

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/>

National Convention

by Mac McNeir



Members of the Maryland Pack of the Military Order of Devil Dogs at the Marine Corps League's 2010 National Convention in Greensboro, NC. [Photo – Mike Hadley]

The Marine Corps League's National Convention and the Military Order of Devil Dogs' Supreme Growl took place in Greensboro, NC during the week of 8 through 14 August 2010. The Department of Maryland was well represented as was Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049.

As is the case with most conventions, daily activities consisted of meetings, ceremonies, craziness, and temperate sampling of the host city's night life. But, for two of our detachment members, **Phil Schwarzenberg** and **Pete Pervi**, most of their convention activities were focused upon the initiation rites that would result in their elevation to the esteemed rank of **Pedigreed Devil Dog**. Pete and Phil were just two of the many Devil Dogs from the Maryland Pack, who would be advanced.

(see Convention on page 14)

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

Phone410-437-4329

Emaileditor@mclaacdet1049.org

Website<http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

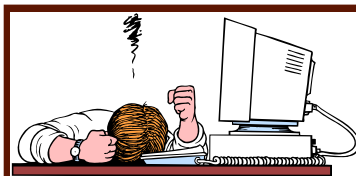
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- Commandant – Mac McNeir
Senior Vice-Commandant – Chris Thompson
Junior Vice-Commandant – Woody Bowman
Judge Advocate – Joe Wright
Adjutant – Tom Maiorana
Auxiliary President – Desiree Curtin
By-Laws Committee Chairman – Danny Fischio
Chaplain – Ken Webster
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 – Chris Kalwa
Toys for Tots Coordinator – Vacant
VAIS Officer – Vacant
Web Sergeant – Michael R. Hadley
Young Marines Commander – George Martin

Embroidered detachment patches are available for purchase from the Judge Advocate for the bargain price of \$3 each.

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



From the Editor

by Mac McNeir

In case you have not heard, the results of the **Marine Corps League's National Newsletter Competition for 2010** are in and three Department of Maryland detachments were prize winners.

In the division for detachments with more than 100 members, *the Cutting Edge* took second place honors; while, the **Baltimore Detachment's** newsletter took third place. The **SSgt Walter E. "Trae" Cohee III Detachment** in Salisbury took third place for detachments with 50 or fewer members.

If you have Internet capability and are not currently getting your newsletter electronically, I would appreciate being provided with your email address. I also need to be kept aware of any changes to your current mailing address.

The submission deadline for all **October** newsletter articles is no later than **MIDNIGHT, Wednesday, October 13, 2010.**



Membership Stats

Detachment Membership Stats – 8/31/2010			
Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	75	9	6
Annual Memberships	31	6	–
Delinquent Dues			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	10	3	–
New Members			
	1	–	–
Sub-Totals			
	117	18	6
Total			
	141		



Renewals Coming Due

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

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

RENEWALS		
October	November	December
Boschert, David Galvin, James Sturm, Raymond	NONE	Blanton, Donald Lowman, Michael Russell, William

Commandant's Message



Mac McNeir

Operation Welcome Home

I continue to be a strong advocate of **Operation Welcome Home** and am encouraging any detachment member, who can, to be part of this worthwhile activity. With arriving flights at a wide range of times (mornings, afternoons, evenings... as well as on weekends), there should be a flight that meets your specific needs. More information is available on our bulletin board.

Think about it.

Toys for Tots

This will upset many of you; however, our detachment will not be an official representative of the **2010 Toys for Tots Program**. The year long effort to find a coordinator was unsuccessful and as a result *we are no longer a registered representative for Toys for Tots*. Therefore, *we cannot represent ourselves as such*. For many of our supporters, this means *no tax write-offs, no donated warehouse space, no donated vehicle(s)*, etc.

For the reasons stated above, I recommend that you should encourage anyone wishing to contribute toys to contact the national website <http://www.toysfortots.org/> or the Baltimore-based Marine Corps Reserve unit <http://www.toysfortotsbaltimore.org/>.

Bull & Oyster Roast

Our annual **Bull & Oyster Roast** will be taking place in less than a month (**Sunday, 10 October 2010** from **1300 to 1800**). Tickets for our major annual fund-raiser are **\$30 per person**. Our Senior Vice Commandant **Chris Thompson** assures me that this will be a first-class affair. Reflecting on other affairs that Chris has catered, I fully concur with his assertion.

235th Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Our detachment's celebration of the **235th Birthday** of our Corps will take place at **VFW Post 160 on Saturday, 13 November 2010** beginning with cocktails at **1800** (6:00 PM for those who still struggle with military time).

As in the past, a *Happy Hour* observance of the Corps' birthday will take place at **VFW Post 160 on Wednesday, 10 November 2010** beginning at **1800**.

Respectfully,

Mac



Lest We Forget...

Marine Corps League Member **Robert Everett Brand**, 62, of Frederick, passed away on Saturday, August 28, 2010, at the Washington Hospital Center. He was the husband of **Linda Brand** of Frederick, his wife of 41 years.

Born February 22, 1948, in Bethesda, he was the son of the late **Everett Wilson** and **Margaret Virginia Brand**. Shortly after graduating from Northwood High School in 1966, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a 'radio-man' and served two tours of duty in Vietnam. Among his decorations are the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnamese Service Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal, Good Conduct, and National Defense Medal.

Upon being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, Bob worked as a security officer – mostly for the federal government – for the remainder of his career.

