

the

CUTTING EDGE

June 2010

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

Mac McNeir, Commandant & Editor

<http://mclaacdet1049.org/>

Arlington Abuses Unearthed

NOTE – The following is based upon a Marine Corps Times article that appeared online on June 11, 2010, which was written by William H. McMichael, staff writer.



[Associated Press Photo]

At least 211 graves at Arlington National Cemetery — including two in the section where fallen troops from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are buried — were mismarked, missing headstones or burial cards, or were not recorded at all, according to a new internal investigation.

The investigation of operations at the nation’s most hallowed military burial ground found no criminal misconduct, but much evidence of “improper internment, trans-

-internment of remains (including the loss of accountability of remains), remains in graves listed as empty, unmarked gravesites, improperly marked graves, and improper handling of remains,” Army Secretary John McHugh told reporters at the Pentagon on Thursday.

The Army Inspector General also concluded in its seven-month investigation that “mistakes continue to be made.”

The IG also found that rank-and-file employees, who handle an average of 27 funerals daily, were burdened in their day-to-day work by “**dysfunctional management, lack of established policy and procedures, and an overall unhealthy organizational climate.**”

“That all ends today,” McHugh said, offering an apology to those whose loved ones are resting at Arlington.

The errors affected graves in **Sections 55, 59, 60 and 66.**

“There is simply no excuse,” McHugh said. “On behalf of the United States Army, and on behalf of myself, I deeply apologize to the families of the honored resting in that hallowed ground, who may now question the care for their loved ones.”

(see Arlington Unearthed on page 3)

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the **CUTTING EDGE**

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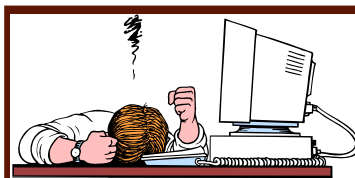
- Published Monthly
- Be sure to keep us advised of your current email address to ensure prompt delivery.



- Commandant – *Mac McNeir*
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- Junior Vice-Commandant – *Woody Bowman*
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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*

Hate sounding like an echo that won't go away, but I am still in need of newsletter inputs from our members. I could use suggestions for articles as well as feedback about your likes and dislikes with regard to the content of *the Cutting Edge*.

On a different topic, three copies of *the Cutting Edge* have been submitted to the committee charged with selecting the top League newsletters for the fiscal year 2009-2010. A number of the changes in format and content; which were made over the past year, were made in order to bring us more in line with the judging criteria. With a little luck, maybe we'll receive more than a certificate of participation this year.

Time to get off my soap-box; so, I'll close by reminding our contributors that the submission deadline for all **July** newsletter articles is **MIDNIGHT, Wednesday, July 14, 2010!**



Members' Birthdays

NOTE – Please advise the editor of any errors/omissions in the following listing.

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

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Troy Bryant | Robert Di Lauro | Garland Downey |
| Francis Miller | William Russell | Lewis Shaffer |
| Rudolph Snyder | | |



Detachment Membership Stats – 5/31/2010

Good Standing (Dues Paid)			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Life Memberships	72	9	6
Annual Memberships	31	6	-
Delinquent Dues			
Type	USMC	Associate	Multiple
Annual Memberships	9	3	-
New Members			
	1	-	-
Sub-Totals			
	113	18	6
Total			
	137		

Commandant's Message



Mac McNeir

Marines of 1049,

My First Meeting

Presiding over my first meeting as Commandant was a learning experience and I will work on taking the rough edges off of my performance. A special thanks to our previous Senior Vice Commandant, who provided his special brand of encouragement during the last meeting by shouting out **"Pete Pervi would have had this meeting over by now!"** Thanks Jim... you are inspirational in your simplicity.

Generosity of Detachment Members

I would also like to express my appreciation to those in attendance at our May meeting for generously contributing **\$247** – via a pass the hat collection – toward the replacement of lost **Young Marine Uniforms**. If any member, who was not present for the May meeting, would like to contribute something toward the replacement cost (approximately \$680), please contact either **George Martin** or me.

Detachment's 10th Anniversary

Having been a member of 1049 for approximately five years, I was unfortunately not as knowledgeable as I should have been with regard to the early years of our detachment's history. It was for this reason that the 10th Anniversary of our detachment's being chartered unfortunately slipped by without appropriate fanfare.

On April 18, 2000, our detachment was officially chartered by **National Commandant Diana Dils**. The actual charter was annotated with the signatures of 27 charter members of our newly founded detachment. Regrettably, I was not able to decipher the handwriting of many on the charter. For that reason I am asking that anyone, who can identify any of the members who's signatures are undecipherable to me to provide me with those names.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to those charter members, who made it possible for those of us who came along later to join this august aggregation of Marines comprising **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049!**

One last thing

Please inform either the Adjutant or me if you are planning to attend the National Convention in Greensboro, NC.

