW Post 160**  
Thursday, 25 November 2010 (All Day) – *Pete Pervi*

**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



## Quotation

*"Nothing in life is as exhilarating as to be shot at without result."*

**Winston Churchill**

*British Prime Minister, statesman, orator, historian, writer, Nobel Prize winner and first person to be recognized as an honorary citizen of the United States.*

## Corps Humor

An old Sailor and an old Marine were sitting at the local VFW Post arguing about who'd had the tougher career.

"I did 35 years in the Corps," the Marine declared proudly, "and fought in three of my country's wars. Fresh out of boot camp I hit the beach at Okinawa, clawed my way up the blood-soaked sand, and eventually took out an entire enemy machine gun nest with a single grenade."

"As a Sergeant, I fought in Korea with "Chesty" Puller. We pushed back the enemy inch by bloody inch, constantly subjected to artillery and small arms fire."

"Finally, as a Gunnery Sergeant, I did three tours in Vietnam. We humped through the mud and razor grass for over 14 hours a day, plagued by rain and mosquitoes, ducking under sniper fire all day and mortar fire all night. In a firefight, we'd fire until our arms ached and we'd run out of ammo, then we'd charge the enemy with fixed bayonets!"

Growing impatient, the Sailor interrupts with a dismissive wave of his hand, and says "you lucky SOB... all shore duty, huh?"



# Commands Can Now Pay for Family Funeral Travel

*NOTE – This story is based on an online Marine Corps Times article by staff writer Gidget Fuentes, posted on September 26, 2010.*

Commands can now pay the way for families traveling to attend memorial services for their fallen loved ones.

The new Defense Department rules, authorized in May, affect services for a family member, who dies while on active duty and whose service is organized by their unit or command.



Marines from Marine Barracks Washington salute 1st Sgt. George Humphrey, a Marine who fought and died in World War I, at Arlington National Cemetery. [LCpl. Benjamin Harris, USMC]

Under the policy, commands can pay travel costs for spouses, parents, and immediate family members, along with two days of per diem. The costs, which could include roundtrip airfare, lodging and meals, would be paid by the command. But the new rules don't provide additional funding for the units to cover those expenses.

The revision to joint travel regulations, which applies to unit memorial services but not burial ceremonies, was a provision included in the fiscal 2010 Defense Department authorization, which Congress approved last year.

The Marine Corps on Sept. 6 issued MARADMIN 500/10, outlining the new travel and transportation rules.

"We are glad that they are looking into the needs of the families and the way the family needs to grieve," said Kathy Moakler, government relations deputy director for the National Military Family Association in Alexandria, Va.

The revision to the travel rules codifies what has been unofficial practice for many units that have paid to bring family members to their bases or stations for a unit memorial service.

Many units have invited family members to their memorial services and often helped with travel costs, said Bryan Driver, a Marine Corps Community Services spokesman at Quantico, Va. "They were already doing that, but now we make it officially legal to do so."

*(continued in adjacent column)*

Family support groups welcomed the change in policy to help families dealing with tight budgets as well as their grief.

"It's a wonderful thing if they can do that," said Molly Morel, national president of the American Gold Star Mothers, a Washington, DC-based group.

Morel, who lives in Tennessee, lost her son, Marine Captain Brent Morel, in a firefight outside Fallujah, Iraq, in April of 2004. She and her husband flew to Camp Pendleton, CA, where they joined their daughter-in-law and other families in a meeting with then President George W. Bush. "We could afford it, but some families cannot afford to do that," she said.



## Senator Files Arlington Legislation

*NOTE – This story is based on an AP article, posted online by the Marine Corps Times on September 28, 2010.*

BOSTON – **Senator Scott Brown** has filed legislation aimed at correcting problems that allowed bodies to be buried in the wrong graves at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Massachusetts Republican is joined by Democratic **Senator Claire McCaskill** of Missouri in sponsoring the measure announced Tuesday.

The bill will require the Secretary of the Army to report to Congress on the cemetery's ability to verify the identity, location and burial records for every gravesite.

It also requires the secretary to update Congress on the progress at changing the management and oversight structure at Arlington.

Brown said the problems "*have tarnished a sacred trust with military families.*"

He also says the legislation will ensure service-member families never have to endure such emotional turmoil again.

Brown is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Massachusetts Army National Guard and serves with McCaskill on the Armed Services Committee.



# Specially-Trained Dogs Help Marines Sniff Out IED's

KOSHTAY, AFGHANISTAN – Lance Corporal Jordan Ridder never owned a dog when he was a boy. But he always liked dogs, and there were plenty around the neighborhood.



Lance Corporal Jordan Ridder and Tigger in Koshtay, Afghanistan.

So when he joined the Marine Corps and they told him they were looking for dog handlers as part of a new program – a program designed to save Marines' lives - he applied, and was accepted.

The biggest threat to U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan – as in Iraq – is from IEDs, improvised explosive devices. To counter IEDs the military uses metal detectors, ground penetrating radar, electronic jamming signals, mine rollers attached to the front of vehicles and pretty much anything else they can think of that might be an effective counter-measure. Now comes a four-footed addition to the fight against IEDs – specially-trained dogs who can sniff out explosives under the ground before a Marine gets close to the danger zone.

Ridder and the 12 other dog handlers in 3/1 all have Labradors, traditionally used as hunting dogs to retrieve waterfowl. They have an excellent sense of smell and a strong work drive – even, as we discovered, in the 110 degree heat of southern Afghanistan.