In addition to his wife, Bob is survived by three children; **Chad Brand**, **Jennifer Love** and husband **Antwain**, and **Chris Brand**; seven grandchildren; **Kyle Brand**; **Alisha, Soloman, Jazmin**, and **Damon Love**; and **Daniel** and **Keira Brand**; his twin sister, **Sharon Buley**; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Bob was interred in the **Veterans Garden of Honor II** within the **Resthaven Memorial Cemetery** located in Frederick, Maryland. Military honors were rendered by members of the **Anne Arundel County** and **LCpl Robert W. Deane** detachments of the **Marine Corps League** and four active duty Marines from **B Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion** located at **Fort Detrick** in Frederick, Maryland.

The family requests that any donations be made in the name of **Robert Everett Brand** and sent to:

The Marine Corps League Foundation
P.O. Box 3070
Merrifield, VA 22116-3070.

NOTE – The above article was based upon information obtained from the online version of the Frederick News Post published on September 1, 2010.



Remember the victims
of 9-11 and those
they left behind!



From the desk of the

Senior Vice Commandant



Chris Thompson

Hello, Marines

I just wanted to send out a reminder that our annual **Bull and Oyster Roast** will be held on **Sunday, October 10th**, from **1:00 to 6:00 PM**. Please remember that this event is the largest fundraiser for our detachment each year, so buy your tickets, bring someone, and enjoy the camaraderie for which Marines are famous.

If anyone needs tickets please contact me at **(410) 897-7607** or purchase them from the bartender at **VFW Post 160**.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you there for good eats and an afternoon of festivities.

Semper Fi!

Chris



TRICARE Provides Free Vaccinations

NOTE – The following is based on an online MILITARY.COM article, which was posted during the week of September 6, 2010.

TRICARE covers seasonal and H1N1 flu and age-appropriate doses of vaccines recommended by the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**. Beneficiaries can visit participating TRICARE retail network pharmacies to receive seasonal flu, H1N1 flu and pneumonia vaccines at no cost. This expanded coverage is available to all TRICARE beneficiaries eligible to use the TRICARE retail pharmacy benefit. To find a participating pharmacy, visit <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/pharmacy/> or call **Express Scripts** at **1-877-363-1303**.

TRICARE regularly adds coverage for new vaccinations based on **CDC** recommendations on the CDC website <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>.

For more information on immunizations, visit the **Military Health System Immunization Awareness** page – <http://www.health.mil/Themes/Immunization.aspx>.



From the desk of the

Junior Vice Commandant



Woody Bowman

Fellow Members,

This month, we are welcoming a new member – **Nick Dubich** – to our detachment.

Membership Status

As of the end of August, we still have ten members (regular and associate), who are delinquent with regard to the payment of their 2009 and 2010 dues. Three members are delinquent in the payment of their 2010 dues. I would have hoped that all of our delinquent detachment members would have caught up by now.

Color Guard Activities

The Color Guard is currently scheduled to participate in the following two events.

- The *Lost in the 50's Car Club* event being hosted at the Marley Station Mall on September 11th at 7:00 PM.
- A *Severna Park Elks' Club* event on November 24th at 2:00 PM.

See You at the Next Meeting,

Woody



Chaplain's Corner

by Ken Webster, Detachment Chaplain

Please keep all of our extended family members, mentioned below, in your thoughts and prayers. Remember to 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).

Robert Everett Brand, a fellow detachment member, passed away on Saturday, August 28, 2010, at Washington Hospital Center. He is survived by **Linda Brand** of Frederick, his wife of 41 years (*see Lest We Forget on page 3 for additional information*).





Military Order of the Devil Dogs



The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof-Woof,

The Supreme Growl is now history, and the **Maryland Pack** now has 21 new PDDs. For the most part, they enjoyed the initiation process with comments such as *“this ain't nothing compared to Ocean City initiation.”* So give a hearty *“Woof-Woof”* when you see a newly advanced and proud PDD.

The **Maryland Pack** and **Pound 204** were recognized by the Chief Devil Dog and presented a certificate for contributing the most bones to the handicap children's hospital. Yours truly was also recognized with a plaque proclaiming me the **Pound Dog Robber of the Year**. I appreciated it; but really, I am just doing my job. But, thanks anyway.

As I said last month, it is time to pay dues. Many Dogs have already done so, but there are still a few holdouts. So get a measly 15 big bones into your Dog Robber ASAP. Make checks payable to **MODD, Pound 204**.

Pound 204 held a Growl on August 22nd with very good attendance, which included some visitors from **Pound 333**. They were quite welcome and contributed several bones to the cause. Of course, the cause is bones for handicapped children... and we started the Dog year off right, collecting 305 big bones for the children's hospital in **Boise, Idaho** – the site of next year's **Supreme Growl**. It looks like we are on the way to being the highest contributor again.

Pound 204 also held elections at the 22 August Growl. Our beloved, long-time **Pound Keeper, PDD Jack Severn**, stepped down. However, he didn't step down very far as he accepted the Senior Vice Pound Keeper position. The new **Pound Keeper** is **PDD Mike Hadley**. Congratulations Mike.

The Pack will Growl again on **25 September** after the **Department Staff Meeting**. Bring bones!