Semper Fi,

Mac

Arlington Unearthed

(continued from page)

McHugh said the Army, as the executive agent for Arlington, will "initiate those steps necessary to best correct yesterday's oversights, and meet tomorrow's requirement."

McHugh said he has demoted John Metzler, the long-time Arlington superintendent who is slated to retire July 2, given him a letter of reprimand, and directed a review of his annual performance evaluation award, which had been placed on hold pending the completion of the IG report, "in contemplation of a downward adjustment."

Metzler will now report to Kathryn Condon, who will fill the newly created position of executive director of the Army National Cemeteries Program and will, among other duties, implement "corrective measures outlined in the investigation and inspection reports."

McHugh also has placed Deputy Superintendent Thurman Higginbotham on immediate administrative leave "pending the completion of other personnel actions."

McHugh has told the assistant Army secretary for reserve affairs to review the IG reports, "and decide whether any further disciplinary action should be performed."

The report cites 76 findings and 101 recommendations, most of which, McHugh said, "are both deeply troubling, and simply unacceptable."

He said he was disturbed to learn that some of the findings are repeated deficiencies that were detailed in a 1997 inspection report by the Military District of Washington Inspector General — "**deficiencies which apparently have gone largely unaddressed for the past 12 years,**" he said.

The Army IG also found that a supervisor whose name was blacked out of the report "failed to conserve government resources," in particular by failing to properly implement a plan to automate all Arlington administrative operations.

In one instance, the supervisor paid a contractor at least \$200,000 for work that was not completed.

The IG recommended that all cemetery contracts, contracting procedures and budget execution procedures be audited, a step McHugh approved.

The Army has established a hotline for families with concerns: dial **703-607-8000** and press **0**. Also, a dedicated line to address cemetery issues is scheduled to be activated at 8:00 AM Friday: **703-607-8199**.



Marine Corps League
Department of Maryland

<http://deptofmdmcl.org>

From the desk of the

Senior Vice Commandant



Chris Thompson

Happy June Fellow Marines,

As your Senior Vice Commandant, one of my main duties is fundraising. Neither I nor the detachment can be successful without the whole-hearted support of detachment members. I am open to your suggestions for fundraising and anything to get detachment members more involved.

Our next planned fundraiser is our annual **Bull and Oyster Roast**. It will be held on **Sunday, October 10th**, and tickets will go on sale at the July detachment meeting.

I would also like to remind everyone that as Spring winds down and Summer begins, we need to remember to stay hydrated and to take frequent breaks while doing our outside **honey-dos**.

Semper Fi!

Chris



Legislative Report

by Jim Le Gette, Legislative Officer

There is activity in Washington involving the Department of Defense, the administration and Congress to consider the lifting of the ban on the **Don't Ask... Don't Tell** policy regarding military service by openly gay members. A provision, to eliminate the ban (allow service by openly gay individuals) has been folded into the 2011 Defense Policy bill.

The **Chiropractic Care For All Veterans Act, HR 1017**, is in the works to expand and offer chiropractic care at **all** VA facilities. At the present time, this type of care is only available at 25 locations.

It appears that it will be difficult to pass any provision of the Defense budget to authorize **Combat-Zone Pay and Benefits** to troops killed or injured in a domestic terrorist attack, such as that which occurred at Ft. Hood, Texas. For the near future, compensation for such domestic death or injury would have to be made available through approved special compensation. A more definitive program, outlining the circumstances, is needed to avoid misinterpretation and unfairness regarding the judgment made about the suggested benefit, incident by incident.



From the desk of the

Junior Vice Commandant



Woody Bowman

Here it is... June already.

Our golf tournament had a good turn-out and it looks like we will be able to contribute a nice sum of money to **Marines Helping Marines**.

Memberships

As of the end of May, we still have members who remain delinquent in the payment of their dues. I would hope that all of our members will have caught up on their dues and allow us to boast of no delinquent members.

Color Guard

I would like to thank **Paul Downey, Ray Gonzales, Chris Kalwa, Charlie Quick** and **Charlie Young**, for their part in the **Glen Burnie Parade**, and the ceremonies conducted at the **Rippling Woods Elementary School, American Legion Post 276**, and the **Crownsville Veterans' Cemetery**. Thanks are also appropriate for the many other detachment members who were present at these ceremonies.

The Color Guard also presented colors at **American Legion Post 276** and **American Legion Post 277**.