The patrol started in the middle of the day with the sun right overhead. Ridder had already given his dog, Tigger, a sub-cutaneous IV of regular saline solution, injected under the loose skin around his shoulders. Dogs can carry water under their skin and absorb it as they need it quite safely – it works almost like an internal camel back.

We worked our way through fields of wheat and poppy, and then after wading through a canal we walked down a road. Ridder sent Tigger out in front of everyone to see if his nose picked up any scent of explosives. The handlers can work their dogs three to four hundred yards away, so the dogs can cover a huge amount of ground as they dart back and forth.

The relationship between each dog and his or her handler becomes very close – when the weather gets cold many of the handlers have their dogs sleep next to them in their sleeping bags. In fact before he left California to come to Afghanistan Ridder had some push-back from his wife, Caitlin, who accused him of spending more time with his dog than with her. One can see Caitlin's point – some women might indeed feel a little left out if their husband is sleeping next to the dog all the time.

This patrol was uneventful, and no IEDs were found. Tigger had run many more miles than the human contingent, and whenever he got too hot he would just jump into one of the many canals or irrigation ditches to cool off. The biggest fear Ridder has for Tigger are the local Afghan dogs, many of whom are very fierce. They try to steer clear of local dogs.

Dogs are not as unpopular in Afghanistan as they are in Iraq – where dogs are all regarded as unclean – but there is one local superstition which the Marines have to deal with, concerning black dogs. Like many of the Labradors, Tigger is jet black – many Afghans see black dogs as somehow linked to the devil, and do not want the dogs sniffing inside their compounds. Ridder keeps Tigger out of compounds unless they are specifically ordered to search a particular house.

3/1's dogs have already proved their worth. India company lost a dog last week – Tar – in an explosion that wounded his handler. Had the dog not alerted on the IED, more Marines might have been injured or even killed.

When we got back to the base, Tigger immediately found some shade to lie down in – his black coat absorbs heat and so he seeks out shade whenever and wherever he can. Even though no IED had been found, Ridder was upbeat – “We didn't miss any IEDs either,” he said.

The patrols can be long and arduous in the heat, but the Marines are glad to have a dog with them – anything to increase their chances of finding an IED before it explodes. One mark of how high the dogs are valued – each dog is given a rank one degree higher than his or her handler, as a mark of respect for the dog. Lance Corporal Ridder effectively takes his orders from Corporal Tigger, complete with two chevrons on his collar.

*NOTE – This story is based on an online CBS News' series "Afghanistan: the Road Ahead" – by CBS News correspondent Terry McCarthy, who is following the Third Battalion, First Marines.*



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



## America Needs... *(cont'd from page 1)*

Of course, honor, courage and commitment are always in short supply. But the Marines teach personal responsibility and accountability by example, that any chain is only as strong as the weakest individual link. As a unit, we are stronger working together than the individual members can separately be.

Marines take care of their own – and they take care of their fellow Marines before themselves. The well-being of the country and of the Corps is more important than our individual well-being.

This may best be stated in the hard-and-fast Marine rule: **“Officers eat last.”** The Marine officer does not eat until after his subordinates for whom he is responsible – the corporals and privates – have been fed.

Marines live by the rule that loyalty goes both up and down the chain of command. Would not our country be a more just and human place if the brass of Wall Street and Washington and executive suites believed that *officers eat last*?

The Marine ethic emphasizes responsibility to duty and responsibility to others before self. This is the very opposite of the unbridled individualism that elevates profit and personal comfort to high virtues. The selfish and self-centered CEO or senator who disregards and discards his *loyal troops* would be shunned in the Corps.

Civilian Americans must understand that the greatest civil rights victories have been won by the Marines and the U.S. military, the most successfully integrated sector of our national life. Why? No racial reference and no racial discrimination. The first time I ever slept in the same quarters with African-Americans or Latinos – or took orders from them – was as a private in the Marines Corps.

Yes, America really does need more Marine values and influence.





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## Tarawa... *(continued from page 3)*

The excavations also helped identify where servicemen aren't buried, so future JPAC missions will know where not to dig.

“We, of course, now know where our Marines are not,” Osorio said. *“We've set the conditions for a very successful and efficient operation to take place in the future.”*

The JPAC team excavated places that a private group had helped identify as possible grave sites by using ground-penetrating radar, which can detect anomalies in the soil.

Ground-penetrating radar can be an appropriate tool in some situations, but Tarawa was probably not one of them, Osorio said.

It wasn't clear when JPAC would return for another excavation mission but it likely will, Osorio said.

About 78,000 Americans are still missing from World War II. JPAC estimates some 35,000 are recoverable, with the remainder lost at sea or on sunken ships.

Four Medals of Honor – the nation's highest award for combat valor – were earned at Tarawa, one of them posthumously. Thirty-four Navy Crosses, the Navy and Marine Corps' second-highest award for valor, were issued along with some 250 Silver Stars.



# Bombastic Bumper:



**Life... Liberty... and the Pursuit of  
Anyone Who Threatens Them!**



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

(Address Correction Requested)



# Featured Foto



Reconnaissance Marines with Reconnaissance Platoon, Battalion Landing Team 3/8, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, sit on the ramp of an MV-22 Osprey prior to fast-rope during a fast-rope qualification exercise aboard USS Kearsarge, Sept. 9, 2010. [Public Domain Photo as it appeared on the Official U.S. Marine Corps Website – L/Cpl. Santiago G. Colon Jr.]