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



Legislative Report

by Jim Le Gette, Legislative Officer

Agent Orange continues to play heavily in the field of medical acknowledgement and expense. The VA is looking to expand benefits to a greater number of veterans who served in Vietnam. Congressional hearings will be held in September and towards the end of this year to consider a multi-billion dollar expansion of disability compensation and medical treatment relative to Agent Orange maladies. A complete list of illnesses presumed to be related to Agent Orange may be found at:

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/diseases.asp

Bill HR 5921, the *Support for Families of the Fallen Act* proposes a new death benefit to survivors equal to the amount of Social Security taxes with-held from a service member's pay who dies in the line of duty. Payments would be made retroactive to 9-11-2001. This bill and corresponding report will have to be studied by Congress before there is any chance it will be passed.

The General Accounting Office is considering allowing the military *to earn reduced retirement benefits after 10 years of active duty*, benefits that would not be available until age 65. This added expense to the military budget may be difficult to pass in light of the fact that Congress is now looking at cutting federal entitlement programs.



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 **October** include:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Harry Anderson | Buddy Cadle | Frank Cerelli |
| George Cunningham Jr | Dee Cline | Tom Hancock |
| Michael Mullikin | George Perez Sr | Roger Pirkey |
| Donald Quinlan | Steve Salanik | Sinamin Stone |



Rich Morton Lincoln Mercury Mazda



51 Mountain Rd.
Pasadena, MD 21122
Phone: 800-577-1658



Young Marines

Marines,

Not much to report at this time; however, we are beginning a new training year in October with fourteen returning Young Marines and a projected eight new recruits.

As an organization, we are looking forward to the challenges of a new training year and the opportunity to work with Marine Corps League and VFW members. Remember if you want us or need us for anything... just let us know.

Respectfully,

George Martin

Young Marines Commander



<http://deptofmdmcl.org>



VA Volunteerism

by Ed Dahling

VA Expands Recognized Diseases

The Department of Veterans Affairs has expanded the list of health problems VA officials presume to be related to **Agent Orange** and other herbicide exposure. The new health problems include Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease, and expanding chronic lymphocytic leukemia to include all chronic B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia. VA officials encourage Vietnam veterans with these three diseases to submit their applications for access to VA health care and compensation now so the agency can address their claims. Visit the VA website to learn how to file a claim and what evidence is needed to make a decision about disability compensation or survivors' benefits. Additional information about VA's services for Veterans exposed to Agent Orange is available by either going to the VA's Agent Orange webpage...

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/>

or by calling the VA Helpline at

1-800-749-8387 (press 3 after being connected).



CMC's Residence to be Renovated

NOTE - The following article & photo appeared in a Marine Corps Times online article posted on August 23, 2010.

When **General Jim Amos** takes the helm as the new **Commandant of the Marine Corps**, he won't immediately be living in the Commandant's quarters because the house is slated for major renovations, which will take six months.

The mansion will be unoccupied while significant structural repairs are made to the basement, below ground structural support, exterior brick walls, and siding. Additionally, the building's climate control system will be replaced and a new elevator will be installed.



Changes to the interior decor, however, are left to the discretion of each incoming Commandant and his family, who can alter the decor to reflect their individual tastes.

Where the next commandant will live during repairs remains unclear. Officials at Marine Corps Barracks Washington declined to speculate, saying that doing so would be premature as Amos' confirmation as 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps is still pending. As the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Amos now resides at one of several other residences at Marine Barracks Washington – also raising the question, where will the incoming ACMC live?

Sitting vacant for six months could rob the *Home of the Commandants* of its claim to fame. The Marine Corps calls it the "*longest continually occupied public building in Washington, DC*," although calls to several historical authorities, including the Washington D.C. Historic Preservation Office, were unable to confirm the building's status or if it might lose its title.

Determining a building's lineage can at times seem as much art as science. As one of the only buildings spared when the British burned Washington in 1814, however, it is unquestionably one of the district's oldest and most notable federal landmarks. There are several theories about why the building was spared in 1814. According to common lore, British commanders left the home standing as a sign of respect after U.S. Marines made a brave showing at the Battle of Bladensburg in Maryland. Another, less-glamorous theory is that British commanders, who used the home as their temporary headquarters, simply forgot to order the building burned when they hastily withdrew from the city. Regardless, the building remains at the center of Marine Corps lore and pride.



Newest NASCAR Sponsor... the GI Bill

NOTE – The following is based on an article by Rick Maze, staff writer for the Marine Corps Times, which was posted on August 19, 2010.

In an effort to bring more attention to veterans education benefits, the GI Bill will sponsor a car in a September 11th NASCAR race in Richmond, VA, and is also one of the sponsors of the race itself.



The **Air National Guard** is the chief sponsor of that Sprint Cup Series 400 race, which will be called the **Air Guard 400**. The idea, according to Veterans Affairs Department officials, is to get the GI Bill plastered on a racecar and frequently mentioned by broadcasters to spread the word about the availability of the Post 9-11 GI Bill.

The car will be driven by **Bobby Labonte**, VA officials said. Labonte is 31st in the current **Sprint Cup** standings and has not won any of his 23 races so far this year; but, he has won 21 races in his career.

The combined cost of sponsoring a car and the race will be about \$420,000, a significant part of a \$1 million advertising campaign that also includes buying ads in college newspapers and in online publications to try to reach eligible service members and veterans, VA officials said.