Date to Remember

JULY 5th, Independence Day

Severna Park Parade @ 9:00 AM

Semper Fi!

Woody

Final Reminder

In keeping with the directions established when I assumed the role of Paymaster from Jim Brady in 2008, I would like to remind everyone that...

the deadline for submitting requests for reimbursement for monies paid to obtain services & materials on behalf of the detachment is June 30, 2010.

Remember that receipts are needed to substantiate the validity of all reimbursements. Please see me if this presents a problem for any of you.

Mac



Coming Events



The following events are scheduled to occur through November 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).

Monthly Meeting, MCL Detachment 1049

Monday, 28 June 2010 @ 1900
Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)

Friday Night Dinner, MCL Detachment 1049

Friday, 2 July 2010 from 1800 to 2000
James Brady (202-314-1782)

Monthly Breakfast, VFW Post 160

Sunday, 4 July 2010 from 0800 to 1200
Charles Albo (443-926-1665)

Severna Park Independence Day Parade

Monday, 5 July 2010 @ 0900 – *Woody Bowman*

Post Commander's Steak Dinner, VFW Post 160

Saturday, 24 July 2010 from 1700 to 1900 – *Pete Pervi*

Crab Feast, VFW Post 160 Men's Auxiliary

Sunday, 25 July 2010 from 1300 to 1800

Monthly Meeting, MCL Detachment 1049

Monday, 26 July 2010 @ 1900
Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)

Friday Night Dinner, MCL Det. 1049 Auxiliary

Friday, 30 July 2010 from 1800 to 2000 – *Desiree Curtin*

Monthly Breakfast, VFW Post 160

Sunday, 1 August 2010 from 0800 to 1200
Charles Albo (443-926-1665)

87th Marine Corps League National Convention

Sunday, August 8 – Saturday, August 14, 2010
Greensboro, NC (See Ad on page 8)

MODD Pound 204 Growl

Sunday, 22 August 2010 @ 1000 – *Paul Taylor*

Monthly Meeting, MCL Detachment 1049

Monday, 23 August 2010 @ 1900
Mac McNeir (410-437-4329)

Post Commander's Steak Dinner, VFW Post 160

Saturday, 28 August 2010 from 1700 to 1900 – *Pete Pervi*

Friday Night Dinner, MCL Detachment 1049

Friday, 3 September 2010 from 1800 to 2000 – *Rich Gonzales*

Monthly Breakfast, VFW Post 160

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

MCL, Department of MD Staff Meeting

American Legion Post in Easton, MD
Saturday, 11 September 2010 @ 0900 – *Bud Raines*

(continued in adjacent column)

MODD Maryland Pack Growl

American Legion Post in Easton, MD
Saturday, 11 September 2010 @ 1300 – *Paul Taylor*

Post Commander's Steak Dinner, VFW Post 160

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

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

Post 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 – *TBD*

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

Post 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*





Military Order of the Devil Dogs

The Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League

Woof-Woof,

The **Grand Growl** is history, but it won't soon be forgotten. We advanced seven Pups to Devil Dog. All of them were dressed in their finest garb for the initiation ceremony, and none of them drowned. We made it through another year without getting thrown out of the pool.

During the Grand Growl, we collected **\$428.01** for the children's hospital in Greensboro, NC which brings our year's total to **\$1,323.04**. Last year the **Maryland Pack** donated **\$552.03**, which was the most of any pack. A large part of that accomplishment was attributable to the fund raising prowess (i.e. brow-beating abilities) of our very own **PDD Manny Airey**. If the other 50 odd Packs do half as well as the Maryland Pack, the Kennel should have over **\$25,000.00** to donate to the hospital.

I have forwarded, and received confirmation of the delivery of 20 applications for advancement to PDD at the **Supreme Growl**. This should be a really good time for those of us who will be watching the fun.

And last, but certainly not least, a very hearty congratulation for the **Pack Dog of the Year, PDD Manny Airey!** Well deserved.

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



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

**Rich Morton Lincoln
Mercury Mazda**



**51 Mountain Rd.
Pasadena, MD 21122**

Phone: 800-577-1658



Chaplain's Corner

by Ken Webster, Detachment Chaplain

Please keep all of the following members of our extended detachment family in your thoughts and prayers.

Frenchy Verrier

Frenchy is progressing well and was scheduled to see his Oncologist. Hopefully, his complete recovery will be in the not so distant future. Frenchy will initiate contact with all of his friends, once he feels ready.

Every effort is made to keep our detachment members aware of those within our ranks, who may be ill and in need of encouragement and/or support. However, without your assistance, I cannot be effective in this undertaking. For that reason, I am again asking that the members of the detachment keep me apprised of those Marines or Marine family members, who are sick, in distress, etc. Should you have information for me, I can be contacted by:

Telephone **410-255-0741**

Email amcopken1@verizon.net



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TINA TODD
Assistant Manager

shamrockawards@erols.com



Lest We Forget...

John Dewey Kovacevich Jr., 60, a resident of Crofton, and retired United States Marine Corps Major, died May 17 at his home in Crofton, Maryland.

Major Kovacevich was born on July 7, 1949, in Rome, GA., and was raised in Lookout Mountain, TN. He graduated from Baylor School in Lookout Mountain in 1968, received his B.A. from the University of Virginia in 1972, where he was a member of the Eli Banana Society, and his M.B.A. from Averett College in 1993.



Major Kovacevich served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1973 until his retirement in 1993. He was a Communications Officer, who served with the 10th Marines in Okinawa, Japan; as a Series Commander at MCRD Parris Island, S.C.; as Communications Officer for Marine Barracks, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; as Commander, Communications Company, 2nd Force Service Support Group, Camp Lejeune, N.C.; as Executive Officer, Marine Corps Communications Squadron 18, Okinawa, Japan; as a Test Officer, Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity, Quantico, VA.; as Detachment Commander, Detachment B, Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28, MCAS New River, N.C., and as Information Systems Security Coordinator, Headquarters Marine Corps, Arlington, VA. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

After his retirement, he worked as a stockbroker at Bank of America in Orange County, CA.; Bank of Bowie in Bowie, MD.; and Harbor Investments in Annapolis, MD.

He is preceded in death by his father, **John Dewey Kovacevich Sr.** who died in 2002.

He is survived by his wife, **Sharon Pfeiffer**, whom he married in 1988; daughter, **Marcy Kovacevich** of Fullerton, CA.; son, **Sam Kovacevich** of Boston, MA.; grandsons, **Aidan** and **Alasdair Staggs** of Fullerton, CA.; sister, **Ellen Hanna** of St. Louis, MO.; and his mother, **Margaret McMillin Kovacevich** of Chattanooga, TN.

Major Kovacevich will be interred with Full Military Honors at Arlington National Cemetery at 1:00 PM, on Wednesday, September 8, 2010. Please arrive at the chapel by 12:30 PM.

NOTE – This article was based upon memorial information provided by the Beall Funeral Home in Bowie, Maryland.



Corps History

by Vic Halme, Historian

1 June 1918

"Retreat Hell! We just got here," said the 5th Marine Regiment in France.

1 June 1942

First black Marine enlists in the Corps. A total of 19,168 will join the Corps during World War II.

2 June 1918

German 28th Division attacks the American 2nd Division, including the 4th Marine Brigade. The Marines open with deadly rifle fire and help hand the German troops a setback which set the stage for Marine victory at Belleau Wood.

5 June 1944

Lieutenant General H. M. (Howlin' Mad) Smith is designated the first FMFPac Commander.

6 June 1853

Marines escort Commodore Matthew C. Perry ashore at Naha Okinawa.

6 June 1918

Marines advance into Belleau Wood against German machine guns.

8 June 1880

Captain W. B. Remy becomes first Marine appointed as Judge Advocate of the Navy.

8 June 1995

Team of 40 Marines rescues downed USAF pilot, Captain Scott O'Grady, who had been shot down over Bosnia-Herzegovina six days earlier.

10 June 1871

Captain McLane Tilton leads 109 Marines in naval attack on Han River forts in Korea.

10 June 1898

1st Marine Battalion led by Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Huntington lands at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

12 June 1948

President Truman authorizes first women Marines in the regular Marine Corps.

12 June 1961

President John F. Kennedy signs a Presidential Proclamation calling for the American flag to be flown at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, "at all times... day and night."

(see Corps History on page 8)

Corps History

(continued from page 7)

14 June 1898

Sgt. John Quick exposes himself to hostile fire in order to signal the USS *Dolphin* (a gun-fire support vessel) to cease fire; thereby saving his Marine unit and earning the Medal of Honor.

15 June 1944

The V Amphibious Corps assaults the west coast of Saipan, Marianas Islands. By nightfall, the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions, moving against heavy opposition, *establish a beachhead 10,000 yards wide and 1,500 yards deep.*

18 June 1945

Major General Roy S. Geiger, USMC, assumes command of the 10th Army during the battle for Okinawa after Army Lieutenant General Simon Buckner is killed.

20 June 1993

The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit returns to Mogadishu, Somalia, to stand ready to assist United Nations forces in maintaining peace in the war-torn country.