Having a racecar painted with the GI Bill as its sole sponsor, and having the pit crew dressed to match the car and doing some pre-race promotions will cost about \$200,000. Serving as an official race sponsor will cost another \$250,000. Sponsorship will result in frequent mentions of the GI Bill and its purpose during the night-time race on the oval track, officials said.

NASCAR is a good way to reach service members and veterans, VA officials said, because marketing surveys show that one-third of NASCAR fans are veterans or personally know a veteran. The Defense Department also advertises at NASCAR events because of marketing surveys that show race fans have a greater interest in military service than people who do not watch NASCAR events.

An added benefit of being a race sponsor is that NASCAR events are broadcast on military radio and television networks, VA officials said.

“We wanted to do more than just reach veterans and influencers that are thinking about school ... we wanted to also reach those folks who could be going to school but may not be fully aware of the benefit,” VA spokesman **Nathan Naylor** said.



Spirit of Semper Fi

by Mac McNeir

The spirit of **Semper Fidelis** was never more appropriately demonstrated than it was at the recent funeral services for one of our detachment members, **Robert E. Brand**.

Prior to his demise, Robert had requested that the Marine Corps League preside over his memorial services. Not being able to make timely contact with the Brand family, we had approximately 48 hours to hurriedly make arrangements for the memorial and graveside services for our Marine brother.

Many harried phone calls were made and fortunately we managed to find a number of volunteers from various sources. Volunteers from two Department of Maryland detachments of the Marine Corps League and members of the Frederick Marine Reserve Unit's I&I Staff. Because of the dedication of these volunteers, we were able to conduct suitable services within the chapel and render grave-side honors that included a rifle salute, echo taps (two buglers) and an exemplary flag-folding performed by the active duty Marines from Frederick.

Those who put aside personal commitments to support these ceremonies included the following Marines:

Department of Maryland

Tommy Grunwell

Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049

Manny Airey	Woody Bowman	Guy Hall
George Martin	Mac McNeir	Ken Rollins
Ken Webster		

LCpl Robert W. Deane Detachment 770

Bob Horensky	Jack Severn	Harry Wolfe
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Company B, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn. 4th Marine Division (Reinforced)

Staff Sergeant (1) & Sergeants (3)

NOTE – I was unable to identify these four Marines as the Frederick Reserve unit never responded to any of my calls.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that we often take for granted, the efforts of members who always step forward and give more of themselves than we have the right to expect. I am proud to be a member of an organization that boasts men like those identified above, who can be counted on to repeatedly be part of a solution... even when their involvement takes a toll on their personal responsibilities.



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



Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

The month of August marked the recommitment of our detachment to **Operation Welcome Home activities** at BWI Airport's International Terminal. As mentioned at our last meeting, I respectfully ask, that every member – with the time to do so – meet at least one flight at BWI each month. Since flights arrive just about every day of the week, at different times of the day (morning afternoon, evening, night, etc.), there should be a flight arriving at a time convenient for almost everyone.



Contributions of pre-packaged snacks (chips, pretzels, cookies, etc.) and bottled water for distribution to the arriving troops is also greatly appreciated. See the poster on the detachment bulletin board for additional details.

I will be attempting to meet at least two afternoon flights each month as the resumption of the school year prevents our school-aged volunteers from assisting with the preparation and post greeting clean-up activities that accompany each afternoon flight.

Woody Bowman, Manny Airey, and I met an early afternoon flight on August 26th and had the opportunity to meet and speak with **Captain Kathleen Thorp, USN,** who is the founder of **Operation Welcome Home.**



Pictured above is the sticker that will be presented to every member of our detachment, who makes it known to me that they met at least one Operation Welcome Home flight.

Please consider playing a part in this most rewarding experience. Hope to see you at BWI!

Tom and Annie Maiorana celebrated their **50th Wedding Anniversary** in August.

Wayne and Giovanna McNeir will be celebrating their **45th Wedding Anniversary** in September.

On Monday, August 30th, members of our detachment – **Manny Airey, Pete Pervi, Jim Brady, Woody Bowman, Rich Gonzales, Harry Anderson,** and I, as well as **Gary Barnett** – took part in a **Marines Helping Marines** fund-raising golf tournament sponsored by the **Harford County Marine Corps League Detachment 1198.**



It was a first-class tournament and everyone had a great time. Kudos are in order for **Commandant Don Benson,** and all the members of the Harford County Detachment, who obviously went all out!

On a related note, The **LCpl Robert W. Deane Detachment** will be sponsoring a **Marines Helping Marines** fund-raising golf tournament on **Thursday, October 7th** at the **Challedon Golf Course** in **Mt. Airy, Maryland.** Golfers within our detachment are encouraged to support the efforts of our fellow Marines!

The construction phase of the **Marine Corps League Office** at **VFW Post 160** is almost complete. We will begin furnishing it in the near future and moving detachment property into its confines. Please contact one of our detachment officers should you have any serviceable office furniture & accessories – file cabinets, desk, office chair, etc. – that you would be willing to donate.



Corps Humor

Two Sergeant Majors were walking across the base, when one says, “Where did you get such a great bike?”

The second Sergeant Major replied, “Well, I was walking out in town yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike. She threw the bike to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, ‘Take what you want.’”

The second Sergeant Major nodded approvingly, “Good choice; the clothes probably wouldn’t have fit.”



Need A Ride?

This message is for any of our members, who have not been able to attend our monthly meetings because they are in need of transportation.

If you would like to attend future detachment meetings; but, are in need of transportation, please contact me or our Chaplain and we will attempt to arrange a ride with a member living near you.

We Take Care of Our Own – Semper Fi,

Mac

Quotation

“The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.”

G. K. Chesterton
English Essayist and Poet

Help Still Needed!

Certificates of Appreciation for two corporate contributors to our **5th Annual Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament** remain undelivered. Would anyone with ties to either of the following organizations please contact me.

- Accutech Corporation
- Service First Consulting

Thanks & Semper Fi,

Mac

Code-Talker Passes

NOTE – The following is an edited version of an Associated Press article posted online by the Baltimore Sun on September 10, 2010.

WINDOW ROCK, AZ – **Allen Dale June**, one of the 29 original *Navajo Code-Talkers* who confounded the Japanese during World War II by transmitting messages in their native language, has died. He was 91.

June died of natural causes Wednesday night at a veterans hospital in Prescott, his wife, Virginia, told The Associated Press on Thursday. His health had been failing since earlier this year when he was hospitalized for a urinary tract infection and kidney failure because he wasn't drinking enough water, his wife said. He was hospitalized again two months ago after visiting family on the Navajo Nation and was transferred from a Flagstaff hospital to Prescott, where he was under round-the-clock care.

Several hundred Navajos served as Code Talkers during the war, but a group of 29 that included June developed the code based on their native language. Their role in the war was not declassified until 1968. The Code-Talkers took part in every assault the Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. They sent thousands of messages without error on Japanese troop movements, battlefield tactics and other communications critical to the war's ultimate outcome.

June, who attained the rank of sergeant, received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2001 along with other members of the original Code Talkers. With his death, only two of the 29 are still living.

June first tried to sign up for the Marines in his hometown of Kaibeto on the Navajo Nation, but a recruiter told him he was too young. He then traveled to the reservation town of Chinle to enlist – because he figured people there wouldn't recognize him – and he could lie about his age and forge his father's signature, Virginia June said.

Even after the code was declassified in 1968, June said little about his role as a Code-Talker because he viewed it as bragging, his wife said. Anyone who saw him in the past several years might have been able to guess he was a Code Talker, as he wore a red Navajo Code Talker cap with his name on it wherever he went and a black leather jacket with “Marines” written across the back. He completed his look with a bolo tie that had a large turquoise stone.

Besides his wife, Allen June is survived by 10 children. Funeral services are scheduled for Monday in Page, with burial in Kaibeto.



Senator Decries Stolen Valor Ruling

NOTE – The following is based on an article by Dale Wetzel of The Associated Press, which was posted by the Marine Corps Times on August 19, 2010.

BISMARCK, N.D. – **Senator Kent Conrad** on Thursday decried a federal appeals court's ruling that people cannot be prosecuted solely for lying about their military medals, saying it dishonors veterans who fought for their country.

The North Dakota Democrat was the primary Senate sponsor of the *Stolen Valor Act*, which Congress approved in 2006. It carries criminal penalties and fines if someone falsely claims to have earned military decorations. Under the law, someone who lies about receiving several military decorations, including the Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart, can be punished with up to a year in prison.

A divided federal appeals court in California ruled Tuesday that the law is an unconstitutional infringement on free-speech rights. The government should not be able to sanction speech “*solely because it is a lie*,” the court's decision said.

Conrad told The Associated Press the ruling was “*breathhtaking*.” “*To say, as the court did, no one is hurt by that, ask the real Medal of Honor winners. Ask the real Purple Heart winners*,” Conrad said.

Congress should revisit the law if the U.S. Supreme Court does not overturn the appeals court's ruling, Conrad said. The ruling came in the prosecution of **Xavier Alvarez**, a former member of a municipal water district board in southern California.

During a July 2007 meeting with another board, Alvarez introduced himself by declaring he was a 25-year Marine Corps veteran, who had received the Medal of Honor. Alvarez never has been in the service, according to court records.

The appeals court's ruling said Alvarez made a “*hobby of lying about himself*.” It said he claimed to have rescued the American Ambassador to Iran in 1979 during an Iranian student takeover of the U.S. Embassy, and that he had passed himself off as a Vietnam combat helicopter pilot and a member of the Detroit Red Wings hockey team.

Alvarez pleaded guilty to lying about receiving the Medal of Honor while keeping his right to appeal. Alvarez was ordered to pay \$5,100 in fines and assessments, told to perform 416 hours of community service, and placed on probation for three years.

Appeals Judges **Thomas G. Nelson** and **Milan D. Smith Jr.** voted to declare the law unconstitutional, while Judge **Jay Bybee** dissented.

The majority opinion, written by Smith, said upholding Alvarez's conviction could significantly alter the scope of free-speech protections extended by the First Amendment. Federal prosecutors had not proved Alvarez's lies were significant, or that they had harmed anyone, the opinion says.

If the law were upheld, “*there would be no constitutional bar to criminalizing lying about one's height, weight, age or financial status on Match.com or Facebook, or falsely representing to one's mother that one does not smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, is a virgin, or has not exceeded the speed limit while driving on the freeway*,” the majority opinion says.



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A Proud American Speaks

NOTE – The following unedited excerpt is taken from an article appearing in the online edition of the Lubbock Avalanche Journal posted on July 24, 2010. It chronicles a speech given by Quang Nguyen (a Vietnamese gentleman), which described his transition to proud American.