21 June 1945

The battle for Okinawa ends with the raising of the American flag by Lieutenant General Roy S. Geiger, USMC.

22 June 1954

President Eisenhower authorizes the use of the first official Marine Corps Seal.

23 June 1812

Marine Lieutenant John Heath becomes first casualty of the War of 1812.

23 June 1836

Colonel-Commandant Archibald Henderson and 462 Marines report for duty in the Second Seminole War.

23 June 1980

Marines land in Lebanon to evacuate civilians.

25 June 1950

Korean War begins when North Korean forces invade South Korea.

25 June 1971

Last Marine ground troops depart Vietnam.

26 June 1918

Brigadier General James G. Harbord, the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Brigade, notifies American Expeditionary Force Headquarters that Belleau Wood was "now U.S. Marine Corps entirely." After 20 days of combat, and at a cost of over 4,000 casualties, the 4th Brigade of Marines had proven its fighting heart. The grateful Commander of the French Sixth Army would soon decree that in all official correspondence, Belleau Wood would henceforth bear the name, "Bois de la Brigade de Marine."



DoD Against Change

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – The Defense Department said, it opposed as potentially divisive, a push in Congress to give the Marine Corps equal billing in the Department of the Navy.

A Senate bill would rename it the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

"A re-designation could be viewed as more than symbolic, and could easily be misinterpreted as a step away from the heritage and tradition of a strong Navy and Marine Corps team," said **Jeh Johnson**, the Pentagon's general counsel.

Renaming is "*unnecessary, would incur additional expense of several hundred thousand dollars a year over the next several years ... and would not enhance the standing or reputation of the Marine Corps,*" he said.

The Navy and Marine Corps, which calls itself "*The Few, The Proud,*" have functioned as "*one team led by one Secretary*" since Benjamin Stoddert was named the first Navy secretary by President John Adams in 1798, Johnson wrote.

He made his comments in a May 26 letter to Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, whose office released the letter Monday. Levin agrees with the Pentagon and opposes re-designating, said his spokeswoman, **Tara Andringa**.





Have You Heard?

by Mac McNeir

Due to a personal oversight, I forgot to mention something very important about the **5th Annual Marines Helping Marines Golf Tournament** in last month's issue of this newsletter. Since no one had been tasked with acting as the emcee of the tournament's award ceremony, we needed someone to step in at the last moment. As unaccustomed as our volunteer was to public speaking, he cheerfully accepted the task of being our emcee. **Jim Brady** did an outstanding job and was entertaining to boot. Who knew he could be so charming? Thanks Jim!



Speaking of our tournament, I am also happy to say that the challenge made to other League Detachments within the Department of Maryland at our recent convention was graciously accepted by a group of golfers from **Harford County Detachment 1198**, who played in our recent fund-raising tournament for **Marines Helping Marines**. As stipulated in my challenge, two foursomes from our detachment – **Pete Pervi, Manny Airey, Woody Bowman, Jim Brady, Rich Gonzales**, myself and two other players – will be playing in the Harford County Detachment's tournament on August 30th at **Winters Run Golf Club** in Bel Air, Maryland.

On the evening of May 18th, representatives of the Department of Maryland (**Jack Severn, Ed Ross, and Paul Taylor**) as well as Detachment 1049 members **Manny Airey** and **Mac McNeir** travelled to Fleet Reserve Branch 93 in Lexington Park, MD and participated in the installation of officers for **Marine Corps League Detachment 1305** and **Military Order of Devil Dogs Pound 344**. The members of the hosting organizations were gracious hosts. Thanks to Detachment Commandant **Jonas Schommer** for his gracious invitation.

(see Have You Heard? on page 10)



Young Marines

The **Annapolis Young Marines** would like to thank **Anne Arundel County Detachment 1049** and its members for their contribution toward the replacement of our lost uniforms.

If there is any detachment member, who would like to become **Company Commander of the Annapolis Young Marines**, please advise me as soon as possible. We have to conduct an election for commander – for the next two years – in August, by direction of the **National Director Young Marines**. If anyone is interested in the position, we need to get the paper work filled-out as soon as possible and delivered to National in order to have your candidacy properly registered and ensure that your name appears on the ballot.

The Annapolis Young Marines had a busy month in May. We presented the Colors at the **MCL Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City**. Thanks again, for bestowing us with that honor.

On **May 29**, we assisted **American Legion Post 226** in placing over 1400 American flags on veterans' graves in 23 cemeteries located in Southern Anne Arundel County. We also presented the service flags and conducted a flag-folding ceremony for **Kalas Funeral Home** in Edgewater, Maryland as part of their Memorial Day observance – video can be seen on their web site.

On **May 30**, we presented Colors and Service Flags at **VFW Post 160** as part of their **Old Soldiers' Day** luncheon.

On **June 14**, we will be assisting **American Legion Post 7** in Crownsville, and **American Legion Post 226** in Edgewater, with their **Flag Day** ceremonies.

On **August 21**, we will be assisting **Family Support Services** in their **Annual Family Fun Day** for families of returning and deployed service members, which will take place at the **U.S. Naval Academy**.

On a more personal note – I conducted a **Memorial Day** ceremony and will be conducting a **Flag Day** ceremony at the **Morningside Nursing Home** in Glen Burnie, as a representative of our Marine Corps League Detachment. Finally, I have just been elected as **Commander of American legion Post 226** in Edgewater, Maryland.

Respectfully Submitted

George Martin

Young Marines Commander

Have You Heard

(continued from page 9)

Late in the afternoon of May 19th, I was called by our new Chaplain **Ken Webster** and informed that a Bowie Funeral Home representative had called and requested our participation in a memorial service for recently deceased, retired Marine Corps Major **John Dewey Kovacevich Jr** (see *Lest We Forget* on page 7). As a result, **Guy Hall, Ken Rollins, Ken Webster**, and I were honored to be part of a moving service for Major Kovacevich on the evening of May 20th. The moving tributes offered by his family and friends, and the musical interludes – especially hearing the skirl of bagpipes playing the Marine Corps Hymn – made the occasion a memorable event. Please keep Major Kovacevich, his wife **Sharon**, and their family in your prayers.

A gracious letter was received from the Lake Havasu, AZ Detachment's Senior Vice Commandant, expressing their appreciation for members of our detachment (**Woody Bowman, Chris Kalwa, and Charlie Young**) having presented the colors as part of recent (April 14th) **Honor Flight** festivities at the BWI Hilton. In addition to the letter, we also received a number of their detachment shirts. A letter of acknowledgement was in turn sent to Detachment 757. It should be noted that our Junior Vice Commandant (Woody) had previously given a number of our detachment patches to members of Detachment 757.



The **Detachment's office space** will soon be entering its final construction phase – installation of insulation, wall construction, painting, floor surfacing, and the erection of counter (desk) space. Our consummate volunteer, **Rich Gonzales** estimates that he will have the office ready for occupancy by the end of the month.

Many members of the detachment, in addition to our Color Guard, participated in **Memorial Day** ceremonies at the **Crownsville Veterans' Cemetery**. Afterward, some of them returned to **VFW Post 160** in order to participate in the placement of memorial plates for **Wyman Bailey** (Commander, 1993-1996) and **Issac Byrroughs** (Commander 1996-1997) on the **Past Post Commander's Memorial**. We were honored to have members of Wyman Bailey's family in attendance.

Devil Dog Pound 204 made a belated **\$100** donation to our detachment's **5th Annual Marines Helping Marines Tournament**. This donation coupled with others will enable us to present a check for **\$8,112.01** to **National Director Ron Short** at the June detachment meeting.



Government Contests Ruling

NOTE – The following Associated Press article was published in the online version of the Marine Corps Times on June 7, 2010.

SAN DIEGO — The government is appealing the overturning of a Camp Pendleton Marine's murder conviction in a major Iraqi war crimes case.

Representatives of the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps announced Monday that the case of **Sergeant Lawrence Hutchins III** will be sent to the U.S. Court of Appeals of the Armed Forces.



That court can either affirm or reverse the April ruling of the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals. The criminal appeals court overturned Hutchins' conviction, saying he was not given a fair trial because a judge allowed his lead defense attorney to leave shortly before his 2007 trial.

Prosecutors say Hutchins led a squad of seven Marines, who killed an unarmed man in Hamdania – a small village west of Baghdad near Abu Ghraib – in 2006. The 26-year-old Marine had previously been sentenced to serve 11 years of confinement.



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When Is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?

By Young Marine SSgt Skyler Wisomierski, Annapolis, Maryland

The word “**hero**” according to Webster's, means someone distinguished by exceptional courage and nobility and strength, someone who fights for a cause. “**Honor**” means to respect, show respect towards, or award a tangible symbol signifying approval or distinction. Seeing displays of honor isn't hard. Television and Internet access is everywhere. The daily news helps us keep up on people that show heroic acts. But seeing an actual hero is a little harder unless you happen to need help in an emergency.