“My journey on what it means to be an American”

Thirty five years ago if you were to tell me that I am going to stand up here speaking to a couple thousands patriots, in English, I'd laugh at you. Man, every morning I wake up thanking God for putting family and me in the greatest country on earth.

I just want you all to know that the American dream does exist and I am living the American dream. I was asked to speak to you about my experience as a first generation Vietnamese American, but I rather speak to you as an American.

If you hadn't noticed, I am not white and I feel pretty comfortable with my people.

I am a proud US citizen and here is my proof... It took me 8 years to get it, waiting in endless lines, but I got it and I am very proud of it. Guess what, I did it legally and it ain't from the state of Hawaii.

I still remember the images of the Tet offensive in 1968. I was six years old. Now you might want to question how a six year old boy could remember anything. Trust me, those images can never be erased. I can't even imagine what it was like for young American soldiers, 10,000 miles away from home, fighting on my behalf.

Thirty five years ago, I left South Vietnam to come to America for political asylum. The war had ended. At the age of thirteen, I left with the understanding that I may or may not ever get to see my siblings or parents again. I was one of the first lucky 100,000 Vietnamese allowed to come to the US. Somehow, my family and I were reunited 5 months later, amazingly, in California. It was a miracle from God.

If you haven't heard lately that this is the greatest country on earth, let me tell you, IT IS! It is the freedom and the opportunities presented to me that put me here with all of you tonight. I also remember the barriers that I had to overcome every step of the way. My high school counselor told me that I could not make it to college due to my poor communication skills. I proved him wrong. I finished college. You see... All you have to do is to give this little boy an opportunity and encourage him to take and run with it. Well, I took the opportunities and here I am. This person standing tonight in front of you could not exist under a socialist/communist environment. By the way, if you think socialism is the way to go, I am sure many people here will chip in to get you a one-way ticket out of here. And if you didn't know, the only difference between socialism and communism is an AK-47 aiming at your head. That was what I knew and grew up with.

In 1983, I stood with a thousand new immigrants, reciting the pledge of allegiance and listening to the National Anthem for the first time as an American. To this day, I can't remember anything sweeter and more patriotic than that moment in my life. To my friend, Isabel Fabrie, who just got her US citizenship a couple of weeks ago, am I right? Please give a big hand to Isabel for doing it the right way!

Fast forwarding, somehow I finished high school, finished college, and like any other goofball 21 year old kid, I was having a great time with my life, I had a nice job and a nice apartment in Southern California. In some way and somehow, I had forgotten how I got here and why I am here.

One day I was at a gas station, I saw a veteran pumping gas on the other side of the island. I didn't know what made me do it, but I walked over and asked if he had served in Vietnam. He smiled and said Yes. I shook and held his hand. His eyes started to well up. I walked away as fast as I could and at that very moment, I was emotionally rocked, this was a profound moment in life. I knew something had to change in my life. It was time for me to learn how to be a good citizen. It was time for me to give back.

You see... America is not place on the map; it isn't a physical location. It is an ideal, a concept. And if you are an American, you must understand the concept, you must buy into this concept and most importantly, you have to fight and defend this concept. This is about Freedom... and not free stuff. And that is why I am standing up here. Brothers and sisters, to be a real American, the very least you must do is to learn English and understand it well. In my humble opinion, you cannot be a faithful patriotic citizen if you can't speak the language of the country you live in. Take this document of forty-six pages... Last I looked on the internet, there wasn't a Vietnamese translation of the US Constitution. It took me a long time to get to the point of being able to converse and until this day, I still struggle to come up with the right words. It's not easy, but if it's too easy, it's not worth doing.

Before I got to know this forty-six page document, I learned of the 500,000 Americans who fought for this little boy. I learned of the 58,000 names scribed on the black wall at the Vietnam War Memorial. You are my heroes. You are my founders.

When I was eligible to vote, I went out and performed my civic duty. For all of you young people out there, who just turned eighteen, I encourage you to exercise your duty as an American to be an informed voter no matter where you are or what you do. America fought and died for your rights. **DON'T LET HER DOWN!**

(see Proud... on page 12)



Corps History

by Vic Halme, Historian

1 September 1936

Mitchell Paige – Medal of Honor recipient for heroism during Guadalcanal campaign – enlists as a Marine in Baltimore, MD.

2 September 1945

Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies on board the battleship **MISSOURI** in Tokyo Bay. The senior Marine Corps representative at the historic ceremony was **Lt. General Roy S. Geiger**, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

6 September 1983

Two Marines killed and two wounded when rockets hit their compound in Beirut, Lebanon. Heavy fighting continued for the **24th Marine Amphibious Unit** peacekeeping force near the International Airport.

8 September 1942

On Guadalcanal, the **1st Raider Battalion** and the **1st Parachute Battalion**, supported by planes of **MAG-23** and two destroyer transports, landed east of Tasimboko, and carried out a successful raid on a Japanese supply base.

9 September 1950

Captain **L. E. Brown** flew the first Marine combat jet mission flown against the enemy in Korea.

10 September 1813

Marines serve with **Commodore Matthew C. Perry** during the Battle of Lake Erie.

11 September 1990

4th MEB arrives in the Gulf of Oman in support of **Operation Desert Shield**.

11 September 1992

Hurricane Iniki devastated the island of Kauai in Hawaii in one of the worst storms the islands had seen in over a century. Marines of the **1st Marine Brigade** based at Kaneohe Bay, spearheaded **Operation Garden Sweep**, the massive cleanup effort.