What we do know or should know is that since the beginning of this country, our military has turned many ordinary people into heroes on a daily basis, some because they showed bravery in the face of battle, some because they provided needed support at great danger to themselves, and most because they enlisted at a time when their country needed them. They may not have thought of themselves as heroes when they agreed to give up the comforts of home to go and fight for this country, but according to Webster's that's exactly what they were. More importantly, they may not have thought of themselves as heroes putting on that uniform for the first time, but they were then and still are today.



Essay Winner Skyler Wisomierski

It is for these reasons that so many things come to mind with this year's essay theme, but the word “**When**” boggles my mind. Do we honor only when we see evidence of our losses that come to families in a flag-draped coffin? We as Americans should make it a part of our daily lives to honor our military men and women who now and in the past made the greatest sacrifice of all time. They gave up comfort and pleasures to put on a pair of boots, to make the greatest sacrifice of all, their lives, for their country's freedom.

Traditionally, “**when**” we honor our heroes should be every day, in any way we can. Something as simple as a thank-you, a smile, a gesture of thanks when you see one of our own in uniform, to know what they have done and the part of history they have taken part in. It should give us all comfort to know they're on our side and continue the fight for what we call freedom.

NOTE – SSgt Wisomierski's essay won VFW Post 160's "Patriot's Pen Essay Contest" – the second year in a row that he has won the award.





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May 20, 2010

Message From Governor O'Malley

Dear Friends,

Today, I joined Lt. Governor Brown, Senate President Miller and House Speaker Busch to sign into law, three bills that will improve the operating environment for veteran businesses, veterans working in health care professions and veteran service organizations.

In March, Maryland led the nation in job creation by adding 38,500 jobs. And over the past legislative session, Lt. Governor Brown and I focused our economic agenda on creating and saving jobs for the hardworking families of our State. The legislation signed today requires State agencies to award a percentage of procurement contracts to veteran-owned small businesses, requires the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a Military Health Care Provider Transition Plan and allows tax exemptions to certain veteran organizations.

Maryland remains committed to improving conditions to empower small businesses and support our veterans. This legislation will encourage all State agencies to take a closer look at veteran-owned businesses. Together, we are creating opportunities for all Maryland businesses to thrive, even in tough times.

I'd love to hear from you on this or any issue. Feel free to let me know your thoughts.

Martin O'Malley

Governor



Corps Quotation

"These Marines have the swagger, confidence, and hardness that must have been in Stonewall Jackson's Army of the Shenandoah."

British Military Observer,
Pusan Perimeter, August 1950

States Against Funeral Protests

NOTE - The following Associated Press article was posted in the Marine Corps Times on June 1, 2010.

WASHINGTON — Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia have submitted a brief to the Supreme Court in support of a father who sued anti-gay protesters over their demonstration at the 2006 funeral of his son, a Marine killed in Iraq.

Only Virginia and Maine declined to sign the brief by the Kansas Attorney General.

Albert Snyder sued over protests by the Kansas-based **Westboro Baptist Church** at his son's funeral in Maryland. The church pickets funerals because they believe war deaths are punishment for U.S. tolerance of homosexuality.

The Supreme Court has agreed to consider whether the protesters' message is protected by the First Amendment.

In the brief filed Tuesday, the states argued they have a compelling interest in protecting the sanctity of funerals.



Corps Humor - Snobbery

Three 'gentlemen' are seated together on a cross-country plane trip.

After about an hour, the first gentleman, attempting to break the ice, puts down his *New York Times* and announces, "**My name is Jonathan Smith, Lieutenant General, U.S. Army, Retired. Served in Korea and Vietnam. Married with Two sons - both doctors.**"

He picks up his newspaper and resumes reading.

About half an hour later, the second gentleman puts down his *Washington Post* and says, "**Dillard Jones, Major General, U.S. Air Force, Retired. Served in Vietnam and Gulf War I. Married and also have two sons - both Lawyers.**"

He then picks up his newspaper and continues to read.

A bit later, the third man puts down his *Dailey Racing Form* and grunts, "**Gus Miller... Gunnery Sergeant... U.S. Marines Corps... Discharged. I served in Korea, Vietnam, and both Gulf War I & II. Never married! Two sons - both Generals!**"



General Amos Next Commandant ?

NOTE – The following is based upon a Marine Corps Times article posted on the Internet on July 15th, which was written by staff writer, Christopher P. Cavalas.

General James Amos is expected to be named the **35th Commandant** of the **U.S. Marine Corps**, sources told Defense News on Monday. If nominated, Amos could become the first Marine jet aviator named to the top post, and he would alter recent custom by becoming the first assistant commandant in several decades to succeed his immediate boss.