Proud... *(continued from page 11)*

At this time, I would like to ask all the Vietnam veterans to please stand. I thank you for my life. I thank you for your sacrifices, and I thank you for giving me the freedom and the liberties I have today. I now ask All veterans, fire-fighters, and police officers, to please stand. On behalf of all first generation immigrants, I thank you for your service and may God bless you all and may God bless America!

Quang Nguyen

Creative Director/Founder Caddis Advertising, LLC

12 September 1917

General John J. Pershing selected the **7th Marines** to guard his Headquarters in France.

13 September 1847

Marines help seize fortress of Chapultepec in Mexico City.

13 September 1942

Marines turn back Japanese attack in Battle of Edson's Ridge on Guadalcanal.

15 September 1950

The **3rd Battalion, 5th Marines** landed on and secured Wolmi-do Island in Inchon Harbor prior to the main landing. The **1st Marine Division**, commanded by **Major General Oliver P. Smith** landed at Inchon and began the Inchon-Seoul campaign.

16 September 1814

A detachment of Marines under **Major Daniel Carmick** from the Naval Station at New Orleans, together with an Army detachment, destroyed a pirate stronghold at Barataria, on the Island of Grande Terre, near New Orleans.

18 September 1990

A new 40-acre training facility for Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) was dedicated at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, by **General Alfred M. Gray**, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

20 September 1950

Marines of the **1st Marine Division** crossed the Han River along a six-mile beachhead, eight miles northwest of Seoul, Korea. Five days later, the **1st and 5th Marines** would attack Seoul and the city would be captured by 27 September.

27 September 1944

The American flag was raised over the **1st Marine Division** Command Post on Peleliu. Although the flag raising symbolized that the island was secured, pockets of Japanese resistance remained.

28 September 1906

Marine Brigade of 2,800 men lands at Havana.

30 September 1945

Marines of **III Amphibious Corps**, commanded by **Major General Keller E. Rockey**, began landing in North China to assist the Chinese Nationalist government in accepting the surrender of Japanese forces and repatriating Japanese soldiers and civilians.





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

Sunday, 19 September 2010 from 1700 to 1900 – *Pete Pervi*

MCL, Department of MD Staff Meeting

American Legion Post 70
29511 Canvasback Drive, Easton MD
Saturday, 25 September 2010 @ 0900 – *Bud Raines*



MODD Maryland Pack Growl

American Legion Post 70
29511 Canvasback Drive, Easton MD
Saturday, 25 September 2010 @ 1300 – *Ed Ross*



Monthly Meeting, MCL Detachment 1049

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

Monthly Breakfast, VFW Post 160

Sunday, 3 October 2010 from 0800 to 1200
Charles Albo (443-926-1665)

Bull & Oyster Roast, MCL Detachment 1049

Sunday, 10 October 2010 @ from 1300 to 1800
Chris Thompson

Commander's Steak Dinner, VFW Post 160

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)

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 (?)

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

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



Marine Vet Takes On Punk

NOTE – This Associated Press article was published on Sept. 8, 2010.

YARMOUTH, Mass. – Yarmouth police say an 83-year-old, World War II, Marine Corps veteran fought off a 19-year-old man, who broke into his home and attacked him with a glass candlestick.

Police say the suspect broke into the home at about 8:30 PM on Monday. The homeowner fought back and yelled to his wife, who called police, prompting the suspect to flee.

The suspect was picked up a short time later, with blood on his shirt and items allegedly stolen from the home. Alan Menchin was held on \$10,000 bail after pleading not guilty to charges including assault and battery at his arraignment Tuesday.

The homeowner needed treatment for cuts and bruises and asked not to be identified out of concern for his safety.

Lt. Steven Xiarhos said he was proud of the veteran for fighting off a *punk*.



Convention (continued from page 1)

Now that it is over, I believe that one of Pete's lasting memories has to be having survived the ordeal of being represented by the law firm of **Airey, Hadley and Brady**.

Phil mentioned that one of his lasting memories will be the looks that those being advanced received from present day Marines – members of a younger generation, who have yet to come to the realization that many of them will likely be making the same spectacles of themselves in another three or four decades.

I again encourage all of you to consider attending a future convention, as the experience that you will share with other members of the detachment will provide some fond memories as well as grist for many hilarious sea-stories.



Phil to the Fore-Front

One of the highlights of the Marine Corps League's 2010 National Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina was the

initiation of Devil Dogs and their promotion to the rank of Pedigree Devil Dog. One of our own, **Phil Schwarzenberg**, in the opinion of many, had one of the more original get-ups at the convention (see the photo at left). However, some have argued that Phil was simply confused and wore his traditional Easter bonnet a few months too late.

In any event, congratulations are in order for our new PDD.



Photo by Mike Hadley



Arlington Update

Veterans groups and members of Congress are questioning whether management of Arlington National Cemetery should be transferred from the **Army** to the **Department of Veterans Affairs**. The discussions come after investigators found dozens of unmarked or mislabeled graves, millions of dollars wasted on technology contracts and mismanagement that stretched from the cemetery's leadership to the upper echelons of Army leadership in the Pentagon. *"Let's let the experts take over,"* said **Joe Davis**, a spokesman for the **Veterans of Foreign Wars**. Running cemeteries *"is a primary task of the VA, whereas the Army's primary task is to fight and win our wars."* The **American Legion** has also called for the VA to be more involved at Arlington, the nation's busiest military cemetery, which has an average of 27 funerals a day and 4 million visitors annually. And several members of Congress, including **Representative Ike Skelton** (D-MO), **Chairman of the Armed Services Committee**, have asked whether the VA, which manages 131 cemeteries nationwide with 3 million graves, would be better suited to operate Arlington.

The VFW called the VA *"a recognized expert in the maintenance and operation of national cemeteries."* In a statement, the American Legion said it was heartened to hear that the Army has appointed a top VA cemetery official as interim superintendent of Arlington. *"If the VA can fix the problems at Arlington, then that option should be on the table,"* said **Paul Rieckhoff**, founder and executive director of **Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America**. VA officials would not comment in the absence of a formal request to transfer authority over the cemetery. But since the scandal broke, the department has been lending its expertise, and staff, to help the cemetery remedy its problems. When asked at a recent congressional hearing led by Skelton whether the VA should take over, he said *"It is the Army's responsibility to carry those fallen heroes, particularly in time of war, to their final resting place."* Through a spokeswoman, Skelton said that *"The committee respects the Army's connection to the cemetery and is inclined to support its desire to remain in control, but we will continue to exercise full oversight to ensure that they live up to the high standard that is expected of them."*

(see Arlington... on page 15)

Bumper Sticker of the Month



**We promise you...
sleep deprivation, mental torment,
and muscles so sore you'll puke;
but, why sugar-coat it!**

Arlington... (continued from page 14)

In 1973, all but two of the Army's cemeteries – **Arlington** and the **Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery** – were transferred to the VA, which officials thought could better manage them. Arlington stayed with the Army in part because *“a bond has evolved through the years between those who have dedicated their lives to the military profession and all those who rest in Arlington's hallowed grounds,”* according to a 1974 study of the national cemeteries.

The VA started keeping digital records of all new interments in its cemeteries in 1994. In 2003, it launched a five-year, \$1.5 million project to digitize its older records, which date to 1862. Its burial records are now searchable online. The Army, in contrast, has failed to digitize records at Arlington despite spending as much as \$8 million and still uses the paper records that led to the burial problems.

NOTE – This column is based upon an article published by Christian Davenport of The Washington Post on 23 August 2010.



Navy Medal of Honor

NOTE – The following is based upon an Associated Press article posted online by the Navy Times on August 25, 2010.

LOCKPORT, NY – Officials trying to obtain an unclaimed Medal of Honor for a Civil War hero from western New York said they've instead been given a letter with a drawing of the medal, a move by the Pentagon that one local historian called an embarrassment. Niagara County officials have been trying since last year to get the medal awarded to **Michael Huskey**, who died in 1864 without receiving it. Last week, the Navy sent county officials a letter that includes an embossed drawing of a Medal of Honor.

The letter also contains the citation for Huskey, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions aboard a Union gunboat during a firefight in a Mississippi bayou in 1863.

The Navy has refused to give the county the unclaimed medal or a replica, citing costs and a lack of security at the Niagara County Courthouse, where officials have said they would like to display the medal or a replica. The 8½ by 11 inch letter sent by the Navy is supposed to be *“suitable for framing,”* County Historian **Catherine Emerson** said. “It’s an embarrassment.”

Huskey’s family emigrated from Ireland and settled in Lockport, 20 miles northeast of Buffalo. In March 1863, he was a 23-year-old sailor aboard the USS Carondelet, a gunboat assigned to a force that attempted to advance up a bayou as part of **General Ulysses S. Grant**’s push to capture the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg, MS. The flotilla was trapped in the shallow waterway as Confederate troops on shore raked the ships’ decks with rifle fire. Huskey was among some volunteers who worked to free the flotilla’s flagship as Union infantry cleared the enemy troops from the riverbanks.

He fell ill the next year and died in Tennessee, where he’s believed to be buried in an unmarked grave.

Emerson learned of Huskey’s story after discovering a file in her office that contained a New York Times clipping from 1898 on unclaimed medals from the Civil War. Huskey’s name appeared in that article. New York lawmakers including **U.S. Senator Charles Schumer** and **Representatives Louise Slaughter** of Fairport and **Chris Lee** of Clarence also have tried to push the Navy to turn over the medal to the county.

In the meantime, county officials are looking into whether they can buy a replica of the medal. Emerson said a previous letter from the Navy said that replica Medal of Honor sets are sometimes sold to reputable institutions, but county officials said the cost of such a replica was not included in the correspondence. Emerson said a ceremony is tentatively planned in October to unveil a display honoring Huskey, with the Navy’s letter serving as its centerpiece if a medal is not procured.



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

Cost..... \$25.00 per person

- Each detachment is responsible for its own transportation
- To reserve tickets, contact the Detachment Commandant, Mac McNeir, by no later than Saturday, October 9, 2010.
- Kickoff is at 3:30 PM; but, you should plan on arriving earlier if you wish to see the Midshipmen march on to the field and other pre-game activities.



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

(Address Correction Requested)



Featured Foto



The rifle detail at Sgt. Joe L. Wrightsman's memorial service maintain their bearing as a departing helicopter shrouds the service in sand at Patrol Base Jaker, Afghanistan, July 30. Wrightsman died supporting combat operations.

[Public Domain Photo by Sgt. Mark Fayloga as it appeared on the Official U.S. Marine Corps Website]