A source confirmed that the White House has received the nomination from **Navy Secretary Ray Mabus**, who made the choice with the blessing of **Defense Secretary Robert Gates**. An announcement of the nomination will come from the White House, and could come as soon as this Thursday, the day the executive branch habitually releases personnel statements.

Speculation has been building about the successor to **General James Conway**, who retires in September. In addition to Amos, other leading candidates were thought to be: **Lt. Gen. Joe Dunford**, commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force and commander of Marine forces in U.S. Central Command; **Lt. Gen. John Allen**, deputy commander of Central Command; **Lt. Gen. Richard Natonski**, commander of Marine Corps Forces Command; and **Gen. James Mattis**, commander of Joint Forces Command.

Some sources are pointing to Dunford as the nominee for assistant commandant, but that move has not been confirmed.

Amos commanded the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing from 2002 to 2004 during Operating Iraqi Freedom and subsequently led II MEF. He also commanded the Marine Corps Combat Development Command and served as the deputy commandant for Combat Development and Integration. He has been assistant commandant since July 2008.

The choice of Marine Corps commandant is the first service chief pick made by Mabus, who reportedly talked to every three- and four-star general in the Corps about the leadership choices. Mabus, should he remain in office, could also have the chance next year to name the next chief of naval operations, as current CNO Adm. Gary Roughead's term expires in September 2011.



Gen. James Amos has been Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps since July 2008. [Marine Corps Photo]



Symbolism of Our Flag

submitted by Ed Dahling

The U.S. flag is the most widely used symbol of America, representing the many freedoms and rights guaranteed to us by the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Additionally, the flag symbolizes the patriotism, honor and courage of all of you, our U.S. Veterans and military personnel, along with our individual liberties stated in the Declaration of Independence. Many other powerful meanings that define America are represented in our flag as well.

“We take the stars from Heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing Liberty.” – George Washington

On June 14, 1777, the Flag Resolution was passed by the Second Continental Congress, which stated: *“Resolved that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.”* Each year thereafter, June 14 has been known as Flag Day.

The U.S. flag consists of thirteen equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with white, representing the thirteen original colonies, with a blue rectangle in the upper hoist-side corner bearing 50 small, white, five-pointed stars, representing our 50 states. Common names of the flag include: *“the Stars and Stripes”* and *“Old Glory.”*

Even to this day, the origin of the U.S. flag design is still uncertain. One story credits **Betsy Ross** for sewing the first flag from a pencil sketch by **George Washington**. However, no evidence exists beyond the recollections of what she told her family, which have been reported by her descendents.

When design changes occur, the change always takes place on July 4th in Philadelphia, Pa., stated by the Flag Act of April 4, 1818. The most recent change – from forty-nine stars to fifty – was the design of **Robert G. Heft** and occurred in 1960, after Hawaii gained statehood in August 1959.





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

(Address Correction Requested)



Last Iwo Jima Chaplain Dies

NOTE – This article is based upon emails that I have received and an article from the online edition of the Boston Herald article written by Benjamin Bell (posted on May 21, 2010).

In the bloodiest days of Iwo Jima, he spoke the last words over fallen Marines and Navy Corpsmen as they were buried in the island's black sand. On Sunday, 16 May 2010, Reverend E. Gage Hotaling died, 65 years after the iconic battle for that Pacific island. On 20 May 2010, Marines, sailors and soldiers returned the favor, sending the old Navy chaplain on to join his comrades with military honors.

Hotaling was the last surviving chaplain, who served ashore with the Marines on Iwo Jima. He joined the Chaplain Corps at age 28 in 1944 because he didn't feel he could preach to the WW II generation unless he knew what they had endured, so he found himself with the 4th Marine Division on Iwo Jima. Some of his experiences on Iwo Jima are included in the book, *Flags of Our Fathers*, which tells the stories of the men who raised the American flag during the battle, which took place in February 1945. Of the 6,821 Americans killed, Reverend Hotaling believed he buried about 1,800.

In a 2007 documentary, he talked about the grim task he faced as Marines fell in bitter combat against the dug-in Japanese enemy. "We would have four Marines with a flag over each grave. And while they were kneeling with the flag, I would stand up and I would give the committal words for each one," he told the filmmakers. He also said that he took up smoking to overcome the ever-present stench of decay. "I did it not as a Protestant, Catholic or a Jew, but as a Marine," the Baptist minister said. "Every man was buried as a Marine. And so I gave the same committal to each one."

A Marine Corps honor guard stood by as family members and other veterans paid their respects at the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam, Massachusetts.



A Marine is laid to rest in Iwo Jima's black sand – Navy Chaplain E. Gage Hotaling (standing at right) officiates at the solemn event. [USMC Photo]

